

*Joseph Bender:*  
**UNLEASHING CREATIVE GENIUS WITH DRAGON**

**Water. It's a simple, universal substance,** but Joseph Bender has made a career out of manipulating its properties in complex ways. He's currently designing electron-rich water that will allow the growth of more nutrient-dense food indoors than outdoors. He credits his success to Dragon; he says his severe dyslexia would have prevented him from realizing his true potential.

"I had to write with simple, childlike words, which was continually frustrating and embarrassing," he recalls. "Verbally, I was eloquent, articulate and able to hold conversations with very educated individuals, but when it came time to write a simple report, I looked shockingly illiterate. That enormous handicap incarcerated me in mediocrity as I trudged through life."

Bender has been using Dragon since its first version. It was a revelation, he remembers: "My life was forever changed. I was now able to speak my thoughts into words, and those words gave life and power to business plans, worked their way into articles for national publications, and became part of thousands of other opportunities unavailable to me before Dragon."

Dragon is now Bender's ever-present assistant, ready to carry out the dictation and commands he speaks into his wireless microphone. He relies on Dragon for data entry, idea creation, writing speeches, articles, and other documents, and more. He keeps a digital recorder in his car, and when the spark of inspiration hits him, he dictates his thoughts and uses Dragon to turn the audio file into a transcript. He has even had

solutions to problems emerge in his dreams; he keeps another audio recorder next to his bed for capturing those.

Bender also employs Dragon while working in his lab. "I speak everything I do while I work," he explains. "I'll say 'I'm heating this up to X degrees, and now I will add this,' and so forth." The wireless microphone clipped to his shirt gives him the freedom to walk around the lab and create a record of his work without having to touch his computer.



While Bender's work is more advanced than most people undertake, he sees the value of speech recognition in all walks of life. "Any time I meet someone who says they struggle with the computer, I show them how they can overcome that with Dragon," he says. "Regardless of how well they spell or write, Dragon speeds things up and makes their work much more efficient. I hardly ever use my keyboard: I do everything with my mouse and voice."

**And a Robot**

Water research is Bender's stock in trade, but he also describes himself as a tinkerer who enjoys inventing things. "For fun, I built a robot that uses Dragon for voice input, along with software that allows it to recognize objects around it," he says as matter-of-factly as if he was talking about building a birdhouse.

He has come a long way from his early years: "High school counselors said I couldn't do anything beyond trade school. They said I wasn't smart enough. Dragon has given me the ability to go from that kid to working with the top scientists in the world. It has given me the freedom to express the creative genius inside me that wasn't appreciated until Dragon liberated it."