

Digital Voice Tool Analysis

Alice Llanos, Sandra Slavin, Robert Wachman

	Vocaroo	Mobile Apps	Voxopop	Voice Thread (VT)
URL	http://vocaroo.com/	http://www.google.com/mobile/	http://www.voxopop.com/	http://voicethread.com/
Cost	Free	Free	Free	Indiv- \$99/yr Free account to allow you to get to know the program. Allows 3 min of phone communication, 5 VT with 50 slides, and unlimited commenting
Platforms	Windows & Mac; can play back on Android & iOS devices but not record. "Apps of some sort are a future possibility, but the future is not now."	Google Mobile Apps: iPhone, Blackberry, Android, Nokia S60 and other phones and tablets Yahoo! Mobile: Available for iPhone and Blackberry and ipad	Computers (Firefox & Internet Explorer, requires Flash and Java "Problems with recent Java update" prevent the Voxopop recording from running. Software hasn't kept up with operating system and Java plug-in	Computers, laptops, tablets, and smart phones
Download ease	Nothing to download except created sound files you want to save. Must "Allow" Adobe Flash to access your microphone.	Need to download app on mobile devices.	No downloading requirement	Cloud application- no downloading required
Ease of use	Extremely simple and easy to use.	Easy!!	Site is very intuitive and easy to navigate	Simple once you provide instruction. Need to know how to sign in, navigate VT, & provide

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				comments. Can be accomplished in a few lessons
Group size	Not applicable.	Google Hangouts: free group video call with up to 10 people. Yahoo Messenger:	You can add 20 people at a time to a created talk group, but there doesn't seem to be a limit to the group size.	50 with basic license
Conferencing possibilities- voice/ video	This is not a conferencing tool, just audio recording and playback with ability to send by e-mail and embed in web pages.	-Voice or Video or Chat -Hangouts: Free phone calls to US and Canada -Yahoo Messenger: Free voice and video calls to Yahoo Messenger contacts, free text messages to people in the USA, Philippines, Vietnam, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Canada, Pakistan, Kuwait and Thailand	Voice/text	Allows for voice, text, video, and document sharing. Multimedia program
Archiving- voice/images/visuals	YES! can e-mail messages and embed recordings on web pages (blogs and wikis, etc.)	Chat messages are saved until you delete them.	Voice and text can be recorded and archived for public and private listening and commenting	VT (audio, text, and video) are designed to be created and archived for either private or public viewing and commenting.
Features: document sharing/ tests/ etc	The Vocaroo website has "widgets," which allow you to embed a simple voice recorder	Google Apps for Business allows you to share documents, slides, etc. Can access free for	Anyone can start a talkgroup and make it public, restricted, or private. Once the	Instructor can create or upload power point, slides, documents, audio files, video files, or

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	<p>on your website to let visitors record and play back their own voice but not store or save.</p> <p>Can embed the entire Vocaroo and allow visitors to use Vocaroo without leaving your site.</p> <p>Can upload most common audio formats—mp3, wav, mp2, au, ra. Max 50 MB. (not sure the purpose of uploading)</p>	<p>30 days then \$5/month or \$10 month with unlimited access to file sharing and storage.</p>	<p>talkgroup is started, other members can participate by recording and/or commenting on others' recordings.</p>	<p>pictures and then record a narration over top. Students can asynchronously watch/listen to VT and comment via microphone, webcam, phone, text, or upload audio-file ie MP3. Students can then go in and listen to comments. VT can be saved for private use or published. It easily integrates with most LMS. Analytics provided in chart or graph form on who, what, when, where, and how much the VT was viewed by student.</p>
<p>Key uses online class</p>	<p>Instructor and students can easily record and send each other their recordings. Could function as an audio “dialogue journal,” with students and teachers carrying on back-and-forth asynchronous (or even synchronous) audio chat messages.</p>	<p>Both Google Hangouts and Yahoo Messenger are easy to use and accessible on mobile devices, so both make a great forum for teacher/student conferences or group discussions.</p>	<p>Voxopop is an audio discussion board, so it could be used the same ways as a regular discussion board but with voice instead of writing. This could be used in any online class that has a speaking component to practice speaking and hear and participate with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tool to provide content using audio and text - Develops sense of community among students - Multimedia approach - Tool to create digital portfolios - Tool to assess

