

Voice control on Android devices

Leaflet provided by:

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Disclaimer to clients: This leaflet aims to provide basic information on voice control. It is purely a guide and can become outdated as newer functions are added by the manufacturer. To ensure you have the most up-to-date information, please refer to the resources in the 'References' section below. If you have been provided with this leaflet by someone other than NWAT, please contact NWAT on 0151 529 2022.

What is voice control?

Voice control allows a person to navigate around their phone/tablet using their voice. It is helpful for people who have difficulty with touching the screen using their hands or a stylus and have no difficulties with their speech. Even without speech problems, voice control can be inaccurate.

What is an Android device?

Android is the operating system used by most mobile phones and tablets. Apple devices do not use Android.

Voice control needs the Android software to be at least Android version 5. To find your Android version, go to Settings>About phone or About tablet. If your software version is below 5, check for any software updates. If there are no further updates available due to the age of your device, you will not be able to use voice control on that device.

Is Google Assistant the same as voice control?

Google Assistant is a virtual assistant and can make a phone call, send a message, set reminders, open apps or play music.

Google Assistant cannot navigate around your phone or apps e.g. swipe left/right, scroll up/down. Google Assistant needs to be activated by saying "Hey Google" or "OK Google". When voice control is on; you do not need to call Google Assistant as your device is constantly listening for commands e.g. say "Open email" instead of "Hey Google/ OK Google, open email".

How do I set up voice control on my mobile phone/tablet?

To prepare your device for voice control:

- 1) Go to the Google Play Store app
- 2) Download or update the Google app to the latest version
- 3) Download or update the Google Assistant app to the latest version
- 4) Download the Voice Access app



Google Play Store app



Google app



Google Assistant app



Voice Access app

Important: Please note that the following steps may differ depending on your device as layouts are different among Google Pixel, Huawei, Motorola, Samsung, Xiaomi, etc.

To setup Voice Access for the first time go to Settings> Accessibility (or Accessibility features, then Accessibility depending on your device) > Voice Access (allow all settings it requires)> tap Voice Access to the 'on' position.

Following this step, you can now turn Voice Access on by:

- 1) Selecting the Voice Access app
- 2) With Google Assistant

To ensure Google Assistant will work on any screen, go to Google app >More>Settings >Voice>Voice Match> tap 'Hey Google' to the on position. You can now turn on/off Voice Access using Google Assistant i.e. "Hey/OK Google, turn on/off Voice Access".

You will know that Voice Access is on by:

- a comment bar on the top of the screen, dictating everything being said
- a Voice Access icon appearing in the notification bar at the top your screen

The comment bar will dictate everything that is being said and try to form a command out of it. Please ensure you are using your phone in a quiet environment to reduce risk of it picking up other conversations. It requires time to form a command out of your speech so wait a few seconds after speaking for it to show in the comment bar and then to be actioned.

Please be aware that voice control uses a lot of battery power. We therefore encourage you to turn off voice control when not in use.

How do I use voice control to navigate around my phone/tablet?

When voice control is on, the device is listening to you for any commands. The most common commands are "swipe up/down/left/right", "open _", "go back" and "go home". A full command list can be found by going to Settings>Accessibility> Voice Access>More settings> Show all commands. You can ask the device "What can I say?" for a list of commands relevant to what is on your screen at that time

A useful way to navigate is the "Show numbers" command. This numbers all apps/actions on the screen. You can then say the number or "Tap [number]" allocated to what you want to select.

Similarly, you can say "Show commands" and words will be used instead; however this can make the screen cluttered and more difficult to identify what you want to carry out. There is also "Show grid" but this can cause issues when trying to select items within an app or web page.

How do I use voice control to write a message?

When you enter an app to write a message, select the text box (can use "show numbers/commands"). Once the text box is selected, any words that you then say will be dictated into the text box. If you want punctuation, this will need to be dictated i.e. "full stop", "comma". Emojis and attachments can also be selected using "show numbers/commands", "swipe left/right".

Your device will pick up all words being spoken; therefore ensure you are in a quiet environment. If you are engaged in another conversation or task, turn off voice control. You can switch between command and dictation mode (outlined below) to avoid typing commands into your message.

When writing a message, you will need to use correction commands such as:

- “Delete previous character”*
 - deletes previous symbol/letter
- “Undo that” or “Delete all”*
 - deletes previous dictation
- “Move to beginning”*
 - moves cursor to beginning of dictation
- “Replace _ with _”*
 - replaces one word with another
- “Move up two lines”*
 - moves cursor up two lines
- “Select _, capitalise that”*
 - puts capital at front of selected word
- “Select_. Correct that”*
 - shows correct spelling or similar words
- “Command mode”*
 - Pauses dictation but allows navigation commands e.g. *“tap send”*, *“show numbers”*
- “Dictation mode”*
 - Resumes dictation and stops navigation commands

I am no longer able to use voice control as I have changed my mobile phone/ my voice has changed. What should I do?

If it is a new iOS device, voice control can be set up using this leaflet. If you change to Android, contact NWAT to discuss how voice control can be used on this.

There are other ways to continue using your phone without using your voice. These can be tried on a reassessment with NWAT.

References

Google (27/04/2021). Get started with Voice Access. Source:

<https://support.google.com/accessibility/android/answer/6151848?hl=en>

The following videos demonstrate voice access:

9 to 5 Google (07/06/21). Completely hands-free control with Voice Access for Android.

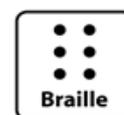
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIDaz4Nm5IE>

Google (07/06/21). Introducing Voice Access Beta.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apEz73_H2fU

Tech Fire (07/06/21) Control Your Phone with your Voice | Google Voice Access [New App From Google].

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXhqjHboTg>



If you require a special edition of this leaflet

This leaflet is available in large print, Braille, on audio tape or disk and in other languages on request. Please contact:

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