

## Speech-to-Text Apps for Android Users

Speech-to-text apps are designed to transcribe spoken words into written text on a computer or mobile device for conversations in real time. This article gives an overview of some of our favorite free Android speech-to-text apps.

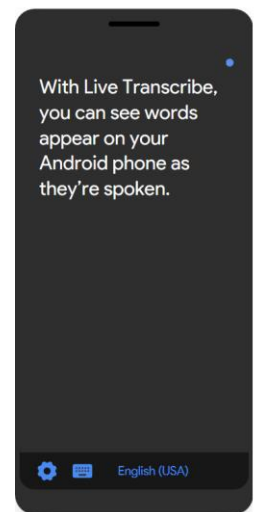
**For face-to-face conversations:**

Live Transcribe



Live Transcribe is an accessibility app designed for the deaf and hard of hearing community and is user-friendly. It uses Google Play speech recognition technology to perform real-time captioning of speech and non-speech sounds to your screen.

- Offers:
  - Face-to-face speech-to-text transcriptions in real time, available in English and over 70 languages and dialects
  - Displays non-speech sounds for awareness (e.g. someone is knocking on door or your dog is barking)
  - Can reply via typing if spoken speech is not possible
  - Supports quick switching between 2 languages
  - Can save transcript up to 3 days
  - Recommends the use of external microphones found in wired/Bluetooth headsets or USB mics for more accurate transcription
  - Font can be enlarged for visually-impaired
- Works best for:
  - Face-to-face conversations (not designed for phone calls although it does work fairly accurately on speakerphone)
  - Small groups
- Requires:
  - Android 5.0 (Lollipop) and up
  - On Pixel 3 and up, there are some additional requirements to use app
  - Connection to Wifi or 3G/4G/5G data
- Cost:
  - Free
- For more information or to download the app, visit:  
<https://www.android.com/accessibility/live-transcribe/>



## TextHear: Speechnotes – Speech to Text



TextHear app converts natural speech to written text using Google speech recognition technology and offers simple editing features. It is also one of very few free Android speech-to-text apps that can be supported off-line.

- Offers:
  - Face-to-face speech-to-text conversations in real time for over 100 languages
    - Will not turn off even when spoken speech is paused
  - Autocorrect features, punctuation keyboard and fun emojis
  - Share, save, export or print
- Works best for:
  - Face-to-face conversations with one speaker (not designed for phone calls or other audio)
- Requires:
  - Android 6.0 and up
  - Can be used without connection to Wifi or data (however better performance when connected to Wifi or 3G/4G/5G data)
- Cost:
  - Free version: Unlimited usage; small banner of ads present
  - Premium version: One-time \$9.99 for lifetime upgrade or \$1.39/month. Upgrade offers removal of ad banners and extra features like custom keys or font enlargements
- For more information or to download the app, visit: <https://texthear.com/>



## Live Caption



## **Live Caption**®

Live caption is simple and easy to use, offering live voice speech-to-text transcription without the extra bells and whistles. It is also supported off-line.

- Offers:
  - Face-to-face speech-to-text transcriptions in real-time, available in English
  - Compatible with most Bluetooth headsets and microphones for hands-free or if the speaker is farther away
  - Can be used without connection to Wifi or data
- Works best for:



- Face-to-face conversations with one speaker (not designed for use with phone calls or other audio)
- Requires:
  - Works in English on Pixel 4, 3a, 3, and 2 phones
  - Only select Android phones, need to check compatibility
- Cost:
  - Free, but can subscribe for full-screen and uninterrupted version at \$2.99/month
- For more information or to download the app, visit: <http://www.livecaptionapp.com/>

For face-to-face and remote meetings:



Ava offers live-voice and remote speech-to-text transcription for one or more speakers, hence works well for meetings.

- Offers:
  - Face-to-face and remote speech-to-text transcriptions in real-time in English and multiple other languages
  - For groups situations you can invite others to the conversation – each person uses the Ava app on their own phone and the microphone picks up and transcribes the speech so that everyone in the conversation can read it in the app
  - Speakers can use a Bluetooth microphone (e.g. a clip-on lapel microphone) for hands-free or if they are standing farther away (e.g. lectures)
  - Can use an audio cable to connect to a computer for use during conference calls or for transcribing other audio
- Works best for:
  - Face-to-face conversations with one or more speakers
  - Transcribing phone calls or other audio through another device (e.g. a laptop or computer)
- Requires:
  - Android 5.0 and up
  - Connection to Wifi or 3G/4G/5G data
  - If using for phone calls or other audio, the device with the app must be connected to the device with the audio through an analog cable
  - Sign up for an account or log-in with Facebook or Google



