VoiceOver for iPhone and iPad

# Actions, Gestures and Keyboard Commands

This document has been partially updated for IOS 7. Information on the new Control Centre and the new Rotor controls has been omitted. For a complete list of updates see: <https://nfb.org/blog/atblog/what%E2%80%99s-new-ios-7-accessibility-individuals-who-are-blind-deaf-blind-or-who-have-low>

VoiceOver is the screen reading program that is built into IOS ver 4 or later for iPhone, iPod, iPod Touch, iPad and Apple TV. On these iDevices VoiceOver is controlled by either the touch screen, a wireless Bluetooth keyboard or a Braille input device. VoiceOver supports many Braille displays and Braille input devices. Commands for Braille input device are covered in a separate document.

# **Enabling VoiceOver:**

There are three ways to enable VoiceOver:

1. It can be turned on from within iTunes when the iPad is connected to a computer with VoiceOver running. In iTunes select iPad under “Devices”. Go to Summary / Options / Configure Universal Access. Click VoiceOver. This turns on VoiceOver on the iPad. A student who is blind can do this independently as long as Voiceover running on their computer.
2. VoiceOver is the default for the various triple click options. This means the student who is blind can turn it on independently by simply triple clicking the Home button.
3. New in IOS 7 is the ability to have Siri turn on VoiceOver by pressing and holding the Home button and saying, “Turn on VoiceOver.”

What follows is a list of common actions, gestures and keyboard commands for the iPhone and iPad. **When using a wireless keyboard the VoiceOver (VO) key is Control + Option**

**General**

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| **Action** | **Gesture** | **Keyboard Command** |
| Unlock the screen | Press the Home key, tap anywhere, swipe 3 fingers left to right. |  |
| Toggle screen curtain on/off (VO stays active but screen is off) | Tap 3 times fast using 3 fingers | VO+Shift+S |
| Tap an item | Double tap | VO+Spacebar |
| Open Item Chooser for  current screen | 2 finger triple tap | VO+I |
| Hide or show onscreen  Keyboard | Move finger to Hide keyboard key. Double tap | Press eject key |

Reading

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| **Action** | **Gesture** | **Keyboard Command** |
| Read all from first object in selected area | Swipe up using 2 fingers | VO+A |
| Read from top | Swipe down using 2 fingers | VO+B |
| Read by character, word or line (depends on rotor setting) | Flick up or down | Read character – right/left arrow  Read word – option+right/left arrow  Read line – up/down arrow  Read paragraph – option+up/down arrow |
| Read first or last line of document | N/A | Control+up/down arrow |
| Read first or last line and verify insertion point at beginning or end | N/A | Control+up/down arrow twice |
| Move insertion point to start or end of document | Double tap with 1 finger | VO+Space |
| Toggle speech on/off (VO stays active) | Tap 2 times fast using 3 fingers | VO+S |
| Pause/resume speech | Tap once using 2 fingers | Control |

Navigation

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| **Action** | **Gesture** | **Keyboard Command** |
| Speak the item under your finger | Touch or move around the screen using 1 finger | N/A |
| Activate the rotor and move through categories | 2 fingers and twist left or right | See Quick Nav section |
| Move using selected rotor option | Swipe up or down using 1 finger | VO+Up or Down Arrow |
| Activate the selected item. (open app, press button) | Tap 2 times fast using 1 finger | VO+Space |
| Move to the previous or next item | Swipe left or right using 1 finger | VO+Left or Right Arrow |
| Move to first icon on Home screen | Move finger to top left corner of screen | N/A |
| Move to first item in dock | Move finger to bottom left corner of screen | N/A |
| Move to previous or next page on Home screen | Swipe left or right using 3 fingers | N/A |
| Speaks the current page number and position | Tap once using 3 fingers | N/A |
| Scroll up or down in a multi-page document or list | Swipe up or down using 3 fingers | N/A |
| When in an app, switch to next or previous app | Swipe left or right using 4 fingers | Command+Tab or Command+Shift+Tab |
| Open or close app switcher | Press Home button twice or swipe up or down using 4 fingers | VO+H pressed twice quickly |
| Move to new running app when app switcher is open | Flick left or right to desired app. | VO+Right or Left Arrow |
| Open new app from app switcher | Double tap | VO+Space |
| Remove app from app switcher | With app switcher open flick to desired app. Double tap and hold. Lift off and double tap again | N/A |
| Move to home screen | Press Home button | VO+H |
| Return to previous screen, cancel, close pop-up | Scrub back and forth using 2 fingers | Escape |
| Move to the status bar | Move finger to top part of screen | VO+M |
| Move across status bar | Swipe left or right | Right or left arrow when on status bar |
| Open notification center | Select the status bar and swipe 3 fingers down. | N/A |

