

Week 3 - [3.4] Task 3: Voice to Text Task (Optional task)

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An Unscripted, 5-Minute-Long Story Into a Voice-to-Text App

Hey Mary how are you it's been a while since we met and since we've seen each other apologize for missing your call since the past for the past 3 weeks ago you know I told you I'll be traveling to the USA for my vacation and that's always finding some time with my kids and my grandkids luckily enough for me we're able to go and we just I decided to go with my husband and then just to spend some time with our with our child over there our daughter and reaching there we were so happy with so when we Joy when she took us around to show us a new place of work and the residency to India Teresa a neighbors the way she trying to encourage us to come and see in the USA which we thought it was a good it was a good move it was a good suggestions so we were in the midst of eight and we're going back and forth and then we thought we should consider that suggestions and we're planning on how to move better coming to think about it with thoughts that does it even really worth it after all we have invested in Canada just to relocate just like that without any plan so we decided to drop their plan and then not get focus on the reason for our visits which was to spend some time with the family and just leave every other thing so it's we we will We later decided that okay whatever whatever thing happens we sell to maintain our I didn't see as a person so we will not it was then that I remember that oh my phone plan doesn't cover USA and we could I couldn't even receive any call on WhatsApp and neither can I even make any call outs because area where we went to was not of Dakota it was a little village in the USA one of the little village in the in the end of Dakota so then I'm not call my Mobility to help me change my plan so the one that I can use to call my people where in Canada so after all those processes after it was done then now after it was done after it was done I have to I then saw that oh you have called several times I have missed your call we have not been touched so I said okay let me just call you to explain myself and to tell you that don't worry I will return you very soon and we have time to plan and to have some fun time together before the before so my friend that is what that was my journey so how are you doing now is your family how is your work were you able to travel as planned for your own vacation in fact I later enjoyed my vacation because I travel to so many places I went to I also went to Bahamas to spend some time so which was fun oh were you able to play eventually travel let me know how much you can do during this during the summer. Let me know when we can meet Sunday have some great time together did you eventually get you that job that you were applying for so I'll be so glad to hear about you so let me know when to call you I have a lot of juice for you so let me know when to call you so that we can chat on Sundays thank you so much I hope I hope to see you soon very good to your family and everybody so bye for now

My Reflection

Reflecting on speech-to-text technology, one can appreciate how significantly it simplifies communication through platforms such as Google apps, mobile speech-to-text applications, and other digital tools that allow us to convey our thoughts efficiently. Engaging in this activity illuminated the key differences between an unscripted narrative generated via a voice-to-text app and a pre-existing written text. An unscripted human text captures subjective experience, emotional nuance, and personal insight more vividly than conventional writing, even when the transcription appears structured and readable. In examining the distinctions between scripted and unscripted texts, several features stand out: Fillers and interjections (e.g., "you know," "oh") create a natural oral rhythm, run-on sentences are characteristic of spontaneous storytelling, and voice-to-text software can misinterpret phrases. For example, rendering "India Teresa a neighbor" without it being the speaker's fault. Conversational phrasing (e.g., "a lot of juice for you") adds personality and informality, which contrasts the use of "you" adds personality and informality, contrasting with conventional written norms. Nevertheless, these tools strive to transcribe spoken language systematically, an approach that is markedly different from manually composing text with a pencil and paper or digitally.

My writing often embodies personal perspectives, narrative digressions, and deliberate ambiguity qualities that artificial intelligence typically avoids. While voice-to-text outputs are generally coherent and balanced, they can lack the uniqueness, subtlety, and creative leaps inherent to human expression. Ultimately, despite the efficiency and immediacy of tools like SpeechNotes, my spoken words retain intimacy, unpredictability, and the influence of lived experience, emotion, and cultural context, dimensions that remain exclusive to human communication. For this project, I will treat my unscripted text as a case study, guided by critical questions such as, "How does the text deviate from the conventions of written English?" What is "wrong" versus "right" in the transcription? What are the most common "mistakes," and why might they occur? How would scripting the narrative have changed the outcome? In what ways does oral storytelling differ from written storytelling? Addressing these questions will enable a deeper, usability-informed analysis of my experience with SpeechNotes, situating insights within both human-computer interaction and language learning contexts.

