

Non-Specialised Text Based AAC app evaluations

This resource is designed to give an overview of some text-based AAC apps using our [app evaluation table](#)

These apps range from free to medium cost and may be useful to trial with a person who is literate.

The apps covered are:

• ClaroCom	Claro Software Ltd	Page 2
• Grid Player	Sensory Software International Ltd	Page 6
• Predictable	Therapy Box	Page 9
• Proloquo 4 Text	AssistiveWare	Page 13
• Speech Assistant	ASoft.nl	Page 17
• Vocab	Willowtree	Page 21



Name of App: ClaroCom

Developer: Claro Software Ltd

							Comments
Purpose	Assessment	Access practice	Resource-making	Introduction to AAC	Progression from simple to complex AAC, symbol-based	Text-based AAC	TTS app with stored phrases categorised contextually and listed alphabetically.
Language features	Full symbol vocabulary	Basic or user added language only	Ability to combine concepts	Phrases	Prediction	Symbol supported prediction	Large number of predictive options at top of keyboard when typing.
Format	Symbol / Image only	Symbol / Image and/or Text	Text only				Layout different on iPad and iPhone
Symbol Set	PCS	Widgit	Symbolstix	Other	N/A		Some basic symbols appear alongside written word categories.
Image Options	Symbol	Take photo	Import Photo		N/A		Cannot add images.
Access Options	Tablet touchscreen settings	Tablet switch settings	App specific touchscreen	App specific switch settings	Mouse or joystick		Switch control is basic and pre-set to iOS pattern of scanning.

			settings available				Can use with pointer through iOS accessibility settings.
Support for motor impairment	Buttons of consistent size	Ability to change cell size	Ability to move position of cells		Swiping, multi tap or long presses needed for any features		Need to scroll for categories and phrases
Support for sensory impairment	Auditory prompts	Auditory fishing	Alternative colour schemes	High contrast option	Highlighting/enlarging cells	Adjust size of cells	Can change font and background colour for message bar. Can change font size.
Support for cognitive processing and learning	Consistent number of cells per page	Consistent location of commands	Consistent visual presentation	Ability to hide language or simplify	Appropriate labels for categories for developmental level of user	Consistent colour coding	
Additional tools for communication support	Visual countdown	Social scripts	Access to camera app/photos within app	Ability to add language around photos in app	Embedded web links from buttons in app (e.g. YouTube)	Whiteboard drawing tool	
Voices	Preset synthesised voice	Additional voices available free download	Additional voices available at a cost	Record own voice	Accepts voice-banking?	N/A	Free version uses standard iOS voices. Option to purchase more voices in app upgrade.
Backup Options	Dropbox	iTunes	Airdrop	USB	Email PDF	Printable for paper based back up	

Vocab Packages	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced	N/A			
Editing	Minimal editing needed to set up for demonstration	Easy to edit for support team	Easy to edit for user	Options to personalise	Whole vocabulary editing option (e.g. change font colour across whole package)	Instructions for editing	Personalisation of categories available in paid version.
Other features	Copy/paste text to other apps (e.g. email, WhatsApp)	Split screen or slide over view (iOS only)					Text in the message window can be sent by Message and Mail, or copied into other apps.
Cost	Free	Low	Medium	High			Can upgrade to ClaroCom Pro for £17.99
Operating System	iOS (Apple)	Android	Windows				

Any other comments:

- Flexible phrases include fillable prompts so ClaroCom will know, when the 'I would like ___' phrase is selected, that immediately the user will be asked for the word(s) to complete the phrase.
- ClaroCom has built in Word Prediction when typing into the Message Window. Word Prediction takes account of word frequency and previous words. There is an initial Word Prediction list loaded on start-up, and ClaroCom can learn new words as they are typed if desired.
- Upgraded to ClaroCom Pro for following features:
 - Two built-in synthetic voices (Nuance Expressive)
 - Add own custom categories

- Flip display feature (useful in loud environments)
- Send text to Facebook or Twitter from within the app
- Add whole phrase lists in bulk using simple text files and iTunes, or paste phrases into the message window and save
- A larger word prediction dictionary
- More colour and display settings
- Pinch to zoom to increase/decrease text size
- Add your name in settings and any phrases which contain “[NAME]” will use this automatically
- Select from a range of Nuance Expressive and Acapela voices as additional in-app purchases
- Connect your device to any other device that is also using ClaroCom Pro. You can then chat between the devices using the text that you type or words or phrases that you select. Requires Bluetooth or Wi-Fi.



