**Natural Reader**

**Michael:** [00:00:00] All right. So here we are having a look at Natural Reader and the name of the web app is natural reader, but just to draw your attention to the fact that the website address is in fact natural readers dot com I think somebody must have bought up natural reader.com and this company didn't manage to grab it in time.

So it's natural readers.com. If you're trying to access this online. This is a free text-to-speech tool. Which offers quite a lot if you're just using the free aspects of the tool, now it is going to be one of these freemium tools that is trying to entice you to pay for a more fully featured account.

But you don't have to do that. You can use it completely free and you can take advantage of opportunities to listen back to documents, PDF files emails in your web browser. If that's something that you want to do, it's not bad for the grand total of no money at all. If you just want to use these core features with the non-premium voices and the non-premium voices, aren't bad.

So there's a couple of ways that you can access this. First of all, you can go to the natural reader website. You can just go to the online reader, which we're going to have a look at first of all, which looks a little bit like this. So we do have a preview bit of text that it's put up there, but, if I was to click at the beginning here, we could go and have a look at the available voices.

I'm selecting free at the moment. Now I believe that you can use the premium voices for 20 minutes a day, and those are higher quality. Let's have a lesson using Susan and see what that sounds like. So I'm just going to press the play button at the top of the screen

**Natural Reader Voice:** [00:01:46] drag and drop your files, or type paste and edit text here.

Natural reader.

**Michael:** [00:01:54] Alright, I'm just going to stop it at that point, I have already been in and adjusted the speed to make it very slightly slower. So to give a more accurate representation of what the defaults are going to be like, I'm going to put that back to zero, but just to show you, you can adjust the speed. So some people might prefer to slow down or speed up the voices let's have a

listen on its default setting.

**Natural Reader Voice:** [00:02:15] Natural reader is a professional text to speech program that converts any written text into spoken words. The paid versions of natural reader.

**Michael:** [00:02:26] Just stop it there. As natural reader is starting to try and get me to spend some money, but this is all free. What we're using at the moment, we can swap it to this more dyslexia, friendly font

If that's something which is a bit more comfortable to look at and we can adjust font sizes at the top here. What we're looking at here is just a text window where you can literally go in, delete that and type whatever you like or paste text directly in there, but we can go into open documents at the bottom and we can actually browse to a document we've got on our computer.

So for instance, if I just click on open documents here and I load up this PDF file, I downloaded earlier, we can load up these different slides and we can listen back to that. So I'm actually going to click at the beginning of this word and hopefully what's going to happen is it's just going to start reading from that point.

**Natural Reader Voice:** [00:03:20] Color stimulus, triad, Illuminant spectrum. Surface reflectance

spectrum.

**Michael:** [00:03:28] There we go. So if you've got PDF files or any of the document types that were listed on the previous page, you can just upload those and listen back to those quite comfortably. So that's one way of using the tool. The other way that you can use it is by installing the Chrome app.

So you'll need to have the Chrome web browser. You might be able to install this into edge because recently edge has offered flexibility for adding chrome extensions directly into the edge browser and I'm talking about these little things in the top right-hand corner, these extra little icons, which denote extra bits of software that I've installed into my web browser.

And I have got the natural reader plugin just there in the top right-hand corner. So what this allows me to do for instance is let's imagine that I was wanting to read this email having clicked on it I've now got this play bar that's popped up there and if I press on play, it should just start reading the email.

Now it might start reading stuff I don't really want to hear including my email address at the top, so I can skip through those sections by using the fast rewind and fast forward buttons. Let's try that out.

**Natural Reader Voice:** [00:04:35] Test D&A hey Michael, here's a quick email so that you can try out natural reader directly in your web browser. See you soon.

**Michael:** [00:04:44] All right. So I skipped a little bit, cause it was going to start reading my email address and I didn't want it to do that. That was just why it sounded a little bit, a little bit weird at the beginning. It looks like I might just be able to click on the text and have it read as well.

**Natural Reader Voice:** [00:04:57] Here's a quick email so that you can try out natural reader directly in your...

**Michael:** [00:05:01] So that's pretty handy and pretty accessible.