

Instructions for Creating a Voice Design

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

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Before you begin

We offer two different ways to access our Voice Design service.

Using old recordings of your voice we can recreate your speech in a synthetic voice. Recordings must meet the below criteria:

1. File(s) in .wav, .mp3, .mp4, .mov or other digital formats
2. There is at least 5 minutes of the target individual speaking, highest quality voices are created with between 15 – 20 minutes of speech
3. This must be free of loud background noises e.g. music playing or many people speaking at once
4. There cannot be multiple people speaking over each other
5. If the recording contains more than one speaker, it needs to be clear whose voice we want to create; you can email any clarifications to us at support@speakunique.co.uk

Using Voice Donors we can create a bespoke voice for you, that matches your desired accent, age and gender. We will blend together two voice donors to create a bespoke voice that will not sound like either one of the donors: instead, it will be a voice just for you. You can either nominate your own voice donors or get in touch with us and we might be able to use our existing bank of donor voices.

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. SpeakUnique voices can be downloaded unlimited times across a range of devices.

SpeakUnique App

The SpeakUnique app is a text-to-speech app that allows you to input text via a keyboard or by using pre-set categories and phrases. The typed message is then generated in your personalised synthetic voice. The app can be used with various input methods, such as switch access. It is compatible with iOS (Apple) devices (i.e. iPhones and iPads) running **iOS 12** or higher, and many Android devices, depending on the chip used by the particular device.

A current list of tested Android devices is available here:

<https://www.speakunique.co.uk/session/using-your-voice-speakunique-app-android>.

You can check whether a given device is compatible or not on the list.

Speed Test App

If you already own an Android device but you're not sure if it's compatible, you can check this by using our speed test app, which can be downloaded free from the Google Play store by searching for "SpeakUnique Speed Test". The app will run a short speed test, which takes

less than a minute, to confirm if your device is compatible with the SpeakUnique app. Once you have run the test, you can delete the speed test app from your device.

Third Party Apps for iOS

We have partnered with Smartbox and Therapy Box to integrate SpeakUnique voices into Grid for iPad and Predictable for iOS devices, respectively. A licence for Grid for iPad or Predictable must be purchased separately or provided through your healthcare provision. Please note SpeakUnique voices **do not** integrate into Predictable on Android devices.

Windows Devices

For Windows devices, the voices are provided in SAPI5 format where they can be accessed by any software on the device which relies on synthetic voices.

We do not offer our own SpeakUnique app for Windows devices – you will need to use third party software to access your voice.

We have confirmed the voices are compatible with the speech generating devices listed below but please get in touch if we have not included a device you intend to use the voice on.

Tobii Dynavox

Indi 7, i-12+, i-15+, i-13, i-16, I-110

SmartBox

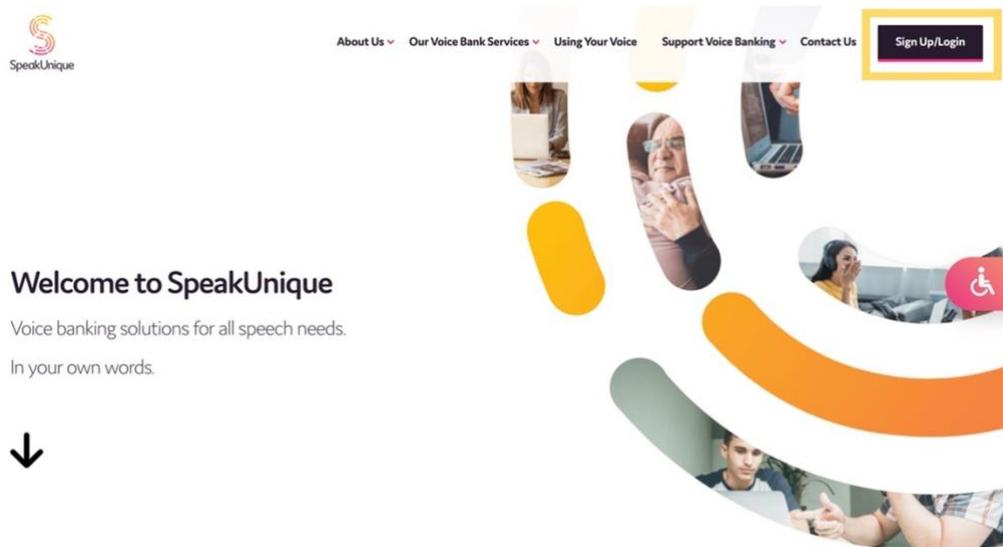
Grid Pad 8, Grid Pad 10, Grid Pad 11, Grid Pad 12, Grid Pad 13, Grid Pad 15, Touch Pad

