

Glyssen Help Topics

Introduction to Identifying Speaking Parts

For the books you plan to dramatize, Glyssen will (as much as possible) automatically identify the biblical character who speaks in any verse. Often there will be some verses where Glyssen is not sure who is speaking. Usually this is because a verse includes a dialogue between two or more characters. In those cases, you'll need to tell Glyssen which of the potential characters in the verse corresponds to each speaking part.

To do this, in the Glyssen main window go to step "(4) Identify Speaking Parts".

The Identify Speaking Parts window shows the first place in the project text where Glyssen needs help identifying the speaker. The pane on the left shows a highlighted block of text and the surrounding context. To the right is the 'Character' list which has the biblical characters who are the most likely speakers of the highlighted text. In most cases, reading the text or looking at the surrounding context will make it clear which character is the actual speaker. Simply select that character in the list and then click 'Assign Character' to save the selection and advance to the next place where Glyssen has a question about the speaker (which might be another instance of quoted speech in that same verse).

What kind of Voice Actors should I recruit? How many?

Great question! Glyssen will recommend how many voice actors would be appropriate for the books in your recording project. Guidelines for selecting voice actors are given in the document: *Guide for the Recording Project Coordinator*.

Introduction to Cast Size Planning and Assigning Roles to Voice Actors

When you have used Glyssen to set up your recording project and identify speaking parts (the first 4 steps), you are ready to plan your cast size, recruit your voice actors, and create a multi-voice recording script. Here's how you can use Glyssen to do this...

In the Glyssen main window, go to step "(5) Cast Size Planning". Click that button to begin. After you have made your selections in Cast Size Planning, Glyssen will do some work to generate groups of character roles to match the cast size you have selected.

Then, a second window is presented, titled 'Roles for Voice Actors'. The list shown has a row for each 'group' of character roles.

At this point, you'll want to print out this list. It's a list you can reference and work through as you recruit voice actors.

When you have recruited your voice actors, run Glyssen again and go to step "(6) Assign Voice Actors". For each group in the 'Roles for Voice Actors' window you can type in the name of the voice actor that you'd like to speak the roles in that group. You can also select an actor from a drop-down list that contains names that Glyssen has been collecting as you typed names in.

If at any time you need to edit your list of voice actors, click on “Voice Actor List...” in the toolbar.

It’s very possible that after you have recruited the voice actors, your count may be a few short of your plan, or you may have a few extra voice actors. In the ‘Roles for Voice Actors’ window, use the menu named ‘Change the List of Groups’ to find ways that Glyssen can adjust the groups to match your actual list of actors.

Note: “Cameo” actors are handled a bit differently than most actors. See [How do I assign a “Cameo” role to an actor?](#)

When you have completed assigning actors to their roles, go back in the Glyssen main window and use the “View Recording Script...” button to view the recording script and export spreadsheet files that can be viewed in Excel or LibreOffice.

How do I add or remove voice actors from the project?

The ‘Voice Actor List’ window is the place to edit the cast - the list of voice actors. You should keep your list updated there.

If you are in the Cast Size Planning window, click “Voice Actor List” link.

If you are in the Roles for Voice Actors window, click “Voice Actor List...” on the toolbar.

See also: [What is a “Cameo”?](#)

How do I assign a voice actor to character roles?

See: [Introduction to voice actors and and voice actor assignments](#)

What is a “Cameo”?

A “cameo” is using a distinguished actor to play a minor, brief character role. For example, a community leader who has limited time available could be assigned the role of the centurion at the cross.

How do I assign a “Cameo” role to an actor?

1. First, if you haven’t already done so... In the Voice Actor List window, scroll to find the actor and then tick the box in the “Cameo” column to designate that actor for a cameo role.

When finished in that window, click OK or ‘Generate Groups’.

2. In the Roles for Voice Actors window, scroll the main grid down to the bottom where the Cameo actors are listed. Use the “Click to select a cameo role” link and follow the prompts.

Alternative to step 2:

In the Roles for Voice Actors window, use Find Characters in the toolbar and select the character role you want to assign. You will see it become highlighted in the lower “Detail” grid. Right-click the highlighted character role in the detail grid and choose “Assign selected character to cameo actor”.

How does Glyssen optimize groups of character roles?

Character roles are grouped together based on similar attributes such as gender.

Character roles are separated to avoid a close 'proximity' where one actor would speak two different roles in close proximity.

Narration roles are grouped to reflect authorship of the books, within the number of narrators chosen in Cast Size Planning.

Glyssen automatically distributes hundreds of minor roles among the groups while avoiding close 'proximity' (that's the difficult part if you try to do it manually).

How do I group character roles manually?

Normally, Glyssen automatically creates optimized groups of character roles to match the planned cast size or the list of actors, whenever needed. However, if you wish to group character roles manually instead, you can utilize these commands in the Roles for Voice Actors window:

- on the toolbar, Split Selected Group and Find Character are available
- in the main grid, right click a group to Split Group
- When the lower "Detail" grid is shown, right click a character role to Create a new group with the selected character or Move selected character to another group
- (future) drag a character role from the lower 'Detail' grid and drop it onto a group in the upper grid.

Tip: After you have grouped character roles manually... If/When you subsequently edit the actor list, Glyssen will display the "Generating Groups" message box while it re-creates optimized groups of character roles. You will need to respond "Cancel" or "No!" if you want to preserve your previous manual grouping.

Will Glyssen mess up my project when it generates new groups?

When changes are made to Cast Size Planning or to the Voice Actor List, Glyssen must usually generate new groups of character roles (which can then be seen in the Roles for Voice Actors window). Be of good cheer - Glyssen is designed to help you by maintaining all other aspects of the project as much as possible.

Glyssen will add or remove groups to match the cast size (or the new cast size plan). Glyssen will automatically redistribute hundreds of minor roles as necessary among the groups.

Glyssen attempts to:

- Maintain each Voice actor assignment to the major character role (listed first in the Characters group)
- Avoid proximity issues, where one actor would speak two different roles in close proximity.
- (future) Keep manually 'Locked' character role groups as they are.
- (future) If recording work has already begun, any character roles for which recording is completed remain assigned to voice actor who actually spoke them - even if he/she becomes 'inactive' in the project.

Glyssen automatically distributes hundreds of minor roles among the groups while avoiding close 'proximity' (that's the difficult part if you try to do it manually).

Introduction to 'Narration by Author'

The concept of Narration by Author involves using the same voice actor to narrate most or all of the books written by a given author. Whenever practical, the same voice actor also speaks 'his' spoken parts in the narrative books. For example:

Paul speaks his spoken parts in Acts, and narrates his epistles.

Peter speaks his parts in the Gospels and Acts, and narrates his letters.

John narrates his Gospel and his letters.

(option? Revelation might utilize a different narrator to let John speak his spoken parts there.)

David speaks his spoken parts and speaks his Psalms.

Moses?, Jeremiah, Asaph, etc.

Best practices and automation of this concept is still under development in Glyssen. (For now skilled users can adjust these groups of character roles manually - i.e 'Move Character' in the 'Roles for Voice Actors' window. But beware that for now 'Generate Groups' will undo that manual work.)