Build your first voice prototype

ElevenLabs how-to workshop
Hack for Humanity · Fredericksburg
October 24, 2026

IIElevenLabs

No coding or voice cloning required

The thing you will build

A one-slide community guide with a short audio clip.

The visitor reads the text or clicks the audio icon to listen.

You need a browser, headphones, and access to PowerPoint.

Finish line: another person can play your saved audio

1. Open your ElevenLabs account

Go to elevenlabs.io.

Already have an account? Choose Log in.
New here? Choose Sign up and follow the prompts yourself.

Use your own account. Keep passwords off the projector.

You can see the signed-in workspace

2. Find the sponsor coupon channel

Open the sponsor Discord link below.

Sign in to Discord, or create your own account if needed.
Join the server and look for coupon-codes.

Sponsor Discord

You can see the channel and “Start Redemption”

3. Claim and check your event offer

Choose “Start Redemption.”
Select “Hack for Humanity - Fredericksburg.”
Enter the email you used for event registration.
Follow the bot’s coupon instructions in your own account.

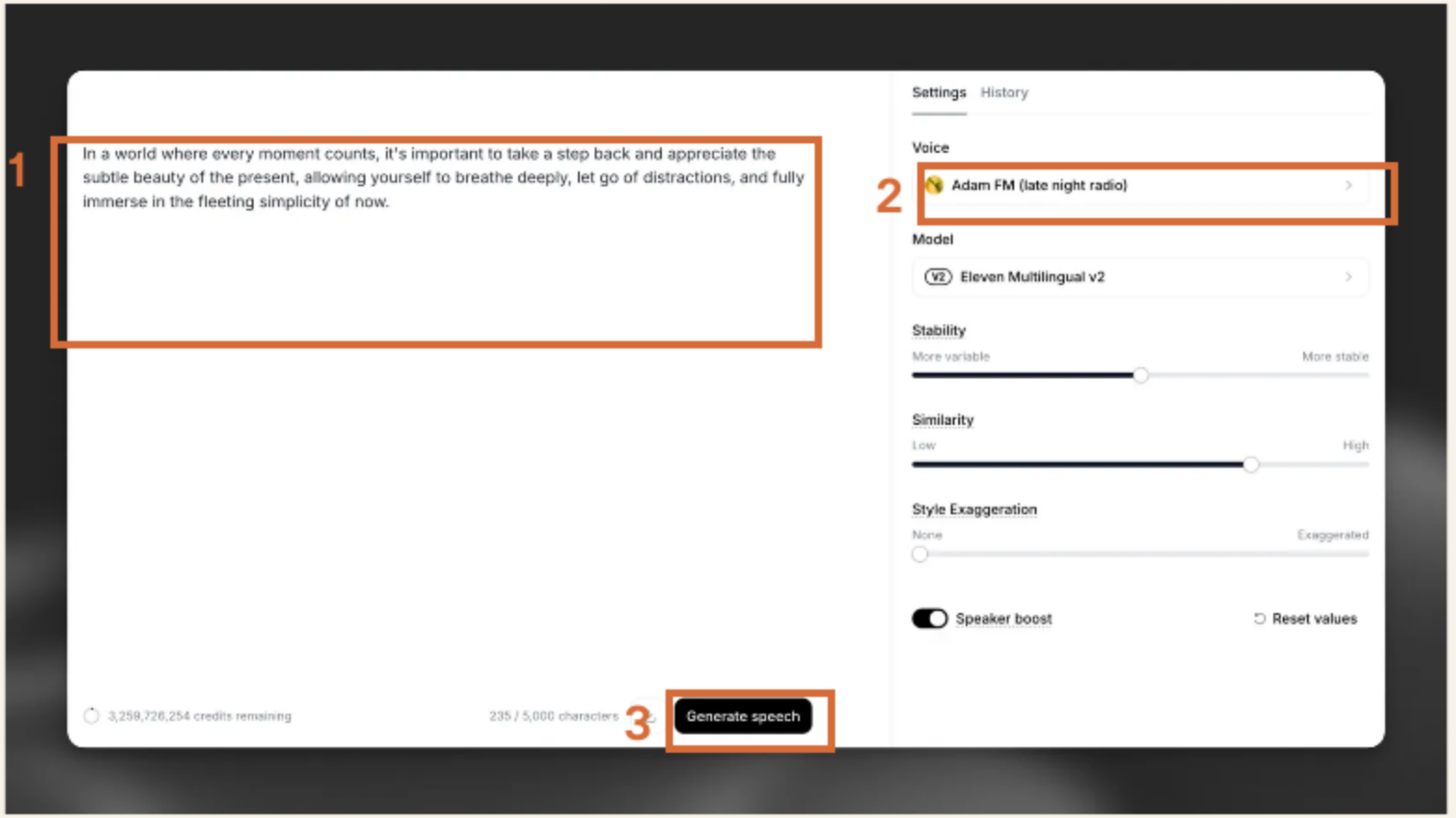
Verify the offer before accepting. Unexpected billing? Stop and ask.