Liberator/ PRC

Accent 1400, Accent 1000 and Accent 800

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**

A screenshot of the registration and login forms on the SpeakUnique website. The 'New to SpeakUnique?' form is highlighted with a yellow box. It 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 'Registered already?' form 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 registration form.

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 Design**, click **Get Started**.



Please select one of our voice bank services:

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

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



Let's get to know each other

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

<p>What is your medical diagnosis or condition?</p> <input type="text"/> <p>When were you diagnosed?</p> <p>Month... <input type="text"/> Year... <input type="text"/></p>	<p>Please select your date of birth *</p> <p>Day... <input type="text"/> Month... <input type="text"/> Year... <input type="text"/></p> <p>Please select your gender *</p> <p>Male <input type="radio"/> Female <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/></p>
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← Previous

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.

Next →

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.

If you are being supported to use SpeakUnique by a **Healthcare Professional**, you can add their details to your account to grant permission for them to liaise with us on your behalf and allow them to view your progress. If you are unsure of this information at this stage, you can add this at any time from within "My Account".

Your Healthcare Professional

<p>Healthcare Professional Name:</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Healthcare Professional Email Address:</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Healthcare Professional Phone Number:</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Job Role:</p> <input type="text" value="Please select..."/>	<p>Your Healthcare Professional will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · View your name and email address · View your recording progress · Listen to the recordings you complete with SpeakUnique or listen to the recordings you upload to your account · Listen to samples of your personalised synthetic voice · Discuss the status and any feedback on the voice with the SpeakUnique team · Apply for funding on your behalf <p><input type="checkbox"/> By ticking this box you confirm you give permission for SpeakUnique to liaise with your named healthcare professional about your account. You can withdraw your consent at any time by emailing support@speakunique.co.uk.</p>
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← Cancel

Save Changes →

Please let us know what **accent** you would like your synthetic voice to have;

this could either be the accent of your voice in your old recordings, or the accent you want your bespoke voice to have. If you are already using a **communication aid**, please let us know so we can ensure your new synthetic voice will be compatible with existing hardware.

What accent should your synthetic voice have?*

*** this information is required**

Please note this information refers to the **accent** of the voice, not the language; the generated voice will be English speaking.

We use information about your accent to better understand how to generate your synthetic voice so it's important this information is correct.

If English is not your native language, you might feel it is more accurate to select the country of your native language to describe the accent your synthetic voice should have.

Country:

Region/County/State:

Do you currently use a communication aid?

Yes No

If yes, what communication aid are you using?

Next →

Your registration is now complete, and you can continue to select your Voice Design method 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 design.

Start Now →

Now pick if you would like to use old recordings of your voice or nominate

voice donors to design your voice.



Please select between our two Voice Design methods:

<p>Create a synthetic voice from old audio recordings</p> <p>To create a synthetic voice from old recordings of your voice, the recordings must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- just you speaking- no background noise- at least 5 minutes of audio (can be across multiple clips) <p>Upload</p>	<p>Create a bespoke synthetic voice from voice donors</p> <p>We can take donor voice recordings and blend these together to create a bespoke synthetic voice for you.</p> <p>To do this, we require two donor voices. We recommend the donors match the voice you want in regional accent, age and gender.</p> <p>Get Started</p>
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Not sure? Contact our support team at <support@speakunique.co.uk>

Please skip to the relevant section below:

[Using Old Recordings](#)

[Using Voice Donors](#)

Using old recordings

If you would like to use old recordings of you speaking to create a synthetic voice, please click "Upload".



