

4 Assistive technologies for the blind

A  Listen to an interview with Mike Hartley, the director of the Assistive Technology Project for the Blind in Washington DC. Make notes about these topics.

- 1 The work that Mike is currently involved in:
- 2 Assistive technologies for blind users:
- 3 The difference between voice recognition and speech synthesis:
Voice Recognition systems let the users instruct the computers by talk. Speech synthesis systems allow the computers to communicate with the user by reading the output from the screen in synthetic speech ...
- 4 The goal of the Web Accessibility Initiative:
- 5 Companies developing assistive technology products:



A Braille computer keyboard



Small-Talk Ultra, a talking computer from GW Micro, which includes Window-Eyes – a screen reader for the blind

B  In pairs, help each other to improve your notes and then listen again to make sure you have included all of the important information.

5 Investing in assistive technologies

 Your school/company has decided to invest some of its annual IT budget in assistive technology. Write an email to your director of studies / manager, summarizing the different technologies available and the kind of people they can help. If possible, use the Internet to find suppliers of these technologies in your country.

 Now visit www.cambridge.org/elt/ict for an online task.