

Instructions for Creating a Voice Build

This guide gives you set by step instructions for creating a Voice Build with SpeakUnique.

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Before you begin

To record your voice with SpeakUnique, you will need:

1. A laptop or computer. Recording is not currently supported on iPads and tablets.
2. An external headset microphone that connects to your computer via the USB port or headphone socket. We do not recommend a specific headset, but headsets made by Sennheiser, Plantronics and Logitech are reliable.
3. A quiet room with no background noise and ideally soft furnishings to remove any echoing.

Device compatibility

Before you start recording, please ensure the device you want to use your voice on (e.g. communication aid, phone or tablet) is compatible with SpeakUnique voices.

Apple Devices

On Apple devices, SpeakUnique voices can only be used on the SpeakUnique app for iOS. The app will run on iPhones and iPads running iOS11 or higher

Android Devices

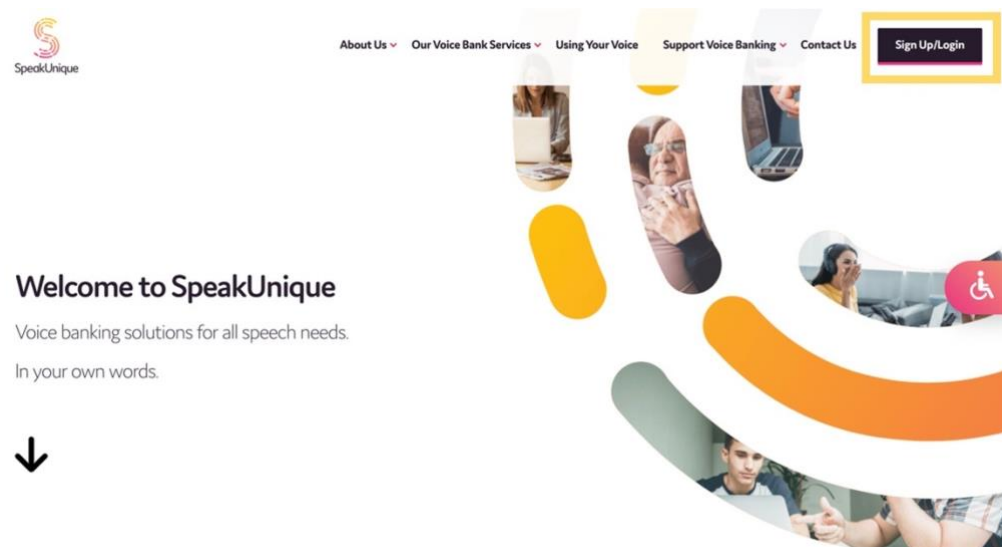
On Android devices, SpeakUnique voices can be used only through the SpeakUnique app for Android. Due to the large range of Android devices, SpeakUnique voices are not supported across all devices. A full list of compatible devices can be found at <https://www.speakunique.co.uk/su-upload/CurrentAndroidDevices.pdf> or search “SpeakUnique” in the Google Play store. If the app is available to download onto your device, then the voice will be supported.

Windows Devices

For Windows devices, the voices are provided in SAPI5 format where they can be accessed by any software on the device that supports synthetic voices. We do not offer our own SpeakUnique software/ app for Windows devices.

Registering for an account

Visit www.speakunique.co.uk and click **Sign Up/ Login**.



To register for a new account, please enter your **email address** and click **Begin Registration**

The image shows two side-by-side forms. The left form is titled 'New to SpeakUnique?' and contains a text input field for 'Start with your email address:', a checkbox for 'I agree to the privacy policy and terms of use', and a 'Begin Registration >' button. The right form is titled 'Registered already?' and contains two text input fields for 'Enter your email address:' and 'Enter your password:', a 'Login >' button, and a 'Forgot your password?' link. A '< Cancel' button is located at the bottom left of the forms.

Enter your first name, last name and choose a password. We'd love to know how you found out about us and you can decide if you would like to be kept up to date on our news through our mailing list! Then click **Continue**.



Let's get to know each other:

Fields marked with a red star * are required for registration.

First name*

Last name*

Choose a password*

How did you hear about SpeakUnique?





Would you like to join our marketing list? ☐

[← Cancel](#) [Continue →](#)

This guide will show you how to create a **Voice Build**, click **Get Started**.



Please select one of our voice bank services:

Voice Build  £175 If your speech is not yet affected. A synthetic replica of your own voice. Get Started	Voice Repair  £250 If your speech is already affected. For if your voice is slow, slurred, or the pitch has changed. A repaired version of your voice. Get Started	Voice Design  £300 Use old recordings of your voice. OR Create a bespoke voice from voice donors. Get Started	Healthcare Professionals  Free trial of Voice Build for healthcare professionals. Please register with your professional email address. Get Started
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Not sure? [Find out more about our services here](#) or contact our support team at support@peakunique.co.uk

Please complete your personal details. We ask for this information to help us better understand how to build your synthetic voice. You do not need to provide us with your medical condition if you do not want to.



