Speech Recognition Exercise

Windows 7 and 8.1 machines have built-in Speech Recognition Software that can be used free-of-charge. Let’s test it.

Objective: Let’s see if we can open the calculator and use it to perform a simple multiplication problem, all through voice commands.

Preparation: From the Desktop in Windows 8.1...

1. Put on your headsets and microphone, then plug each of the jacks into the appropriate holes on the left side of your monitor: the microphone jack is pink or red, so plug it into the top hole (port), which has a picture of a microphone next to it. The headset jack is green, so plug it into the bottom hole (port) where the picture of the headset is, and make sure both are securely plugged all the way into the jacks.
2. Make sure the microphone (called a “boom”) is about an inch away from your mouth.
3. Make sure the sound is turned on. Locate the horn buttons on your keyboard at the topmost part of the keyboard, just above the F5, F6, F7, and F8 buttons, and press the horn with the + sign repeatedly while looking at the screen, until the volume is about at 80 or so.
4. Click the Windows button, or press the Windows button on the keyboard to go to the START screen.
5. Type “speech” and look at the list that appears.
6. Click “speech recognition” and not “Windows speech recognition”
7. You should see a screen that looks like this:

8. Click SET UP MICROPHONE first. Follow the directions. Choose HEADSET MICROPHONE on the first screen. Click NEXT. Read the next screen, click NEXT, and then you will need to read and recite a couple of sentences.
9. Have your hand ready on the volume controller located on the wire of your headset, so you can raise or lower the volume from there if need be.
10. Click TAKE SPEECH TUTORIAL, involving a series of two videos to watch. Just watch the first one.
11. Close, and return to the screen above. Click TRAIN YOUR COMPUTER TO BETTER UNDERSTAND YOU. This will take about 10-15 minutes of reciting sentences into the computer. At home, this would be a one-time thing.
12. Click NEXT. Click Don’t Send.
Try it out:

1. Turn on **START SPEECH RECOGNITION** from the screen above.
2. You may have to repeat step 8 on the prior page.
3. Click **DISABLE DOCUMENT REVIEW** for now. Click **NEXT**.
4. Click **USE VOICE ACTIVATION MODE**. Click **NEXT**.
5. Uncheck **Start Speech Recognition at Startup**. Click **NEXT**.
6. Skip the tutorial since you did this on the prior page.

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1. Close all open windows.
2. Say **START LISTENING** and watch the speech gauge at the top of your screen.
3. Say **START**
4. Say **APPS**
5. Say **SCROLL RIGHT**
6. Say **SCROLL RIGHT**
7. Say **CALCULATOR**
8. Say **8**
9. Say **MULTIPLIED BY**
10. Say **4**
11. Say **EQUALS**
12. *Did it work?*
13. Say **CLEAR**. Try another math problem and see what happens.

*Challenge*: Can you figure out how to enter a 3-digit number and add it to another 3-digit number?