4. Open Text to Speech

In ElevenLabs, find Text to Speech.

Look for a text area, a voice selector, and a Generate control.

You are on the speech-generation page



Official documentation example; layout and credit numbers are illustrative.

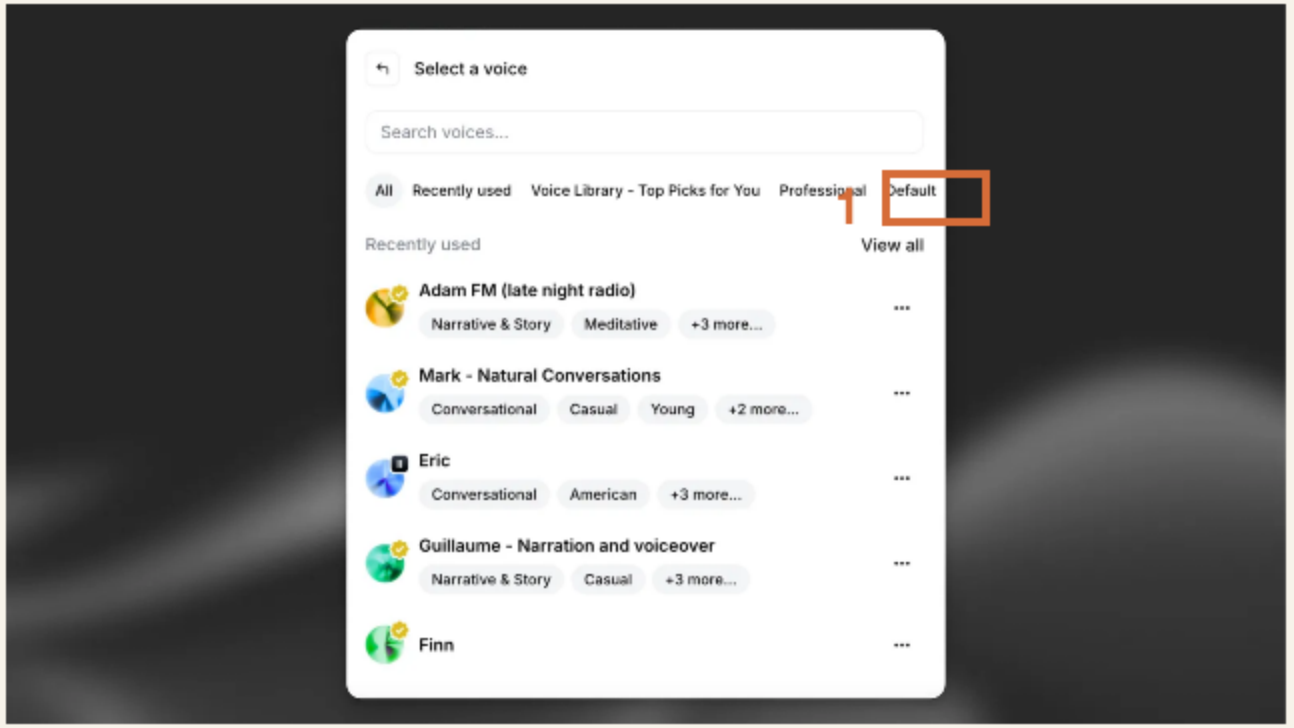
5. Choose an available preset voice

1. Open the voice selector.
Choose Default, if shown.

2. Select an available voice.
Keep compatible defaults.

Skip cloning and upgrades.