Let's get to know each other

We collect this information to help us create your synthetic voice.

What is your medical diagnosis or condition?

When were you diagnosed?

Month...

Year...

Please select your date of birth *

Day...

Month...

Year...

Please select your gender *

Male ☐ Female ☐ Other ☐

← Previous

Next →

Please note that you do not need to provide the information set out on this page and you can proceed to the next page without completing these fields. However, in order to improve our understanding of how to null your voice, you can complete the information on this page.

For the purposes of applicable data protection law, SpeakUnique Limited ("SpeakUnique", "we", "us") is a controller of personal data you provide by submitting this form. By completing this form, you consent to your personal data being collected and processed by us in order to improve our understanding of how to build, repair or design your voice in accordance with our Privacy Notice at www.speakunique.co.uk/privacy-policy You can withdraw your consent at any time by emailing privacy@speakunique.co.uk.

Please let us know how you would describe your accent. The **Accent Influence** box can be used if there is any extra information about your accent that you think would be helpful to tell us.



How would you describe your accent? *

Country:

Please select

Region/County/State:

Please select

Do you have any other accent influences? [More about this ?](#)

(optional)

Next →

Your registration is now complete, and you can continue to the recording now. You will receive an email to confirm your account has been created.



Thanks for signing up to SpeakUnique.

Your account has successfully been created.

A confirmation email has been sent to the email address you provided. Please use this email address and the password you set at registration to log back in to your account.

You are now ready to start creating your synthetic voice build.

Start Now →

Recording tips

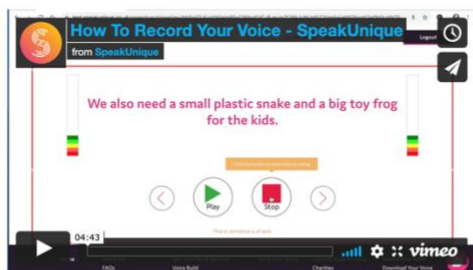
The next screens contain tips on how to complete a good recording.

We have prepared a short video explaining the recording process.



Recording your voice

For step-by-step instructions on how to record your voice, please watch our video below



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Recording tips are also provided in written format.



Recording Tips

Our state-of-the-art speech synthesis technology works by mimicking what it hears in your recording.
This is what makes it so great at capturing your identity in the voice.

But there are a few things to remember:

Make sure you are in a quiet room with no background noise. For example, if you have any pets make sure they're out of the room, switch off any appliances like the dishwasher or washing machine, and try to record away from any busy streets.

The quality of the audio will also affect the quality of the voice. This is why we ask you to **use an external microphone** (not the one built-in to your computer). Try not to record in a room that is very echoey: rooms with lots of soft furnishings are good, and closing windows and curtains can also help.

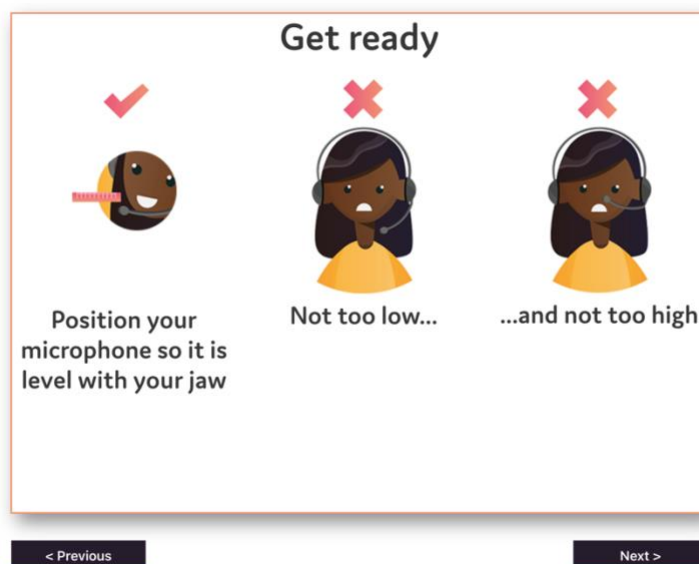
Read the sentences in a natural voice - don't over-emphasise any of the words but try not to sound too flat. Otherwise this will come through in your synthetic voice.