Name of App: Grid Player

Developer: Sensory Software International Ltd

[Grid Player on the App Store](#)

							Comments
Purpose	Assessment	Access practice	Resource-making	Introduction to AAC	Progression from simple to complex AAC, symbol-based	Text-based AAC	Comes with two text-based grid sets: Text Talker Phrasebook and Simple keyboard
Language features	Full symbol vocabulary	Basic or user added language only	Ability to combine concepts	Phrases	Prediction	Symbol supported prediction	Dependant on grid set used.
Format	Symbol / Image only	Symbol / Image and/or Text	Text only	Visual scene			
Symbol Set	PCS	Widgit	Symbolstix	Other	N/A		Symbol grids are available but not being evaluated here.
Image Options	Symbol	Take photo	Import from camera roll	Import from web browser			
Access Options	Tablet touchscreen settings	Tablet switch settings	App specific touchscreen settings available	App specific switch settings	Mouse or joystick		Mouse/joystick use within iOS accessibility settings.

Support for motor impairment	Buttons of consistent size	Ability to change cell size	Ability to move position of cells		Swiping, multi tap or long presses needed for any features		
Support for sensory impairment	Auditory prompts	Auditory fishing	Alternative colour schemes	High contrast option	Highlighting/enlarging cells	Adjust size of cells	
Support for cognitive processing and learning	Consistent number of cells per page	Consistent location of commands	Consistent visual presentation	Ability to hide language or simplify	Appropriate labels for categories for developmental level of user	Consistent colour coding	
Additional tools for communication support	Visual countdown	Social scripts	Access to camera app/photos within app	Ability to add language around photos in app	Embedded web links from buttons in app (e.g. YouTube)	Whiteboard drawing tool	
Voices	Preset synthesised voice	Additional voices available free download	Additional voices available at a cost	Record own voice	Accepts voice-banking?	N/A	Only two Acapela synthesised voices available (male and female)
Backup Options	Dropbox	iTunes	Airdrop	USB	Email PDF	Printable for paper based back up	
Vocab Packages	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced	N/A			
Editing	Minimal editing needed to set	Easy to edit for support team	Easy to edit for user	Options to personalise	Whole vocabulary editing option (e.g. change font colour)	Instructions for editing	Cannot edit within the app. Need to edit in Grid 3 software

	up for demonstration				across whole package)		using a Smartbox account.
Other features	Copy/paste text to other apps (e.g. email, WhatsApp)	Split screen or slide over view (iOS only)					
Cost	Free	Low	Medium	High			
Operating System	iOS (Apple)	Android	Windows				iPhone and iPad

Any other comments:

- This app is now legacy software. Please note that legacy software is no longer updated and Smartbox can only provide limited support: [Support and resources on Smartbox Hub](#).
- You need an Online Grids account to use Grid Player. You can create an account for free within the Grid Player app, or sign in to an existing account.
- Can turn off the ability to access the Settings menu or to close grid sets from within the app from the Grid Player tab within iOS settings.
- Text Talker Phrasebook grid: 10 pre-set phrase categories. Generic conversation-based phrases (e.g. categories like ‘Greetings’, ‘Goodbyes’, ‘Ice-breakers’, ‘Personal care’, ‘Communication corrections’, ‘Information requests’). Each category also contains generic whole words (e.g. ‘yes’, ‘no’, ‘please’, ‘thank you’, ‘why’).
- Simple keyboard grid: QWERT keyboard with number page. Has 5 symbol supported word prediction cells. Uses Widget symbols.
- In Grid 3 software using a Smartbox account can customize some text-based grid sets and share to Grid Player app: [How do I send a Grid 3 grid set to Grid Player? - Smartbox Hub](#).



Name of App: Predictable

Developer: Therapy Box

<https://www.therapybox.co.uk/predictable-english>

							Comments
Purpose	Assessment	Access practice	Resource-making	Introduction to AAC	Progression from simple to complex AAC, symbol-based	Text-based AAC	Keyboard and pre-stored phrases categorised by activity/situation.
Language features	Full symbol vocabulary	Basic or user added language only	Ability to combine concepts	Phrases	Prediction	Symbol supported prediction	Has History and Favourites strip (most recently spoken/most commonly used phrases).
Format	Symbol / Image only	Symbol / Image and/or Text	Text only				Symbols available on phrase bank grid view only. Core word list available. Emoji keyboard.
Symbol Set	PCS	Widgit	Symbolstix	Other	N/A		App-specific
Image Options	Symbol	Take photo	Import Photo		N/A		

