

Voice & Message Banking



What's the difference between voice and message banking?

Voice Banking involves recording phrases to create a synthetic voice that sounds like you. Generally, there are a minimum of 50 sentences, and the more you record, the better quality your voice will be. The synthetic voice can later be used on a speech-generating device or an app. You are not limited to the phrases you recorded and can say new words and phrases with your banked voice.

Message Banking is the process of recording messages that can later be played back exactly as they were recorded. You are limited to the specific phrases you recorded. This method can be completed on any recording device (recorder, phone, etc.) or with a company.

Why should I bank my voice now?

- The process of voice/message banking is a highly personalized experience. It is not uncommon to experience heightened emotions throughout the process. It may be helpful to think about voice and message banking as a proactive strategy that helps to preserve one aspect of your identity as well as the legacy of your voice.
- Recording and storing your voice is free. You only pay when you are ready to download and use your banked voice. Funding is available to cover the cost of purchasing your voice.
- You may experience changes to your voice that are unexpected, so it's best to bank as soon as possible when your voice is at its strongest.

What options are available if my voice is weak, or I am no longer able to speak?

- If you have experienced mild to moderate changes to your speech, a company called SpeakUnique can “repair” your voice to create a synthesized version that sounds closer to your voice before the changes.
- If Voice Repair isn't possible, consider asking a family member or friend to bank their voice for you instead. A voice can also be created by blending voice donors that have similar attributes to your voice.
- High-quality recordings (no loud background noises, music, or other people speaking) of your voice before any changes may also be submitted to create a voice. A minimum of 5 minutes (15-20 for the best quality) is required.

Selecting a Voice & Message Banking Product

Many companies offer voice and message banking services. Although everyone's needs and preferences will vary, most people elect to use [Acapela](#), [The Voice Keeper](#), or [Speak Unique](#). Your Speech-Language Pathologist can help you select the best product for your needs.

After you've completed the recording process

Once your voice is submitted, you will have the opportunity to listen to your voice and make a determination about the next steps:

1. Move forward with the purchase
2. If possible, record more phrases and resubmit to attempt to improve the quality of your voice
3. Record your voice with another company and compare the results
4. Opt to use a pre-loaded computer-generated voice

Downloading your voice

Please reference the instructions on your voice banking company's website for download instructions

Funding

Funding is available through [ALS Rocky Mountain Quality of Life Grant](#), [Team Gleason](#), and [Bridging Voice](#).