Only record when you are reading the correct sentence. Try not to cough or stutter on a word during the recording. If you do or **if you make a mistake while reading a sentence then re-record the sentence.**

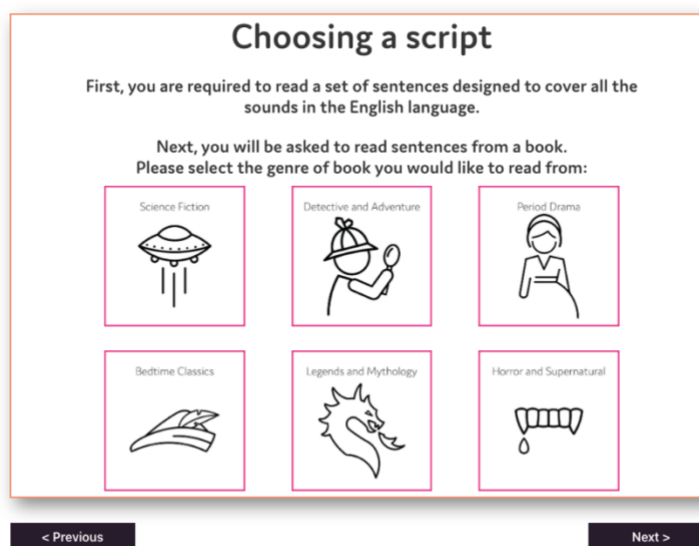
< Previous

Next >

Make sure your external microphone is connected to your computer and is positioned in line with your jaw. You do not want the microphone too close to your mouth as this can lead to a poor-quality recording.



We offer a selection of different scripts for you to choose from. First select what genre of book you would like to read from; each genre contains a range of titles to pick from.



Once you have selected a genre, you will see the available titles. Each title has been rated for ease of reading. Use the circle button on the right to select which title you would like to read.



Choosing a script

You have selected Bedtime Classics. Please select a book to read from below.

Title	Author	Reading Difficulty	
Alice in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll	Average	<input type="radio"/>
Dick Whittington and His Cat	Edith Carrington	Easier	<input type="radio"/>
Peter Pan	J.M. Barrie	Harder	<input type="radio"/>
Stories by Beatrix Potter	Beatrix Potter	Average	<input type="radio"/>
The Jungle Book	Rudyard Kipling	Average	<input type="radio"/>

Please note that some books may have been edited for clarity and ease of reading. The books have been rated for difficulty based on factors such as length of sentences, structure of sentences and vocabulary. To return to the genre selection please press Previous


[< Previous](#)[Next >](#)

You are now ready to start recording. Please make sure you are comfortable.



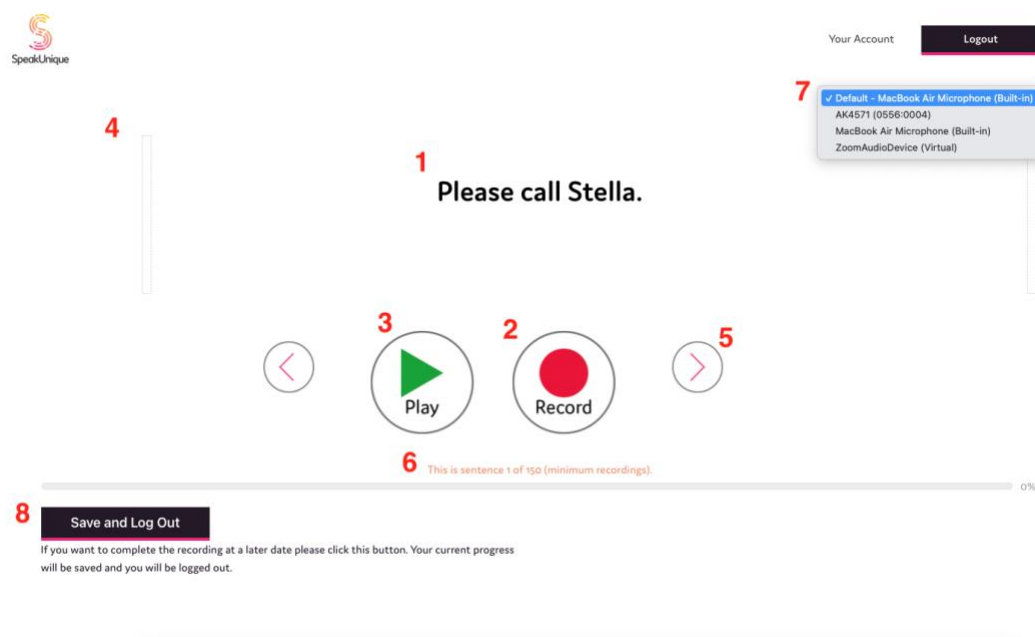
Get Comfortable

Set yourself up somewhere quiet and comfortable where you can keep your computer stable. Grab yourself a glass of water or a cup of tea.



