

## iphone and ipad (ios) accessibility features

Apple products have features to help people with hearing and visual impairments make using them easier.

On an iphone or ipad, to find and enable accessibility features:

1. Select the Settings icon on your phone. (Cog icon)
2. Scroll to the section marked Accessibility and tap it.

**VoiceOver** – a screen reader that describes exactly what's happening on your device. You can activate VoiceOver and its features here.

**Siri** - If you have Siri on (activated by saying "Hey Siri"), you can say: "Siri turn on VoiceOver" or "Siri turn off VoiceOver."

You can adjust these features in VoiceOver to meet your needs:

- **Speaking rate** - Drag the circle to either the tortoise (slower) or Hare (faster) to adjust the speed.
- **Speech** - You can change the voice you hear and the voice pitch.
- **VoiceOver Recognition** - Switch on 'Image Descriptions' and the ipad describe images in apps and on the web. Switch on 'Text Recognition' and the ipad will speak descriptions of text found in images.
- **Audio** - Selecting 'Sounds' allows you to increase or decrease the volume of VoiceOver speech and sounds, without adjusting the other iPad audio as well. Slide the white circle between the 2 speaker pictures to adjust.
- For full instructions on using VoiceOver, see our detailed guide.

**Zoom** - Lets you to enlarge your screen to your liking. You can adjust your zoom setting here but also via the zoom shortcut below.

**Siri** - If you have Siri on (activated by saying “Hey Siri”), you can say: “Siri turn on Zoom” or “Siri turn off Zoom.”

**Zoom Shortcut** - To use, double-tap the screen with three fingers. A zoom lens (square) will then appear. You can move the Zoom lens by drag the handle at the bottom of the Zoom lens around the screen.

Tap the handle at the bottom of the zoom lens, for the menu:

- **Zoom out** - removes the zoom lens if selected.
- **Choose Region** - You can choose ‘pinned zoom’ (pins the magnifier to the screen. We found this hard to use), ‘full screen zoom (enlarges full screen), or ‘window zoom’ (continues as is).
- **Resize Lens** - Little circles appear at points around your zoom lens. Drag the circles to resize; Corner circles make the lens bigger and keep its current shape. Left and right circles, will widen the lens. Top and bottom circles will elongate the lens vertically.
- **Choose Filter** - Allows you to add filters to your zoom lens.
  - 1) **Inverted**: changes the background of the zoom lens to black, the writing to white and the symbols to bright colour.
  - 2) **Greyscale**: text and symbols change to shades of grey.
  - 3) **Greyscale Inverted**: your zoom lens becomes black, the writing white and the symbols appear grey.
  - 4) **Low Light** is when the zoom lens is shaded like sunglasses.
- **Show Controller** - An additional controller appears on the screen (a circle with arrows) to allow you to move the zoom lens. We find the handle much easier to use.
- **Adjust zoom level** - at the bottom of the menu you will find 2 magnifiers (- and +) with a circle in between. If you place a finger on the circle and slide it towards the +, your zoom magnifications will increase. If you slide it towards -, it will decrease.

**Display & text size** - makes your font and/or display larger or smaller. The following features can be adjusted:

- **Bold Text** - switch on to make text heavier
- **Larger Text** - Allows you to make text bigger by sliding the white circle to the smaller 'A' to reduce text size and slide to the larger 'A' to increase text size. You can also switch on 'Larger Accessibility Sizes' to give you more size options on the sliding scaler.
- **Reduce Transparency** – switch this on and it will increase contrast by reducing transparency and blurs in some backgrounds.
- **Increase Contrast** – switch on to increase colour contrast between app foregrounds and background colours, making things easier to read and see.
- **Colour Filters** - Allows you to add filters to your iPad, increasing some people's ability to read and see. Try the different filters to see what's easiest for you. You can always switch them, straight back by turning off 'Colour Filters'.
- **Auto-Brightness** - this feature lets your iPad change its own brightness settings depending on the light conditions; becoming brighter in well-lit areas and dimmer in darker settings. This feature isn't suitable for everyone with sight loss as some are more comfortable with dimmer settings constantly. Switch it off if this is you. NOTE - if your brightness settings suddenly change from what you selected, this could be the reason.

**Motion** - if you don't want visual motion on your iPad screen, you can stop or reduce the movement of some screen elements, such as:

- wallpaper, apps, and alerts
- Screen transitions
- Siri animations
- Animated images on the web and in apps

These settings stop or reduce motion:

- **Reduce Motion** - Turn on to reduce overall moving items

- **Auto-Play Message Effects** - Turn off, you can still manually play animations and effects in messages if you want.
- **Auto-Play Video Previews** - Turn off. When on, it allows apps such as the App Store to automatically play video previews.
- **Dim Flashing Lights** - Turn on. The display of media automatically dims when flashes or strobe effects are detected.
- **Limit Frame Rate** - Turn on, this limits the maximum frame rate of the display to 60 frames per second.

**Spoken content** - enables your devices to read text out loud even in VoiceOver is off.

- **Speak Selection** - turn on to have iPad speak the text you select.
- **Speak Screen** - turning it on allows you to swipe down from the top of the screen with 2 fingers to hear the iPad read all text on the screen.
- **Speech Controller** - turn on to keep the 'Speak Screen' controls on the screen.
- **Highlight Content** - turning this on highlights words or sentences as the iPad reads them out loud.
- **Typing Feedback** - options are available to have iPad speak character by character, word by word etc as you type.
- **Voices** - allows you to select a language and voice to hear your spoken content in.
- **Default language** - select the language you wish to hear it in.
- **Speaking rate** - Drag the circle to either the tortoise (slower) or Hare (faster) to adjust the speed.

**Siri** - If you have Siri on (activated by saying "Hey Siri"), you can also say: "Siri speak screen"

**Audio descriptions** – when switched on, allows you to hear a description of what's happening on the screen when watching supported movies and shows on your phone.

**Hearing devices** - If you have 'Made for iPhone' compatible hearing aids (<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/106341>), you can pair them with your Apple device.

1. Turn your hearing devices off and back on again (refer to the instructions that came with them if you're unsure)
2. When their name appears below MFi Hearing Devices, tap the name and respond to the pairing requests
3. When finished, you hear a series of beeps and a tone, and a checkmark appears next to the hearing devices in the Devices list.
4. You only need to pair your hearing aids once, after that, your hearing devices automatically reconnect to your iPad or iPhone whenever they turn on.

**Sensory alerts** - you can choose visual or vibrating alerts for incoming calls, messages, emails and calendar events. If there is not a section for this, look under audio/visual for 'Alerts'

**Sound recognition** – if turned on, notifies you when it detects one of 15 different types of sound, including alarms, appliance buzzers, door knocks, car horns etc. You can train your device to listen for and notify you of sounds that are unique to your environment, such as your doorbell. When your device detects these sounds, you'll receive a visible and vibrating notification.

Once 'Sound Recognition' is on, a new section called 'Sounds' will appear. Select to find a list of sounds you can choose to have recognised as well as options to add 'Custom Alarm' and 'Custom Appliance or Doorbell'.

**Subtitles** - Apple can provide subtitles, closed captions, and transcriptions so you can follow along more easily with audio and video.

- Closed Captions & SDH (subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing) - turning this on to have CC or subtitles automatically added when videos play (where available).
- Style - you can change the style of the CC & subtitles displayed on the screen including enlarging the text and changing the background colours.

**Siri** - can help you complete the tasks you do every day. You can ask it to find files, set reminders, turn your accessibility features on or off, and so much more. A separate guide is available.