A selected voice name is visible



ElevenLabs documentation example; choose Default, then an available voice.

6. Paste the practice script

Welcome to our community guide demo. You can read this page or listen to the same information. This prototype uses fictional information. Ask a volunteer if you need help.

Only this fictional script is in the text area

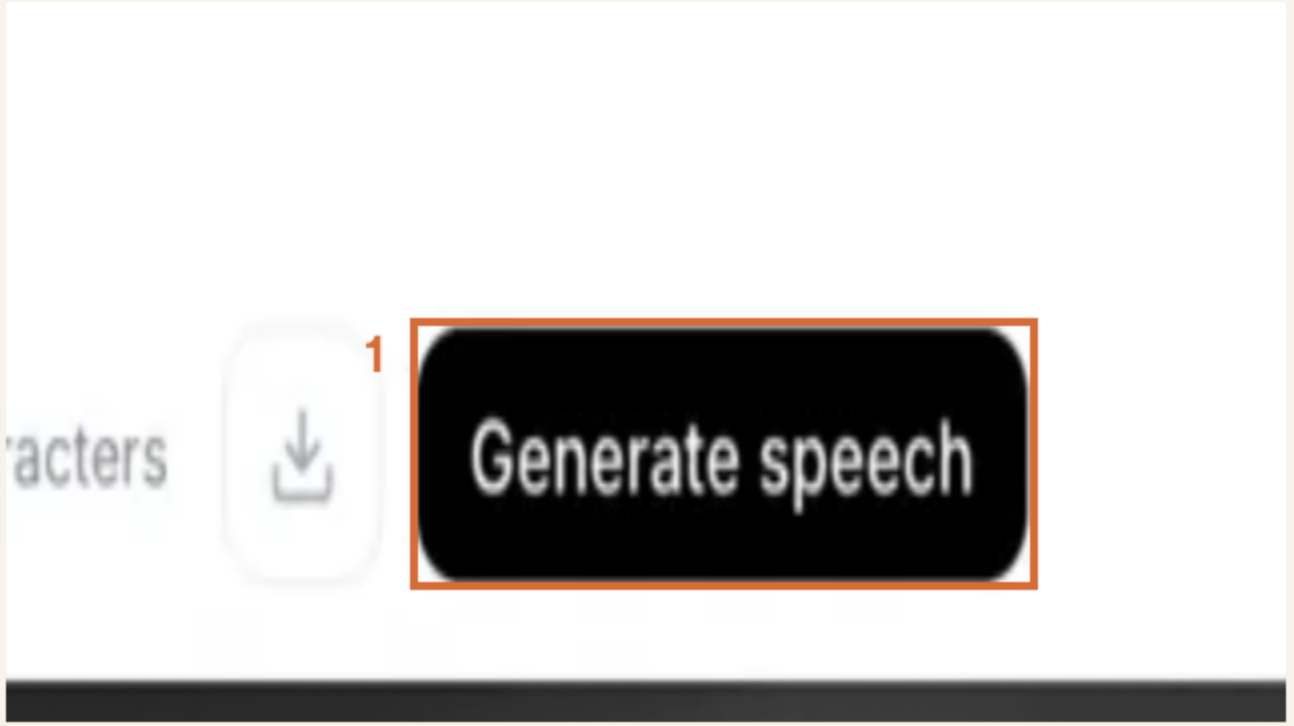
7. Generate one clip

Check your usage allowance.

1. Select Generate speech.
Wait for a result.

Do not click repeatedly.

