

# Apps for use inside and out of class

## Workshop with Thomas Strasser

To view several online video tutorials for apps and a list of additional apps and websites by Thomas Strasser from his book "Mind the App", go to <https://www.helbling.com/mindtheapp/>

### Lyricstraining (<https://lyricstraining.com>)

- Can be used inside and out of class
- Different languages (English, German, French, Spanish) and genres
- It is not necessary to register/open an account
- You can listen to songs with subtitles
- You can create list of favourites
- Karaoke function
- 4 different levels (based on word count)
- Gap-fill or multiple choice option for the lyrics
- Lyrics can be printed out, word gaps can be edited

The screenshot shows the Lyricstraining website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo "lyricstraining", a "Genres" dropdown menu, a search icon, and a search input field. On the right side of the navigation bar, there are links for "Learning English" with a UK flag, "Log In", and "Sign Up". Below the navigation bar is a large blue search input field. The main content area is titled "Pop Lyrics" and includes a "Pending Review" button and a "Sort by: Latest" dropdown menu. The content is displayed as a grid of eight song cards. Each card features a video thumbnail, a "#ENG" label with a flag, the song title, the artist name, and the number of hours and plays. The songs shown are: "Never Really Over" by Katy Perry (04:01), "Lips Don't Lie" by Ally Brooke, A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie (02:55), "Let You" by Cheryl (02:45), "Wild Hearts (Acoustic)" by Indiana Massara (06:11), "Smoke In My Eyes (Acoustic)" (06:11), "Pretend" (03:33), "Painkiller" (03:37), and "Bingo" (03:08).

Wortwolken (<https://www.wortwolken.com/>)

- Can be used with MAC or Windows
- Copy/paste text, change colours and outline, design and shape (Umriss)
- Word frequency lists are generated (how often words appear in the text, can be edited to change appearance in the wordcloud)
- Uses: Analyze factual, political, literary texts (eg. political speeches), poetry or songs. Guess the genre/topic

Review your own work: learners can check their own lexical patterns (to possibly find synonyms for words used too frequently)

Compare different text types

Introduce a text, learners decide on text content by looking at word frequency (as a pre-reading activity)

(Source of political speeches: Americanrhetoric)

The image shows a screenshot of the Wortwolken.com website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo and the text 'Wortwolken.com', a language dropdown menu showing 'Deutsch', and links for 'Galerie', 'FAQ', 'Forum', 'Kontakt', and 'Spenden'. Below the navigation bar is a control panel with various options: 'Datei', 'Größe', 'Wortliste', 'Abstände', 'Umriss', 'Maske', 'Thema', 'Farben', 'Schriftart', and 'Assistent'. A horizontal slider is positioned below the control panel, with a '0' marker in the center. The main content area displays a word cloud with various Latin words in different colors and sizes. The most prominent words include 'Sed', 'condimentum', 'ultricies', 'fringilla', 'malesuada', 'semper', 'mollis', 'eget', 'sit', 'odio', 'vel', 'tempus', 'vita', and 'nihil'. The word cloud is set against a dark background within a light blue frame.

Free teleprompter (<https://cueprompter.com/>)

- Free prompter/autocue service that can be used with your browser for pc or smartphone
- Combines speaking activity with a live presentation (using learners' own texts or cut and paste texts from other sources)
- Good for tongue twisters, poems, etc., speeches by politicians
- Speed of text shown can be adjusted

The screenshot shows the CuePrompter.com website. At the top, it says "CuePrompter.com - The Online Teleprompter" and "Free teleprompter/autocue service". Below this, there is a "Quick start" section with a text input area containing the text: "Good morning, I would like to introduce you to some useful apps that can be used inside and out of the classroom." There are controls for "Prompter Width" (Narrow, Wide, Max), "Prompter Height" (500 pixel, 725 pixel), and "Reverse Mirror" (Normal, Mirrored). A "Foot Pedal" advertisement for X-keys is visible on the right. The website footer contains a cookie notice: "This website makes use of cookies to enhance browsing experience and provide additional functionality. Details".

  
cueprompter.mov

The screenshot shows a video player interface for the teleprompter. The video content displays the text: "Good morning, I would like to introduce you to some useful apps that can be used inside and out of". The player controls at the top include "PgUp", "<< REVERSE STOP || FORWARD >>", and "PgDn". A speed control bar is visible with settings for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. The video player is set to full screen.

