

# Communication: Keeping in Touch

## Through the Use of Voice Recognition Technology on the iPhone/iPad

Writing a note to a relative can be a fun and practical way to explore the task of writing. However some children may find this difficult for any number of reasons.

The Pages App (iPhone and iPad) is a free and useful way of making writing easier. The app contains voice recognition technology which turns spoken word into written text. All you have to do is speak a phrase or sentence and the printed text appears on the page.



For a child who can speak about his/her area of interest or enjoys retelling the activities of the day, this facility can focus on communicating the information rather than having to worry about spellings, paragraphs, etc. Some children find pencil grip and writing physically difficult so the task is more manageable and the focus is very much on the meaning of the message. Using voice recognition can also help to make a link between the spoken word and text in several contexts.

In keeping with the theme, the Pages app can be used for letters, notes, messages and cards as well as many other writing tasks.

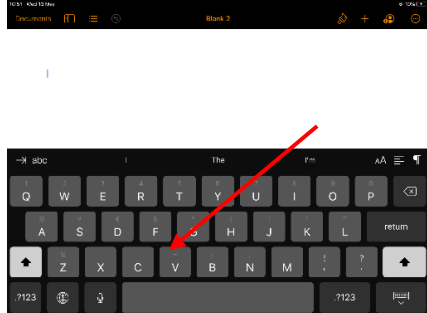
The process can be broken into small steps as follows:

1. Start with a sentence. Think what you want to say
2. Practise saying it out loud. Have a few goes.
3. Turn the microphone ON
4. Say the sentence. Remember to finish with the punctuation .... i.e. full stop, exclamation mark, question mark
5. Turn the microphone OFF
6. Then check your sentence.
7. The completed work can be copied and included in the body of a message or email or printed.

The following steps give a detailed breakdown of how to get started with using this app:  
(Please note some of the images below have been enhanced for clarity of viewing in this document)

Step 1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Click on the App to open.</li> </ul>
Step 2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are presented with a choice of templates</li> <li>Choose Blank</li> </ul>

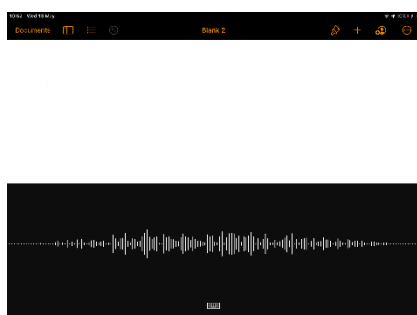
### Step 3



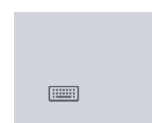
- You are presented with a screen which has a blank page at the top and the keyboard at the bottom.
- On the left of the Space Bar there is the key with a microphone icon.
- Click to speak.



### Step 4



- As you speak the bottom part of the screen changes and the voice inflections are “seen”. This shows that the voice is being recognised.
- When you have spoken a sentence. To stop voice recognition click on the image of the keyboard at the bottom.



The text will appear in the top part of the screen above.

### Step 5



- End your sentence by saying the words “Full Stop” or “Comma” or whatever punctuation is needed. Pages accepts most of the common ones. E.g. the second sentence would be spoken as “how are you question mark New Line” to yield “How are you?” and to move down a line.
- Stop after every sentence to check back. If you have made a mistake or if the text doesn’t match what you said. Highlight the error, delete and try again.  
\*Sometimes you have to speak a little slower and with more clarity for the software to “understand” what you say
- Whether a child has a lot to say or if he/she has difficulty coming up with ideas a good idea is to make a list of important words, a simple mind map or use an image to support the ideas behind the sentence.

### Other considerations:

- To change the font click on the abc button and a wide range of choices appear
- To change the size of the font click on
- The most common and useful commands are: “Full Stop”; “Comma”; “Question Mark”; “New Line”; “New Paragraph”; But if the punctuation proves to be too complicated then that can be put in at the end of the message by an adult or sibling.



punctuation/layout

