

# ClaroRead Case Studies



## ClaroRead Case Study 1 from Barnet & Southgate College

**Fayez, a mature apprentice at Barnet & Southgate College, London, says, 'ClaroRead has made a world of difference to my life.'**

'I have always had trouble remembering things that have been said to me and when I started college it became a real problem. I found it hard to make notes and my spelling was poor. I fell behind on my work, my grades dropped and my confidence was very low.

'I am a mature student and have mild learning difficulties. I'm a visual person and I started to use a lot of mind mapping software which I found very useful.

'I first found out about ClaroRead when I went to FE college to do an apprenticeship course. The assistive technology coordinator recommended it and gave me the full training. I now use it in the college and at home.

'I have changed how I work now. For example, I had a problem reading the text on a white background and now I use the filter screen and change to a colour that works for me. I could not proofread my work properly but the read

aloud function helps me to understand the text. Now I use ClaroRead to proof read and to read back text to me when I'm writing an assignment so I don't forget what I have written.

'ClaroRead has made a world of difference to me. I really wish it could be rolled out into my workplace where I am doing the apprenticeship!'

Some hints and tips for getting the best out of Claro Read are:

- Don't rush when using it. Take it one step at a time.
- Find the bits that make your learning easier and work for your learning style
- Choose a voice you can relate to and that is easy to listen to
- Use it all the time so it becomes second nature

## ClaroRead Case Study 2 from Barnet & Southgate College

**Laila, a part-time student and mother says, 'ClaroRead has transformed my work.'**

'I never had extra help during my studies or for exams when I was at school although the teachers recognised that I had some kind of learning difficulty. The only extra help I got was English lessons. I now have two children both of whom have learning difficulties. I have learnt about their needs and how to help them and found out that some of these techniques also help me.

'Before coming to technology sessions, I was struggling, especially in English. The main difficulties I had were with putting my ideas onto paper, proofreading and checking for errors in my work. The more the tutor tried to explain things, the more confused I got.

'I spent a lot of time on my work, continually making changes, trying to organise sentences so that they made sense. I used to read my work out loud in order to hear the mistakes that I had made. The trouble with this was that I could not always spot spelling mistakes or grammatical errors. Continually reading my work looking for errors was time-consuming. What now takes me around an hour to do was taking me three to four hours before.

'I found out about ClaroRead when I was studying maths and GCSE English at college. My maths tutor recommended that I should see the college's assistive technology

coordinator. She was very helpful. She introduced ClaroRead to me and provided step-by-step training.

'Since having assistive technology sessions, my work has become much easier to understand. At home, I still use mind mapping. This helps me structure my work. Now I can change the background colour and it has helped me immensely making my work look clearer.

'Now using ClaroRead, hearing the computer read back to me what the work actually says, rather than reading what I meant it to say, has made me spot mistakes more quickly so I am able to correct errors straightaway. I now use ClaroRead for proofreading I listen to my work as I'm going along and can hear if the work makes sense, if there is a spelling mistake or if I have used the wrong word and where I need to put in punctuation. Then when I finish I listen to the whole piece to double check everything makes sense.

'I can use ClaroRead at home by accessing the college remote desktop that allows me to access specialist software. Using ClaroRead has helped to be more independent, not relying on other people to help me to proof read my work. Now I can check my own work quickly and more effectively.'