Digital pin board: Padlet ([www.padlet.com/](http://www.padlet.com/))

- Free use for up to 3 boards per account
- Teacher needs to register, creates an URL or QR code for each new pin board and makes this available to learners (cf. bit.do), could also be embedded in a moodle course
- Different templates are available for different purposes
- Uses: collaborative use in class

Can be added to by learners simultaneously, in class or at home

Can edited later by teacher

Different tasks/activities/content: eg. your hometown, a travel brochure with tips for different sights and places to visit, pros and cons for a controversial topic, finish the sentence (eg. If you won a million euros ... what would you do?), flashlight feedback, overview of book logs or book reports, brainstorming activities)

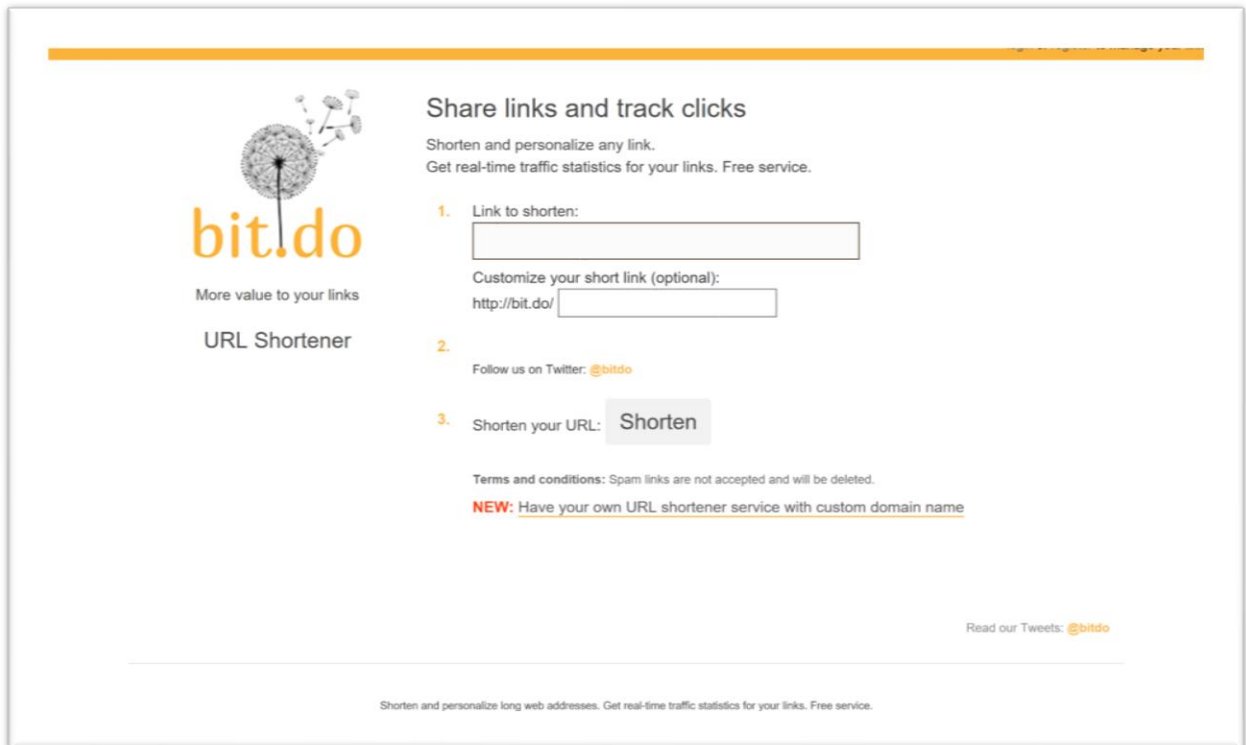
- Likes or comments **can** be allowed
- Videos, pictures and links can be added to notes from students (they can use online sources, or downloaded from their own materials)
- Board can be saved as a PDF
- Padlet board can be embedded in content-management platforms such as moodle or homepage of your school, etc.

