Dragon Professional.

Getting Started

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# Getting started

Refer to the supporting video [*01. Getting started*](https://westernsydney.ap.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=430f7b6e-f88f-4162-a465-abc901846773)*.*

## Tips for good dictation technique

In order to get better results with Dragon you need to:

* Speak naturally.
* Avoid mumbling or slurring your words.
* Mentally rehearse what you want to dictate to avoid disappointing results. Trying to think of what to say while you are dictating will result in unnecessary words like “err”, “arr” and “uhm”.
* Avoid dictating single words as Dragon relies on context as well as pronunciation.
* Dictate complete sentences or a string of words and always say the punctuation mark to end a sentence e.g. “full stop”, “exclamation mark”, “question mark”. This will avoid confusion with similar sounding words as demonstrated in the video with the following two sentences:   
  “I’m going to ride a horse across the plain. I am going for a ride on a plane.”

## Commands

As well as transcribing your voice as text, Dragon responds to commands. There are hundreds of voice commands built into Dragon to enable totally hands-free use of a computer.

*The most frequently used commands during dictation will be   
“full stop”, “new line”, “new paragraph” and “correct <word>”. The voice commands “go to sleep” and “wake up” are also convenient voice commands to mute and unmute your microphone.*

Further commands can be found in the **Dragon command cheat sheets** located on the [Dragon Professional support page](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/assistive-technology/assistive_technology/training_and_support_resources/dragon_professional) within the Assistive Technology Service website.

## How Dragon recognises the difference between dictation and commands

So how does Dragon decide what you say is a command rather that dictation?

As demonstrated in the video, Dragon is just as responsive to commands as it is to your dictation. This is because Dragon works by analysing phrases (an utterance). A phrase begins when you start speaking and ends as soon as you stop speaking, even if you only pause briefly. The end of the phrase is a signal for Dragon to analyse what you just said and decide if your phrase was a command or dictation.

Dragon is programmed with an extensive list of voice commands and if it recognizes your phrase from the list, Dragon will perform that command. If it does not recognise your phrase as a command, Dragon will transcribe it into text. This basic but very logical principle is the way that Dragon works. And it does it very effectively.

You will frequently be needing to say commands, so it is very important that you remember to pause before and after saying a command. In the video, you may have noticed that voice commands are spoken in a very abrupt manner without any pausing. It’s important that you **do not pause within a command** because Dragon will interpret that as two separate phrases and transcribe them both into text.

*More information is located on the Dragon Training and Support page* [www.westernsydney.edu.au/dragon-training](http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/dragon-training).