

Accent with Empower: Essence Quick Reference Guide



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Essence

Essence is a language system for literate individuals who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). Following a stroke, traumatic brain injury or degenerative neurological disease such as ALS, adults may have difficulty communicating with his/her natural voice.

Essence offers individuals the ability to communicate at home, in the workplace or social situations, and achieve their highest level of independence and autonomy.

The all-new Essence vocabulary designed for Empower includes:

- An accessible browser. Built-in, eye-gaze accessible browser with section zoom and auto-scroll for a more familiar, natural browsing experience.
- Improved word prediction for faster communication.
- Message storing to allow communicators to save and edit messages onto a button.
- Message banking. This allows you to import and automatically program banked messages from messagebanking.prc-salttillo.com and other compatible message banking websites.

ESSENCE 60/84 LAYOUTS

The Essence vocabulary has two options: 60- and 84-buttons. The layouts are basically the same.



- 1 All letters, words, and messages will appear in the MESSAGE WINDOW. You can change the appearance

the contents of the Message Window by selecting the **Menu button > Toolbox > Message Window & Multi-bar > Message Window**. By default, when you select the Message Window anything that is there will be spoken.

- 2 The keyboard uses a standard QWERTY layout, and the **123 & MORE** button takes you to numbers and other keyboard characters.
- 3 The yellow buttons are Word Prediction keys and when you type letters on the keyboard, potential words will appear. For example, if you type the letter "E" the most frequent words starting with "E" will appear; if you follow the "E" with an "s," the top "Es..." words appear, and so on. When you select a word on a Word Prediction button, the contents of the buttons will change to show the next most likely words to follow the word you have just chosen. This is called Next Word Prediction. The more you use a word, the sooner it will appear on a Word Prediction button. The system can "learn" based on your use of the vocabulary over time.
- 4 The green buttons are used for custom Single-hit Messages. You can modify these to include personal, important messages that a client uses frequently. You can customize these buttons just like you would customize any other buttons – please see the User Guide for more information.
- 5 The blue buttons along the top of the page are used as links to Pre-stored Messages. Each button will change to a page that contains commonly used phrases or sentences. Some pages have other buttons that link to more messages.
- 6 The BANKED button links to a special page that is used in conjunction with the Message Banking feature. If you have recorded messages to a message banking site, you can download them and import them to your Essence vocabulary. The recorded messages are automatically categorized into pages and accessed using the BANKED button.
- 7 The **Menu** button is where you can: (a) access special shortcuts called the Quick Menu, (b) switch to the **Editor** to make changes to your vocabulary, and (c)

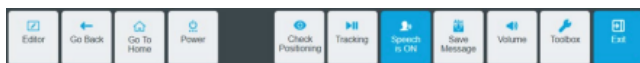
get into the **Toolbox** and control all the features of your device.

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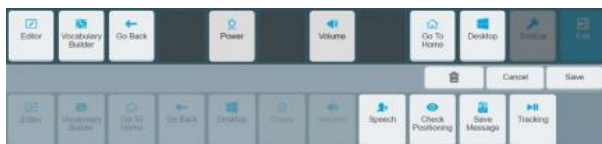
The **Tools** button is where you can access a page of special apps such as Alexa commands, Web Browser, IR Remotes, and Text Messaging.

CREATING AN IDEAL SET OF SHORTCUTS FOR ESSENCE VOCABULARY QUICK MENU

The default Quick Menu shortcuts in the Empower software can be replaced by a set of buttons that are much better suited for the Essence vocabulary. Here is the recommended set of shortcuts and steps on how to create them:



1. Select the **Menu** button to open up the Quick Menu editing screen:



2. Select a button on the top row followed by the Trash button to remove it from the Quick Menu.
3. Remove all the buttons (except the **Editor** button) from the Quick Menu.
4. Select a blank button on the top row followed by the button on the bottom row.
5. The button you select is added to the Quick Menu.
6. Do this until your Quick Menu shortcuts match the recommended set above.

COPYING A MESSAGE TO A BUTTON

1. If you have not already done so, add the **Save Message** button to your Quick Menu.
2. Start with a clear Message Window and type the message you want to save e.g. "Now that's something you don't see every day."
3. Go to the Page in the vocabulary where you want to add the message e.g. QUICK HITS.

4. Select **Menu** then **Save Message** in the Quick Menu.
5. Select the button on which you want to save the message.
6. If the button is empty, you will get a message saying "Message Window Text: Successfully saved."
7. If the button already contains a message, you get the warning "Are you sure you want to do this?" Choose "Okay" if you want to replace the message or "Cancel."

The message is now saved on the Page you chose and when you select the button, it will appear in the Message Window.

IMPORTING BANKED MESSAGES

Message Banking is the process whereby an individual records many sentences that can be used at a later stage when their voice begins to fail and can no longer be used reliably. These recorded messages can be stored on a message banking site. This can be imported into the Essence vocabulary program using a few steps.

1. Select the **Menu** button > **Toolbox**.
2. Select the **System Settings** tile > **Export & Import**.
3. Select the **Import** tab.
4. Select the button marked **Choose Files** next to the Import Message Banking Zip File label.
5. In the window that opens, find your way to the location where your downloaded Zip file can be found.
6. When you click on the file, you will see the "Importing Message Banking Zip file..." message.
7. When you see "Import Succeeded", all the recorded messages have been imported into the device.

You can now select the **BANKED** button and you will see that all your messages have been assigned to pages based on how they were tagged at the message banking site. For more information on Message Banking, refer to your Accent User Guide.

SPECIAL BUTTONS

1. **ALARM**: This red button takes you to a page where selecting the large red tile sets off an alarm. The

yellow tile with **SOUND OFF** symbol stops the alarm and closes the page.

2. **STOP SPEECH** button: This cuts off any speech that is playing and is typically used when someone accidentally hits a sentence multiple times and wants to stop it from being repeated.
3. **PLACE CURSOR**: When selected, this lets you move your cursor to anywhere within a text string in the Message Window and then select. This is useful for editing with eye or head tracking.

In Essence 84, the Alarm, STOP SPEECH and PLACE CURSOR button are on the home screen; in Essence 60, the Alarm is on the home screen and STOP SPEECH and PLACE CURSOR are on the 123 & MORE page.

ACCESS TO EMPOWER APPS

If you select the **TOOLS** button on the Home screen of Essence 84, or the 123 & MORE button > **TOOLS** with Essence 60, you open a page with links to specific Empower apps. These include Alexa commands, Text Messages, Web Browser, and IR Remotes.

