Making the most of PDFs and Adobe Acrobat Reader for learners with ASN

PDF (Portable Document Format) is a digital file format that can be used across different devices such as Windows, Mac, iPad and Android. To view and use a PDF you need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader DC although there are others). Adobe Reader includes numerous features to help learners with additional support needs (ASN) such dyslexia, sight loss and mobility difficulties. The following offers some hints and tips on improving the readability and accessibility of PDFs by using Adobe Reader's built-in tools.



Black text on a white background (the default setting in Adobe Acrobat Reader) can be a barrier to learners who experience visual stress and/or scotopic light sensitivity - when the letters and words on a page appear as if they are moving or jumbled.

ile Edit View Window Help	File Edit View Window Help	File Edit View Window Help	File Edit View Window Help File Edit View Window Help
Home Tools Books for All Scotl × Danny the Ch	Home Tools Books for All ScotL. Dan	Home Tools Books for All Scotl Danny	Home Tools Books for All Scotl × Da Home Tools Books for All Scotl Danny the Cham × (?)
□ 介 冊 区 Q ⑦ ④ ⑧ / 249	□	в 🗒 🏟 🖶 🖂 Q. 🗇 🛞 💈 / 249	
 But my father didn't seem to mind. I all the love he had fell for my mothe behavious and the lower had fell for my mother behavious and the lower had fell for my mother behavious and the lower had fell for my mother behavious and the lower had fell for my mother behavious and the lower had fell for my mother behavious and moment's unhappiness or illness an an om fifth thirds. I was now a scruffy liftle boy as you because I spent all day in the works and on all over me, but the scrues a spenden with the cars. The filling-station itself had only two There was a wooden shed behind the served as an office. There was in the office except an old table and mag and the drawer shot out with a bang. I used to lowe that. The square brick building to the righ office was the workshop. My father I himself with loving care, and it was a engineers, you and l, "he used to se engineers, you and l," he used to se out do good work in a rotten was and the dog od work in a rotten was and the dog od work in a rotten was the second work in a rotten was and the dog od work in a rotten was the second second work in a rotten was the second work in a rotten was and the dog od work in a rotten was and the dog od work in a rotten was the second work in a rotten was the second work in a rotten was the second work in a rotten was and the dog od work in a rotten was the second work in a rotten wa	 But my father didn't seem to nall the love he had felt for my she was alive he now lavishe. During my early years, I neve moment's unhappiness or illinam on my fifth birthday. I was now a scruffy little boys with grease and oil all over my because I spent all day in the helping my father with the car The filling-station itself had on There was a wooden shed be that served as an office. There in the office except an old tab range and the drawer shot out bang. I used to love that. The square birk building to this we here you pressed a bir with grease birk building to those where you pressed a bir lowing erable birk building to the office was the workshop. My inself with lowing care, and the low and and the lowing and the prices, end with grease and or lowing and the prices. We earn our living by repairing we can't do good work in a row as a start do good work in a row astarow as a start do good work in a row astart do good work in a	 But my father didn't seem to min all the love he had felt for my min he was alive he now lavished During my early years, I never moment's unhappiness or illness am on my fith birthday. I was now a scruffy little boy as mon my fith birthday. I was now a scruffy little boy as mon my fith and with the cars. The filling-station itself had only here was a wooden shed beh that served as an office. There in the office except an old table rang and the draver shot out bang. I used to love that. The square brick building to the office was the workshop. My fait minself with loving care, and its really solid thing in the place. "I was not do good work in a rotts 	 But my father didn't seem to mind. I think that all the love he had fait for my she was alive he now lawing but works or ill more than the new lawing but works or ill more more than the prince my starty years, I new more my finds or the prince my starty years, I new more my finds or the prince my starty wears, I new more my finds or the prince my starty wears, I new more my finds or the my start with grease and oil all over the new lawing the start and the love he had fait for my mother with the case. But my father didn't seem to my my starty years, I new more my finds or the my starty wears, I new more my finds or the my start with grease and oil all over the my start with grease and oil all over the my start with grease and oil all over the my start with grease and oil all over the my start the starts of the my my starty the start and the love had fail the start my start the starts of the my my my start with grease and oil all over the my start the starts of the my my my start was moden shade being my starts that only the workshop had had being my starts that the my my my start was moden shade being my starts that the starts of the my my my my my my starts the my my my starts of the my my starts of the my my starts of the my my my starts of the my my my starts of the my my my my my my starts and the my my starts of the my my my my starts of th

Edit > Preferences > Accessibility (from the left pane) tick Replace Document Colours > OK.

Use Read Out Loud - text reader

Adobe Reader also has a built-in text reader - Read Out Loud. This reads aloud text on a PDF using the computer's voice.

Text readers can help learners who:

- read slowly or with difficulty.
- get tired, or have visual stress when they read.
- have problems concentrating when they read.
- have difficulty understanding what they read.

View > Read Out Loud > Activate Read Out Loud

Choosing a voice

In Adobe Reader you can set the voice of your choice, e.g., the Scottish Voices.

Edit > Preferences > Reading (from the left pane) untick Use Default Voice (choose a voice) > OK.

all the love he

moment's un

Use Zoom to magnify text

Learners who experience sight loss may benefit from having the text enlarged. Text can be zoomed/magnified to 400% and beyond to aid readability. But my father But my father

View > Zoom > Zoom to

Zoom and Reflow

am on my fift mind. I think When text size is magnified to over 100% the document will 'run off' off the page. This can be frustrating requiring horizontal and vertical scroll bars to be adjusted. Reflow 'reflows' the text so it fits on the page, regardless of size.

Consider combining colour and font background with Read Out Loud for additional scaffolding!

Other free text readers are also available such NaturalReader & Ivona Mini **Reader** - find out more about text readers on the CALL website: bit.ly/CALLtextreaders

Changing the background and font colours make a big difference! Many of the

Books for All Database are in

BOOKS for ALL

Scotland Database

digital books in the

PDF format.





that all the love he had

she was alive During my ea didn't seem to

Consider combining Zoom, **Reflow and High Contrast to** improve readability.

Automatically Scroll

Adobe Reader has a built-in automatic scrolling tool which help learners who can't use a mouse, i.e. scrolling up and down pages. When Automatic Scroll is turned on the speed and direction of movement are controlled by the Up and Down Arrow Keys on the Keyboard. The 'Alt' key will pause and restart Automatic Scrolling.



For more information on using PDFs and 'How to Guides' visit the Using Books section of the Books for All website.

www.booksforall.org.uk/Using-Books

Version 1, October 2017 CALL Scotland, The University of Edinburgh. CALL Scotland is part funded by Scottish Government.



