

Digital tools and settings for people with sight loss and vision impairments

There are tools and settings that can make phones, tablets, laptops and browsers easier to use for people with sight loss and vision impairments. 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

- Accessibility menu / AssistiveTouch – a large on screen menu of your most-used controls such as screenshot, brightness, volume
- Display size – change how big everything is on-screen e.g. icons, buttons
- Text size – make text bigger
- Bold text – make text darker
- High contrast text, Outline text - black text with a white outline or white text with a black outline
- Font smoothing, ClearType – smooth and sharpen text
- Text style (fonts) – change font style
- Night light, Night Shift – reduce blue light
- Dark mode – dark background with light text
- Display contrast – makes text and icons stand out more clearly against the background
- Colour inversion – invert the colour of background, texts and images (this also affects photos and videos)
- Colour correction, colour filters – help differentiate between colours if you are colour blind or have trouble reading text on a screen
- Transparency – replace see-through or blurred backgrounds with a solid colour behind menus and panels, making text easier to read
- Button shapes - Adds shapes to buttons such as an underline beneath Back buttons
- Animation effects – reduce moving effects on screen such as when opening apps
- Magnifier, Zoom, magnification gestures – increase or focus on parts of the screen

Reading, writing and speaking

- Screen readers TalkBack, VoiceOver, Narrator – reads everything on-screen aloud
- Select to Speak – reads selected text aloud
- Audio description – hear a spoken description on-screen in supported films and shows
- Voice Access, Voice Control – control device using your 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
- Toggle keys – makes a sound when Caps lock, Num Lock or Scroll lock are pressed

Cursor and 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
Accessibility menu	Accessibility > Interaction controls	
Display size	Accessibility > Display size and text	
Text size	Accessibility > Display size and text	
Bold text	Accessibility > Display size and text	
Outline text	Accessibility > Display size and text	
Text style	Display > Font	
Night light	Display > Night Light	
Dark mode	Accessibility > Display > Colour and motion	
Display contrast	Display and touch	
Colour inversion	Accessibility > Display > Colour and motion	
Colour correction	Accessibility > Display > Colour and motion	
Transparency	Accessibility > Display > Colour and motion > Blur effects	
Remove animation	Accessibility > Display > Colour and motion	
Magnifier	Accessibility > Magnification	Two finger pinch in/out
TalkBack	Accessibility > TalkBack	
Select to speak	Accessibility > Select to Speak	
Audio description	Accessibility > Audio	
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 or System > Languages and input > On-screen keyboard	Tap microphone on keyboard 

Apple iOS/iPadOS settings

Feature	How to access	Shortcut
AssistiveTouch	Accessibility > Touch	Triple click side or home button (once configured)
Display size	Accessibility > Zoom	
Text size	Accessibility > Display & Text Size	
Bold text	Accessibility > Display & Text Size	
Text style	General > Fonts	
Night shift	Display & Brightness > Night Shift	
Dark mode	Display & Brightness > Appearance	
Increase contrast	Accessibility > Display & Text Size	
Colour inversion	Accessibility > Display & Text Size	
Colour filters	Accessibility > Display & Text Size	
Transparency	Accessibility > Display & Text Size	
Button shapes	Accessibility > Display & Text Size	
Reduce motion	Accessibility > Motion	
Magnifier	Settings > Accessibility > Zoom	Two finger pinch in/out
VoiceOver	Accessibility > VoiceOver	
Select to speak	Accessibility > Spoken Content > Speak Selection	
Audio description	Accessibility > Audio	
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
Accessibility menu	-	Win  + A
Display size	System > Display > Scale	
Text size	Accessibility > Text size	
ClearType	Start > ClearType > Adjust ClearType text	
Text style	Personalisation > Fonts	
Night light	System > Display	
Dark mode	Personalisation > Colours	
Display contrast	Accessibility > Contrast themes	Left Alt + Shift + Print Screen
Colour filters	Accessibility > Colour filters	Win  + Ctrl + C
Transparency	Accessibility > Visual effects	
Animation effects	Accessibility > Visual effects	
Magnifier	Accessibility > Magnifier	Win  + Plus (+)/Minus (-)/Esc
Narrator	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
Toggle keys	Accessibility > Keyboard	
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
Accessibility shortcuts	Accessibility > Shortcut	Touch ID three times or Option + Command + F5
Display size	Displays > Larger Text/Default/More Space	
Text size	Accessibility > Display > Text	
Night light	Displays > Night Shift	
Dark mode	Appearance > Auto, Dark, Light	
Contrast	Accessibility > Display > Increase contrast	
Display contrast	Accessibility > Display > slider	
Colour filters	Accessibility > Display > filter type	
Colour inversion	Accessibility > Display > Invert colours	Control + Option + Command + 8
Differentiate without colour	Accessibility > Display	
Reduce transparency	Accessibility > Display	
Reduce motion	Accessibility > Display	
Button shapes	Accessibility > Display > toolbar button shapes	
Magnifier	Accessibility > Zoom	⌘ + Plus (+)/Minus (-)
VoiceOver	Accessibility > VoiceOver	⌘ + Touch ID 3 times
Audio description	Accessibility > Audio	
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 
Sticky keys	Keyboard > Sticky keys	
Mouse pointer size, colour	Accessibility > Display > Pointer	

Tools and apps

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

[Magnify with your phone camera](#) – take a photo and use the pinch to zoom gesture

[Be My Eyes](#) - connects blind or low vision users with volunteers and companies across the world, through live video and AI

[Seeing AI](#) - narrates the world around you using your camera

[TapTapSee](#) - take a photo of anything and your phone will identify it out loud via VoiceOver

[Google maps](#) and [Apple maps](#) – speaks directions out loud

[Grammarly](#) – AI proofreader for grammar, spelling and clarity

[Hemingway](#) – Highlights complex sentences, gives suggestions for grammar and paraphrasing using AI

[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](#)