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Edition 70

Editor 's Desk

Dear friends,

“There are two mistakes one can make along the road to truth... not going all the way, and not starting.” -*Buddha*

Lets not forget this .

Happy Reading !

Regards

Bhavna Botta

<http://www.connectspecial.in/>

Innovations

Skyle for iPad

The world's first eye tracker for iPad Pro allows you to control an iPad using only your eyes - which is ideal for people with lots of physical disabilities.

The device is very simple to use, allowing for independent access and turning your iPad into an augmentative & alternative communication (AAC) device along with sending emails, use social media, video call and so much more

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/skyle/id1483770517>



pic description -we see a girl pressing a red button switch to activate and choose pictures from the ipad having skyle -ipad is mounted on a tripod on a table

Earswitch

'Earswitch' could allow people with neurological conditions to communicate using a hidden ear muscle. [Earswitch Ltd.](#) has developed a prototype that allows people to communicate by tensing a tiny muscle to operate an assistive keyboard, like the one used by the late Professor Stephen Hawking. But whereas for Stephen Hawking communication relied on him tensing a muscle in his cheek, this new device uses a tiny, hidden muscle in the ear.

The device is linked to the tensor tympani muscle, which for some can be controlled voluntarily. This muscle is one of the smallest in the body and was once thought to help protect the eardrum from loud noise.

<https://www.earswitch.co.uk/>

KIBO

Trestle Labs' most awaited product, Kibo Desk web software for Laptop and Computers is now live!

Kibo Desk is a web application that you can use on your Laptop, Computer (and even phones!) via any Browser to -

1. Listen printed and handwritten text from images & scanned image-based PDFs across 60+ Global languages
2. OCR, Digitize and Download images and scanned image-based PDFs in Editable Unicode formats - DOC, DOCX, TXT
3. Translate text from images and scanned image-based PDFs across 100+ languages
4. Save your processed documents on Kibo Cloud with Unlimited Cloud Storage to access your documents anytime, anywhere and on any device (laptop, computer, phone)

kibo@trestlelabs.com

WHILL: Revolutionizing personal mobility with an autonomous-driving wheelchair

WHILL, a start-up founded in 2012, is providing an AI-enabled autonomous wheelchair. Since its global showcase at the Consumer Electronics Shows (CES) in 2019, it has taken the Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) space by storm with its slick design and advanced technology. Its mission is to enhance the freedom and independence of those with restricted mobility such as people with disabilities and the elderly, and make pedestrian travel fun. WHILL's futuristic design departs from conventional wheelchairs. Moreover, it is fitted with LIDAR sensors and cameras that detect and avoid obstructions and

have automatic 'stop' functions, similar to autonomous-driving cars. Furthermore, WHILL leverages GPS and Bluetooth to enable users to summon the vehicle to them on its app. In combination with speech recognition technology, it also allows users to simply say their desired destination, and WHILL takes you there. As a result, WHILL makes it much easier to navigate crowded spaces, is less energy-intensive for the user, more comfortable, safe, and eliminates the need for assistance from others.

<https://whill.inc/us/>



Pic shows autonomous driving WHILL near sky walk in airport

Inclusive steps

How to Write in Plain Language for Teaching

Originally featured at

<http://www.accessandinclusion.news/>

<https://www.techlearning.com/how-to/how-to-write-in-plain-language-for-teaching>

Using plain language for school websites and family communication is an effective way to assure understanding, especially when translation is involved. Inclusive websites are written in plain language. “Communication needs to be instantaneous. People need information at their fingertips.” By using everyday language, potential users can more easily:

- Find what they’re looking for
- Understand it
- Get a better translation from online tools

During the recent Beyond Access Forum, a workshop dedicated to supporting educators gave participants a number of ways to ensure that what they write meets these goals. “If you make accessible content, it doesn’t just benefit the population you’re trying to help, it really benefits everybody,” said presenter Laura Ogando, program manager for the Office of Digital Literacy & Inclusion, NYC Department of Education.

Writing for effective translation ensures:

- An inclusive experience for students and families
- Speakers of all languages can access content
- Content is more accessible to English readers
- translatable text is easier for everyone to read

Also, when writing for effective translation, it's a good practice to lower the reading level (target grade 6-9), be mindful of sentence subject language, and include relative pronouns.

Writing in Plain Language

Plain language is writing designed to be easily understood by all readers the first time it is read.

Writing in plain language makes information more easily:

- Found through online searches
- Understood by all readers, including those with disabilities
- Translated using online tools

When thinking about vocabulary, consider the three tiers:

- **Tier 1:** Frequently used words, such as clock, baby, happy, walk
- **Tier 2:** General academic words, such as obvious, complex, establish
- **Tier 3:** Domain specific words, such as scaffold, inquiry, pedagogy -

Avoid Tier 3 words, said Ogando, which is hard for teachers who are used to using a lot of domain specific language. "We sometimes realize that when we use these words, our," she said. For example, every teacher knows what scaffolded instruction is, but if you ask any parent what it is, chances are most don't know what it is. "We're taking a word from the construction world and marrying it to an education concept, and then add on top of that the idea of translating it into another language.

Also be wary of acronyms, said Ogando, such as SEL (social-emotional learning). Spell it out the first time, and then you can use it in the rest of your communication.

Avoid passive voice, as it can be unclear and typically leaves out the subject. Active voice makes it clear that the subject of a sentence is taking the action. "Active voice leads to better understanding," said Ogando.

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