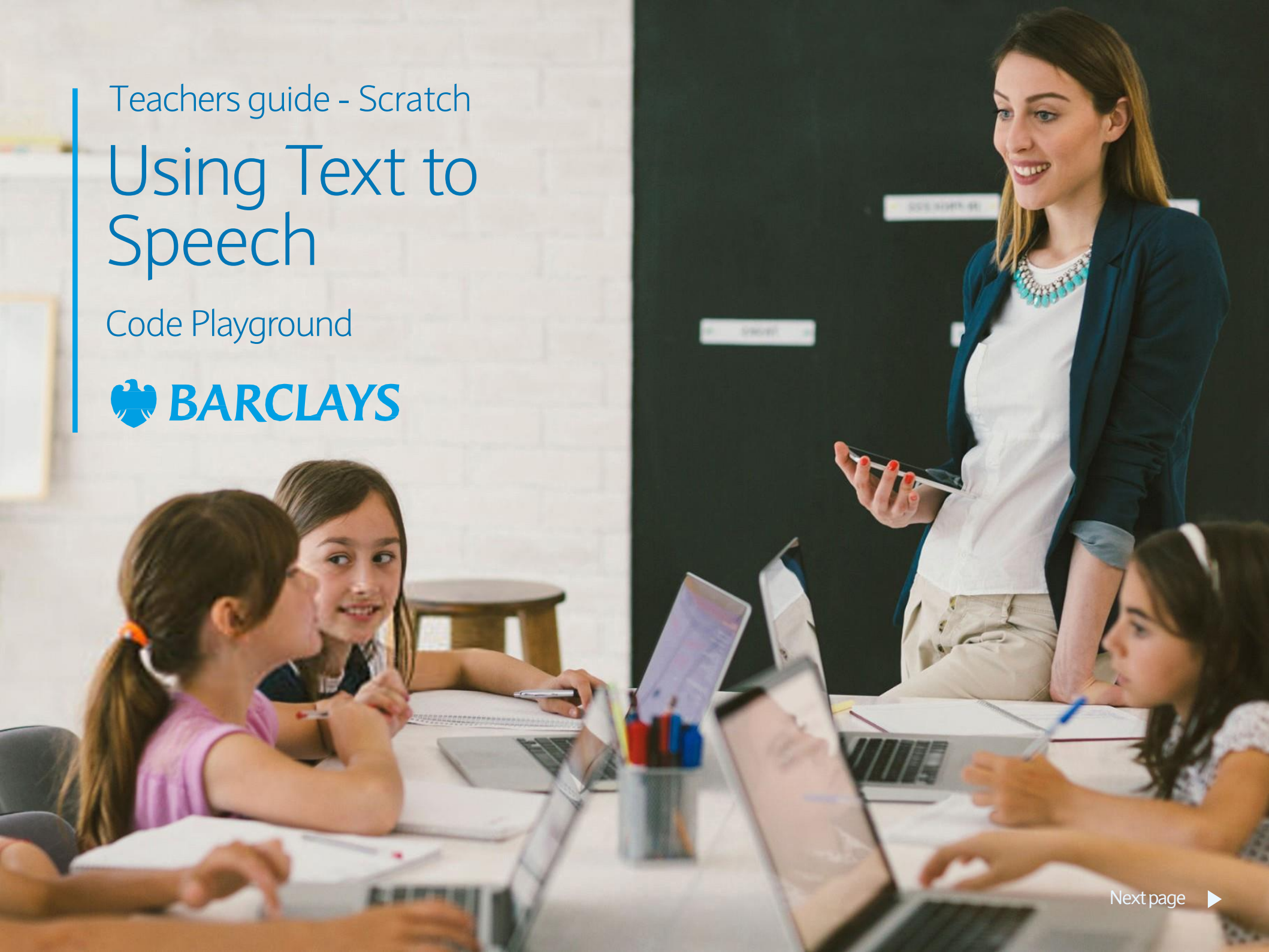


Teachers guide - Scratch

Using Text to Speech

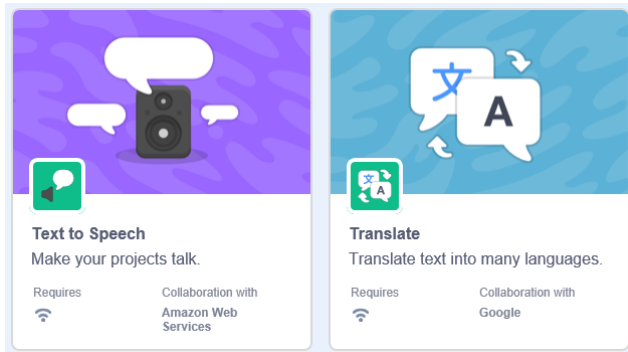
Code Playground



Using Text to Speech

Scratch project

The 'Text to Speech' blocks and the 'Translate' blocks work hand in hand and can be found in the extension library. They're two separate extensions so make sure to add both.

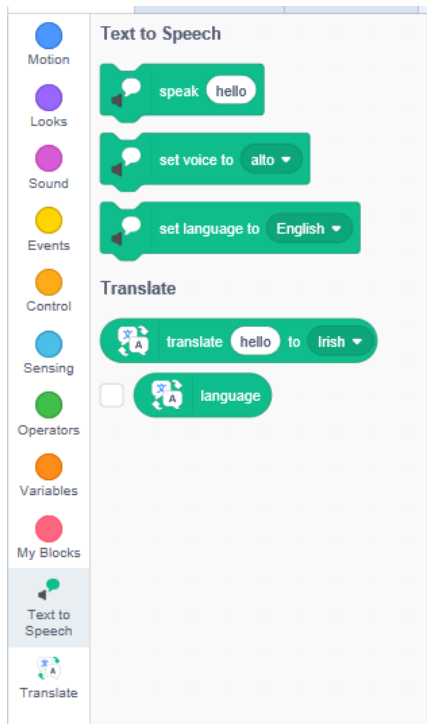


Using Text to Speech

Scratch project

You'll get five new blocks as shown below.