An audio result or player appears



ElevenLabs documentation example, enlarged to show the Generate control.

8. Listen before you keep it

Press Play on the generated result.

Read along with the script.
Notice missing words, awkward pauses, or unclear speech.
Ask a partner: “Could you follow that easily?”

You have heard the whole clip, not just the beginning

9. Improve one thing

Change one sentence or punctuation mark.

For example, shorten:
“You can read this page or listen to the same information.”
To: “Read this page, or listen to it.”

If allowance permits, generate once more and compare.

Choose the version your partner understands more easily

10. Download the chosen audio

1. Use the download control.
Choose MP3 if offered.

Save as community-guide.mp3.
Open it from Downloads.

For an older result, use History.



ElevenLabs documentation example; download sits beside Generate here.

The MP3 plays outside the ElevenLabs browser page

11. Make a one-slide mockup

In PowerPoint, choose New, then Blank presentation.

Add the title “Community guide demo.”
Paste your final script into the slide’s text area.
Add the label “AI-generated audio · Fictional demo.”

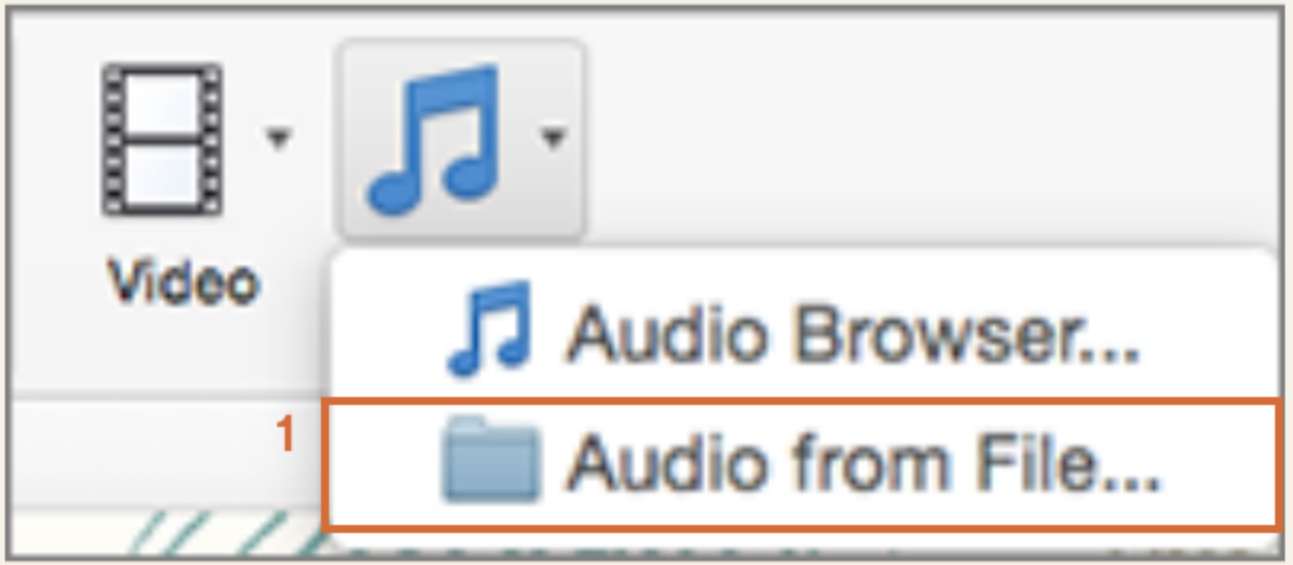
The slide still works as a readable page without sound

12. Add the MP3 to your mockup

Select Insert, then Audio.

1. Mac: Audio from File.
Windows: Audio on My PC.
Web: select your file.

Choose the MP3 and insert it.