Please select between our two Voice Design methods:

<p>Create a synthetic voice from old audio recordings</p> <p>To create a synthetic voice from old recordings of your voice, the recordings must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- just you speaking- no background noise- at least 5 minutes of audio (can be across multiple clips) <p>Upload</p>	<p>Create a bespoke synthetic voice from voice donors</p> <p>We can take donor voice recordings and blend these together to create a bespoke synthetic voice for you.</p> <p>To do this, we require two donor voices. We recommend the donors match the voice you want in regional accent, age and gender.</p> <p>Get Started</p>
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Not sure? Contact our support team at <support@ speakunique.co.uk>

Click **Choose Files** to select the files you would like to upload to SpeakUnique.



Your Account

Logout

Drag & drop files here to upload them into your SpeakUnique account

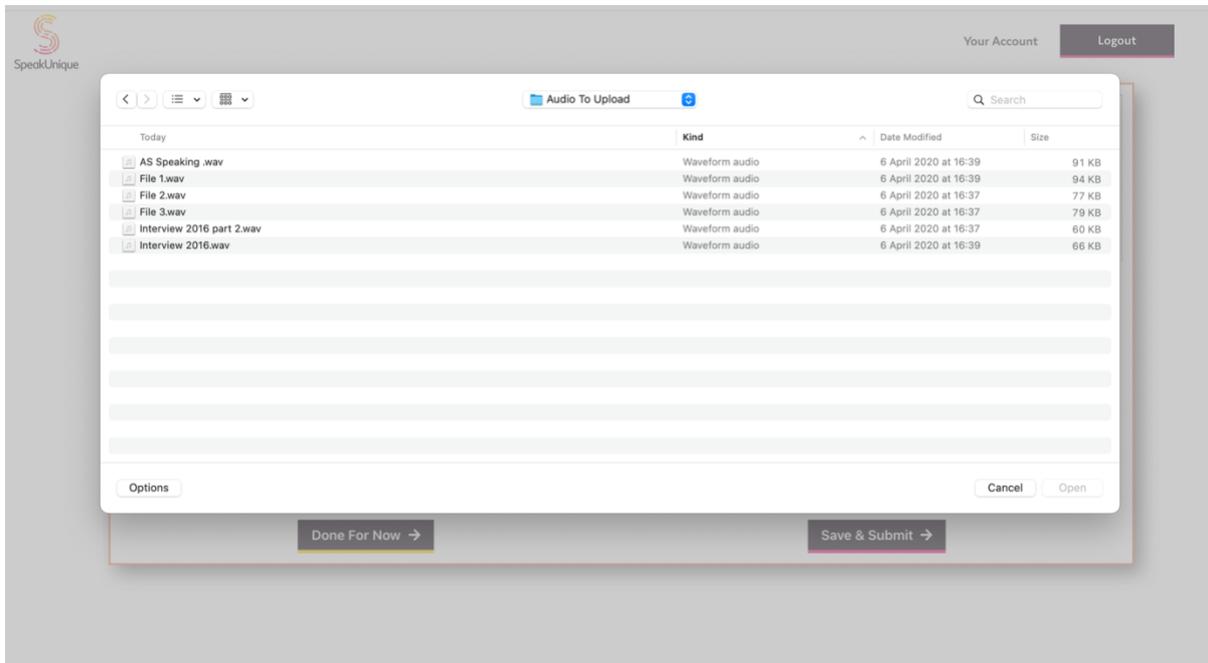
or **Choose files** No file chosen and click **UPLOAD**

THANK YOU!

