Four apps to help speed up your proofreading

Proofreading an article is tedious but important. So much so that for some of us it's a full-time job. For novice writers, the process can be time-consuming, and no matter how thorough, some basic mistakes can always slip through. We bring you four apps that will help detect those small mistakes and dramatically speed up your correction process. Keep in mind that these are not true substitutes for proper proofreading and can only help you improve your own skills at finding mistakes.
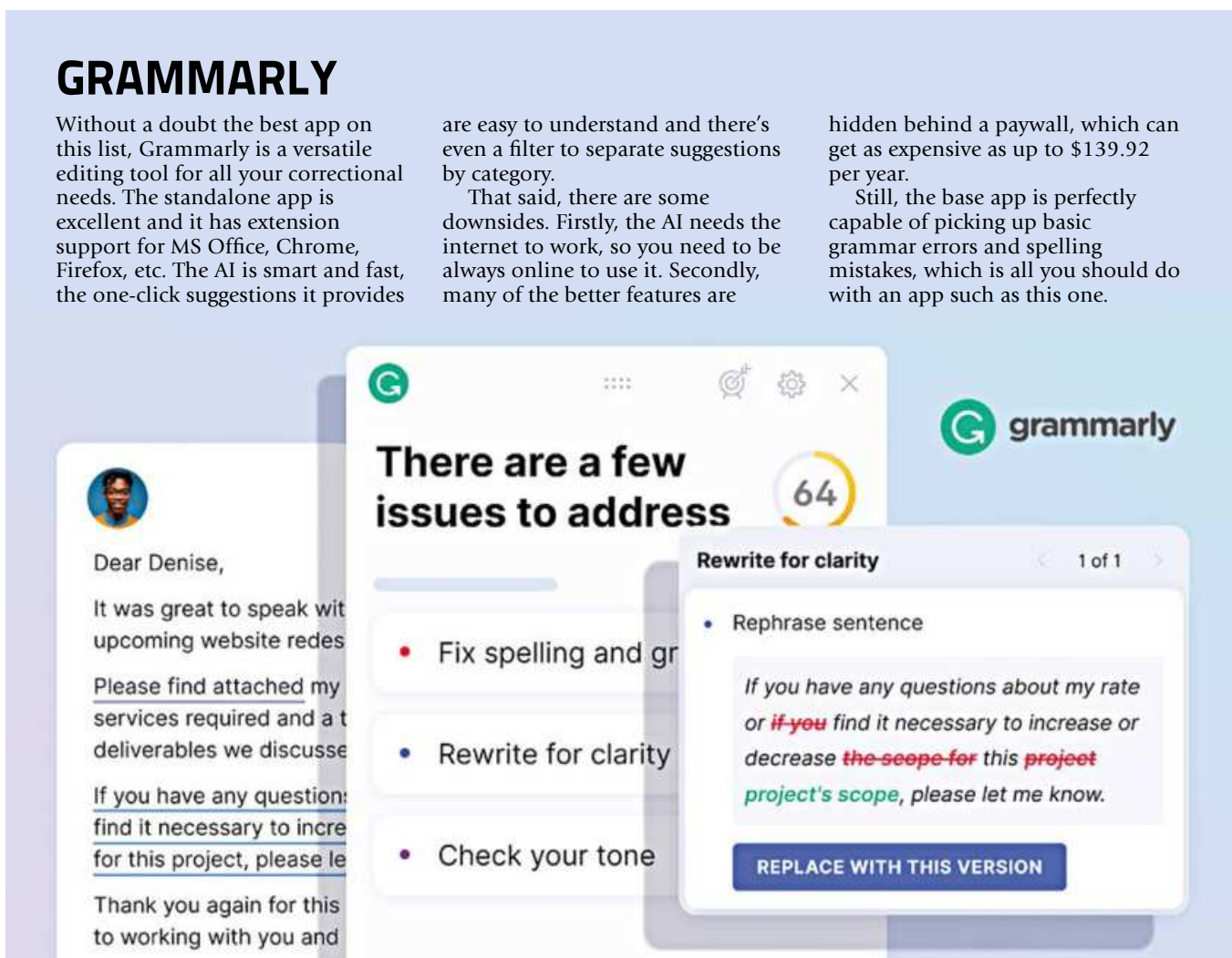
GRAMMARLY

Without a doubt the best app on this list, Grammarly is a versatile editing tool for all your correctional needs. The standalone app is excellent and it has extension support for MS Office, Chrome, Firefox, etc. The AI is smart and fast, the one-click suggestions it provides are easy to understand and there's even a filter to separate suggestions by category.

That said, there are some downsides. Firstly, the AI needs the internet to work, so you need to be always online to use it. Secondly, many of the better features are hidden behind a paywall, which can get as expensive as up to $139.92 per year.

Still, the base app is perfectly capable of picking up basic grammar errors and spelling mistakes, which is all you should do with an app such as this one.
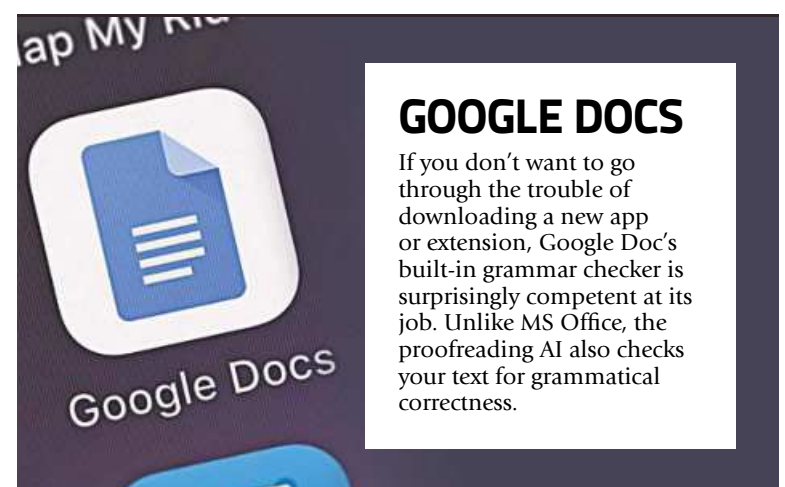

TEXT-TO-SPEECH

Using Text-to-speech is a rather innovative, if a bit roundabout way to fix your writing. Simply download a text-to-speech app — we recommend Ivona for PC — and have it read back the article to you. This way you will hear any spelling mistake or improper use of words instantly and administer correction. And although this process takes about as much time manually proofreading your article, this method entirely circumvents the issue of your tired eyes glancing over any mistake. Just make sure to use headphones.

HEMINGWAY APP

Unlike other options on this list, the Hemingway App can work offline. However, that is the only thing it has going for it. Designed more for bloggers than professional authors, the app does not offer one-click fixes, gives general writing guidance but no specifics, and the offline AI is rather dumbed down compared to the other options. Overall, Hemingway is good for helping you see what needs to be fixed, but that's about it.

GOOGLE DOCS

If you don't want to go through the trouble of downloading a new app or extension, Google Doc's built-in grammar checker is surprisingly competent at its job. Unlike MS Office, the proofreading AI also checks your text for grammatical correctness.

Additionally, if you want you're writing to look consistent, we recommend getting the Google Docs Consistency Checker add-on. Instead of focusing on spelling or grammar, the add-on checks longer documents or inconsistencies in spelling, numerals, hyphenation, abbreviations, and other elements crucial for your article to look good.