

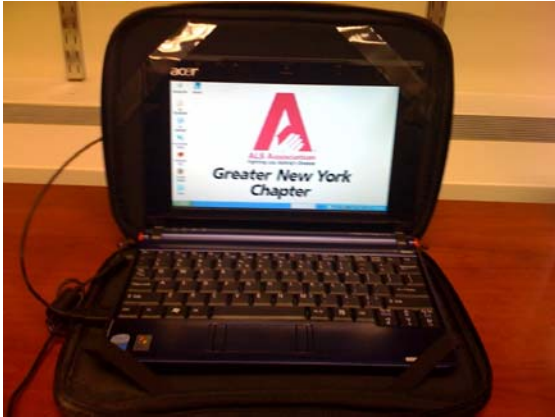


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## Netbooks



For those PALS who have good hand function, but just have trouble speaking, this may be the solution for you.

There is a new category of small computers called “Netbooks” they have been developed to be light and portable as suited for mainly surfing the net. For PALS who are Bulbar, meaning that only their speech and swallowing has been affected, a netbook can be used as an inexpensive communication device with LOTS of other benefits.

If a PALS wanted a commercially available communication device that had this capability, it would cost over \$5000.

The netbooks and recommended accessories cost approximately \$400. With the addition of free software the netbook turns into a communication device.

If you want to purchase one of these, these are the features to look for:

- Windows XP – the free software that allows the device to speak for you will not run on other operating systems.
- Webcam for video calls.
- 6 cell battery – this will give you a longer battery life.

Additional Accessories to consider:

- USB speakers – these will allow you to be heard more clearly when using the device for communication.
- Carrying case.

Free software that is recommended: (You can use these programs on ANY computer.)

- E-triloquist – [www.etriloquist.com](http://www.etriloquist.com) – speaks what you type and has preprogrammed phrases.
- Click-N-Type - <http://www.lakefolks.org/cnt/> - free onscreen keyboard if typing is difficult.
- Skype – [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com) – use your computer as a telephone and make video calls with a webcam. You can also use this program to type your responses while the other person speaks to you.
- Mozilla Firefox – [www.mozilla.com](http://www.mozilla.com) – free web browser.
- Free virus software, such as AVG – <http://free.avg.com>

If you have question or need help choosing what to purchase, please call our Assistive Technology Specialist at 212-720-3054.