

Train the Program

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In this session you will:

1. learn how to connect and adjust the microphone
2. learn how to start *Dragon NaturallySpeaking* and create / open your voice file
3. train *Dragon NaturallySpeaking* to recognise your voice.

Your teacher will show how you can use *Dragon NaturallySpeaking* to write by using your voice.

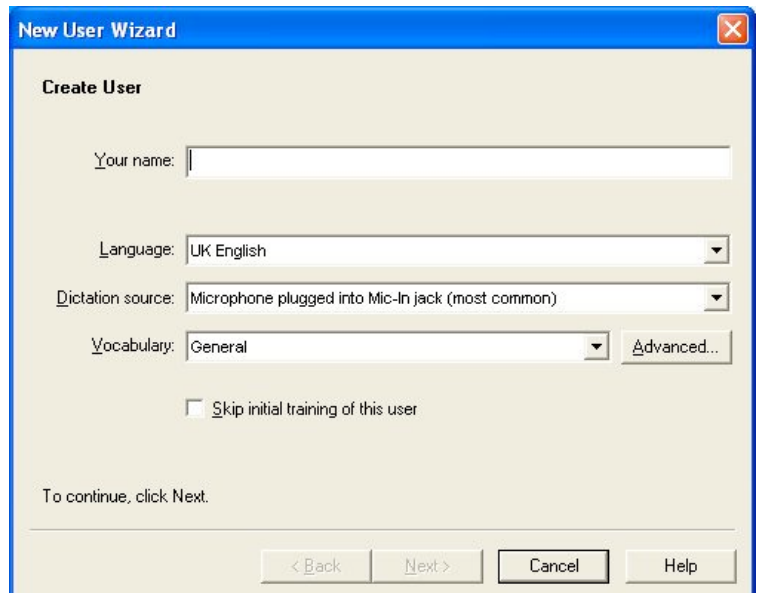
Start *Dragon NaturallySpeaking* - Start the program by double clicking on the *NaturallySpeaking* icon on the desktop or clicking on **Start > Programs > Dragon NaturallySpeaking** or click on the *NaturallySpeaking* icon on your desktop.

If you have not used *NaturallySpeaking* before, you will need to create a voice file with your name. You will only have to do this once - in future you will just open your voice file.

Create your voice file - Do this by clicking on *NaturallySpeaking* > **Advanced > Manage Users**. Click **New** and then type in your name. Make sure the UK English language is selected. Select the correct type of Dictation source - either a mic plugged into the mic socket, or a USB type, etc..

Adjust the Microphone - Position the microphone headset on your head so that it is comfortable and then adjust the position of the microphone. It should be placed a little to the side of your mouth and about a thumb's width from your lips. Most microphones get their best sound signal from one particular direction, usually shown by a red or a white dot on the end of the microphone. Make sure this dot is pointing towards your mouth.

Adjust the microphone volume by reading the text below into the computer. Click on **Start Volume Check** and read the text shown. When the computer has adjusted the volume it will beep. Now click **Next**.



Adjust your volume

In this step the computer listens to the sound of your voice and adjusts the volume setting of the microphone. When the computer has finished adjusting the volume, it beeps to signal that the process is complete. If you reach the end of this text but have not heard a beep, start reading the text again from the beginning. You should only have to read for about ten to fifteen seconds.

You will have to **check the audio quality** by reading the text below. Click on [Start Quality Check](#) and read the text until the computer beeps. Provided that the Quality Check is passed, click on [Finish](#). If the sound quality is Unacceptable try the following and repeat the Quality Check until it is passed:

- speak slightly louder and more clearly
- move the microphone a little nearer or a little further away

If this does not work, ask your teacher for help.

Audio quality test

In this step the computer checks the audio input from your sound card. Having high quality audio input is very important for good speech recognition. Poor audio input will make it difficult or impossible for the program to recognise your speech accurately. When the computer has finished checking the audio quality, it beeps to signal that the text is complete. If you reach the end of this text but you have not heard a beep, start reading the text again from the beginning. You should only have to read for about fifteen seconds.

Train NaturallySpeaking to recognise your voice - You will now have to train the program by creating your own voice model. The first two sentences are shown below. Practice these sentences until you are sure you can speak them without stumbling. You can click on the [Demo](#) button to hear the sentences. When you are ready, click on [Go](#) and read the two introductory sentences. The text will turn grey as the computer recognises the speech.

Welcome to the world of continuous speech recognition.

Training is about to begin.

You will now be offered a choice of stories to read, to train NaturallySpeaking. If your computer has a fast processor and lots of memory, training involves reading for five to ten minutes. We suggest you use *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* or *Talking to your Computer*. Your teacher should be able to give you a printout of the texts. This will give you a chance to practice with the text and find any difficult words.

When you are ready to start, click on the story you want to use and click [OK](#). The text to be read is shown on the screen and as the program recognises your speech, the words change from blue to grey. Read a short phrase and wait for the text to turn grey. If the computer does not recognise a word or phrase, wait for a few seconds and repeat it. If you see a word you cannot manage, click on [Pause](#) and ask your teacher for help. You can also click on [Pause](#) if you want to stop and have a rest. If the computer gets stuck and doesn't recognise a word even after repeating it a few times, click on [Skip](#).

When you finish dictating, the computer will take a few minutes to create a voice file for you.