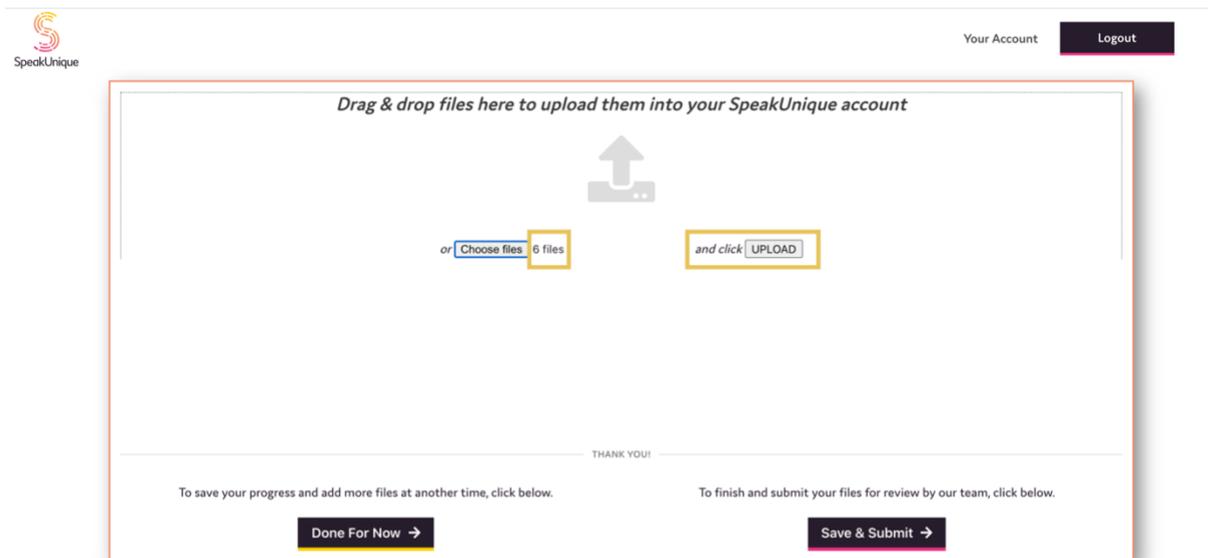
To save your progress and add more files at another time, click below. **Done For Now →**

To finish and submit your files for review by our team, click below. **Save & Submit →**

A window will open showing the files available on your computer. Please select the files you would like to upload to SpeakUnique and click **Open**

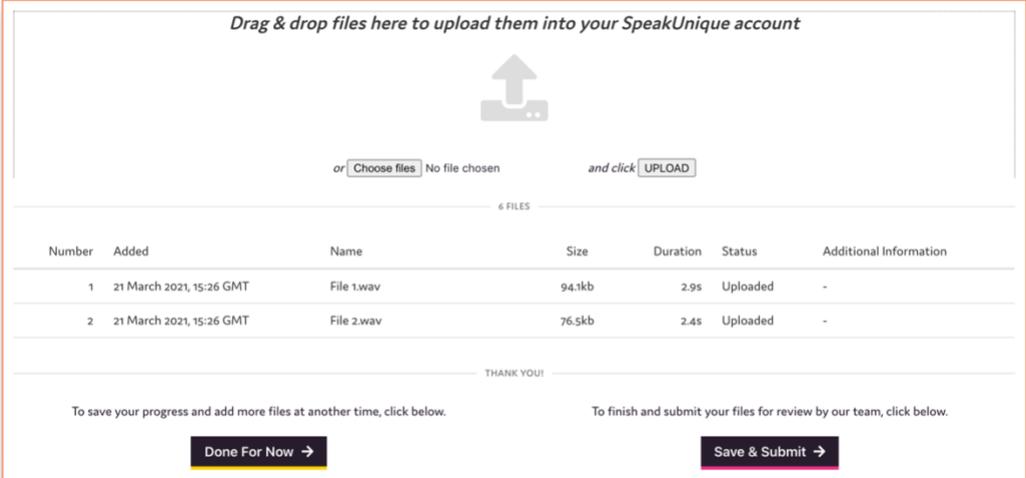


The number of files you have selected will show next to the **Choose File** button. Please click **Upload** to upload the files to SpeakUnique.



A list of the files you have uploaded to SpeakUnique will show in the space below. Once you have uploaded all your files, please click **Save and Submit** to submit the files to SpeakUnique for review.

If you would like to come back and upload more audio at a later date, please use the **Done For Now** button - please note this will not submit your audio for review.