The screenshot shows a Padlet board titled "My home town." by Thomas Strasser. The board contains several pins with text and images:

- Kranichstein:** "We live here in the suburb of Darmstadt together with over 60 nationalities." (Includes an aerial view of the town.)
- Hannover:** "I come from Hannover. We've got famous Herrenhäuser Gardens here." (Includes a video thumbnail for "Grüne Großstadt - Natürlich H... by NDR Doku youtube").
- Bad Salzuflen:** (Includes an image of a half-timbered house.)
- Grafing b. München:** "my home town. It's a small town between Munich and Rosenheim, pretty and lively and just an hour's drive away from the mountains!" (Includes an image of a building.)
- Luebeck:** "Luebeck is an interesting town in Schleswig-Holstein, quite close to the seaside. Luebeck has got an old town centre with lots of pubs and shops. Good for a Saturday trip!" (Includes an image of a castle tower.)
- Hebden Bridge:** "My home town is a beautiful small town in the Pennines. Unfortunately we do not have excellent wine." (Includes an image of a bridge.)
- Frankfurt:** "More than skyscrapers and applewine" (Includes an image of a sky with clouds.)
- Hamburg:** "My home town is Hamburg. It is one of the biggest towns in Germany. The best thing about Hamburg is ...the ELBE!" (Includes an image of a building.)
- Hamburg an der Elbe:** "I live in Hamburg. It is the..." (Includes an image of a building.)

Personalize or shorten URLs, create QR code (www.bit.do/)

- Copy/paste the URL you wish to share, create a new personalized and shortened link or QR code to pass on to your users



The screenshot shows the bit.do URL shortener interface. On the left, there is a logo for bit.do featuring a dandelion seed head, with the text "bit.do" in orange and "URL Shortener" below it. The main content area is titled "Share links and track clicks" and includes a form for shortening a URL. The form has three steps: 1. "Link to shorten:" with a text input field. 2. "Customize your short link (optional):" with a text input field starting with "http://bit.do/". 3. "Shorten your URL:" with a "Shorten" button. Below the form, there are links for "Terms and conditions" and "NEW: Have your own URL shortener service with custom domain name". At the bottom right, there is a link to "Read our Tweets: @bitdo".

Share links and track clicks

Shorten and personalize any link.  
Get real-time traffic statistics for your links. Free service.

1. Link to shorten:

Customize your short link (optional):  
http://bit.do/

2. Follow us on Twitter: [@bitdo](#)

3. Shorten your URL:

Terms and conditions: Spam links are not accepted and will be deleted.

**NEW:** [Have your own URL shortener service with custom domain name](#)

Read our Tweets: [@bitdo](#)

Shorten and personalize long web addresses. Get real-time traffic statistics for your links. Free service.