The 'Text to Speech' blocks use audio so make sure the sound is turned up, or use headphones!



You may notice that both set of blocks have language options, so why choose one over the other?

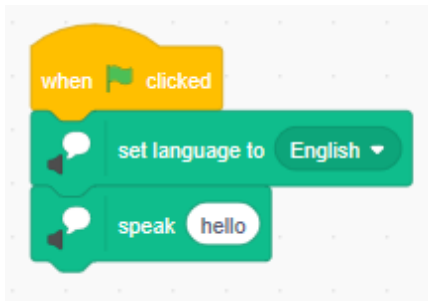
'Text to Speech' has 23 language options and will play audio of each of these languages being spoken, where the programme 'reads' text in the language chosen using the 'set language to' block.

'Translate' has 48 language options and will translate text only into each of these language options, from whichever language is selected using the 'set language to' block.

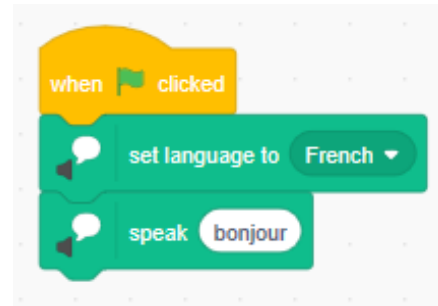
Using Text to Speech

Scratch project

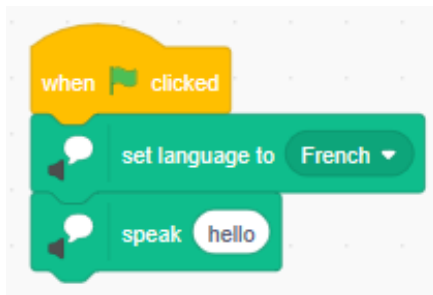
Let's look at some examples:



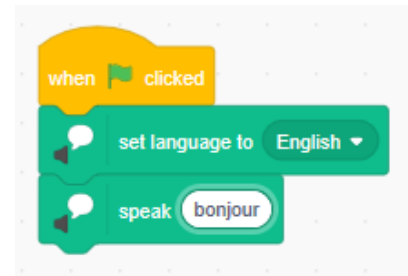
Here, the 'voice' is set to English*, and it reads the English text out loud.



Here, the 'voice' is set to French, and it reads the French text out loud.



Here, the 'voice' is set to French, and it reads the English text out loud, without translating, in a French accent!



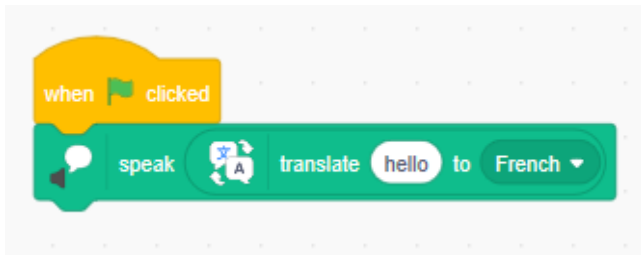
Here, the 'voice' is set to English, and it reads the French text out loud, without translating, in an English* accent!

Using Text to Speech

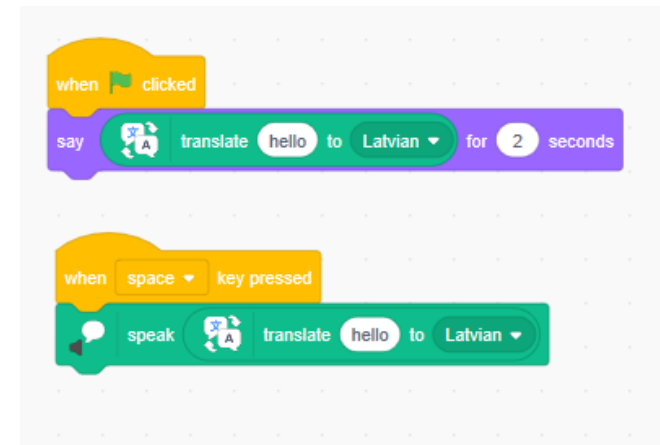
Scratch project

If we add in some 'translate' blocks, the programme can get even smarter. Here are some examples:

Where the language used is available in both the 'translate' blocks, and the 'text to speech', the programme will simply read and translate the text out loud.



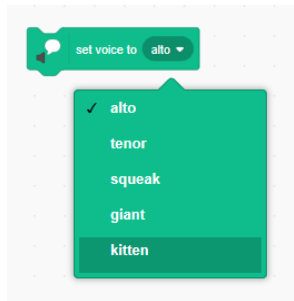
Where the language used isn't available in the 'text to speech' blocks, the programme will translate the written text (for example, using the 'say' blocks), but will only attempt to 'read' the translation using the language and phonetic rules of the default language. This will often mean the pronunciation is incorrect



Using Text to Speech

Scratch project

Cyrillic and Chinese languages that aren't available in both sets of blocks will be displayed in text but not spoken, as the programme can't read the lettering.



Top tip – discourage use of the 'kitten' voice as all language is spoken in a series of miaows

Notes

Code Playground