

MacSpeech iListen Software with Telex Headset

by Tony Novelli



picture of a dog is also in the menu that moves its mouth as I speak! My words appear in a little box below this telling me what iListen heard. My words are appearing in Microsoft Word somewhat accurately as I say them.

The software tutorial did not show me how to use this menu or how iListen should work with other applications. I had to dig through menus in order to learn how to make corrections and use the software appropriately.

You may be thinking, "This looks pretty good for being dictated—only a few typos!" Well, I tried to edit it with the built in tools, but they are a bit complicated and it took forever. I am sure if I worked with it for a while, it would be a faster process. Needless to say, the editing functions are not terribly intuitive.

On a positive note, this software does include a full set of features. It has settings to learn your specific writing style, transcribe speech from a file, and includes comprehensive correction and spelling tools. I was impressed

at how well the program learned my voice from just the initial training session. With additional training, I am confident that iListen would become very accurate in learning anyone's voice and speech patterns.

What's lacking is a tutorial and an intuitive interface. This leaves users to wander through menus and help guides. Overall, I give this software a B-. 🍏

The best way to try out software is to jump in and start using it. So, I decided that I would use the iListen Software and headset to create this review.

When I opened the box, instructions were provided for the Telex headset, but I couldn't find documentation to go with the software. I realize that most software today doesn't come with an extensive printed user guide, but this software should have come with a basic or "getting started" guide.

The Telex headset fit me a bit awkwardly—it sits uneven on my head! It is not uncomfortable; it just seems small for an average adult size head. The headset simply plugs in to a USB port. Then, iListen will prompt you to turn on "enable access for assistive devices" in the system preferences.

Installation and set up of the software were simple. The training portion of the software was easy to follow and stepped through a process of learning my voice. This took about 15–20 minutes of reading aloud as prompted. After finishing a long process of saving my speech samples, I re-opened iListen and a blank Microsoft Word Document so I could begin writing this review. iListen is displaying a small floating menu with several buttons on it. These buttons allow you to switch between dictation, command mode, and spell checking. A

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