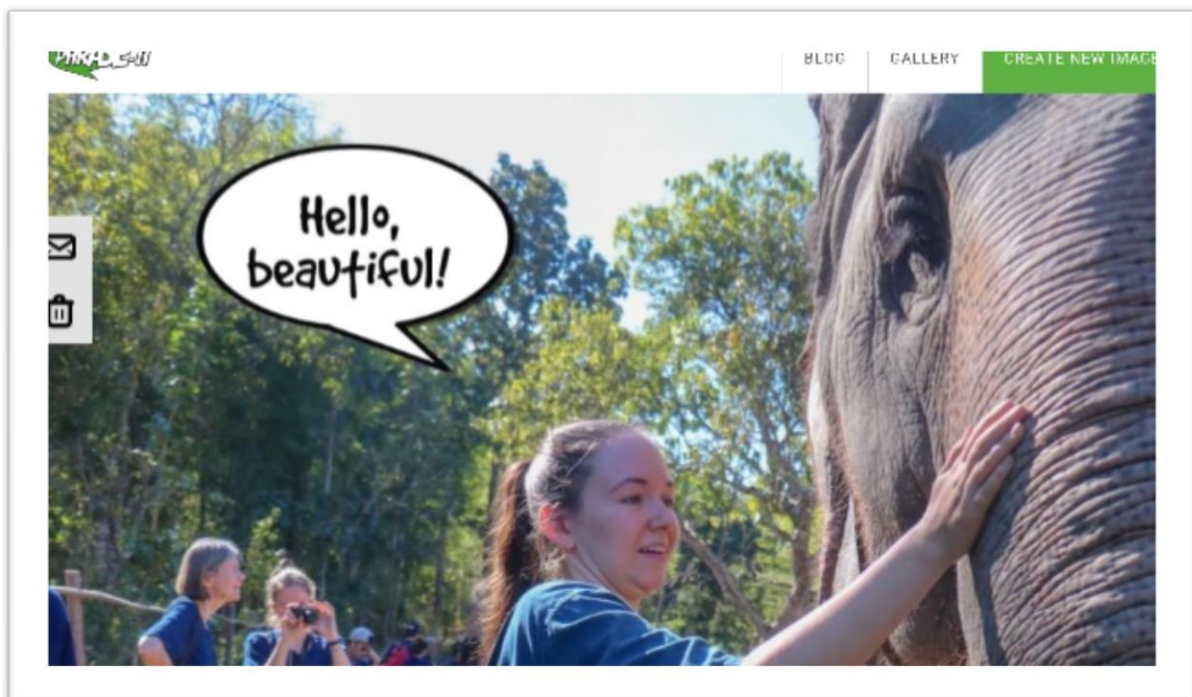
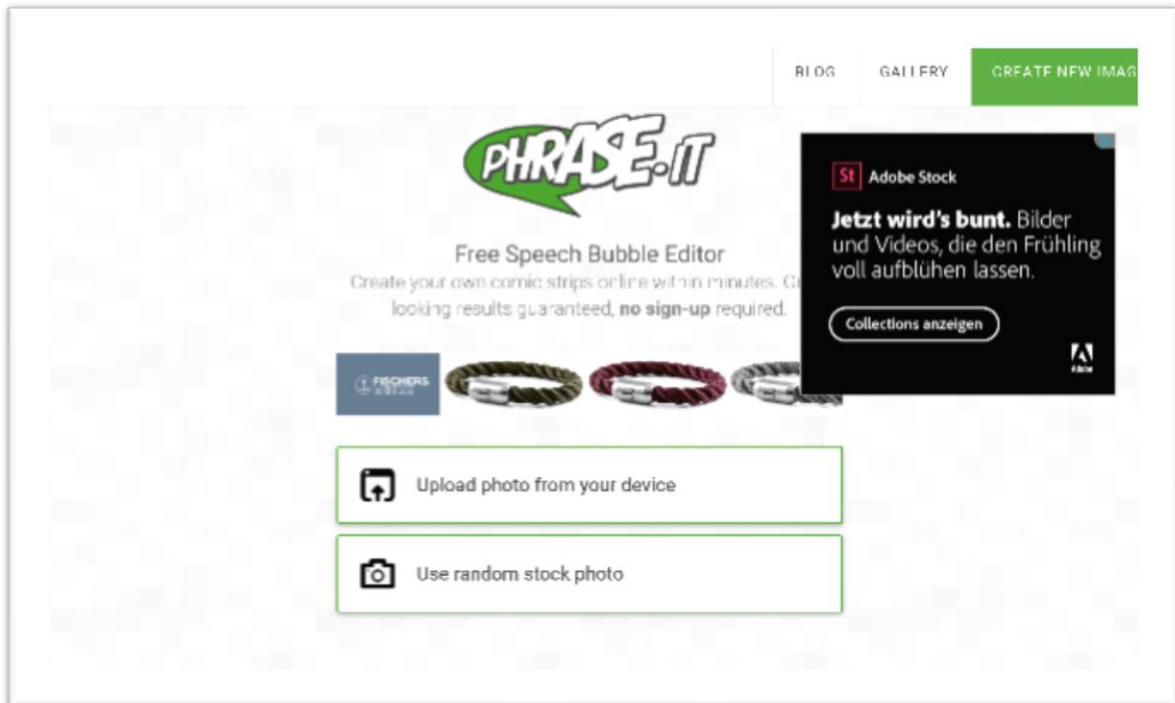
Social voting tool ([www.tricider.com/](http://www.tricider.com/) )

- Post a question, plenary can support or criticize using a very short headline plus longer text with their reasons and arguments.
- Using + and – for pros and cons
- Reasons and arguments can be liked/voted on.

The screenshot shows the Tricider website interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the Tricider logo and navigation links: '+ Neue Umfrage erstellen' and 'Login'. The main content area features a poll titled 'Should mobile phones be banned in the EFL-classroom?' with a deadline of 'noch 14 Tage' and a 'Deadline ändern' link. Below the title, there is a prompt: 'Post your opinions here. Also comment on your peer's posts.' and two buttons: 'Teilen und Einladen' and 'Frage-News abonnieren'. The poll is organized into three columns: 'Ideen', 'Pro und Contra', and 'Abstimmung'. Under 'Ideen', there are three entries: 'Undecided' (with a truncated text and a 'mehr' link), 'Balanced teaching' (with a truncated text and a 'mehr' link), and 'Get them going!'. Under 'Pro und Contra', there are two entries: 'Freedom for students and their smartphones!' (with a '1' like icon) and 'hell yeah! really like it!' (with a '1' like icon). Under 'Abstimmung', there are three voting boxes: one with '0' votes, one with '1' vote by 'tom', and one with '1' vote by 'Midge'. Each voting box has an 'Abstimmen' button.

