

**Discoveries & Queries:** Current iPad OS is 17.5.1

### 1. Text-to-Speech

If you highlight screen text (e.g. in Mail, Wikipedia, etc) the iPad can speak it, and you can adjust the volume in the usual ways. To set this up, **Settings > Accessibility > Spoken Content > Speak Selection**. Now when reading, just select some text and tap **Speak** in the pop-up menu. To stop the voice, tap the text, then tap **Pause** in the pop-up menu. The voice can be changed in **Settings > Accessibility > Spoken Content > Voices > English > choose name**.

*When would you use this?* • To check information you have hand copied (e.g. phone numbers or meeting details). • To listen to text you have typed or lengthy text (e.g. Wikipedia). • To follow instructions.

### 2. The Vale library offers free eBooks and eMagazines

Your library **ticket** plus a **Pin** number from the library lets you sign into an app called **Libby Overdrive** which is available free from the App Store. YouTube has tutorial videos for using Libby.

**Open Libby > VoG > elibraries and sign in**. There are 2 browsing routes:

(a) Tap the **icon with 3 lines** and scroll down to see reading categories (including audio books). To return to the **Home** screen tap the almost invisible **VoG** icon at top left of screen.

(b) On Home screen scroll down to see examples of books in various categories. At the foot of the screen are icons for **Search, Home**, your **personal** data, your own **Bookshelf**, your **activity** timeline logging your borrowing activities. This can be disabled by tapping **Actions** at top of screen.

**To read** eBooks or eMagazines such as **iPad User**, tap **magnifying glass** at foot of the Home screen then type in the **search slot** at top of the screen. Tap **Open Magazine** to see its Table of Contents. **Flick sideways** to move from page to page. Tap the **Article** button if you prefer vertical scrolling. **To Borrow**, tap the **Go Back** arrow in top left and tap **Borrow** (books 14 days, magazines 7 days).

**Reading aids: 'Unpinch'** to increase text size. A quick tap on the text shows page **thumbnails** at foot of screen and **5 icons** at top of screen. The 1st icon toggles between 2-page and 1-page view. The 2nd zooms in. The 3rd changes the look of the page. The 4th enables search within the currently open text; flick down to remove if you change your mind. The 5th lets you highlight text and set bookmarks. The round circle between the two open pages gives a summary of your reading time.

**AudioBooks**. Search results show cover pictures of both reading and audiobooks with duration. For more info about a book, tap its cover. Beside the book are options to be **notified** if book is not currently available for borrowing. *Curiously, Search will list items that are 'not in your library's catalogue'. This may improve with plans for an all-Wales digital library.* Tap **Play Sample** to read/hear a sample of the book. **Tag** the book/magazine for future reference (e.g. books you've enjoyed or want to read soon).

### 3. Apple's Books App

This app gives free access to **Apple User Guides** and sells access to other ereading and audio books - e.g. Richard Burton reading Under Milkwood costs £7.99. PDFs can be imported into the Books app (open the pdf and tap **Share** [up-arrow icon], then tap **Books**). Useful for annotating text.

**Home** shows books, audiobooks, and PDFs you are currently reading or have marked as want to read.

**Navigate**. Tap **Search** in the sidebar on left of screen. To return from reading a book to Home screen, tap the text then quickly tap the **X** that appears in top right of screen.

To **Annotate** text, touch and **hold a word, then drag** to adjust the selection. In the pop-up menu tap **Highlight** or tap **Add Note** and enter text, then tap **Done**. To later read the note, tap **Edit Note**. To remove a note, tap the text, then tap **Delete Note**.

**Audiobooks** in Books app

Open Books app and tap **Audiobook Store** in sidebar (headphone icon) and browse. Tap a book cover for more info and options, e.g. hearing a free preview. To browse genres and book store sections, tap **Browse Sections** at the top of the screen. To buy the audiobook, tap the price.

### 4. Other options

- **LibriVox** app is free from the App Store and gives free access to uncopyrighted books, but has adverts between chapters. The Pro version costs £2.99.
- **Kindle** is free from App store and has an **Assistive reader** option that highlights words as they are spoken. Tap text to pause. Tap arrow in bottom right to continue. From an open page, tap top left corner for icons. Books can be bought via Amazon but not directly from Apple's Kindle app.

The next iPads meeting is at **2pm** on **Friday 28th June 2024**