Drag & drop files here to upload them into your SpeakUnique account

or No file chosen and click

6 FILES

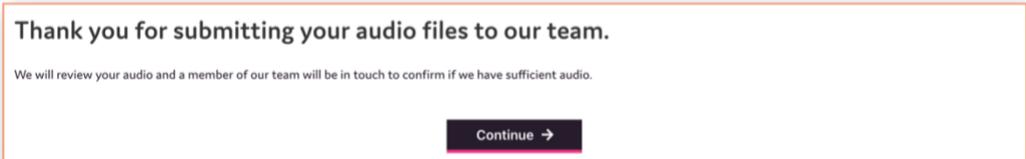
Number	Added	Name	Size	Duration	Status	Additional Information
1	21 March 2021, 15:26 GMT	File 1.wav	94.1kb	2.9s	Uploaded	-
2	21 March 2021, 15:26 GMT	File 2.wav	76.5kb	2.4s	Uploaded	-

THANK YOU!

To save your progress and add more files at another time, click below.

To finish and submit your files for review by our team, click below.

Clicking **Save and Submit** will confirm that your audio has been submitted for approval by our team.



Thank you for submitting your audio files to our team.

We will review your audio and a member of our team will be in touch to confirm if we have sufficient audio.

You will receive an email once a member of our team has reviewed your audio . If your audio is approved, we will start creating your synthetic voice and will have samples ready for you to listen to in 3-5 business days. If there is an issue with your audio, a member of our team will be in touch to let you know what the issues are.

Please skip to [Listening to your Voice Design](#).

Using Voice Donors

If you would like to use Voice Donors to create your Voice Design, please click **Get Started**



Please select between our two Voice Design methods:

Create a synthetic voice from old audio recordings

To create a synthetic voice from old recordings of your voice, the recordings must be:

- just you speaking
- no background noise
- at least 5 minutes of audio (can be across multiple clips)

Upload

Create a bespoke synthetic voice from voice donors

We can take donor voice recordings and blend these together to create a bespoke synthetic voice for you.

To do this, we require two donor voices. We recommend the donors match the voice you want in regional accent, age and gender.

Get Started

Not sure? Contact our support team at <support@speakunique.co.uk>

Your voice donors will need to register for an account at www.speakunique.co.uk/donor and input their **unique donor code** during their registration – please share our **Being a Voice Donor** guide with them, which is available on the [Support Documents](#) page of our website. The status of each donor will show on this page.



Voice Donor One

Please share the link below with your voice donor:

<https://www.speakunique.co.uk/donor>

And their unique donor code

1111 - 1111

Status: Waiting for voice donor to register

Voice Donor Two

Please share the link below with your voice donor:

<https://www.speakunique.co.uk/donor>

And their unique donor code

2222 - 2222

Status: Waiting for voice donor to register

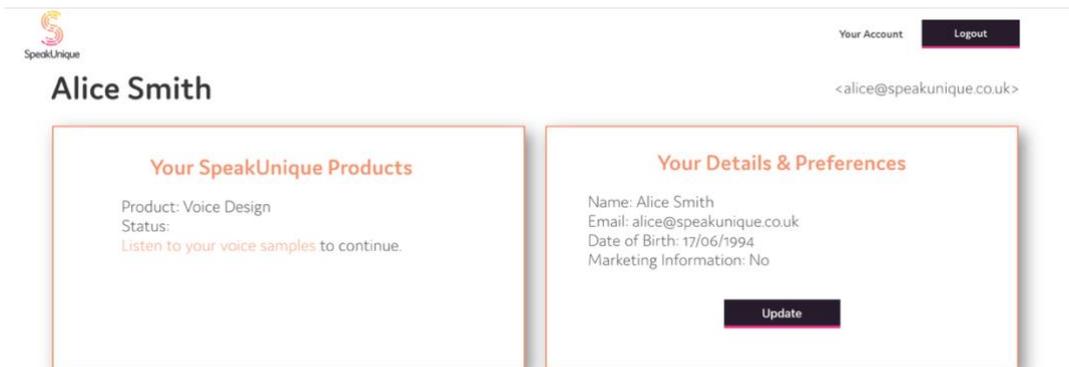
If you do not have any suitable voice donors, or if you only have one available voice donor, please email <info@speakunique.co.uk> with the accent, gender and approximate age of the voice you would like. We may be able to use one of our existing voice donors.

