



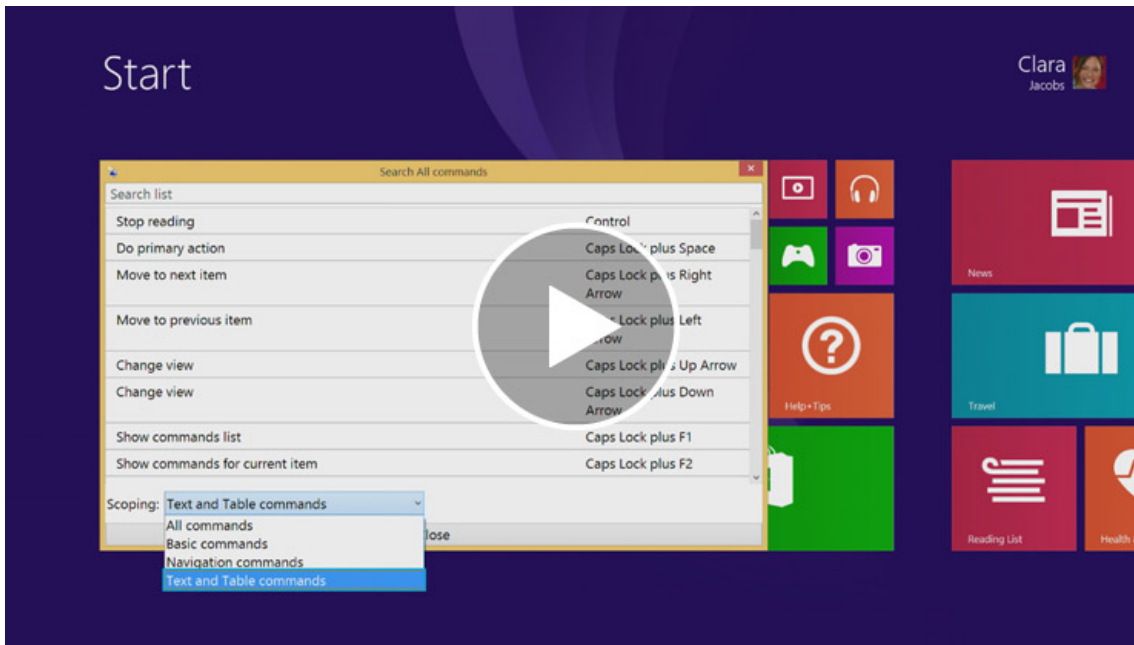
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# Hear text read aloud with Narrator

Windows 8.1, Windows RT 8.1



Watch a video about how to hear text read aloud with Narrator. (To view captions in your language, tap or click the **Closed captioning** button .)

Narrator is a screen reader that reads text on the screen aloud and describes events like error messages so you can use your PC without a display.

## Note

Narrator is available in English (United States, United Kingdom, and India), French, Italian, German, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin (Chinese Simplified and Chinese Traditional), Cantonese (Chinese Traditional), Spanish (Spain and Mexico), Polish, Russian, and Portuguese (Brazil).

## Starting Narrator

There are different ways to start Narrator. These are the four ways many people prefer:

- On a keyboard, press the Windows logo key +Enter.
- On a tablet, press the Windows logo button and Volume Up button together.
- On the sign-in screen, tap or click the **Ease of access** button in the lower-left corner and choose Narrator.
- Swipe in from the right edge of the screen, tap **Settings**, and then tap **Change PC settings**.  
(If you're using a mouse, point to the upper-right corner of the screen, move the mouse pointer down, click **Settings**, and then click **Change PC settings**.) Tap or click **Ease of Access**, tap or click **Narrator**, and then move the slider under **Narrator** to turn it on.



**Tips**

If you want to get started right away, press Caps Lock+F1 after you open Narrator, or tap the touchscreen three times with four fingers. This will show you all of the Narrator commands.

If you want to use Caps Lock to capitalize letters while you're using Narrator, press the Caps Lock key twice in quick succession.

**Exiting Narrator**

There are also different ways to exit Narrator. These are the two shortcuts many people prefer:

- On a keyboard, press the Windows logo key  +Enter.
- On a tablet, press the Windows logo button  and Volume Up button together.

**New touch gestures**

Windows 8.1 and Windows RT 8.1 have new actions and new locations for common commands. Here are a few important gestures to get you started.

**Use this touch gesture****To do this**


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Swipe in from the right edge with one finger

Open the charms (Search, Share, Start, Devices, Settings)

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Swipe in from the left edge with one finger

Switch apps, snap them to the side, and close them

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Swipe in from the top or bottom edge with one finger

Show app commands like Save, Edit, and Delete

---

**Note**

The press and hold gesture isn't supported in Narrator.

**New keyboard shortcuts**

Windows 8.1 and Windows RT 8.1 have new keyboard shortcuts too. Here are a few helpful ones.

