

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:

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|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| • ClaroCom (Pro) | Claro Software Ltd | Page 2 |
| • Predictable | Therapy Box | Page 6 |
| • Proloquo 4 Text | AssistiveWare | Page 10 |
| • Speech Assistant | ASoft.nl | Page 14 |
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Name of App: ClaroCom (Pro)

Developer: Claro Software Ltd



<https://www.clarosoftware.com/portfolio/clarocom/>

<https://www.clarosoftware.com/portfolio/clarocom-android/>

| | | | | | | | 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 | | | | Different format/layout on tablets and smart phones. |
| Symbol Set | PCS | Widgit | Symbolstix | Other | N/A | | Some basic symbols appear alongside written word categories. |

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|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Image Options | Symbol | Take photo | Import Photo | | N/A | | Cannot add images. |
| Access Options | Tablet touchscreen settings | Tablet switch settings | App specific touchscreen settings available | App specific switch settings | Mouse or joystick | | Switch control is basic and pre-set to iOS pattern of scanning. 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 | | Buttons vary in size |
| Support for sensory impairment | Auditory prompts | Auditory fishing | Alternative colour schemes | High contrast option | Highlighting/enlarging cells | Adjust size of cells | No auditory/visual cueing options. Pinch to zoom and flip display functions. Can change font size. Can change text and background colour. |
| 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 | |
| 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 default system voice. Option to purchase more voices. |

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|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Backup Options | Dropbox | iTunes | Airdrop | USB | Email PDF | Printable for paper based back up | Automatic syncing of phrases/categories to iCloud (iOS versions only). |
| 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 ClaroCom Pro version. |
| Other features | Ability to send text to messaging app | Ability to send text to social media | Ability to send text to email | | | | Can share quickly within app via email, to notes/ reminders and to text/messaging apps. Can also copy and share indirectly. |
| Cost | Free | Low | Medium | High | | | Free version available for iOS and Android. Can upgrade to ClaroCom Pro on iOS for £16.99 |
| Operating System | iOS (Apple) | Android | Windows | | | | Free and Pro version on iOS. Free version only on Android. |

Any other comments:

- Differences between ClaroCom (free/trial version) and ClaroCom Pro are listed in the comparison chart on the website:
<https://www.clarosoftware.com/portfolio/clarocom/>
- Link and chat to iOS device (Pro version only): Can connect your device to any other device that is also using ClaroCom. You can then chat between the devices using the text that you type or words or phrases that you select. This feature requires Bluetooth or Wi-Fi.



Name of App: Predictable

Developer: Therapy Box

<https://therapy-box.co.uk/predictable>

| | | | | | | | 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 | 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. Emojis accessible via keyboard. |
| Symbol Set | PCS | Widgit | Symbolstix | Other | N/A | | |
| Image Options | Symbol | Take photo | Import Photo | | N/A | | |

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|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 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 OS 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 but does not change all cell size. |
| 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 | |
| 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 |

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| | | | | | | | multiple devices that sync with account. |
| Vocab Packages | Basic | Intermediate | Advanced | N/A | | | Symbol supported phrases with basic core vocabulary list. |
| 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 | | | | |
| Cost | Free | Low | Medium | High | | | £79.99 |
| Operating System | iOS (Apple) | Android | Windows | | | | |

Any other comments:

- Keyboards in multiple options including:
 - QWERTY layout (26 letter)
 - ABC layout (26 letter)
 - High-frequency (26 letter)
 - 10-hit (larger target area)
 - Apple keyboard
- Can also set to different themes, which include a keyguard 'friendly' keyboard layout.
- 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.