You will be notified by email once both of your Voice Donors have completed their recordings. We will then generate your synthetic voice within 3 – 5 business days.

Listening to your Voice Design

You will be notified by email once your synthetic voice has been generated. If you do not receive an email, please check your junk folder or log back into your account to check your voice status.

Log into your account at www.speakunique.co.uk and click **Download/listen to samples of your synthetic voice.**

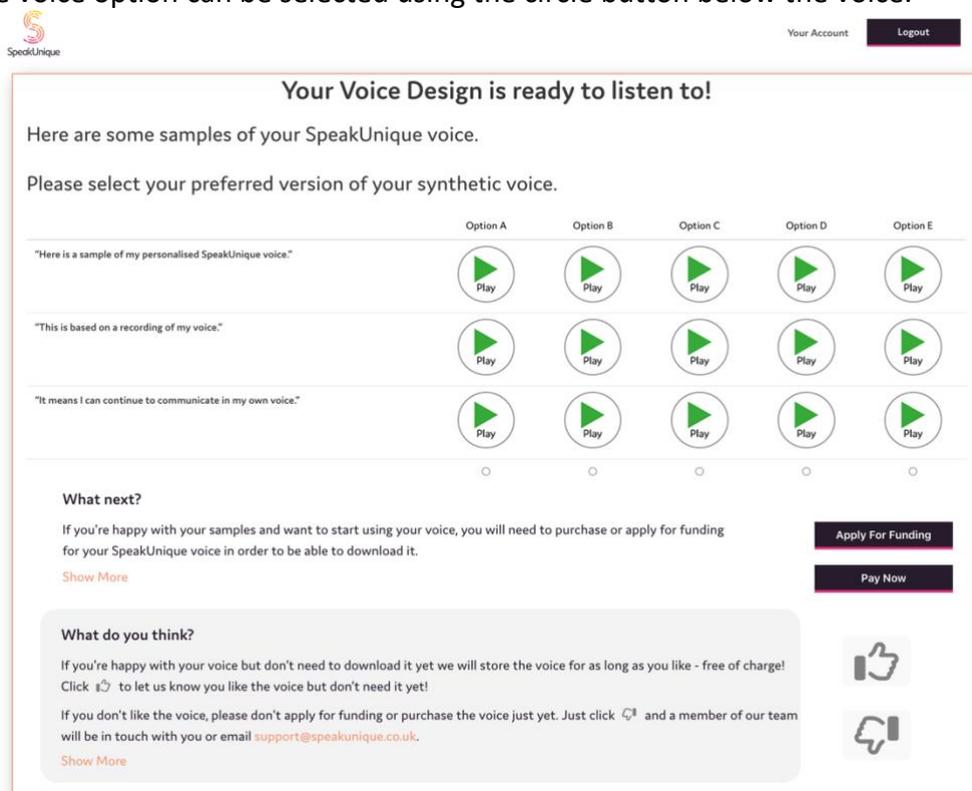


The screenshot shows the user account page for Alice Smith. At the top left is the SpeakUnique logo. The user's name "Alice Smith" is displayed prominently. To the right, there are links for "Your Account" and "Logout", and the email address "<alice@speakunique.co.uk>". Below the name, there are two main sections: "Your SpeakUnique Products" and "Your Details & Preferences".

Your SpeakUnique Products
Product: Voice Design
Status:
[Listen to your voice samples](#) to continue.

Your Details & Preferences
Name: Alice Smith
Email: alice@speakunique.co.uk
Date of Birth: 17/06/1994
Marketing Information: No
[Update](#)

We will generate at least one version of your synthetic voice. If more than one version of your voice has been generated, you will need to pick which version of the voice you like the best. The voice option can be selected using the circle button below the voice.