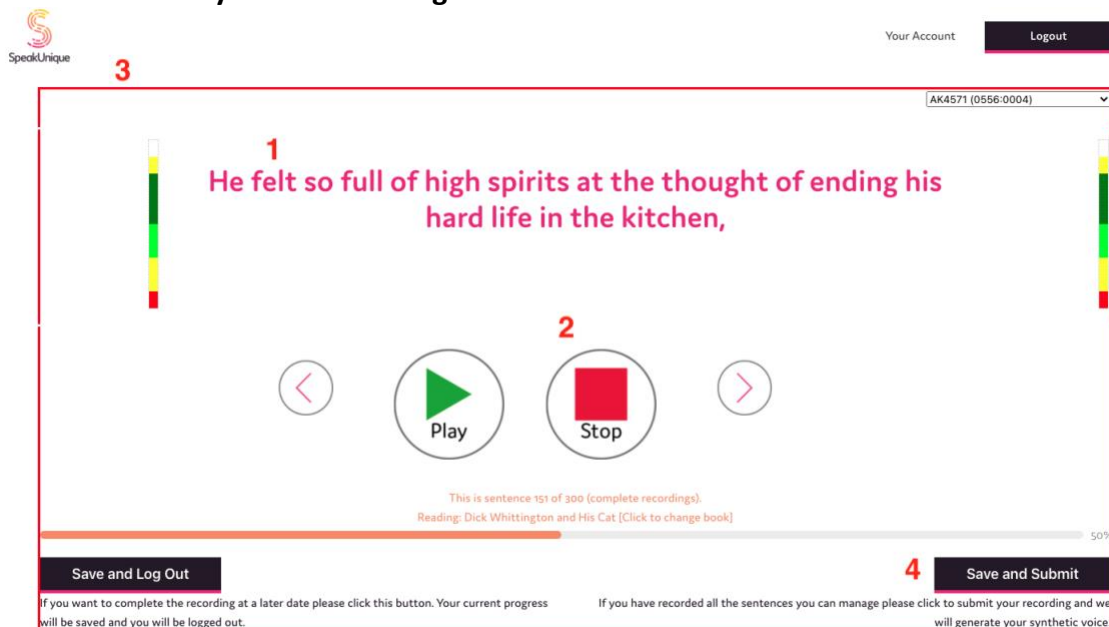
[< Previous](#)[Next >](#)

The Recording Screen



1. This is the sentence you need to read aloud.
2. Press **Record** to start recording each sentence. Alternatively, you can use the “R” key on your keyboard to start and stop the recording.
3. The **Play** button allows you to listen to the sentence you have just recorded - please listen back to sentences frequently to check the quality.
4. The **volume bar** indicates the volume of the recording. An error message will appear if the recording is too loud, too quiet or if your microphone is too close to your mouth.
5. The **arrows** allow you to move between sentences. You can also use the arrow keys on your keyboard to do this.
6. The **progress bar** shows the sentence number you are reading and what percentage of the recording you have completed.
7. Here you can select the external **microphone** you want to use. Please note the name of the microphone might differ from what you expect.
8. Use the **Save and Log Out** feature if you would like to save your recording


The screen when you are recording audio



1. The sentence will turn pink when you are recording. Please read the sentence aloud.
If you make a mistake, you are interrupted, you notice background noise or if you cough during the recording please rerecord the sentence.
2. Press **Stop** to stop recording the sentence. Alternatively, you can use the “**R**” key on your keyboard to stop the recording.
3. A red box will appear around the screen to indicate that recording is in process.
4. Your synthetic voice can be built on a minimum of 150 sentences and a maximum of 300 sentences.

The **Save and Submit** button will appear once you have reached sentence 151 and can be used when you are ready to submit your recordings to create your synthetic voice. If you wish to record all 300 sentences, please continue recording until you reach the end of the process.

Once you have submitted your recordings, your account will show that your voice is being generated.

**Alice Smith**

Your Account [Logout](#)

<alice@speakunique.co.uk>

Your SpeakUnique Products

Product: Voice Build

Status: Your recordings have been submitted. Thank you!
We will send you an email when your synthetic voice is ready to listen to.

Your Details & Preferences

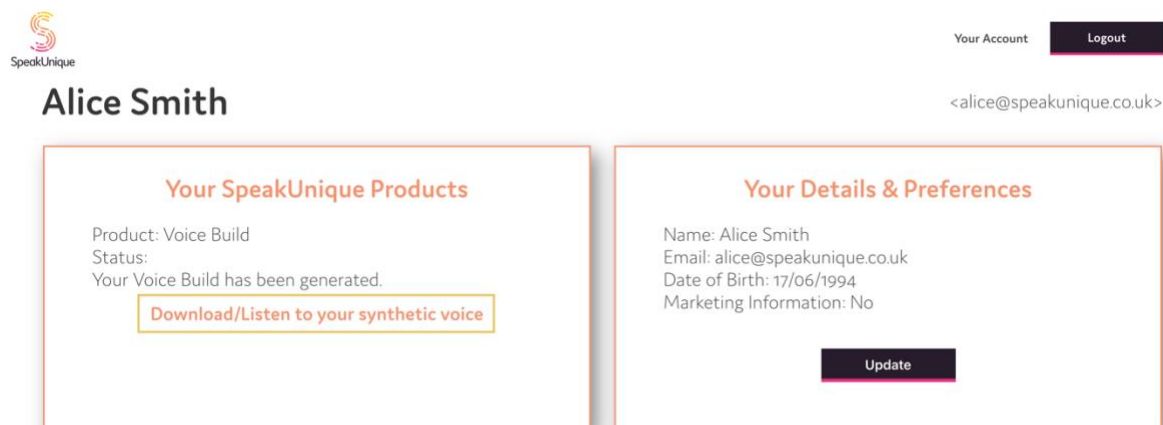
Name: Alice Smith
Email: alice@speakunique.co.uk
Date of Birth: 17/06/1994
Marketing Information: No

Update

Need additional help? Contact our support team at <support@speakunique.co.uk>

Listening to your Voice Build

You will be notified by email once your synthetic voice has been generated. Log into your account at www.speakunique.co.uk and click **Download/listen to samples of your synthetic voice**.



