

Settings

You can access the settings from any page, whether you are in Grid Explorer or within a gridset, it will be the same process. Simply select the three dots button in the top right hand side of the screen, and then “settings”.

The settings section allows you to make changes to the “voice output”, “access method”, “dictionary” options and also check “remote editing accounts” among other things.

The main thing the settings will be used for is to make changes to the voice. Select “speech” from the toolbar on the left hand side of the screen and here you can change the voice if required. A list of available voices will appear, and if you are online, there will be more that can be downloaded in a list below. Test a voice by selecting the “play” button to see how it.

When you have your desired voice, select “speech” from the top of the screen to return back to the speech options, so that you can now access the “configure” option to adjust speed and pitch to personalise the voice even further.

When you are happy with the voice, go back to the speech options again and here you can decide if you want the voice to speak after “every word”, or if you prefer to turn this off so that it will only speak once you have formed your sentence.

Next in this section, you can also add different pronunciation if the device isn’t speaking certain words correctly, for example names. To do this, select the “plus” symbol in the top right and then type in the mispronounced word into the first box, as it is currently spelt. In the second box, you need to forget about normal spelling and try to spell it phonetically as much as possible. It can sometimes help to use a space between syllables, and you can test the word to check. When you are happy with the new pronunciation, select “save” and it will be added to your pronunciation list. It may take some trial and error at first.

Another section of the settings that you can alter is the “access” section. This is where you could change the colour highlights on the cell when it is being selected and visual highlights, which may be very useful for someone with visual difficulties who might need a particular contrast.

If there are more complex requirements, such as adjusting settings if somebody has a tremor and needs something to counteract repeat presses, this would be altered in the “open accessibility settings” which is within the iPad settings itself, and would usually be assisted by someone from the AAC West team.

The next section that is helpful to know about is the “writing” section. In the “dictionary” section you can add words, such as peoples names that you want to be part of the predictions that come up, and here you can control the spelling and prediction elements.

Under “symbols” you can change skin tone, have adult symbols available or not and also add your own particular pictures that will always show in the message box for example of a family member. The “Chat History” section is where you can go to set the privacy whether you want the device to remember your phrases or not, and view/edit these particular phrases in the chat history section itself.

The final section that may need attention is the “accounts” section. When there is an email address in the smartbox and dropbox sections this shows that the iPad is connected to a remote account that can be accessed from a PC at a different location, either for editing the vocabulary or saving a particular gridset onto a USB. This is usually set up by AAC West beforehand using an impersonal account, and if you select “remote editors” you can see who is able to access your vocabulary to edit. Generally, it will only be the assistants at AAC West as shown by this single email.

If you are given permission to edit someone’s vocabulary and wish to be set up as a remote editor, AAC West or Smartbox can sort this out for you and this is where you would add your email address once you have been set up.