Access Options	Tablet touchscreen settings	Tablet switch settings	App specific touchscreen settings available	App specific switch settings	Mouse or joystick		Head Tracking, Scan & Track and Gesture Speak also available for devices with iOS 13 or above and with a true depth camera.
Support for motor impairment	Buttons of consistent size	Ability to change cell size	Ability to move position of cells		Swiping, multi tap or long presses needed for any features		Able to change grid size in grid layout view.
Support for sensory impairment	Auditory prompts	Auditory fishing	Alternative colour schemes	High contrast option	Highlighting/enlarging cells	Adjust size of cells	
Support for cognitive processing and learning	Consistent number of cells per page	Consistent location of commands	Consistent visual presentation	Ability to hide language or simplify	Appropriate labels for categories for developmental level of user	Consistent colour coding	
Additional tools for communication support	Visual countdown	Social scripts	Access to camera app/photos within app	Ability to add language around photos in app	Embedded web links from buttons in app (e.g. YouTube)	Whiteboard drawing tool*	Call bell button. *Digital notepad for handwriting
Voices	Preset synthesised voice	Additional voices available free download	Additional voices available at a cost	Record own voice	Accepts voice-banking?	N/A	Preset voice is device voice used. Accepts Acapela and ModelTalker banked voices.

Backup Options	Dropbox	iTunes	Airdrop	USB	Email PDF	Printable for paper based back up	Need a Therapy Box account back up to the cloud. Can access on multiple devices that sync with account.
Vocab Packages	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced	N/A			
Editing	Minimal editing needed to set up for demonstration	Easy to edit for support team	Easy to edit for user	Options to personalise	Whole vocabulary editing option (e.g. change font colour across whole package)	Instructions for editing	Can change font style, dexterity position and skin tone of some symbols across whole package. Can edit phrase bank online with account details.
Other features	Ability to send text to messaging app	Ability to send text to social media	Ability to send text to email				Share button accessible within the app
Cost	Free	Low	Medium	High			£149.99 iOS £159.99 Android
Operating System	iOS (Apple)	Android	Windows				Tablet and phone devices

Any other comments:

- Keyboards in multiple options including:
 - QWERTY layout
 - ABC layout
 - High-frequency
 - 10-hit
 - Apple keyboard
- Can also set to different themes, which include a keyguard 'friendly' keyboard layout.
- Can turn on symbol prediction for different areas of the keyboard page (including word prediction strip, message window text, favourites strip and history strip). Option to personalise the symbols in settings.
- Top level keyboard feature options include floor hold, phrases (access to stored phrase lists), grid view (access to stored phrases with symbols in grid view), bell (calling for attention), share button (to email/messaging apps, etc), handwriting and Add Phrase to Phrase bank. You can only have 4 of these appear at the top level.
- Phrase categories are formatted in grid or list view and appear on a separate page to the keyboard.
- Can set up abbreviation expansions to reduce keystrokes or switch hits when composing a message using the keyboard (e.g. btw – By the way). Need to add these and as a user in your settings.
- Multiple language options and translation option for message window text. Note that some languages rely on online word prediction and online voices.
- Can use ChatGPT in Predictable and get a response to a question directly in the message window.

<https://www.therapybox.co.uk/post/5-hidden-features-of-predictable-you-may-not-know-about>



Name of App: Proloquo4Text

Developer: AssistiveWare

<https://www.assistiveware.com/products/proloquo4text>

							Comments
Purpose	Assessment	Access practice	Resource-making	Introduction to AAC	Progression from simple to complex AAC, symbol-based	Text-based AAC	TTS app with stored phrases categorised by activity/situation.
Language features	Full symbol vocabulary	Basic or user added language only	Ability to combine concepts	Phrases	Prediction	Symbol supported prediction	
Format	Symbol / Image only	Symbol / Image and/or Text	Text only				
Symbol Set	PCS	Widgit	Symbolstix	Other	N/A		
Image Options	Symbol	Take photo	Import Photo		N/A		
Access Options	Tablet touchscreen settings	Tablet switch settings	App specific touchscreen settings available	App specific switch settings	Mouse or joystick		Suitable for direct access but also compatible with mouse control or switch control in the iOS settings. Can use

