

Digital tools and settings for dyslexia

There are tools and settings that can make phones, tablets, laptops and browsers easier to use for people with dyslexia. Some settings or tools may not be available or work on older phones, tablets or laptops.

You can find settings for Android, iOS/iPadOS, Microsoft Windows and Apple macOS in the tables below. These include simplifying layouts, reducing distractions and using voice commands to control your device. Look for the cog icon . This is usually on your home screen, in your app list on phones and tablets, or in the Start menu on Windows.

[My Computer My Way](#) from AbilityNet also offers step-by-step instructions to change settings to meet your needs.

You can set up shortcuts on your smartphone for quick access to settings you find useful.

Contact Alice Holland, Digital Inclusion Worker, with any questions or if you would like support to change your settings.

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Reduce screen clutter on websites and documents

- remove distracting parts of websites such as ads and navigation menus
- change text size, style and spacing
- change background colour
- read webpage text aloud

Options vary depending on browser or programme used. Not all websites are supported.

Browser	How to access
Microsoft Edge	F9 or More  > Immersive Reader icon in the address bar
Microsoft Office Word, OneNote, Outlook, Excel, Teams	View > Immersive Reader Teams: Hover over or tap message > More icon  > More actions > Immersive Reader
Google Chrome	More icon  > More tools > Reading mode Highlight text > right click > Open in reading mode
Mozilla Firefox	Reader view icon  in address bar
Apple Safari	Reader icon in address bar  > Show Reader To return: page icon in address bar  > Hide Reader

Display

- Text size – make text bigger
- Text style (fonts) – change font style
- Bold text – make text darker
- Font smoothing, ClearType – smooth and sharpen text
- Display size – change how big everything is on-screen e.g. icons, buttons
- Dark mode – dark background with light text
- Night light, Night Shift – reduce blue light
- Magnifier, Zoom, magnification gestures – increase or focus on parts of the screen

Reading, writing and speaking

- Narrator, VoiceOver, TalkBack – reads everything on-screen aloud
- Select to Speak – reads selected text aloud
- Voice Access, Voice Control – control device using you voice e.g. open apps, tap buttons, scroll
- Grammar and spelling, spell check – highlight mistakes and suggest corrections
- Word suggestion, predictive text, text suggestions – show suggestions for next word
- Voice typing, dictation – replaces typing with speaking

Cursor & pointer

- Mouse pointer size, colour, trails - make it easier to see what you're pointing at
- Text cursor size, colour, thickness - make it easier to see where you're typing

Android settings

Feature	How to access	Shortcut
Text size	Accessibility > Display size and text	
Text style	Display > Font	
Bold text	Accessibility > Display size and text	
Display size	Accessibility > Display size and text	
Dark mode	Display > Dark theme	
Night light	Display > Night Light	
Magnifier	Accessibility > Magnification	Two finger pinch in/out
TalkBack screen reader	Accessibility > TalkBack	
Select to speak	Accessibility > Select to Speak	
Voice Access	Accessibility > Voice Access	
Spell check	System > Languages & input/region	
Word suggestions	System > Keyboard > On screen keyboard > Corrections and suggestions	
Voice typing	System > Keyboard > On-screen keyboard > Voice Typing or System > Languages and input > On-screen keyboard > Voice Typing	Tap microphone on keyboard 

Apple iOS/iPadOS settings

Feature	How to access	Shortcut
Text size	Accessibility > Display & Text Size	
Text style	General > Fonts	
Bold text	Accessibility > Display & Text Size > Bold	
Display size	Accessibility > Zoom	
Dark mode	Display & Brightness > Appearance (Dark/Light)	
Night light	Display & Brightness > Night Shift	
Magnifier	Settings > Accessibility > Zoom	Two finger pinch in/out
VoiceOver screen reader	Accessibility > VoiceOver	
Select to speak	Accessibility > Spoken Content > Speak Selection	
Voice Control	Accessibility > Voice Control	
Spell check	General > Keyboard	
Predictive text	General > Keyboard	
Voice typing	General > Keyboard > Enable Dictation	Tap microphone on keyboard 

Microsoft Windows settings

Feature	How to access	Shortcut
Text size	Accessibility > Text size	
Text style	Personalisation > Fonts	
ClearType	Start > ClearType > Adjust ClearType text	
Display size	System > Display > Scale	
Dark mode	Personalisation > Colours	
Night light	System > Display	
Magnifier	Accessibility > Magnifier	Win  + Plus (+)/Minus (-)/Esc
Narrator screen reader	Accessibility > Narrator	Win  + Ctrl + Enter
Voice access	Accessibility > Speech > Voice access	Win  + Ctrl + S
Grammar & spelling	Time & language > Typing	
Text suggestions	Time & language > Typing	
Voice typing	Accessibility > Speech > Voice typing	Win  + H
Mouse pointer size, colour, trails	Accessibility > Mouse pointer and touch	
Cursor size, colour, thickness	Accessibility > Text cursor	

Apple macOS settings

Feature	How to access	Shortcut
Text size	Accessibility > Display > Text size	
Display size	Displays > Larger Text / Default / More Space	
Dark mode	Appearance > Auto, Dark, Light	
Night light	Displays > Night Shift	
Magnifier	Accessibility > Zoom	⌘ + Plus (+)/Minus (-)
VoiceOver screen reader	Accessibility > VoiceOver	⌘ + Touch ID 3 times
Voice Control	Accessibility > Voice Control	
Grammar & spelling	Keyboard > Text Input > Input Sources > Edit	
Predictive text	Keyboard > Text input > Edit > Show inline predictive text	
Voice typing	Keyboard > Dictation	Microphone icon 
Mouse pointer size, colour	Accessibility > Display > Pointer size	

Tools and apps

Many of these are free or offer free trials. Paid versions give you full features.

[OpenDyslexic](#) font - typeface designed against some common symptoms of dyslexia

[Grammarly](#) – Proofreader for grammar, spelling and clarity using AI. Works on all operating systems and browsers

[Hemmingway](#) – Online grammar checker, paraphrasing tool, AI proofreader and readability checker. Highlights complex sentences and gives suggestions

[Dragon speech recognition](#) - voice-to-text tool to dictate and edit documents hands-free

Voice typing apps – type with your voice e.g. [WhisperTyping](#), [AquaVoice](#)