

Voice banking

Who can bank their voice?

- Anyone can bank their voice as insurance against future loss.
- Anyone who's at risk of losing their voice should consider it.

Which companies do you recommend and how much does it cost?

- Acapela's My Own Voice: <https://mov.acapela-group.com/>
 - Free to create a voice.
 - \$99 a year, or a one-time fee of \$999.
- ModelTalker: <https://www.modeltalker.org/>
 - Free to create a voice.
 - \$100 to download for use.
- The Voice Keeper: <https://www.thevoicekeeper.com/>
 - Free to create a voice and store for 5 years.
 - Free to use with PRC-Salttillo products.
 - A one-time fee of \$299 to use with other apps/devices
 - Tutorial: <https://eatspeakthink.com/easy-voice-banking-with-voicekeeper/>

What equipment do I need?

- A computer and a head-mounted microphone for Acapela and ModelTalker.
- A computer, iOS or Android phone for The Voice Keeper.

Is there any financial assistance available?

- Yes, through organizations such as Team Gleason (for ALS) or the MND Association (for motor neuron diseases).

How much do I have to record?

- Acapela: As few as 50 sentences, improves with more recordings.
- ModelTalker: At least 250 sentences, but they recommend at least 400.
- The Voice Keeper: As few as 50 sentences, improves with more recordings.

Can I use old recordings of my voice?

- Yes, The Voice Keeper allows you to use past recordings, including:
 - Recordings you've made for voice banking.
 - If you've made recordings for another voice banking company, you can see how it would sound with The Voice Keeper at no charge.
 - You can use recordings of your voice from family events, speeches, interviews, etc.

Tips for the best recordings

Equipment and setting if you're using a computer

- Use the best head-mounted microphone possible.
- If you have access to a recording booth, use it!
- If not, try to choose a small room with carpet and curtains.
- If your recording quality isn't adequate, lay a carpet on the floor, set up a screen around you, or even drape yourself in a blanket.

Control background noise

- Close the windows and doors.
- Move any ticking clocks out of the room.
- Eliminate noise from heaters, fans, or air conditioners.
- Turn off the notifications on your phone and computer.

Aim for consistency with each recording session if you're using a computer

- Use the same equipment and seating.
- Position the microphone in the same way.
- Record at the same time of day.

Monitor how you're talking

- Aim for the same speed, loudness, and tone.
- Use a relaxed voice, if possible.
- Listen to each sentence and try to repeat it as it's said.
- Listen to your own recordings. If you can speak more clearly, record it again.

If your speech is pretty normal

- You can probably complete the recordings in 1 to 4 days.

If your speech is impaired

- Record when your voice is strongest.
- Keep sessions short and stop when you're getting tired.

If your speech is severely impaired or lost

- A relative or friend could record their voice for you to use. It will probably sound closer to your voice than a generic voice.