The screenshot shows the user dashboard for Alice Smith. At the top left is the SpeakUnique logo. At the top right are links for 'Your Account' and 'Logout', and the email address '<alice@ speakunique.co.uk>'. The dashboard is divided into two main sections: 'Your SpeakUnique Products' and 'Your Details & Preferences'. The 'Your SpeakUnique Products' section shows 'Product: Voice Build', 'Status:', and 'Your Voice Build has been generated.' with a button 'Download/Listen to your synthetic voice'. The 'Your Details & Preferences' section shows 'Name: Alice Smith', 'Email: alice@ speakunique.co.uk', 'Date of Birth: 17/06/1994', and 'Marketing Information: No' with an 'Update' button.

Alice Smith

Your SpeakUnique Products

Product: Voice Build
Status:
Your Voice Build has been generated.

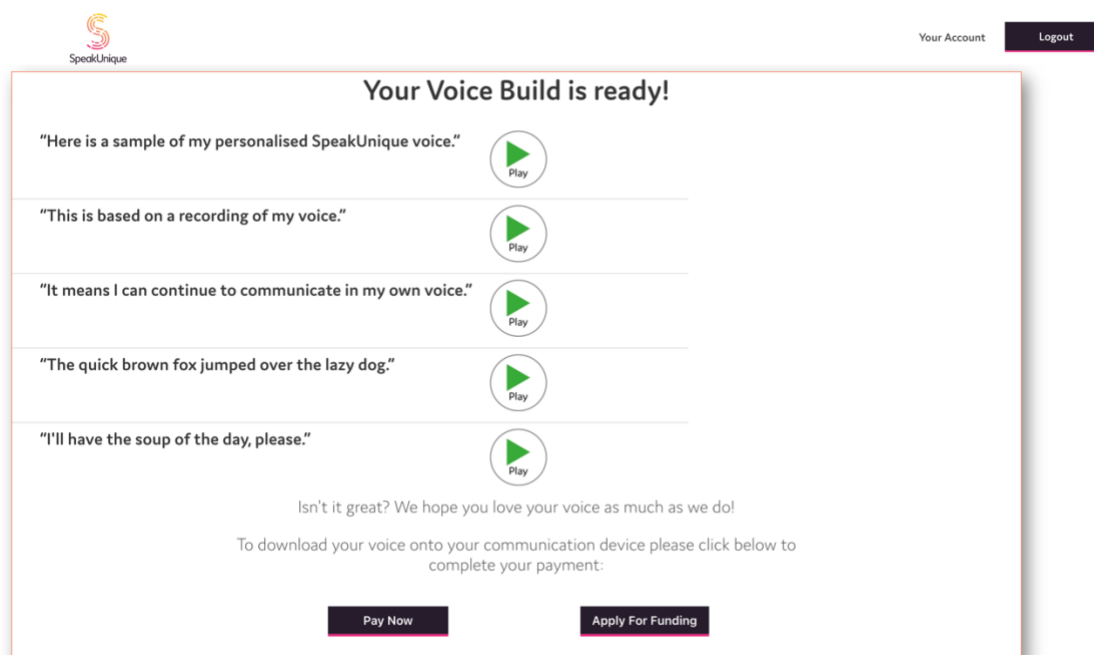
[Download/Listen to your synthetic voice](#)

Your Details & Preferences

Name: Alice Smith
Email: alice@ speakunique.co.uk
Date of Birth: 17/06/1994
Marketing Information: No

[Update](#)

You can listen to 5 samples of your synthetic voice. If you have any feedback on the voice, or if you would like to upgrade to our **Voice Repair** service please email support@ speakunique.co.uk



The screenshot shows the 'Your Voice Build is ready!' page. At the top left is the SpeakUnique logo. At the top right are links for 'Your Account' and 'Logout'. The main content area has the heading 'Your Voice Build is ready!'. Below this are five sample voice clips, each with a 'Play' button. The clips are: 'Here is a sample of my personalised SpeakUnique voice.', 'This is based on a recording of my voice.', 'It means I can continue to communicate in my own voice.', 'The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog.', and 'I'll have the soup of the day, please.'. Below the clips is a message: 'Isn't it great? We hope you love your voice as much as we do!'. Below this is a message: 'To download your voice onto your communication device please click below to complete your payment:'. At the bottom are two buttons: 'Pay Now' and 'Apply For Funding'.

