Custom messages
Guidelines & tips

My-own-voice service

Table of Contents

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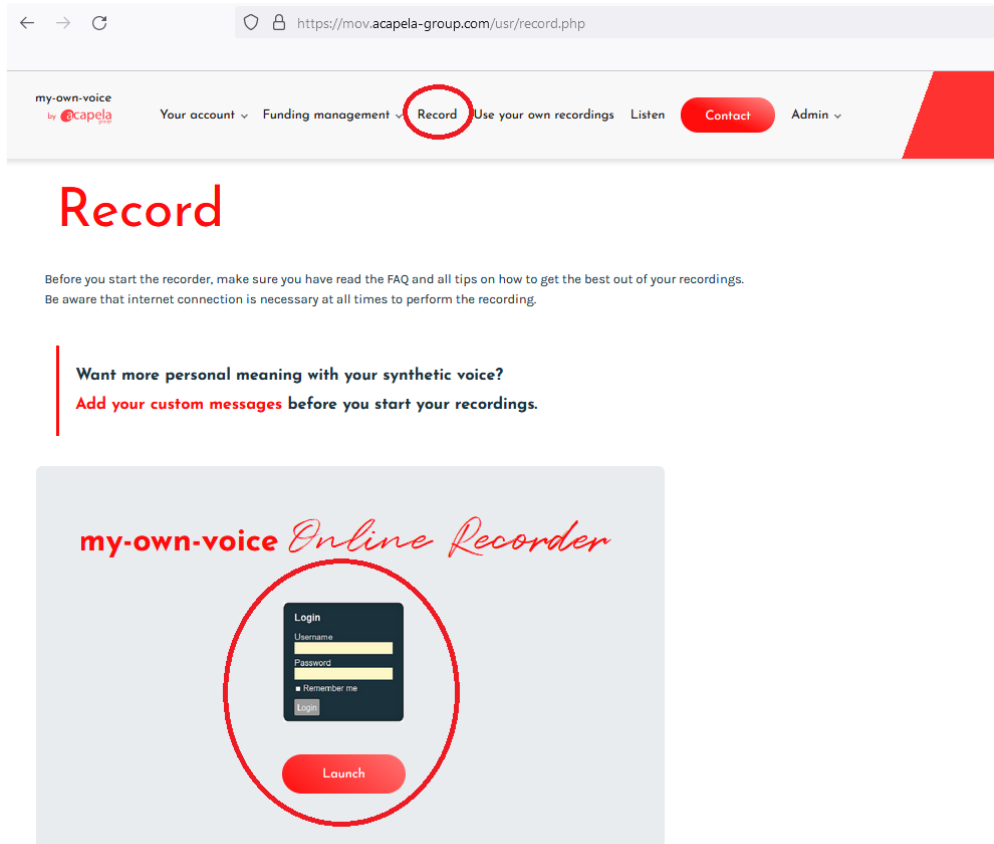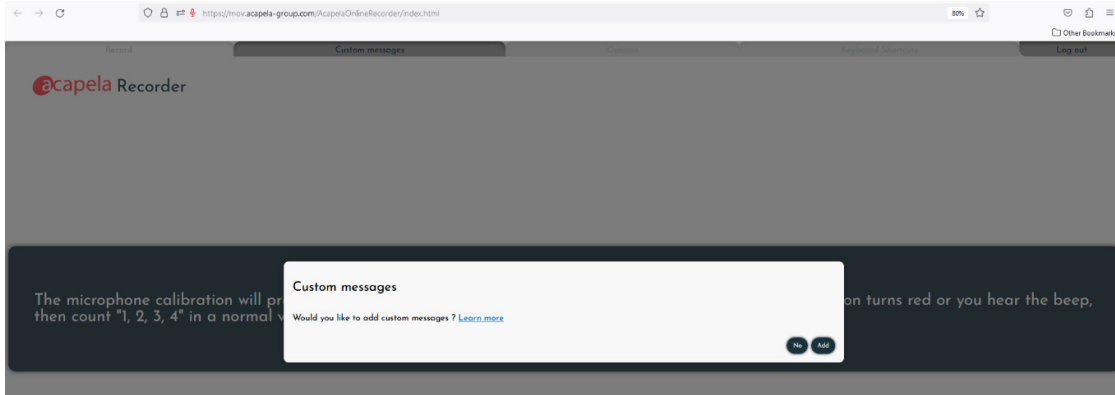
To add your own custom messages, log in to https://mov.acapela-group.com/.

You can either add your custom messages:

- From the "Your account"\Custom messages web page
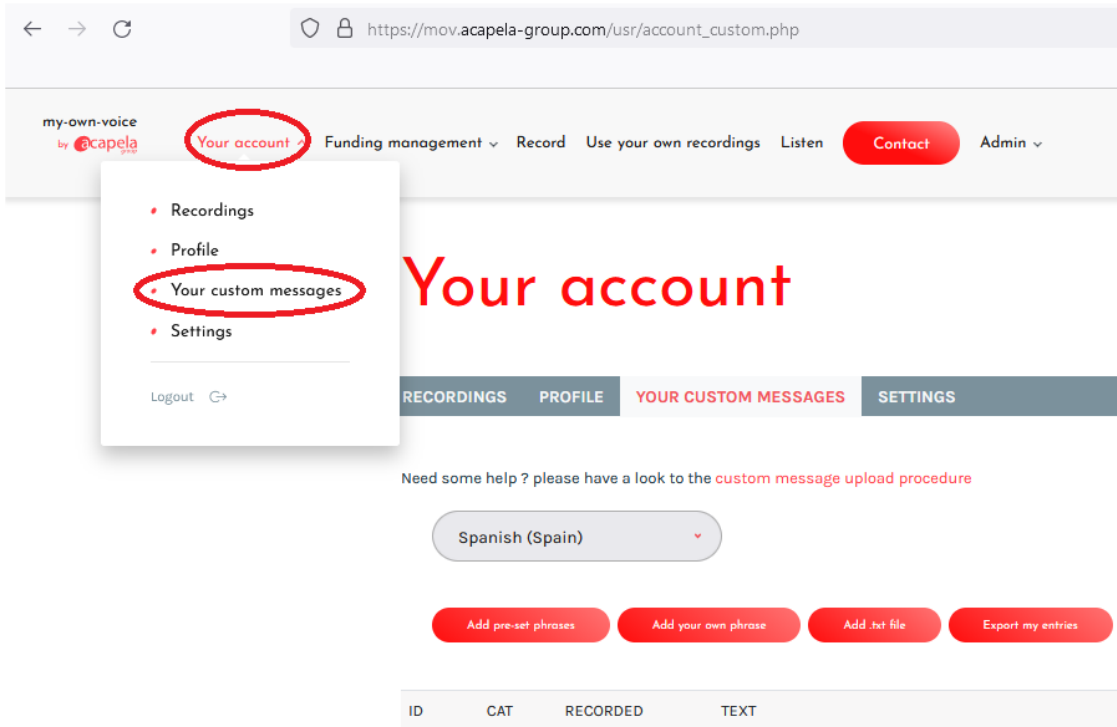
- Or from the Acapela Online Recorder when the option shows up

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

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)	I 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	*I* *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*

Alignment -

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, 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 mov-support@acapela-group.com