Using Text to Speech on MacBooks

This next section is taken from Mac Help

Text to Speech preferences

Use Text to Speech preferences to have your Mac speak the text in dialogs and alert messages and notify you when an app needs you to perform an action.

To open Text to Speech preferences, choose Apple menu > System Preferences, click Dictation & Speech, then click Text to Speech.

Open the Text to Speech pane for me System Voice Choose a voice to speak text and alerts. For more information, see Change your computer's voice. Speaking Rate Set the speed at which text is spoken. Click the Play button to hear sample spoken text. Announce when alerts are displayed Have your Mac announce when alerts are shown. Click Set Alert Options to specify the voice used for alerts; the phrase (such as the app name or "Attention!") to speak before the alerts; and how long your Mac waits before it speaks the alert. For more information, see Hear your Mac speak alert messages. Select to have text in the current Speak selected text when the key is window spoken when you press the pressed specified key. To customize, click Change Key, then press the key combination you want

to use. (For example, press the Option and Tab keys together to change to Option+Tab.) For more information, see Hear your Mac speak text.

SEE ALSO VoiceOver overview Was this help page useful? Send feedback.

To set the Text to Speech preferences and turn on Text to Speech on the Mac click the link Open the Text to Speech pane for me Or go to Apple->System Preferences

		System P	System Preferences			Q Search	
General	Desktop & Screen Saver	ospo Dock	Mission Control	Language & Region	Security & Privacy	Spotlight	Notifications
Displays	Energy Saver	Keyboard	Mouse	Trackpad	Printers & Scanners	Sound	
iCloud	(Q) Internet Accounts	Extensions	Network	Bluetooth	Sharing		
Users & Groups	Parental Controls	App Store	Dictation & Speech	Date & Time	Startup Disk	Time Machine	Accessibility
Flash Player	Java	MenuMeters					

Click on Dictation & Speech

	Dictation & S	Q Search		
	Dictation Text	to Speech		
System Voice:	Alex	0		
Speaking Rate:	Slow Normal	Fast	Play	
Announce when ale	rts are displayed	Set Ale	rt Options	
Speak selected text	when the key is pres	sed		
Current key: Option	+Esc	Ch	ange Key	
To have clock annound	e the time:	Open Date & Time Pr	eferences	
To change VoiceOver s	To change VoiceOver settings:		eferences ?	>

To turn on the feature check the Speak selected text when key is pressed.

••• <> ==	Dictation & S	Q Search				
	Dictation Text	to Speech				
System Voice	e: Alex	•				
Speaking Rate	i i Y	Fast	Play			
	Slow Normal	Fast				
Announce when a	Announce when alerts are displayed					
Speak selected to	Speak selected text when the key is pressed					
Current key: Opti	on+Esc	C	hange Key			
To have clock annou	nce the time:	Open Date & Time P	references			
To change VoiceOve	r settings:	Open Accessibility Preferences ?				

You can change the voice(System Voice) by changing the name in the dropdown that says Alex above. You can change the speed of the reader by increasing or decreasing the Speaking Rate below the System Voice.

The default keys to press to have the text spoken are the Option-Esc keys. You can change that by clicking on Change Key and selecting a key combination.

To begin using the Text to Speech, highlight the text you would like spoken and press the Option+Esc (or the key combo you created) and the reading of text will begin. If you need to stop the reading, press the same keys.