Your Voice Build is ready!

"Here is a sample of my personalised SpeakUnique voice." [Play](#)

"This is based on a recording of my voice." [Play](#)

"It means I can continue to communicate in my own voice." [Play](#)

"The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog." [Play](#)

"I'll have the soup of the day, please." [Play](#)

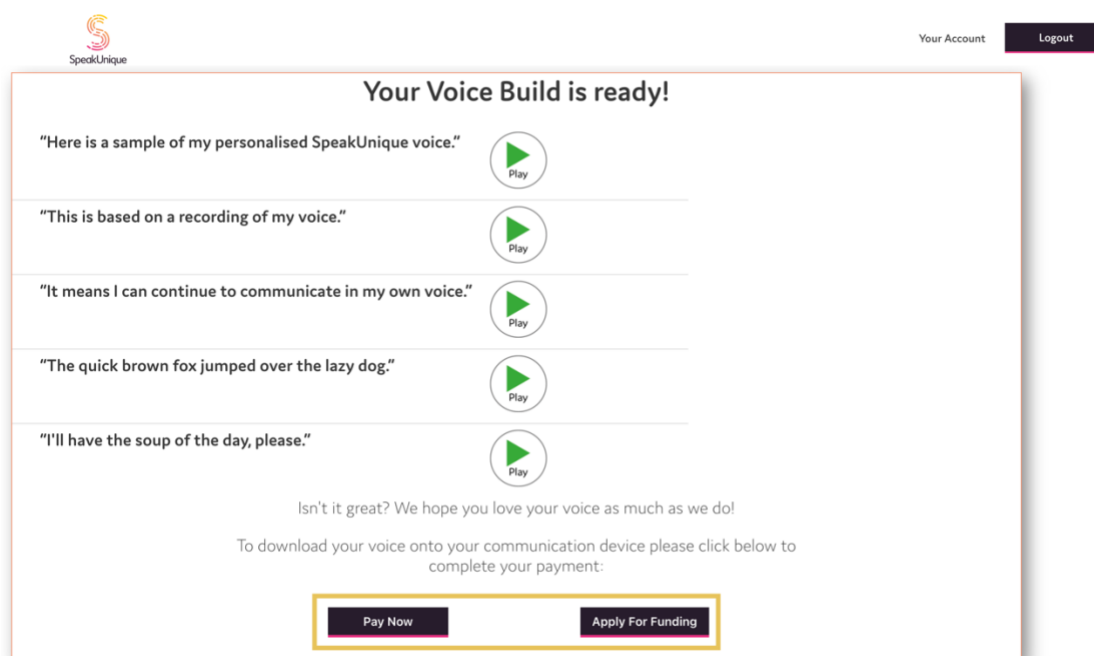
Isn't it great? We hope you love your voice as much as we do!

To download your voice onto your communication device please click below to complete your payment:

[Pay Now](#) [Apply For Funding](#)

Payment and funding for Voice Build


You can opt to self-fund the voice via a secure online payment by clicking **Pay Now**. If you wish to complete a funding application, please click **Apply for Funding** and follow the below steps.





SpeakUnique


Your Account Logout


Your Voice Build is ready!

"Here is a sample of my personalised SpeakUnique voice." 

"This is based on a recording of my voice." 

"It means I can continue to communicate in my own voice." 

"The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog." 

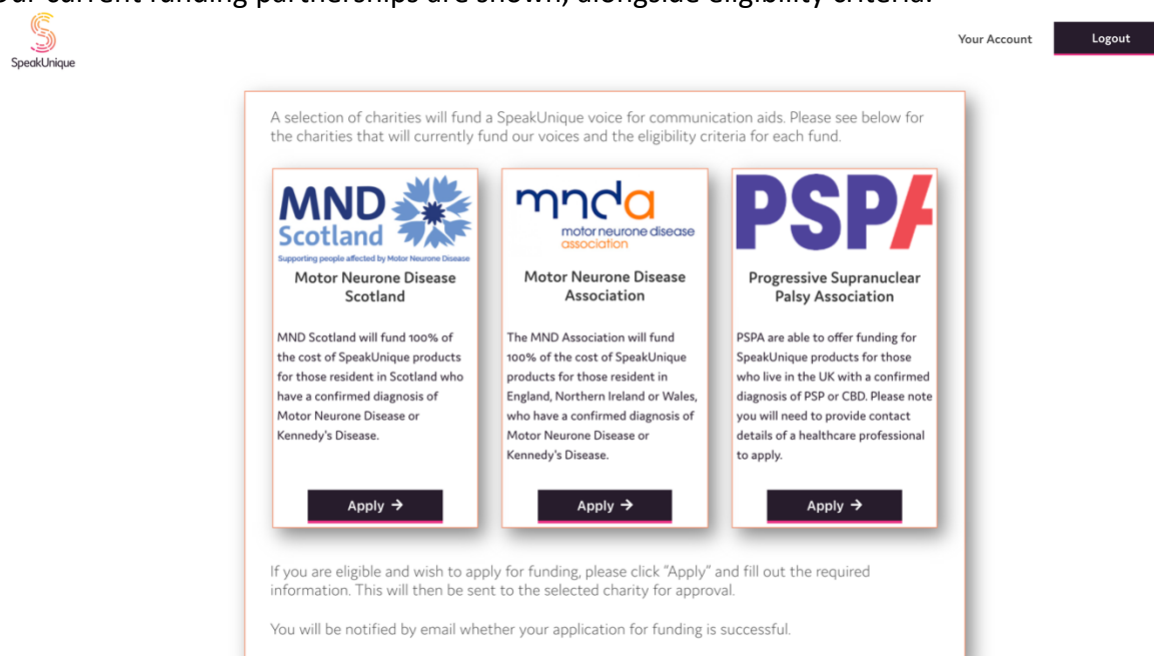
"I'll have the soup of the day, please." 

