

Resource Sheet: Dictation Solutions

There are two basic ways of getting your speech transcribed into text:

One is software. And the other one is human transcription.

Software voice recognition is getting better and better, but it has the drawback that it distracts you from creating your content. You will always be looking at the screen to check, "Did it understand me correctly"? Also, with voice recognition software you'll have to remember to dictate any punctuation marks, spell unknown words, and know a whole bunch of commands. Also, it's really hard to proofread your text, because voice recognition software will occasionally recognize the wrong word, and even if you have the computer read your whole text back to you, you won't detect the mistake because naturally the wrongly recognized word will be a word that sounds extremely similar to the correct one.

I dictated my first ebook in 2008 using Dragon Naturally Speaking. It worked, but with today's availability of quick and cheap human transcription solutions such as Voxie on the iPhone, I'd always recommend you use those instead and save yourself the hassle of all the technological glitches that come with software voice recognition.

Software Voice Recognition:

- Dragon Naturally Speaking (Windows)
- MacSpeech (Mac)

Human Transcription Services:

- [Voxie/Quicktate \(iPhone\)](#) – This is a combination of iPhone app and transcription service. Use their "Medical" application, which can record and send files longer than 5 minutes (which you'll need when dictating a book)

iPhone Apps:

- [AudioMemos \(iPhone\)](#) - I use this to record audio books and to dictate into a file that the app will then compress and send via email to my transcriptionist. You can't use it with Quicktate, but if you hire a transcriptionist on oDesk you can put in their address and it's going to be like you have your private secretary.