The screenshot shows the "Your Voice Design is ready to listen to!" page. It features a heading and a sub-heading: "Here are some samples of your SpeakUnique voice. Please select your preferred version of your synthetic voice." Below this, there are five options (Option A to Option E) for each of three sample sentences. Each option has a "Play" button. At the bottom, there are two sections: "What next?" and "What do you think?".

Your Voice Design is ready to listen to!
Here are some samples of your SpeakUnique voice.
Please select your preferred version of your synthetic voice.

Option A Option B Option C Option D Option E

"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."

What next?
If you're happy with your samples and want to start using your voice, you will need to purchase or apply for funding for your SpeakUnique voice in order to be able to download it.
[Show More](#)

What do you think?
If you're happy with your voice but don't need to download it yet we will store the voice for as long as you like - free of charge! Click to let us know you like the voice but don't need it yet!
If you don't like the voice, please don't apply for funding or purchase the voice just yet. Just click and a member of our team will be in touch with you or email support@speakunique.co.uk.
[Show More](#)

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

If you have any feedback on the voice, you can use our **Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down** system to let us know what you think. If you have more specific comments, please email support@speakunique.co.uk.

What next?

If you're happy with your samples and want to start using your voice, you will need to purchase or apply for funding for your SpeakUnique voice in order to be able to download it.

Use the Apply for Funding button to apply for funding from one of our charity partners. If you wish to purchase your voice yourself, please use the "pay now" button. You can also email funding@speakunique.co.uk if you would like to discuss funding from the health service or a charity not listed on our website.

[Hide](#)

Apply For Funding

Pay Now

What do you think?

If you're happy with your voice but don't need to download it yet we will store the voice for as long as you like - free of charge! Click  to let us know you like the voice but don't need it yet!

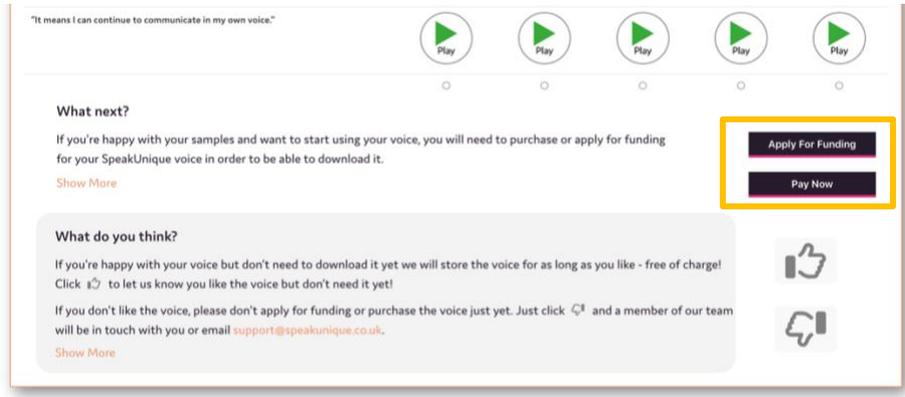
If you don't like the voice, please don't apply for funding or purchase the voice just yet. Just click  and a member of our team will be in touch with you or email support@speakunique.co.uk.

[Show More](#)