Isn't it great? We hope you love your voice as much as we do!

To download your voice onto your communication device please click below to complete your payment:

[Pay Now](#) [Apply For Funding](#)


Our current funding partnerships are shown, alongside eligibility criteria.



SpeakUnique

Your Account Logout

A selection of charities will fund a SpeakUnique voice for communication aids. Please see below for the charities that will currently fund our voices and the eligibility criteria for each fund.




MND Scotland
Supporting people affected by Motor Neurone Disease

Motor Neurone Disease Scotland

MND Scotland will fund 100% of the cost of SpeakUnique products for those resident in Scotland who have a confirmed diagnosis of Motor Neurone Disease or Kennedy's Disease.

[Apply →](#)




mnda
motor neurone disease association

Motor Neurone Disease Association

The MND Association will fund 100% of the cost of SpeakUnique products for those resident in England, Northern Ireland or Wales, who have a confirmed diagnosis of Motor Neurone Disease or Kennedy's Disease.

[Apply →](#)



PSPA

Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association

PSPA are able to offer funding for SpeakUnique products for those who live in the UK with a confirmed diagnosis of PSP or CBD. Please note you will need to provide contact details of a healthcare professional to apply.

[Apply →](#)

If you are eligible and wish to apply for funding, please click "Apply" and fill out the required information. This will then be sent to the selected charity for approval.

You will be notified by email whether your application for funding is successful.

The steps for applying for funding are specific to each charity but the required

information will be shown on screen. For example, the **MND Association** application is shown below.

Apply for MND Association Funding

To apply for funding to cover the cost of your SpeakUnique voice from the MND Association please complete this form:

Name*	<input type="text"/>
Address*	<input type="text"/>
Postcode*	<input type="text"/>
Phone number*	<input type="text"/>
Email address*	<input type="text"/>
Date of Birth*	<input type="text"/>
Speech & Language Therapist (SLT) details (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>
Doctor/GP details*	<input type="text"/>
Date of Diagnosis*	<input type="text"/>

Applications for funding from PSPA require endorsement from a healthcare professional. You are required to provide the email address of the healthcare professional endorsing your application for funding. An automatic email will be sent to them explaining what they need to do.

Apply for PSPA Funding

To apply for funding to cover the cost of your SpeakUnique voice from PSPA please complete this form.

The details you enter will be sent to the named healthcare professional and PSPA, alongside the message below asking the healthcare professional to endorse your application for funding from PSPA. We will notify you by email on the outcome of your funding application.

Name*	<input type="text"/>
Phone number*	<input type="text"/>
Email address*	<input type="text" value="alice@speakunique.co.uk"/>
SpeakUnique Product	<input type="text" value="Voice Build"/>
Cost	<input type="text" value="£175"/>
Name of healthcare professional endorsing application for Support Grant*	<input type="text"/>
Contact details for healthcare professional*	<input type="text"/>

Below is a preview of the email that we will send on your behalf to your healthcare professional

Date: Thu, 18 Mar 2021
To:
From: SpeakUnique <support@speakunique.co.uk>
Subject: PSPA funding request for a SpeakUnique voice

