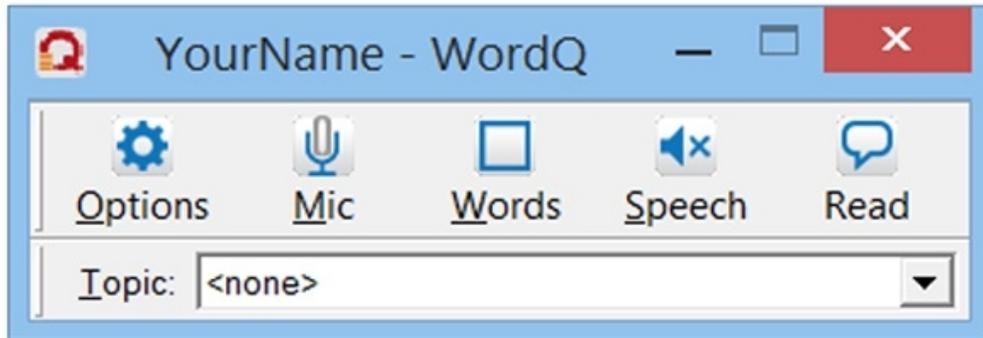




Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

Dear EMSB parent,

Your child is using a technology tool called **WordQ/SpeakQ by Quillsoft**. This tool can support your child within the curriculum for both reading and writing.



Here is a brief video that demonstrates WordQ/SpeakQ:

<http://bit.ly/2wYzDDR>

Key features of WordQ/SpeakQ:

1. Text to speech (TTS)

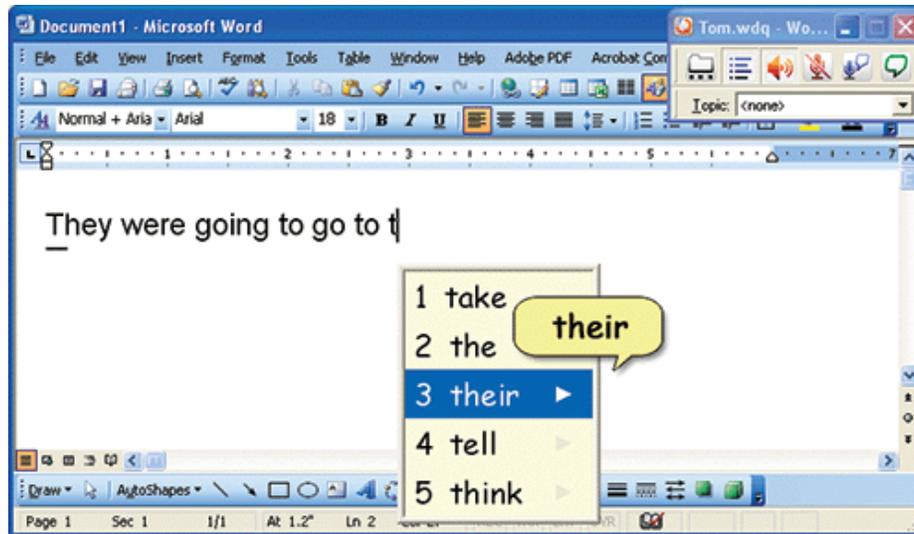
This tool can take words on a computer or other digital device and convert them into audio, so that your child can hear the text on the screen. This is useful for many students as they can access content through listening. TTS is very helpful for students who struggle with reading. However, it can also help students with writing and editing, and even focusing.

WordQ works with laptops or desktop computers. All kinds of text files can be read aloud, including Word documents, PDFs, and web pages.

The voice in WordQ/SpeakQ is computer-generated, and reading speed can be sped up or slowed down. WordQ/SpeakQ highlights words as they are read aloud. This allows students to see text and hear it at the same time.

2. Word prediction

This tool predicts the rest of the word that the student is typing. Word prediction is particularly helpful for students who type slowly, have difficulty with spelling or with finding the appropriate vocabulary to use in a piece of writing.



3. Speech recognition

This tool allows students to dictate orally; then their words appear on the screen. This tool can be useful for students who have strong oral language skills but might have difficulty with writing skills.

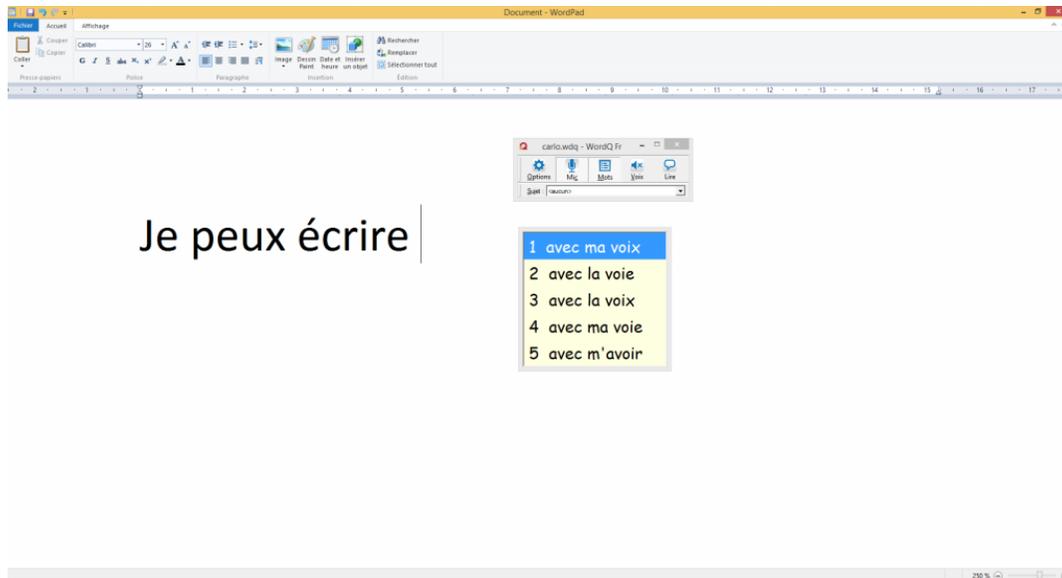
***Please note:** Speech recognition takes quite a bit of practice and can be a difficult skill at the very beginning of use. Please allow your child opportunities to practice outside of school assignments, and practice saying words and short sentences before moving on to longer texts. In addition, its perfectly fine for students to go back and forth between writing a few words or sentences and dictating a few words or sentences.

You can follow this process for working with your child with SpeakQ:

Think it! Think about what you would like to say before speaking.

Say it! Say it clearly, and naturally. Don't worry about punctuation or grammar at this stage.

Check it! Go back to your text and edit. There will sometimes be accuracy errors if the software didn't pick up on the word.



Home use of WordQ/SpeakQ

The EMSB provides parents with the option to download WordQ/SpeakQ on your computer, for your child to use at home. If you would like to download the software, please ask your school for the download link.

*Please note:

- The home version works on both PCs and Macs (desktops and laptops). It will **not** work on a mobile device (iPad or Android) or on a Chromebook.
- You are able to configure WordQ profiles in both English and French when you are setting up your child's WordQ profile.

For short “how-to” videos on WordQ/SpeakQ, please see the Quillsoft resource page:

<http://goqsoftware.com/resources.php>

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