Accessibility Tip sheet for iPhones

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# Display and text size

You can customize the display settings to make the screen easier to see.

Go to Settings then Accessibility then Display & Text Size.

(On older versions the features can be found in Settings then General then Accessibility then Display & Text Size).

Key options to toggle include:

* Bold Text: Display the text in boldface characters.
* Larger Text: Turn on Larger Accessibility Sizes, then adjust the text size using the slider.

This setting adjusts to your preferred text size in apps that support Dynamic Type, such as Settings, Calendar, Contacts, Mail, Messages, and Notes.

* Increase Contrast: This setting improves the contrast and legibility by altering color and text styling.
* Smart Invert: This reverses the colors of the display, except for images, media, and some apps that use dark color styles.
* Reduce White Point: This setting reduces the intensity of bright colors.

# Zoom

This feature allows you to zoom in or out on specific items. For example, you can double-tap or pinch to look closer in Photos or expand webpage. You can use the Zoom feature to magnify the screen no matter what you’re doing. You can magnify the entire screen (Full Screen Zoom) or magnify only part of the screen with a resizable lens (Window Zoom). Zoom can be used together with VoiceOver.

Go to Settings then Accessibility then Zoom then turn on Zoom and select the maximum zoom level by dragging the slider at the bottom of the screen.

Next go to Zoom Region and select either Full Screen Zoom which magnifies the entire screen. (recommended) or Window Zoom which magnifies a part of the screen with a resizable lens.

## Other helpful settings

Follow Focus: Track your selections, the text insertion point, and your typing.

Smart Typing: Switch to Window Zoom when a keyboard appears.

## How to use zoom

Double-tap the screen with three fingers to turn Zoom on or off.

To adjust the magnification triple-tap with three fingers, then drag the Zoom Level slider.

For Full Screen Zoom to move to another area on your screen drag three fingers across the screen.

For Window Zoom to move the Zoom lens drag the handle at the bottom of the Zoom lens.

# Magnifier

Open the Magnifier app.

## How to use the magnifier

To Zoom in and out, pinch the screen or use the slider on the bottom of the screen.

To freeze the frame press the large button at the bottom of the screen. After freezing the frame, you can zoom in and out further by pinching the screen. Single tap to show the magnifier controls in Freeze Frame.

If you use the Magnifier often, you can create an Accessibility Shortcut to activate it by triple pressing the home button, or side button on newer iPhones.

Go to Settings then Accessibility then Accessibility Shortcut and select Magnifier.

# Speak Selection and Speak Screen

This is a great feature if you experience fatigue while reading, or if you prefer text to be read rather than zooming into the text to read it yourself.

Both allow you to:

Have the content of the screen read back.

Have words highlighted as they’re being read.

Feature an adjustable voice dialect and speaking rate.

They are different in that:

Speak Selection only reads text highlighted and selected by you whilst Speak Screen will read all of the content of the page.

VoiceOver is different through not only reading the content of a page back to you, but it also acts as a guide to navigate through iOS devices by describing what’s on the screen.

Go to Settings then Accessibility then Spoken Content.

Adjust any of the following:

* Speak Selection: To hear text you selected, tap the Speak button.
* Speak Screen: To hear the entire screen, swipe down with two fingers from the top of the screen.
* Speech Controller: Show the controller for quick access to Speak Screen and Speak on Touch.
* Highlight Content: iPhone can highlight words, sentences, or both as they’re spoken. You can change the highlight color and style.
* Typing Feedback: You can configure typing feedback for the onscreen and external keyboards and choose to have iPhone speak each character, entire words, auto-corrections, auto-capitalizations, and typing predictions.
* To hear typing predictions, you also need to go to Settings then General then Keyboards then turn on Predictive.
* Voices: Choose a voice and dialect.
* Speaking Rate: Drag the slider.
* Pronunciations: Dictate or spell out how you want certain phrases to be spoken.

## How to use Speak Selection and Speak Screen

Ask Siri and say something like: “Speak screen.”

Or do any of the following:

Hear selected text: Select the text, then tap Speak.

Hear the entire screen: Swipe down with two fingers from the top of the screen. Use the controls that appear to pause speaking or adjust the rate.

Hear typing feedback: Start typing. To hear typing predictions (when turned on), touch and hold each word.

# Voice over

With VoiceOver—a gesture-based screen reader—you can use iPhone even if you can’t see the screen. VoiceOver gives audible descriptions of what’s on your screen—from battery level, to who’s calling, to which app your finger is on. You can also adjust the speaking rate and pitch to suit your needs.

When you touch the screen or drag your finger over it, VoiceOver speaks the name of the item your finger is on, including icons and text. To interact with the item, such as a button or link, or to navigate to another item, use VoiceOver gestures.

When you go to a new screen, VoiceOver plays a sound, then selects and speaks the name of the first item on the screen (typically in the top-left corner). VoiceOver tells you when the display changes to landscape or portrait orientation, when the screen becomes dimmed or locked, and what’s active on the Lock Screen when you wake iPhone.

