

Custom messages Guidelines & tips

My-own-voice service

Language Manual: Custom messages

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1 What is a custom message?

A custom message is a recording of your original voice stored as an audio file that is embedded directly into your synthetic voice engine.

My-own-voice is a "voice banking" service that allows you to create a digital copy of your voice by using text-to-speech technology.

Reproducing a human voice is a complex process. State of the Art does not permit the reproduction of a perfectly natural sounding voice. Perception of voice quality is totally subjective.

The goal of a custom message is to enhance and fill the gap between the synthetic's voice quality and some mispronunciations of important aspects of your identity, e.g. *Your first name, your sibling's name, the city's name where you live, etc.*

2 How and when should I add custom messages?

You can add and record your custom messages at different stages:

- Upfront and before you start recording your voice STRONGLY RECOMMENDED
- During the recording process and before completing all the phrases
- After a first version of your voice is created, but not longer than 3 months after the voice is made available and an email notification is received.

It is essential to be consist across all the phrases recorded: from the Acapela's script and from your custom messages. If there is a change in the voice, it will impact the quality of the synthetic voice created.

Therefore, we suggest that you consider adding the custom messages before you start the recording process and then to record all at once.

To add your own custom messages, log in to <u>https://mov.acapela-group.com/</u>.

You can either add your custom messages:

• From the "Your account"\Custom messages web page

my-own-voice	Funding management -> Record Use your own recordings Listen Contact Admin ->
Recordings Profile Your custon Settings	Your account
Logout G→	RECORDINGS PROFILE YOUR CUSTOM MESSAGES SETTINGS
	Need some help ? please have a look to the custom message upload procedure Spanish (Spain)
	Add pre-set phrases Add your own phrase Add .txt file Export my entries
	ID CAT RECORDED TEXT

• Or from the Acapela Online Recorder when the option shows up

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my-own-voice	Your account 🗸 Funding management v Record Use your own recordings Listen Contact Admin v
Rec	cord
	the recorder, make sure you have read the FAQ and all tips on how to get the best out of your recordings. Iternet connection is necessary at all times to perform the recording.
	ore personal meaning with your synthetic voice? ar custom messages before you start your recordings.
my-	own-voice Online Recorder

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Reas		Contern messages				C Other Bo	
The micropho then count "1,	one calibration will pr 2, 3, 4° in a normal v	Custom messages Would you like to add custom messages ? <u>Learn meze</u>	10 60	on turns red or ye	ou hear th	e beep	,

More information about the management of custom messages and the way to record them, please refer to <u>the custom message upload procedure</u>.

3 Tips – Not-to-do list

Here an overview of what you shall consider while editing your custom messages.

To do and not-to-do list -

A custom message can be:

TYPE	Examples
A proper noun	Nicholas John Richard
A short phrase (affirmative or interrogative)	l am cold How are you? Listen to me
An adverb	Yes No
A common expression	Thank you I am sorry
A greeting (formal & informal)	Good morning Hi Hey It is nice to meet you

A custom message shall not be:

TYPE	Examples
A Personal pronoun	l You He/She/it
A very long phrase (affirmative or interrogative)	This is very interesting. I am pleased to meet you and I would like to have a talk with you.
A possessive	my
An isolated adjective	Good
An isolated word	Bed Device Screen Cat
A verb	drink
A modal	Can Should have

<u> Alignment</u> -

The custom message recorded should be the same as the writing.

e.g:

Correct: "*I love you*" => the user will record "*I love you*" Not Correct: "*I love you*" => the user will record "*I will always love you*"

The custom message should not be a song:

e.g:

Not Correct: "Happy Birthday" => the user will record "Happy birthday to you, Happy birthday to you, Fabien, Happy birthday to you!"

Punctuation -

The only punctation that matters is the question mark "?" and "!".

The punctuations written "." at the end of message will be ignored at the usage.

e.g:

- If you create a custom message such as "How are you?" If you type "How are you?" this will be recognized as a custom message, resulting inyour original voice being played out loud. If you type "How are you", this will not be recognized as a custom message and the synthetic voice will be played out loud.
- If you create a custom message such as "Good morning." Whether you type "Good morning." Or "Good morning", it will be always recognized as a custom message, resulting in your original voice being played out loud.

4 Principle of Usage

Custom messages are intended to add more intonation and prosody to your synthetic voice. The custom messages are spoken out loud in the synthetic voice audio stream.

As an example: a patient might record the custom message "I feel terrible."

From an augmentative and alternative communication device/application, the patient would speak aloud the following phrase:

"Today, I did not have my coffee." "Today, I did not have my coffee, I feel terrible." "Today, I did not have my coffee, I feel so terrible."

From above, the **green** part is synthetized on the fly (synthetic voice), the **blue** part is played from your pre-recorded audio file (custom message).

5 Contacts and support

Do not hesitate to reach out to Acapela Group by email:

- General inquiries: email to mov-information@acapela-group.com
- My-own-voice support: email to <u>mov-support@acapela-group.com</u>