

Essence® is a language system for people who are able to read and spell that use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). After a stroke, brain injury, or disease such as ALS, some adults may have trouble using their natural voice.

Essence® helps people communicate at home, at work, and in their community. It can help people be more independent.

Open the Toolbox to choose available languages and grid sizes.

Message Window

Letters, words, and messages appear in the Message Window. You can change how the Message Window looks and works in the Toolbox. By default, selecting the Message Window speaks the message shown there.



Menu

Use the Menu to open the Quick Menu, switch to the Editor, or open the Toolbox. The Editor lets you

change your vocabulary. The Toolbox lets you change device settings.



Pages

The blue buttons at the top of the home screen link to message pages. Each page has common phrases or sentences. You can edit these pages. Some pages also have buttons that open to more space to save messages.



Alarm

This red button appears at the top right of the screen on all pages in Essence®. It opens a page with two options: (a) a red button that sets off an alarm and (b) a gray button that turns off the alarm and closes the page.



Single Hit Messages

The green buttons give quick access to custom messages. You can change these buttons to include personal or important messages that the person uses often. See the device manual for more information about changing buttons.



Word Prediction

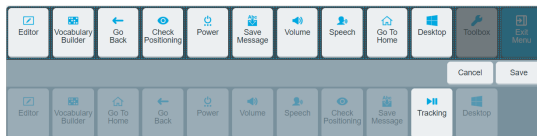
The yellow buttons show Word Prediction choices. When you type letters on the keyboard, possible words appear. Select a word to add it to your message. Then the buttons show words that may come next. This is called Next Word Prediction. Words you use often will show up sooner. The system can learn from the words you use. You can add new words and change Word Prediction settings in the Toolbox.

Keyboard

The keyboard uses a standard QWERTY layout. Select 123 and Symbols to open numbers and other keyboard characters. By default, the keyboard speaks full words after you spell the word and add a space. You can also set it to speak each letter as you select it. Keyboard settings are in the Toolbox.

Vocabulary Quick Menu

You can change the default Quick Menu shortcuts in Empower to make them easier to use. This is done by selecting Customize Quick Menu. If you use eye tracking, you can add Check Positioning and Pause Tracker. Select Save Message to copy a message from the Message Window and save it to a button.



Importing banked messages

Message Banking means recording phrases or sentences for later use. This can help when a person's voice starts to change or is no longer easy to use. The recorded messages can be stored on a message banking website, such as messagebanking.prc-salttillo.com. They can be downloaded as a Zip File and added to the Essence® vocabulary program.

Special tools

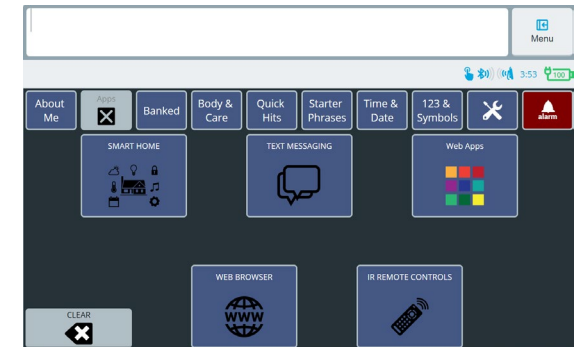


The **TOOLS** button is in the top row of the home screen and provides access to volume control, editing tools, and an alphabetical order keyboard. Additional tools can be programmed from the Editor, under the Actions section.

- **PLACE CURSOR** allows you to move your cursor anywhere within a text string in the Message Window.
- **STOP SPEECH** stops any audio from playing and is typically used when a button is accidentally selected multiple times and you want it to stop repeating.
- **PRIVACY MODE** will temporarily hide any message that is typed in the Message Window. It can be useful when entering passcodes or personal information.

Access to Empower apps

The APPS button is in the top row of the home screen. It opens a page with features such as smart home commands, text messaging, web apps, and IR remote controls. The device may need to be unlocked before some features can be used.



For more information about Essence

visit [PRC-Salttillo.com/vocabularies/essence](https://prc-salttillo.com/vocabularies/essence)