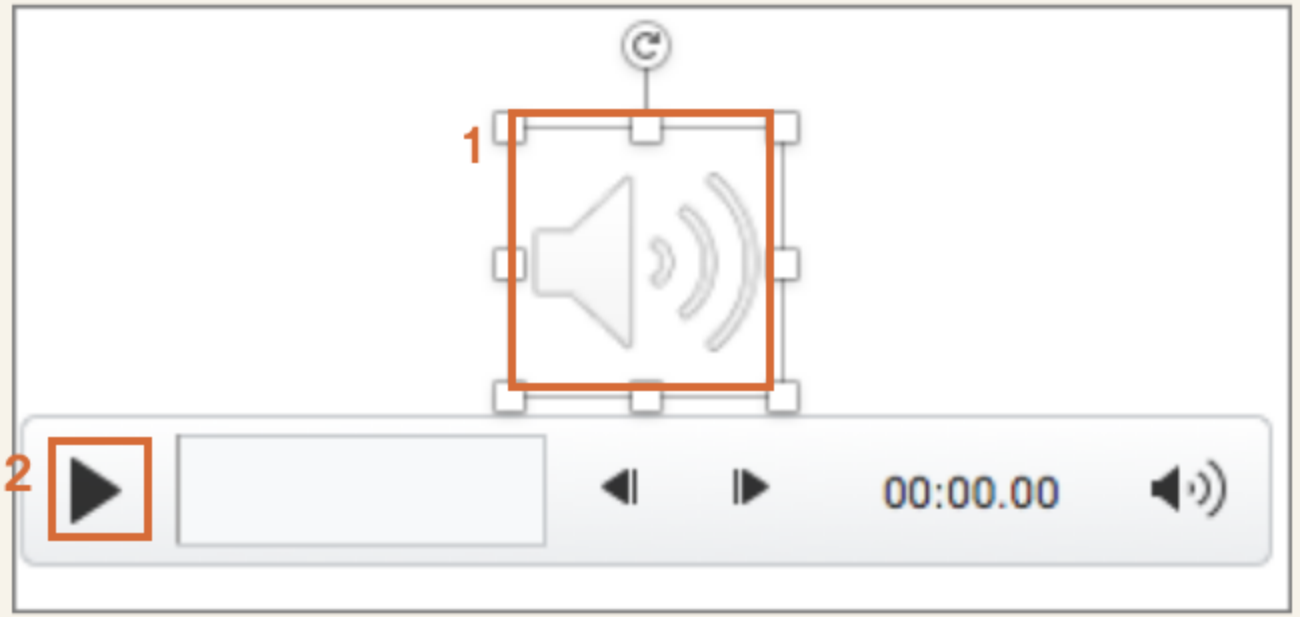
Microsoft documentation: PowerPoint for Mac menu example.

An audio icon appears on your slide

13. Test the working prototype

1. Select the audio icon.
Choose click-to-play in
Playback or Audio settings.

2. Preview with Play.
Test in Slide Show, then save.



Microsoft documentation: audio icon and playback controls example.

A click plays the audio while the matching text stays visible

If something gets stuck

No coupon or event? Check your registration email; ask an organizer.
Upgrade or card request? Stop before accepting.
No sound? Check volume and the output device.
No download? Find the result in Text to Speech history.
Audio insertion fails? Play the MP3 beside your text mockup.

Keep the script and downloaded audio even if integration fails

Before you show someone else

Use fictional or non-sensitive information.
Do not imitate a real person without appropriate permission.
Keep passwords and API keys out of slides and shared files.
Label the audio as AI-generated and retain the text.
Check your plan’s rights before publishing or commercial use.

Your demo makes no false identity or real-service claims

Your finished build and next step

You have a short script, a reviewed MP3, and a clickable mockup.

Next: replace the fictional script with one useful, verified message.

Text to Speech guide Sponsor Hacker Guide
Download help PowerPoint audio help

Presenter: live generation and participant redemption remain untested

What else can you build?

EASY
Community audio board

Turn approved event notices into spoken clips.
Start with one message and the TTS API.

INTERMEDIATE
Volunteer voice notes

Turn a consented practice recording into text.
Use Scribe, then let a person correct it.

INTERMEDIATE
Community FAQ agent

Answer questions about a fictional service.
Use Agents with five approved FAQ answers.