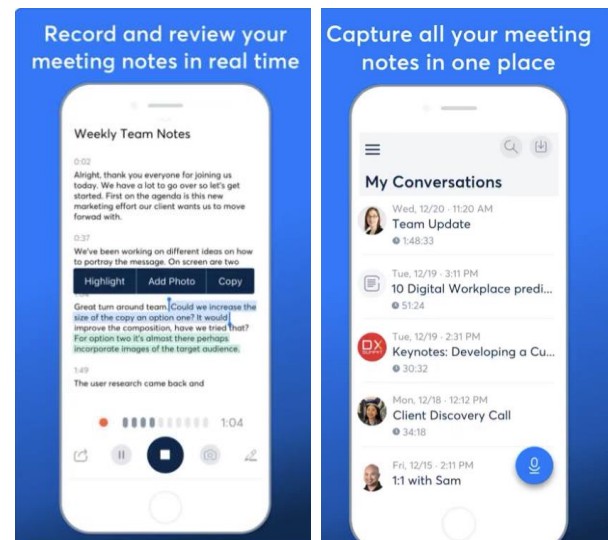
- Cost:
  - Free version: 5 hours of caption time per month
  - Pay \$4.98 for an additional 5 hours
  - Premium version: \$14.98/month and includes unlimited captioning time and higher accuracy
- For more information or to download the app, visit: <https://www.ava.me/>

## Otter Voice Meeting Notes (In English)



Like Ava, Otter.ai offers live-voice and remote speech-to-text transcription for one or more speakers and can be synched with a Zoom account.

- Offers:
  - Face-to-face speech-to-text transcriptions in real-time
  - Live automated meeting notes for Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, and more that can be shared with the rest of the team
  - Can sync with Zoom account to transcribe cloud recordings
  - Transcriptions can be saved along with the audio recording as notes, edited, and organized into folders
  - Can input custom vocabulary (5 free words with the basic plan)
- Works best for:
  - Face-to-face conversations
  - Meetings held remotely through Zoom, Google Meet, etc.
- Requires:
  - Android 5.0 and up
  - Connection to Wifi or 3G/4G/5G data
- Cost:
  - Free version: 600 minutes of free transcription per month and 5 custom vocabulary words
  - Premium version: \$12.99/month or \$134.99/year and includes 6000 minutes of transcription per month and 200 custom vocabulary words
  - See website for information about Teams and Enterprise upgrades for more features
- For more information or to download the app, visit: <https://otter.ai/login>



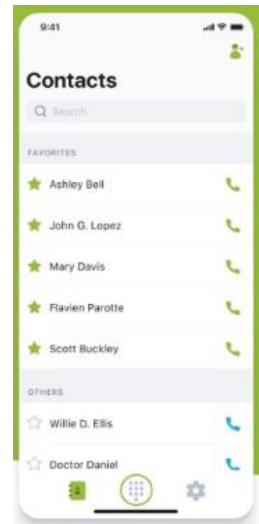
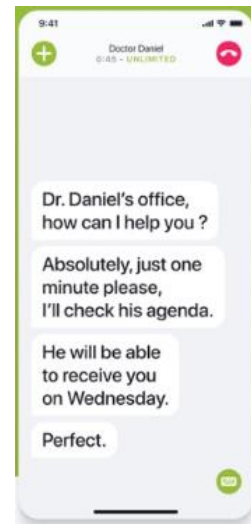
For phone calls:

Phonak myCall to Text



Phonak myCall to Text is relatively easy to use and great for transcribing audio from phone calls into text.

- Offers:
  - Speech-to-text transcriptions in real-time during phone calls, available in English and more than 80 other languages
  - Unlimited app-to-app phone calls (i.e. both parties have the app and are using it for the call)
  - A 1 hour trial of outgoing local calls when the other person does not have the app (upgrade to subscription for more minutes)
  - Can be used with Bluetooth headsets or Bluetooth-compatible hearing aids for hands-free
- Works best for:
  - Conversations over the phone
- Requires:
  - Android 4.4 and up
  - Active phone subscription
  - Connection to Wifi or 3G/4G/5G data
  - If using the free version, both phone users need to have the app installed
- Cost:
  - Free version: unlimited app-to-app phone calls
  - Basic subscription is \$7.99/month and includes: unlimited app-to-app calls; 1 hour per month national outgoing calls; unlimited incoming calls
  - Pro subscription is \$39.99/month and includes: unlimited app-to-app calls; unlimited national outgoing calls; unlimited incoming calls; 1 hour free of outgoing international calls
- For more information or to download the app, visit:  
<https://apps.apple.com/app/mycall-to-text/id1413439369>



Looking for more?

For a comprehensive list of speech-to-text and other accessibility apps for Android and iOS users, visit this link compiled by Deaf Audiologist, Tina Childress: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16zLobVdSIS8Xyb2CGrLVmi7BACpxVz1czrvAb-Zhg1A/edit#gid=2>

*Please note that while we do our best to stay current, the information provided about these apps is subject to change as apps are updated and new apps are developed. For the most up-to-date results, try searching for apps using key words like 'speech-to-text', 'transcribe', and 'caption'.*