



FAQS

How do I get started?

- You do not need to wait for TalkLink to do voicebanking. Have a look at the comparison table, choose the voice banking service that sounds best to you and visit their website to get started.

Will my data be protected?

- Concerned about the privacy and protection of your data? Each voice banking service has privacy statements on their websites where you can find out more.

What do the synthetic voices sound like?

- Some of the voice banking services have sample voices you can listen to on their websites. Alternatively, visit the TalkLink voice banking blog post at <https://talklink.org.nz/resources/voice-banking-2024> to hear some sample voices made by our clinicians.

Will the voice sound like me?

- The created voice will vary depending on your recordings but should have features similar to your voice. Our clients often comment that their family members think the voice sounds like them, but it sounds strange for them to listen to, like listening to a recording of yourself.

Who purchases the voice?

- If you choose to voice bank, you likely do not need to purchase the voice yourself. If you need to use the voice on a communication device in the future, funding for the voice will be applied for on your behalf.

For more information and to see a video of our clients experiences of voice banking visit the voice banking blog post on our website <https://talklink.org.nz/resources/voice-banking-2024>

You no longer need to refer to TalkLink for voice banking
Please use the following information to get started

Voice Banking



What is voice banking?

Voice banking is a process of recording your natural speaking voice to create a synthetic version of your voice. This voice can be used to speak for you in the event you are unable to speak verbally in the future. The process involves recording yourself speaking a set of sentences into computer software. The software then takes these sentences, breaks them down into parts and uses these to create a synthetic voice which can speak anything, not just the sentences you recorded. The synthetic voice should sound like your natural voice but does depend on the quality of the recordings and the clarity of your speech at the time of recording.

What is message banking?

Message banking is a process of recording phrases to be used if you are no longer able to speak. Each phrase you record can be uploaded to a communication device and spoken out. Unlike voicebanking, only the sentences you record can be spoken in your voice. You may decide that you don't want to go through the process of voicebanking, but would like to be able to communicate a set of important phrases using the recordings of your natural voice.

Do I need to voice bank?

You may decide you want to voicebank if you know that in the future there is the possibility that you may not be able to use your voice anymore. Voice banking is not mandatory, as there are digital voices available that can be used should you need to communicate using a device. However, if you would like to use a voice which is personal to you and sounds more like your natural voice, then you may choose to voicebank. If you bank your voice and decide you don't like how it sounds, you can choose to use a digital voice instead.

COMPARING VOICE BANKING OPTIONS:	Voicekeeper	Acapela	Speak Unique	Modeltalker	Cerevoice	Apple Voice banking
Equipment needed	Laptop / computer and headset or phone application	Laptop / computer and headset	Laptop / computer and headset	Laptop / computer and headset	Laptop / computer and headset	iPhone, iPad or iMac device (newer versions only)
Number of sentences needed	50 minimum 200 maximum	50 minimum 350 maximum	150 minimum 300 maximum	298	100	150
Time to complete	10 mins – 1.5 hours	10 mins - 1 hour	1 - 3 hours	2 - 4 hours	30 mins – 1 hour	30 mins – 1 hour
Can add custom sentences to improve quality	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Ability to create voice from banked messages only	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Sentence can be read aloud to support literacy	Yes	Yes	No - but have “simple word script”	Yes	Yes	No
Ease of use	Easy, intuitive and quick (website preferred over phone app)	Easy and quick to follow the steps	Easy to follow the steps, takes a bit longer	Takes longer to complete, set up includes technical information	Not trialled by TalkLink clinicians due to cost	Quick and easy
Preview before purchase	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No, pay before start recording	N/A (no purchase required)
Length of data storage	5 years	1 year	As long as needed	Indefinitely	Indefinitely	Stored directly to iDevice
Compatible apps and devices	Large range of options across Windows and iOS	Large range of options across Windows, Android and iOS	Range of Windows options, limited iOS and Android apps	Range of Windows and Android options, limited iOS apps	Range of Windows options, limited iOS apps	Select iOS apps only

For a more detailed version of the table refer to our website <https://talklink.org.nz/resources/voice-banking-2024>