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Another idea is for the instructor to give an audio assignment—to record a one- or two-minute message on any topic and send it to the instructor, who could then embed these recordings on a website, so all could listen to each other’s response. - Could also be used similarly for pronunciation assignments 		<p>their classmates and teacher. There is great potential for this site for a class like TOEFL Prep. that requires lots of individual speaking practice.</p>	<p>oral skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inherent collaboration built in which increases student engagement
<p>Key uses blended class</p>	<p>Could introduce the tool in class, demonstrate its use, and help students make and send recordings in a lab, so they could then do it from home, assuming they have the necessary hardware—a microphone or webcam.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Office hours -Group meetings for assignments or preparation for in class projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Extra speaking practice outside of class -An opportunity for students to hear other students and their teacher speak about a topic. -A means for a teacher to hear a recording of their students for evaluation purposes. - Listening and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mechanism to provide content for a flipped classroom approach - provides for group work using multi-media - assists in scaffolding allowing students

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			<p>pronunciation students can use it to record introducing themselves to instructor and each other.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can be a tool for students to talk back to each other about topics - useful as an icebreaker and for getting natural speech samples to assess pronunciation strengths and needs - tool for digital portfolios 	<p>who need to hear material over and over access to VT which is archived</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - combines multiple intelligences into lesson - documents speaking for assessment - mechanism to create digital portfolios - Great for group - activities
Drawbacks	<p>Limited to audio recording. Instructor has to have her/his own website for embedding; Vocaroo doesn't provide. E-mailed sound files are actually accessed from Vocaroo servers; may not function properly at times and will "expire (be deleted) after a few months") to make room for newer messages. Even brief Internet connection outages can</p>	<p>Not many drawbacks. If a student doesn't have a webcam or a microphone, they can chat via texting with these apps.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Requires the use of flash which limits the use on iphones, ipads, etc - incompatibility with recent operating systems and versions of Java plug-in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cost - requires Adobe Flash which limits use on mobile devices - can not link YouTube videos into VT. Must download and then upload from your computer

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	cause recording to be stopped or to fail. Can re-record, but no editing.			
Positives	<p>Simple to access and begin recording. When you get to the website, you see a button saying "Click to Record." No limit to message length.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Free -Easy to use -Can be either teacher or student initiated -Accessible on mobile devices- a computer isn't necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Free -Easy to use - Can be either teacher or student initiated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -ease of use -analytics -proven to increase verbal communication by students - tool for speaking assessments -students can listen to VT as many times as needed, where they want, and when they want. - useful in a flipped classroom -comments by others boost student confidence - increases sense of community because voice conveys emotion and increased engagement compared to pure text. -useful for beginning ESL -able to annotate over images and videos -lessons provided with

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				speech and text 24/7
Other:	Something really neat and unexpected is the developers' off-the-wall humor, which can be found in their information, Help pages, etc.		There have been problems recording because of the Java security settings. It is easy to listen but not record. Users have to make sure that their Flash player is up to date and their Java security settings are turned off.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instructor should leave first comment to model what is expected. - Website has numerous tutorials and examples of application in education.

	Nearpod			
URL	http://www.nearpod.com/			
Cost	<p>Silver (free): up to 50 MB storage, up to 20 MB / presentation, up to 30 participants, PDF reporting only</p> <p>Gold (\$12/mo):extra content features, up to 3GB storage, up to 40 MP /presentation, unlimited, neapod homework, no school/admin tools, PDV & CSV download reporting</p> <p>School (call) 5+ teachers: up to 10</p>			

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	<p>GB/teacher for storage, up to 60 MB/presentation, PDF & CSV downloads</p> <p>District (call) 10+ teachers: up to 20 GB/teacher storage, up to 80MB/presentation, PDF & CSV download</p>			
Platforms	Nook, tablets, PC, MAC, smart phones			
Download ease	Cloud based, no software to download, students log in with a pin code from the teacher			
Ease of use	Intuitive and simple, upload or create PPT, add interactive questions or media			
Group size				
Conferencing possibilities- voice/ video	Content presentation tool and assessment tool. Allows for real-time anonymous assessment as move through material			
Archiving- voice/images/visuals	Can save to your library or publish for community to use. Library of nearpods developed already by teachers			

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Features: document sharing/ tests/ etc	Share content including multimedia, allow students to respond by answering questions, drawing, monitor and measure student results. Homework tool only for paid subscriptions. Has screen capture so students don't have to take notes during presentation.			
Key uses online class	Tool for improving student engagement by including multimedia and interactive activities.			
Key uses blended class	Same as online class			
Drawbacks	No audio discussion. Designed mainly to be used in a classroom.			
Positives	Simple and interactive			
Other:	You can sign up for tutorials for basic use. Tutorials also available on their website. Library of PPTs mainly for K-12, no ESL			