Important: VoiceOver changes the gestures you use to control iPhone. When VoiceOver is on, you must use VoiceOver gestures to operate iPhone.

To turn VoiceOver on, do any of the following:

Activate Siri and say “Turn on VoiceOver” or go to Settings then Accessibility then VoiceOver, then turn the setting on or off.

You can practice VoiceOver gestures in a special area without affecting iPhone or its settings. When you practice a gesture, VoiceOver describes the gesture and the resulting action.

Try different techniques to discover which works best for you. If a gesture doesn’t work, try a quicker movement, especially for a double tap or swipe gesture. To swipe, try brushing the screen quickly with your finger or fingers. For best results using multifinger gestures, touch the screen with some space between your fingers.

To practice this go to Settings then Accessibility then VoiceOver tap VoiceOver Practice, then double-tap to start.

Practice the following gestures with one, two, three, and four fingers:

* Tap
* Double tap
* Triple tap
* Swipe left, right, up, or down

When you finish practicing, tap Done, then double-tap to exit.

## Change your VoiceOver settings

You can customize the settings for VoiceOver, such as the audio options, language, voice, speaking rate, and verbosity.

Adjust the VoiceOver volume and other audio options

To increase or decrease the volume, press the volume buttons on iPhone.

To set other audio options, go to Settings then Accessibility then VoiceOver then Audio, then set options such as the following:

* Sounds & Haptics: Adjust and preview sound effects and haptics.
* Audio Ducking: Temporarily reduce media playback volume when VoiceOver speaks.
* Auto-select Speaker in Call: Automatically switch to the speaker during a call when you’re not holding iPhone to your ear.

### Set the VoiceOver language

* Change the primary language: VoiceOver uses the same language you choose for your iPhone. To choose a different primary language, go to Settings then General then Language & Region, then tap Add Language.
* Switch languages using the rotor: See Control VoiceOver using the rotor on iPhone.
* Automatically detect languages: VoiceOver can switch voices for text in different languages. Go to Settings then Accessibility then VoiceOver then Speech, then turn on Detect Languages.
* Adjust the speaking voice: Go to Settings then Accessibility then VoiceOver, then do any of the following:
* Adjust the speaking rate: Drag the Speaking Rate slider.
* Choose a voice: Tap Speech then Voice, then choose a voice. To download an enhanced voice, tap the Download button.
* Adjust the pitch: Tap Speech, then drag the slider. You can also turn on Use Pitch Change to have VoiceOver use a higher pitch when speaking the first item of a group (such as a list or table) and a lower pitch when speaking the last item of a group.
* Specify the pronunciation of certain words: Tap Speech then Pronunciations, tap the Add button, enter a phrase, then dictate or spell out how you want the phrase to be pronounced.

Note: You can dictate only if you turned on Enable Dictation in Settings then General then Keyboards.

### Set how much VoiceOver tells you

Go to Settings then Accessibility then VoiceOver, then tap any of the following:

* Verbosity: Choose options to have VoiceOver speak hints, punctuation, uppercase letters, embedded links, and more. VoiceOver can even confirm rotor actions and tell you when the flashlight is turned on.
* To change how VoiceOver speaks punctuation, tap Punctuation, then choose a group. You can also create new groups—for example, a programming group in which “[” is spoken as “left brack.”
* Always Speak Notifications: VoiceOver reads notifications, including incoming text messages as they occur, even if iPhone is locked. Unacknowledged notifications are repeated when you unlock iPhone.

(Note for privacy reasons this might not be recommended)

### Customize VoiceOver settings for an activity

You can customize a group of VoiceOver settings for an activity, such as programming. Apply the settings automatically when you open certain apps or by adjusting the rotor.

Go to Settings then Accessibility then VoiceOver then Activities.

* Choose an existing activity or tap Add Activity.
* Adjust settings for speech, audio, verbosity, and braille.
* Choose Apps or Context to automatically apply the settings for this activity.

### Use flat or grouped navigation

Go to Settings then Accessibility then VoiceOver then Navigation Style, then choose one of the following:

* Flat: VoiceOver moves sequentially through each item on the screen when you use the move next and previous commands.
* Grouped: VoiceOver moves through items and groups of items on the screen. To move into a group, use a two-finger swipe right. To move out of a group, use a two-finger swipe left.

### Adjust VoiceOver visuals

Go to Settings then Accessibility then VoiceOver, then turn on any of the following:

* Large Cursor: If you have difficulty seeing the outline around the selected item, you can enlarge and thicken the outline.
* Caption Panel: The text spoken by VoiceOver is displayed at the bottom of the screen.

### Use Quick Settings to adjust VoiceOver from anywhere on iPhone

When VoiceOver is turned on, you can access Quick Settings by doing a two-finger quadruple tap.

To customize Quick Settings, do the following: Go to Settings then Accessibility then VoiceOver then Quick Settings.

Choose the settings you want or drag the Reorder button to reorder settings.