Online speech bubble photo editor/inner monologues ([www.phraseit.net/](http://www.phraseit.net/))

- Website that provides images to which you can add speech bubble and text
- Can be saved and stored, printed out, posted (eg. on padlet)



Pronunciation models from YouTube ([www.youglisch.com](http://www.youglisch.com))

- English, French, Spanish etc.
- Enter a search word that you want to hear pronounced
- App provides short YouTube video bites with subtitles using your search word
- Provides context, idioms, different accents
- Linked to dictionary function (providing definitions, synonyms, usage)
- Choice of region (eg. British English, US American English, Australian)
- Provides tips to improve your pronunciation

The screenshot shows the YouGlish website interface. At the top, the logo "YouGlish" is displayed in red and black, with "in English" in smaller text to its right. Below the logo is a search bar containing the word "espanol". To the right of the search bar is a red button with a magnifying glass icon and the text "Say it!". Below the search bar are four buttons labeled "All", "US", "UK", and "AUS". Underneath these buttons are three buttons labeled "AdChoices", "baffle plate", "sound baffle", and "speak out".

Below the interface is a video player. The video title is "Travel as a Political Act with Rick Steves". The video player shows a grid of four video thumbnails with the following titles: "Europe for Foodies 101", "Italy Travel Skills", "Packina: Baas & Travel Gear", and "Northern European Cruise Ports". The video player controls at the bottom show a play button, a volume icon, a progress bar at 1:23:18 / 1:23:18, a speed control set to "normal" with options for "slower" and "faster", a "Toggle UI" button, and the YouTube logo.



Storytelling App with pictures ([www.storybird.com/](http://www.storybird.com/))

- Using artwork provided free of charge by young artists
- Create stories, comics, graphic novels,
- Saved as a flipbook
- Video lessons on writing skills
- Teachers register, create a class

The screenshot shows the Storybird website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Storybird logo, a 'Sign in' button, and a 'Sign up for FREE Trial' button. Below the navigation bar, there are links for 'HOME', 'CHALLENGE', 'READ', and 'WRITE'. A blue bird icon is positioned in the center of the navigation bar. To the right, there are links for 'PREVIOUS VERSION' and '中文'. The main content area features a horizontal menu with categories: 'Comics', 'Flash Fiction', 'Picture Book', 'Longform Story', and 'Poetry'. The 'Picture Book' category is selected. Below the menu, there is a large promotional banner for 'Write a Picture Book'. The banner includes an image of a laptop displaying a story and a picture book cover. The text reads: 'Write a Picture Book. Illustrate your story with beautiful artwork by professional artists. Choose from 10,000 images to help you bring your words to life.' Below the banner, there is a search bar with the text 'friendship' and a magnifying glass icon. At the bottom of the search bar, there are filters for 'All', 'Popular', and 'Recently added'.

The screenshot shows a grid of story cards on the Storybird website. The top navigation bar is identical to the previous screenshot. The grid contains six story cards, each with a unique illustration and associated metadata. The first card is titled 'Sagittarius' by 'Cat\_alogue', featuring a cartoon cat and a small green frog. The second card is titled 'Mermaid on the Beach' by 'Ingvard', showing a mermaid lying on a beach. The third card is titled 'Basketball player' by 'frimages', depicting a basketball player and a basketball. The fourth card shows a man in a suit and a woman in a pink dress. The fifth card shows a person lying in bed. The sixth card shows a giraffe in a green grid. Each card displays the number of pages, likes, and comments.

Title	Author	Pages	Likes	Comments
Sagittarius	Cat_alogue	82	82	111
Mermaid on the Beach	Ingvard	512	530	788
Basketball player	frimages	359	454	639