Name of App: Proloquo4Text

Developer: AssistiveWare

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

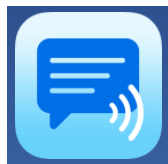
| | | | | | | | Comments |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Purpose | Assessment | Access practice | Resource-making | Introduction to AAC | Progression from simple to 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 |

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| | | | | | | | 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 | |
| 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.a-soft.nl/>

| | | | | | | | 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 stored by context/activity. |
| 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 | | | | Phrase categories formatted in a grid view and appear on same page as message bar and onscreen keyboard. |
| Symbol Set | PCS | Widgit | Symbolstix | Other | N/A | | |
| Image Options | Symbol | Take photo | Import Photo | | N/A | | Can use emojis, import or take photos to add to cell label in premium version. |
| Access Options | Tablet touchscreen settings | Tablet switch settings | App specific touchscreen | App specific switch settings* | Mouse or joystick | | Suitable for direct access but also could use with mouse control |

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| | | | settings available | | | | or switch control depending on what is available in the device OS accessibility settings. *Speech Assist Switch version of the app available for switch users 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 premium app version. |
| 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. |
| Voices | Preset synthesised voice | Additional voices | Additional voices | Record own voice | Accepts voice-banking? | N/A | Can import or make voice recordings in premium app version. |

| | | available free download | available at a cost | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Backup Options | Dropbox | iTunes | Airdrop | USB | Email PDF | Printable for paper based back up | iCloud |
| 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 with social media, email or messaging apps available on device. |
| Cost | Free | Low | Medium | High | | | Premium version £14.99. Speech Assist App (switch version for iOS) £15.99. |
| Operating System | iOS (Apple) | Android | Windows | | | | Can only get premium version on iOS. Free version and Premium available on Android. |

Any other comments:

- Device onscreen keyboard used.
- When onscreen keyboard is up it does hide the phrases below the categories.
- Can use different keyboard available on device but change within device settings.
- Can change the position of the keyboard, the size of the characters, and create a new simple in-app keyboard which has its own category alongside the phrase categories.
- Can use a USB/Bluetooth keyboard within app settings.
- Predictive options when typing depend on device onscreen keyboard used.
- Can fully edit all available categories in free version.
- Can choose to sort phrase categories alphabetically or not.
- Can edit using dedicated 'edit' action button or by long-hold on touch screen on a category or phrase.



Name of App: Verbally

Developer: Intuary

<http://verballyapp.com/index.html>

| | | | | | | | Comments |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Purpose | Assessment | Access practice | Resource-making | Introduction to AAC | Progression from simple to complex AAC, symbol-based | Text-based AAC | TTS app with fully customisable phrase categories and a selection of frequently used 'core' words. |
| Language features | Full symbol vocabulary | Basic or user added language only | Ability to combine concepts | Phrases | Prediction | Symbol supported prediction | You can Import Contacts in the Prediction Settings to ensure optimal prediction of place and people names you may use. |
| 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 | | |

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|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| Access Options | Tablet touchscreen settings | Tablet switch settings | App specific touchscreen settings available | App specific switch settings | Mouse or joystick | | Stead Hands feature allows people with inaccurate fine motor skills to type by dragging their finger from an incorrect cell to the target cell. |
| 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 | | Delete all, delete last word, add phrase to Favourites and Forward in email cell functions available but are small in size and not clearly labelled. |
| 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 | |
| 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 from device settings. Additional voices can be downloaded with Premium app version. |

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|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Backup Options | Dropbox | iTunes | Airdrop | USB | Email PDF | Printable for paper based back up | No backup option. |
| 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 | | | | Bell key could be used to call for attention. |
| Cost | Free | Low | Medium | High | | | Free version available of Premium version at £99.99 |
| Operating System | iOS (Apple) | Android | Windows | | | | |

Any other comments:

- On screen keyboard on one side of the screen is always visible and accessible. Half of the screen is changeable for different functions by choosing between three tabs (Words, Favourites, History) along the top left of the screen
- Can change the layout so that the keyboard appears across the bottom half of the screen or vertically on the left/right side of the screen.
- Speech output is interruptible by pressing Speak button again.
- Premium version has following additional features:

- More natural synthetic voices available with ability to customize voice features
- Ability to create and save favourite phrases
- Ability to organise favourites into own unique categories
- Customisable predictions through learning from what you type
- Banks your phrase history