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Voice control on iOS devices

Leaflet provided by:

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Disclaimer to staff: The distribution of this leaflet is only permitted by members of North West Assistive Technology (NWAT).

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 It is purely a guide and can become outdated as newer functions are added by the manufacturer.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 iOS device?

iOS is the operating system used by Apple devices e.g. iPhone, iPad. Voice control needs the iOS software to be at least iOS version 13. This can be found by going into Settings>General>About.

If your software version is below 13, check for any 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 Siri the same as voice control?



Siri is a virtual assistant and can make a phone call, send messages, set reminders, open apps or play music. Siri cannot navigate around your phone or apps e.g. swipe left/right, scroll up/down. Siri needs to be activated by saying "Hey Siri". When voice control is on, you do not need to call Siri as your device is constantly listening for commands e.g. say "Open email" instead of "Hey Siri, open email".

How do I set up voice control on my iPhone/iPad?



Initially, you will need to go to Settings>Accessibility>Voice Control>tap 'Voice Control' to the 'on' position.

A tutorial will appear for your information. The commands shown can be accessed at any time by selecting 'Learn More' underneath 'Voice Control'. You will then see a blue microphone icon in the corner of your screen to show that voice control is on.

Voice control works best with Siri. To ensure Siri is on your device, go to Settings>Siri & Search> tap 'Listen for "Hey Siri"' and 'Allow Siri When Locked' to the 'on' position.

Once this initial setup has been completed, you can turn voice control off at any time by saying "Turn off voice control" and the blue microphone icon will disappear to confirm.

To turn voice control back on at any point after this initial setup has been completed, say *“Hey Siri, turn on voice control”*.

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 iPhone/iPad?

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 pressing ‘Learn More’ underneath ‘Voice Control’ as aforementioned.

Alternatively, saying *“Show me what to say”* will show a list of commands relevant to what is on your screen at that time. On occasion, the device will recognise you are trying to command it and show hints at the top of the screen for what to say.

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 (via *“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 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 bought a new device/ 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.

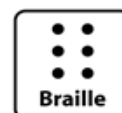
References

Apple (27/04/2021). Use Voice Control on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch. Source: <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT210417>

The following videos demonstrate voice control:

Apple Support (04/05/2021) How to navigate with Voice Control on your iPhone <https://youtu.be/80AyUCjZYzM>

Apple Support (04/05/2021) How to use dictation and edit text with Voice Control on your iPhone https://youtu.be/k-ykg3jZ9_k



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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