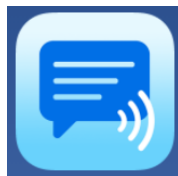
							any keyboard available from device.
Support for motor impairment	Buttons of consistent size	Ability to change cell size	Ability to move position of cells		Swiping, multi tap or long presses needed for any features		
Support for sensory impairment	Auditory prompts	Auditory fishing	Alternative colour schemes	High contrast option*	Highlighting/enlarging cells	Adjust size of cells	Icons at the top of the Text Pad allow you to enlarge the text section to fill the whole screen with a flip screen view option. *Would need to adapt the colours manually for this.
Support for cognitive processing and learning	Consistent number of cells per page	Consistent location of commands	Consistent visual presentation	Ability to hide language or simplify	Appropriate labels for categories for developmental level of user	Consistent colour coding	
Additional tools for communication support	Visual countdown	Social scripts	Access to camera app/ photos within app	Ability to add language around photos in app	Embedded web links from buttons in app (e.g. YouTube)	Whiteboard drawing tool	
Voices	Preset synthesised voice	Additional voices available free download	Additional voices available at a cost	Record own voice	Accepts voice-banking?	N/A	Can download Acapela voice. Can adapt voice pitch and rate.

Backup Options	Dropbox	iTunes	Airdrop	USB	Email PDF	Printable for paper based back up	Google Drive and Dropbox integration optional
Vocab Packages	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced	N/A			
Editing	Minimal editing needed to set up for demonstration	Easy to edit for support team	Easy to edit for user	Options to personalise	Whole vocabulary editing option (e.g. change font colour across whole package)	Instructions for editing	Within-app access to the user manual and link to website-based support and guides available.
Other features	Ability to send text to messaging app	Ability to send text to social media	Ability to send text to email				Computer Access features – copy, paste, email, share, Twitter, News Feeds, Message.
Cost	Free	Low	Medium	High			£199.99
Operating System	iOS (Apple)	Android	Windows				

Any other comments:

- Left and right side of screen are quick blocks with phrase banks and quick chat phrases. Column section in the middle of the screen is the 'text pad' which shows your current message, either typed from keyboard or selected from quick blocks. Navigation within the same screen.
- Can hide left or right-side columns and reveal from main screen using small icons in top right or left corner of screen.
- Selecting the top of the columns changes the functions (e.g. Phrases to Conversations to Sentence Prediction).

- Small pencil icon in top right corner of left column/top left corner of right column indicates that this section can be edited.
- Text pad has small 'play' icon at the bottom in the centre to speak the message, which becomes a 'pause' icon that can be selected during the message being spoken aloud to stop this.
- Can select enlarged function buttons view in Settings>Appearance (e.g. speak button, delete, forward/copy message, edit, etc).



Name of App: Speech Assistant AAC

Developer: ASoft.nl

<https://www.asoft.nl/>

							Comments
Purpose	Assessment	Access practice	Resource-making	Introduction to AAC	Progression from simple to complex AAC, symbol-based	Text-based AAC	Onscreen keyboard or pre-stored phrases
Language features	Full symbol vocabulary	Basic or user added language only	Ability to combine concepts	Phrases	Prediction	Symbol supported prediction	
Format	Symbol / Image only	Symbol / Image and/or Text	Text only				Symbols or photos available in paid version only
Symbol Set	PCS	Widgit	Symbolstix	Other	N/A		Mulberry symbols
Image Options	Symbol	Take photo	Import Photo		N/A		Symbols or photos from device photo library using paid version of app
Access Options	Tablet touchscreen settings	Tablet switch settings	App specific touchscreen settings available	App specific switch settings*	Mouse or joystick		*Speech Assist Switch version of the app available on iOS.

Support for motor impairment	Buttons of consistent size	Ability to change cell size	Ability to move position of cells		Swiping, multi tap or long presses needed for any features		Global changes to textbox, category and phrase cell sizes.
Support for sensory impairment	Auditory prompts	Auditory fishing	Alternative colour schemes	High contrast option	Highlighting/enlarging cells	Adjust size of cells	Additional options for colour scheme, dark theme, changing/hiding action buttons, and rotating textbox are available in the paid app.
Support for cognitive processing and learning	Consistent number of cells per page	Consistent location of commands	Consistent visual presentation	Ability to hide language or simplify	Appropriate labels for categories for developmental level of user	Consistent colour coding	No navigation needed to access keyboard, just tap in text box.
Additional tools for communication support	Visual countdown	Social scripts	Access to camera app/photos within app	Ability to add language around photos in app	Embedded web links from buttons in app (e.g. YouTube)	Whiteboard drawing tool	
Voices	Preset synthesised voice	Additional voices available free download	Additional voices available at a cost	Record own voice	Accepts voice-banking?	N/A	Can import or make voice recordings in paid version.
Backup Options	Dropbox	iTunes	Airdrop	USB	Email PDF	Printable for paper based back up	iCloud. Back-up options available in paid version.

