

Ten things you should know about Voice Banking



A resource created in collaboration with the Ageing and Movement Research Group, University of Bristol

What is it?

Voice banking is the process of recording and storing your voice. It can then be used to create a digital voice copy, using an app or device.

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When can I do it?

Voice banking is best when done early- the earlier you record and store your speech, the more accurately the finished 'synthetic' voice will reflect your 'natural' voice.

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How can I do it?

The MSA Trust enable all their MSA community members to access voice banking free of charge- through either SpeakUnique or ElevenLabs. To access the service, you need to register with the MSA Trust, and live in the UK or Ireland.

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What do I record?

Different services require different types of voice recordings to create a synthetic voice. SpeakUnique require a specific set of words and phrases to be recorded, whereas ElevenLabs can use audio from old videos or voice notes.

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Who can help me?

Most people benefit from the help of a Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) to understand the process, help them record the audio, and then use the banked voice through phones, tablets or 'Alternative Augmentative Communication' (AAC) aids.

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How do I use it?

You'll need to find the best way to use your banked voice- there are a range of different apps and devices to use your banked voice with. An SLT will be able to help you find the right one for you, and this might take some trial and error.

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When should I use it?

Practice makes perfect when using a banked voice to communicate. We find the people who get the most out of their banked voice use it regularly and early. Try choosing one morning each week where you use the banked voice to communicate.

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Is it like speaking?

It takes longer to communicate using a digital voice than speaking naturally, and whilst it sounds 'like' you it is not an exact copy. MSA community members who have done voice banking said this would be helpful to know in advance, to understand what to expect

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Is it right for me?

Like all treatments, voice banking is not right for everyone. Some people find it is both quicker and easier to use other methods of communication, such as cue cards or communication books. Speaking to an SLT can help.

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Are there other options?

Yes - there are other options such as 'Message Banking' - recording whole phrases that can be played through an app or device. An SLT can talk you through all the options and help you find something right for you.

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For more information on this, visit www.msatrust.org.uk or get in touch with your MSA Health Care Specialist