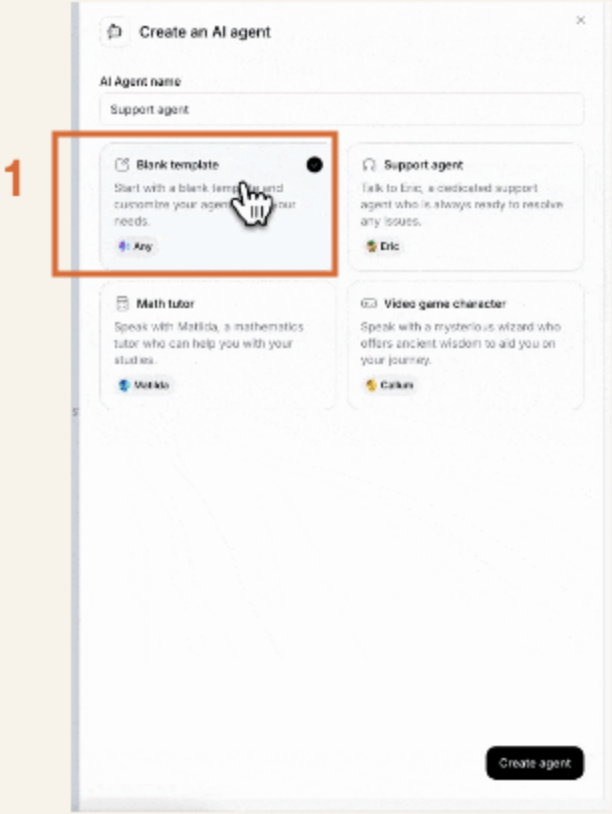
Pick one small demo. Use fictional data and a human reviewer.

A first browser-based agent

1. In Agents, create an assistant.
Name it and choose Blank template.

2. Add a first message and instructions.
Add five fictional FAQ answers.

3. Choose an available voice.
Check allowance, then Test AI agent.



Official example; labels may vary.

Open the official Agents quickstart

Checkpoint: answers one known question and admits one unknown.

Support and marketing project ideas

SUPPORT AGENT

A community help desk

Answers opening-hours questions.
Explains where to find services.
Offers a human contact when unsure.

First demo: five FAQs + one
“please ask a volunteer” response.

MARKETING AGENT

An opt-in event guide

Explains a volunteer opportunity.
Answers visitor questions.
Points to an approved signup page.

First demo: fictional event details,
no messages or outbound calls.

Start with browser conversation. Keep real customer actions disabled.

An API turns your mockup into an app

YOUR PAGE		YOUR SERVER		ELEVENLABS API
Visitor selects one approved notice.	→	Keeps the secret key. Requests speech.	→	Returns audio for your page to play.

1. Ask a mentor to help run the official TTS quickstart.
2. Use a server-held key with minimum permissions and a limit.
3. Connect one Listen button, then test error and no-credit states.

TTS API quickstart

Checkpoint: one approved text request returns playable audio.

Free access, usage limits and the coupon

API ACCESS	Free accounts can create keys and try the API. A key grants access; it does not grant unlimited usage.
AGENTS LIMITS	Free currently lists 15 call minutes and 4 simultaneous calls. LLM charges and phone-provider bills can add cost.
SPONSOR OFFER	Creator coupon coverage must be checked in your account. Do not assume API, Agents or phone costs are included.

Free content: noncommercial with attribution. Check rights before public use.

Check your own subscription before testing. Stop at unexpected billing.

A phone agent needs more than a browser demo

BROWSER DEMO

Microphone + Agents + five FAQs

Test with consenting teammates.
No phone number required.
No outbound calling.

REAL SUPPORT PHONE LINE

Agent + carrier account/number + routing

Budget for LLM and carrier charges.
Add human escalation and monitoring.
Review AI/recording disclosures,
consent and data retention.

Phone integration guide

Outbound consent guide

Hackathon target: a safe browser demo. Phone deployment is an advanced follow-on.