Vocab Packages	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced	N/A			
Editing	Minimal editing needed to set up for demonstration	Easy to edit for support team	Easy to edit for user	Options to personalise	Whole vocabulary editing option (e.g. change font colour across whole package)*	Instructions for editing	*Premium app version only.
Other features	Ability to send text to messaging app	Ability to send text to social media	Ability to send text to email				Ability to share message to multiple apps from within app
Cost	Free	Low	Medium	High			Free on Android Upgrade on Android is £8.99. App on iOS is £19.99
Operating System	iOS (Apple)	Android	Windows				

Any other comments:

- Device onscreen keyboard used.
- Predictive options when typing depend on device onscreen keyboard used.
- Can fully edit all available categories in free version.
- Can enlarge message to full screen, which gives access to more action buttons (including 'share' and an alert bell to get attention).
- Can edit using dedicated 'edit' action button or by long-hold on touch screen on a category or phrase.
- The iOS version of the app can also be used while making Phone and FaceTime calls so you don't need a second device for the speech output.
- Extra features on paid version of app:

- An unlimited number of categories instead of 8
- Option to select Symbols or Photos on buttons
- Back-up and Restore options
- Option to give the individual buttons with phrases different colours, chose another colour scheme or create a personal one, or change the colour and order of action buttons
- History for quick access to previously spoken phrases
- Tabs for multiple conversations
- Option to make voice recordings
- Create user profiles for different languages, situations and people
- Option to highlight the spoken words (with Google voices)
- Button to rotate the text to show your message to the person opposite from you



Name of App: Vocable

Developer: Willowtree

<https://www.vocable.app/>

							Comments
Purpose	Assessment	Access practice	Resource-making	Introduction to AAC	Progression from simple to complex AAC, symbol-based	Text-based AAC	TTS app with stored phrases and keyboard
Language features	Full symbol vocabulary	Basic or user added language only	Ability to combine concepts	Phrases	Prediction	Symbol supported prediction	4 word prediction options at top of keyboard when typing.
Format	Symbol / Image only	Symbol / Image and/or Text	Text only				QWERTY keyboard
Symbol Set	PCS	Widgit	Symbolstix	Other	N/A		
Image Options	Symbol	Take photo	Import Photo		N/A		
Access Options	Tablet touchscreen settings	Tablet switch settings	App specific touchscreen settings available	App specific switch settings	Mouse or joystick		Switch and pointer through iOS accessibility settings. In-app head tracking option.*

Support for motor impairment	Buttons of consistent size	Ability to change cell size	Ability to move position of cells		Swiping, multi tap or long presses needed for any features		Can alter position of phrase categories but not phrases within categories
Support for sensory impairment	Auditory prompts	Auditory fishing	Alternative colour schemes	High contrast option	Highlighting/enlarging cells	Adjust size of cells	Dark colour background with white writing but not high contrast.
Support for cognitive processing and learning	Consistent number of cells per page	Consistent location of commands	Consistent visual presentation	Ability to hide language or simplify	Appropriate labels for categories for developmental level of user	Consistent colour coding	
Additional tools for communication support	Visual countdown	Social scripts	Access to camera app/photos within app	Ability to add language around photos in app	Embedded web links from buttons in app (e.g. YouTube)	Whiteboard drawing tool	
Voices	Preset synthesised voice	Additional voices available free download	Additional voices available at a cost	Record own voice	Accepts voice-banking?	N/A	Uses default system voice.
Backup Options	Dropbox	iTunes	Airdrop	USB	Email PDF	Printable for paper based back up	
Vocab Packages	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced	N/A			

Editing	Minimal editing needed to set up for demonstration	Easy to edit for support team	Easy to edit for user	Options to personalise	Whole vocabulary editing option (e.g. change font colour across whole package)	Instructions for editing	
Other features	Ability to send text to messaging app	Ability to send text to social media	Ability to send text to email				
Cost	Free	Low	Medium	High			
Operating System	iOS (Apple)	Android	Windows				Available on mobile and tablet devices

Any other comments:

- In-app head tracking: Only available with devices that support head tracking. In-app settings to adjust head tracking include being able to adjust dwell time and three levels of cursor sensitivity.

Publishing information

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