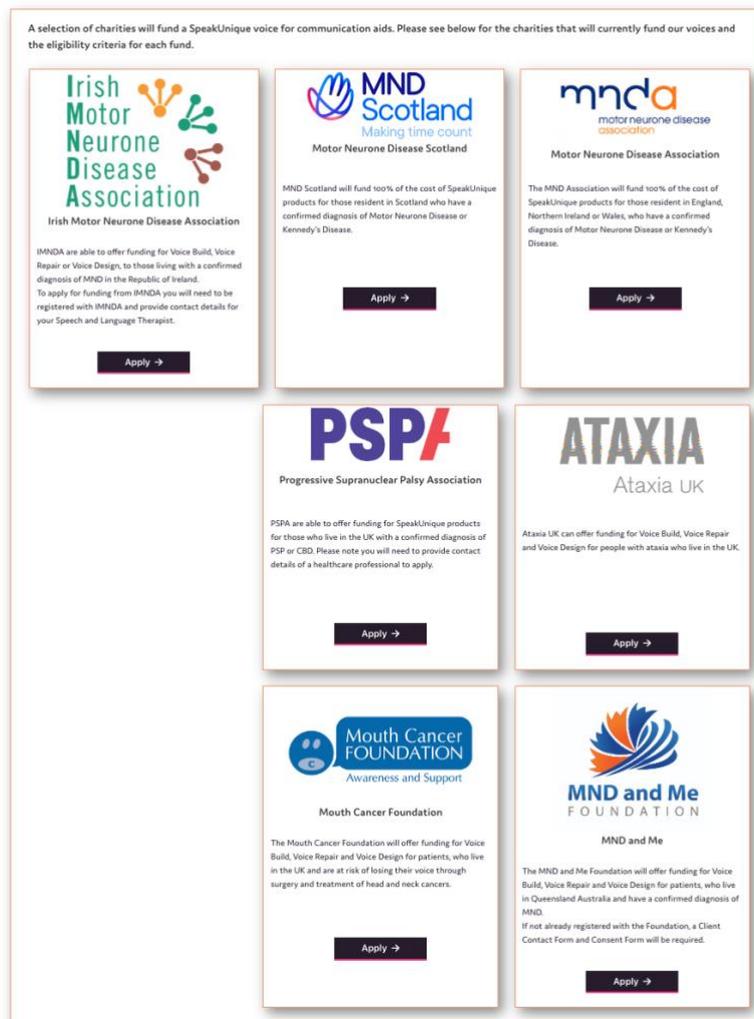


Payment and funding for Voice Design

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.



Our current funding partnerships will be shown, alongside eligibility criteria.



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 from some charities 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.

For example, the **PSPA** application is shown below.

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"/>	Below is a preview of the email that we will send on your behalf to your healthcare professional
Phone number* <input type="text"/>	Date: Thu, 18 Mar 2021
Email address* <input type="text" value="alice@speakunique.co.uk"/>	To:
SpeakUnique Product <input type="text" value="Voice Design"/>	From: SpeakUnique <support@speakunique.co.uk>
Cost <input type="text" value="£ 300"/>	Subject: PSPA funding request for a SpeakUnique voice
Name of healthcare professional endorsing application for Support Grant* <input type="text"/>	[Your name] has applied for funding through PSPA for the cost of a SpeakUnique voice.
Contact details for healthcare professional* <input type="text"/>	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 Design
Cost: £300

Send

Downloading your Voice Design

The **Download Now** button will appear once your voice has been purchased or your funding has been approved. You will need to select your preferred version of the voice to proceed to the download page.



Your Account

Logout

Your Voice Design is ready to listen to!

Here are some samples of your SpeakUnique voice.

Please select your preferred version of your synthetic voice.

	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
"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."					
	<input type="radio"/>				

[Download Now](#)

You can download your voice an unlimited number of times across multiple devices on all our supported platforms, The process for downloading your voice will depend on the device/ app you are using and specific instructions can be found by clicking on the different tabs displayed on this page.



Your Account

Logout

Download Voice

Your SpeakUnique voice is now ready to be downloaded.

For more information on how your voice can be used, please [click here](#).

Your voice can be downloaded as many times as you would like, onto a range of different devices. Please select a tab below for more information on how to use your voice on each of our supported platforms.

Apple

Android

Windows

Grid for iPad

Predictable (iOS Only)

Compatible Apple Devices

Your voice can be used through the SpeakUnique app on iPads and iPhones running iOS11 or higher.

Please search for "SpeakUnique" in the app store to download our free app. For more information using your voice through third-party Apple apps visit our [Using Your Voice](#) page.

Logging into the app

You can log into our app using your email address and password or email address and the download code, shown below:

[Click here](#) for our app guide.

Downloading Your Voice

If you have already logged into the SpeakUnique app and you are now ready to download your personalised voice into the app, please go to

"Options" > "My Account" > "Voice Status" and click "Download Voice"