Entering Text

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| **Action** | **Gesture** | **Keyboard Command** |
| Standard Typing | Set Rotor to standard. Flick left or right to move through the letters. Double tap to enter the character. Or put thumb on top right corner, move finger over keys with left hand. Use thumb to double tap on desired letter | N/A |
| Touch Typing | Set Rotor to touch. Move finger across keyboard to locate correct letter. Release to enter character | N/A |
| Activate non-character keys | Move finger or flick left/right to locate the non-character key (e.g. Return). Double tap to activate command | Use keyboard keys |
| Move the insertion point | Set Rotor to characters or words. Flick up or down to move the insertion point accordingly | VO+Up and Down Arrows |
| Dictate into an edit field | Double tap with 2 fingers to start and again to stop | N/A |

Editing Text

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| **Action** | **Gesture** | **Keyboard Command** |
| Select word | Set rotor to Edit. Flick to Select. Double tap | Shift+Option+right/left arrow |
| Select words, characters, lines, paragraph | Set rotor to Edit. Flick to Select. Pinch out to select text. Pinch in to deselect | Select character – Shift+right/left arrow  Select line – Shift+up/down arrow  Select paragraph – Shift+Option+ up/down arrow |
| Select All | Set rotor to Edit. Flick to Select All. Double tap. | Shift+Command+A |
| Cut, copy, paste | Select text. Flick to choose action. Double tap | Select text.  Copy – Command+C  Cut – Command+X  Paste – Command+V |
| Copy last spoken text to clipboard | 3 finger quadruple tap (new in IOS 7) | N/A |

Rotor Options

To activate the Rotor using gestures and move through the categories, put two fingers on the screen and twist left or right

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| **Environment** | **Rotor Options** | **Actions (Flick up or down)** |
| Editable document | Character,  Word  Line  Heading  Typing mode  Edit  Containers | Reads by character  Reads by word  Reads by line  Reads by heading  Standard or touch typing  Select, select all, cut, copy, paste  Moves between menu options and edit field |
| Web page | Links  Form controls  Words  Lines  Characters  Headings  Edit (when in a form)  Containers | Moves through links. Double tap to activate  Moves through form controls. Double tap to activate  Reads by word  Reads by line  Reads by character  Moves by headings  Pastes text that has been copied  Moves between panes on screen |

Safari

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| **Action** | **Gesture** | **Keyboard Command** |
| Move to top of page | Move finger to the top of the screen and swipe left or right | N/A on wireless keyboard |
| Read through elements on web page | Flick left or right | VO+left or right arrow |
| Move through links | Set rotor to links. Flick up or down. Double tap to open | VO+up or down arrow |
| Move through forms | Set rotor to forms. Flick up or down. Double tap to open | VO+up or down arrow |
| Search | Swipe to search field. Double tap to edit. Type search query. Swipe to Search on keyboard. Double tap | Type search query. Press Return |
| Dismiss pop up | Move finger to left side of screen above keyboard. Double tap | Press Escape |

Help

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| **Action** | **Gesture** | **Keyboard Command** |
| VoiceOver Gestures and Practice | 4 finger double tap. New in IOS 7. Works from anywhere | N/A |
| Speak Hints | As above but swipe to Speak hints and double tap with one finger | N/A |
| Keyboard Help | N/A | VO+K (keyboard description) VO+K (hold VO keys and press other keys for VO commands) Escape to exit |

Quick Nav

Quick Nav allows the user to control VoiceOver using the arrow keys on an external keyboard. Using Safari, Quick Nav allows the user to navigate a web page using single letter keys. Many users find Quick Nav easier than gestures for changing the rotor settings. Quick Nav does not work without an external keyboard. Quick Nav is off by default

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| VoiceOver Action | Quick Nav Keys |
| Turn Quick Nav on or off | Left Arrow + Right Arrow |
| Change the rotor settings | Up Arrow + Left Arrow or Up Arrow + Right Arrow |
| Select the next or previous item | Right Arrow or Left Arrow |
| Select the next or previous item specified by the rotor setting | Up Arrow or Down Arrow |
| Select the first or last item | Control–Up Arrow or Control–Down Arrow |
| “Tap” an item | Up Arrow + Down Arrow |
| Scroll up, down, left, or right | Option + Up Arrow, Option + Down Arrow, Option +Left Arrow, or Option + Right Arrow |

Quick Nav & Safari

When on a web page the following keys allow the user to move between various elements using single letter navigation. Use Shift + the letter to move back

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| Turn Quick Nav on or Off | Left Arrow + Right Arrow |
| H | Heading |
| L | Link |
| R | Text Field |
| B | Button |
| C | Form Control |
| I | Image |
| T | Table |
| S | Static text |
| W | ARIA Landmark |
| X | List |
| M | Element of the same type |
| 1 | Heading level 1 |
| 2 | Heading Level 2 |
| 3 | Heading level 3 |
| 4 | Heading Level 4 |
| 5 | Heading Level 5 |
| 6 | Heading Level 6 |