1. How does the text deviate from conventions of written English?

The text reads like a spoken conversation transcribed directly, without editing. Sentences run on without punctuation or paragraph breaks. There are repeated words ("after it was done after it was done"), filler phrases ("you know"), and shifts in thought that aren't fully connected grammatically. In written English, readers expect more precise sentence boundaries, consistent verb tenses, and an organized structure. Here, the flow mirrors speech more than writing.

2. What is “wrong” in the text? What is “right”?

What’s “wrong”:

- Run-on sentences with little punctuation.
- Repetition and redundancy ("since the past for the past 3 weeks ago").
- Inconsistent verb tenses ("we were so happy with so when we Joy when she took us...").
- Voice-to-text errors often result in missing words or unclear phrasing.

What’s “right”:

- The story has a clear narrative arc: a trip to the USA, visiting family, dealing with phone plan issues, and reconnecting with a friend.
- The tone feels warm, personal, and conversational, which fits oral storytelling.
- There's emotional content (family time, excitement, reflection, apology).

3. What are the most common “mistakes” in the text, and why?

- Run-ons and missing punctuation: Voice-to-text tools don't automatically break speech into neat sentences.
- Repetition: When speaking, we naturally repeat or restart phrases ("after it was done after it was done"), but in writing, this looks like an error.
- Awkward phrasing/word choice: Speech includes fillers and informal connectors ("so," "then," "you know") that don't translate smoothly to written English.

Tense shifts: Oral speech often mixes past and present when recalling events. In writing, this seems inconsistent.

4. What if you had “scripted” the story? What difference might that have made?

If scripted, the story would have shorter, clearer sentences, correct tense use, and logical organization, with a clear structure: beginning (topic sentence), middle (details), and end (conclusion sentence). It would read more like a letter or essay than a phone call. Scripted language eliminates filler, repetition, and digressions, but it might also lose the natural warmth, spontaneity, and "realness" of my voice.

5. In what ways does oral storytelling differ from written storytelling?

- Oral storytelling is fluid, interactive, and forgiving of repetition or pauses. Listeners rely on tone, pauses, and emphasis to follow meaning. Mistakes or incomplete grammar often don't matter because tone fills the gap.
- Written storytelling demands structure, clarity, and attention to grammar because the reader doesn't hear your tone or see your expressions. It's less forgiving of repetition and digressions.
- Oral stories feel personal, like you're talking directly to someone. Written stories often feel more formal, even when conversational.

In conclusion, analyzing my unscripted text through SpeechNotes highlights the distinct characteristics of oral language when captured in writing. While the transcription contains run-on sentences, repetition, and informal phrasing, these features reflect natural speech patterns, emotional nuance, and personal perspective. In an ESL classroom, as well as for students in special education programs, speech-to-text tools can empower learners to share ideas confidently and authentically, without being limited by traditional writing conventions. By capturing their unique voices and learning needs, these tools can boost motivation, foster fluency, and support the development of narrative and descriptive skills, while providing teachers with insight into students' thought processes and language patterns.

At the same time, speech-to-text technology offers a bridge between oral proficiency and written competence, allowing students to transform spoken ideas into structured writing. Transcription

errors can become teachable moments for grammar, sentence structure, and vocabulary, while preserving the warmth and spontaneity of personal storytelling. Yet this raises an essential question for classroom practice: if students, including those in ESL and special education programs, rely heavily on speech-to-text tools, how can educators ensure they also cultivate the critical skills to revise, edit, and evaluate their own writing independently, while maintaining their voice and confidence?