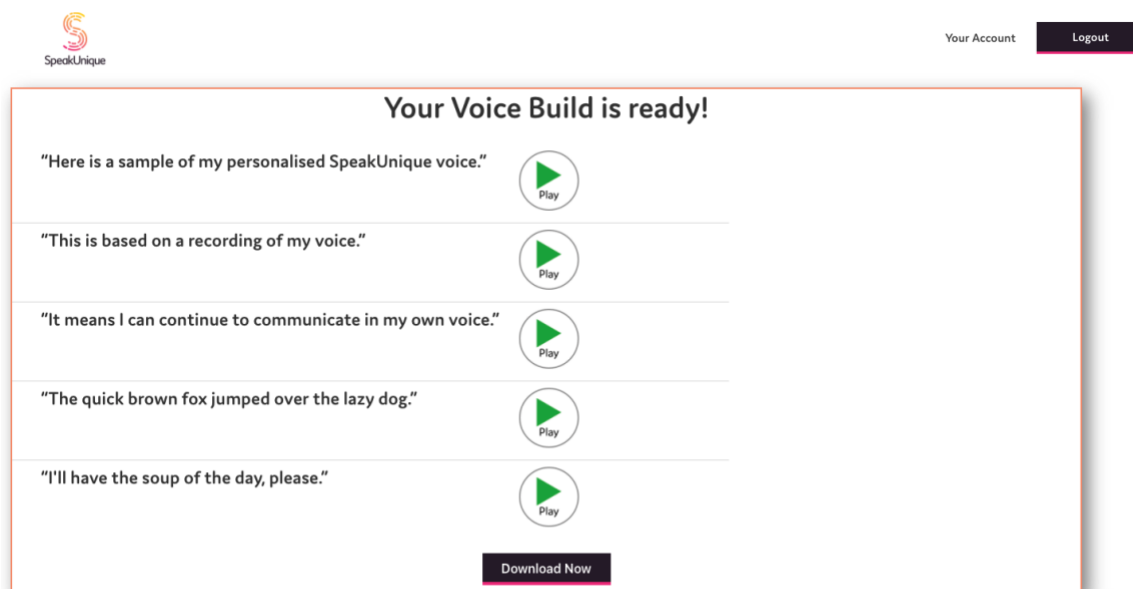
[Your name] has applied for funding through PSPA for the cost of a SpeakUnique voice. They have nominated you as a healthcare professional to support this application. Please respond to this email, ensuring PSPA is cc'ed, confirming that you endorse this application and give a short overview of why this service would be beneficial to the individual. If the individual applying for funding is a resident in Scotland, please give a reason why the SpeakUnique voice cannot be funded through NHS Scotland's provision of communication aids.

Details of the individual applying for funding:
Name:
Phone number:
Email address: alice@speakunique.co.uk
SpeakUnique product: Voice Build
Cost: £175

Send

Downloading your Voice Build

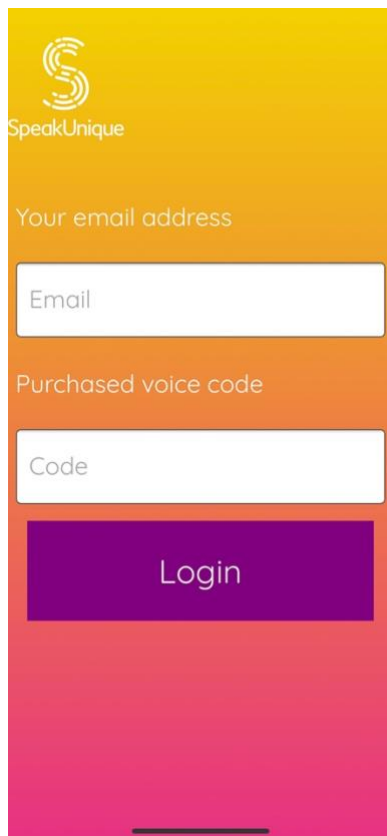
The **Download Now** button will appear once your voice has been purchased or your funding has been approved.



To download the voice onto Apple and Android devices, please search for **SpeakUnique** on your device's app store and download SpeakUnique.



You will need to log into the app with your email address and **Purchased Voice Code**.




The image shows the login screen of the SpeakUnique app. It has a yellow-to-pink gradient background. At the top left is the SpeakUnique logo. Below it, the text "Your email address" is followed by a white input field with the placeholder "Email". Below that, the text "Purchased voice code" is followed by a white input field with the placeholder "Code". At the bottom is a large purple button with the text "Login".

You can find the **Purchased voice code** by clicking the Apple or Android tab on your online account at www.speakunique.co.uk.



The image shows a web page from SpeakUnique. At the top left is the SpeakUnique logo. At the top right are links for "Your Account" and "Logout". In the center, the heading "Download Voice" is above three tabs: "Apple", "Android", and "Windows". The "Apple" tab is highlighted with a yellow box. Below the tabs is the heading "Voice Build". Underneath, a text line says "Click below to reveal your code, then enter this code into the SpeakUnique app on your Apple device." Below this text is a grey bar containing ten asterisks: "*****".

To use the voice on a **Windows** device, you will need to install the voice in SAPI5 format. Installation instructions can be found on the left and the file to download on the right of the page.


SpeakUnique

Your Account [Logout](#)


Download Voice

[Apple](#) [Android](#) [Windows](#)

Our guide to installing your voice onto your device is available as a PDF file.
Click below to view it:


Installation
Guide

Click the button below to download your voice file for installation onto your Windows device.

[Download code \(optional\)](#)

Download
Voice

If you have any additional questions or issues during the recording or downloading your voice, please email us at support@peakunique.co.uk.