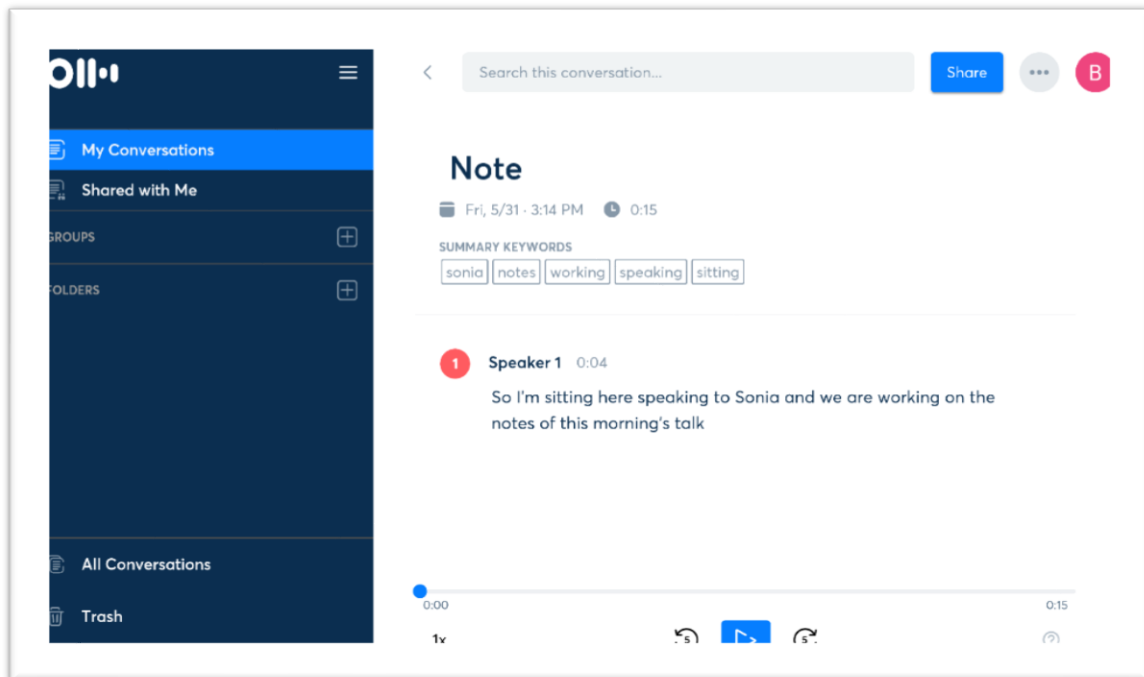
Creating comics (<https://www.makebeliefscomix.com/>)

- Printables can be downloaded
- Free e-books

The screenshot shows the 'Make Beliefs Comix' website interface. At the top, the logo features a white dove and the text 'MAKE BELIEFS COMIX' in large, colorful letters, followed by 'CREATED BY BILL ZIMMERMAN'. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links: HOME, CREATE COMIX!, PRINTABLES, GREETING CARDS, WRITING, TEACHERS, PARENTS, ESOL/LITERACY, SPECIAL NEEDS, and E-BOOKS & MORE. A red 'GETTING STARTED' button is on the right. The main heading reads 'CREATE YOUR OWN COMIX STRIP - IT'S EASY AND FUN!'. Below this, there are input fields for 'NAME YOUR COMIX' (containing 'BAG') and 'AUTHOR'S NAME' (containing 'Birgitta and Sanja'). A panel control shows '1', '2', '3', '+', and '-' buttons, with '(MAX 18 PANELS)' to the right. Action buttons include 'START OVER', 'PRINT · EMAIL · SAVE', and 'RETRIEVE COMIX'. The interface displays three comic panels. The first panel shows a character in a suit and hat surrounded by floating letters. The second panel shows a character in a suit and hat kneeling next to a sign that says 'MAGIC MAN' and a rabbit. The third panel shows a character in a top hat and suit holding a card. At the bottom, there is a 'MENU HELP' button and a 'DIALOGUE PROMPTS' section with icons for adding text, images, and speech bubbles.

AI tool for automatic speech transcription ([www.otter.ai/](http://www.otter.ai/))

- Read aloud or speak to generate voice notes
- System can distinguish between several speakers
- Recording can be rewound and listened to repeatedly
- Transcript can be edited
- System generates transcript PLUS summary key words
- Could be helpful for students with dyslexia or to improve learners' pronunciation and enunciation



#### SUMMARY KEYWORDS

sonia notes working speaking sitting

Using the browser as a virtual reader (computer voice):

Use the reading aloud function of your computer for reading out texts or words from the browser (in your browser, eg. Microsoft Edge, you will have a function for reading aloud the content of webpages which can be activated by a right mouse-click).

Learners can use this to find out how words or sentences are pronounced. Not really suitable for longer texts as the synthetic voice sounds very monotone.