**Use this keyboard shortcut****To do this**


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Windows logo key  +C


Open the charms (Search, Share, Start, Devices, Settings)

---

Windows logo key  +Z

Show app commands like Save, Edit, and Delete

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Windows logo key  +period

Snap apps to the side

---

Windows logo key  +Tab or Alt+Tab

Switch apps

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## Narrator settings

You can change settings for Narrator in PC settings. To find these settings:

1. Swipe in from the right edge of the screen, tap **Settings**, and then tap **Change PC settings**.  
(If you're using a mouse, point to the upper-right corner of the screen, move the mouse pointer down, click **Settings**, and then click **Change PC settings**.)
2. Tap or click **Ease of Access**, and then change any of the following settings.

### Hear what's on the screen

- **Narrator.** Use this slider to turn Narrator on or off.
- **Start narrator automatically.** You can choose whether Narrator starts automatically each time you sign in.

### Voice

- **Choose a voice.** With this drop-down menu you can select different types of voices in Narrator, if they're available in your language.
- **Speed.** You can change the speed of the voice with this slider.
- **Pitch.** You can change the pitch of the voice with this slider.

### Sounds you hear

- **Read hints for controls and buttons.** You can choose whether Narrator will read hints about how to interact with common items such as buttons, links, list items, and sliders.
- **Characters you type.** You can choose whether or not Narrator reads each key you enter
- **Words you type.** Choose whether or not Narrator reads the words that you type.
- **Lower the volume of other apps when Narrator is running.** This option makes other apps quieter so it's easier to hear Narrator.
- **Play audio cues.** This option turns on the extra sounds that Narrator plays when you do certain actions.


### Cursor and keys

- **Highlight the cursor.** This option lets you show or hide the box that highlights where Narrator is on your screen.
- **Have insertion point follow Narrator.** This option lets you show or hide the box that highlights where Narrator is on your screen.
- **Activate keys on touch keyboard when I lift my finger off the keyboard.** If touch mode is available, you can turn this setting on so you can type faster using the touch keyboard. With this setting, you can drag to search for the item you're looking for and lift your finger to press the key.

## Keyboard commands

### Use this keyboard shortcut

### To do this

Ctrl	Stop reading
Windows logo key  +Enter	Exit Narrator
Caps Lock+Space	Do primary action
Caps Lock+Right arrow	Move to next item
Caps Lock+Left Arrow	Move to previous item
Caps Lock+Up arrow	Change view
Caps Lock+Down arrow	Change view

Caps Lock + A	Change verbosity mode
Caps Lock+F1	Show commands list
Caps Lock+F2	Show commands for current item
Caps Lock+F3	Jump to next cell in row
Caps Lock+Shift+F3	Jump to previous cell in row
Caps Lock+F4	Jump to next cell in column
Caps Lock+Shift+F4	Jump to previous cell in column
Caps Lock+F5	Read which row and column Narrator is in
Caps Lock+F6	Jump to table cell
Caps Lock+F7	Read current column
Caps Lock+F8	Read current row
Caps Lock+F9	Read current column header
Caps Lock+F10	Read current row header
Caps Lock+F11	Toggle touch mode on/off
Caps Lock+F12	Toggle keystroke announcements
Caps Lock+Z	Lock Narrator Key
Caps Lock+X	Pass keys to app
Caps Lock+V	Repeat last phrase
Caps Lock+Page Up	Increase voice volume
Caps Lock+Page Down	Decrease voice volume
Caps Lock+Plus	Increase voice speed

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Caps Lock+Minus	Decrease voice speed
Caps Lock+D	Read item
Caps Lock+F	Read item advanced
Caps Lock+S	Read item spelled out or read detailed reading for Japanese or Korean
Caps Lock+W	Read Window
Caps Lock+R	Read all items in containing area
Caps Lock+Q	Move to last item in containing area
Caps Lock+G	Move Narrator cursor to system cursor
Caps Lock+T	Move Narrator cursor to pointer
Caps Lock+Tilde	Set focus to item
Caps Lock+Backspace	Go back one item
Caps Lock+Insert	Jump to linked item
Caps Lock+M	Start reading
Caps Lock+Close bracket	Read text from start to cursor
Caps Lock+0 (zero)	Read text attributes
Caps Lock+H	Read document
Caps Lock+U	Read next page
Caps Lock+Ctrl+U	Read current page
Caps Lock+Shift+U	Read previous page
Caps Lock+l	Read next paragraph
Caps Lock+Ctrl+l	Read current paragraph

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Caps Lock+Shift+I	Read previous paragraph
Caps Lock+O	Read next line
Caps Lock+Ctrl+O	Read current line
Caps Lock+Shift+O	Read previous line
Caps Lock+P	Read next word
Caps Lock+Ctrl+P	Read current word
Caps Lock+Shift+P	Read previous word
Caps Lock+Open bracket	Read next character
Caps Lock+Ctrl+Open bracket	Read current character
Caps Lock+Shift+Open bracket	Read previous character
Caps Lock+J	Jump to next heading
Caps Lock+Shift+J	Jump to previous heading
Caps Lock+K	Jump to next table
Caps Lock+Shift+K	Jump to previous table
Caps Lock+L	Jump to next link
Caps Lock+Shift+L	Jump to previous link
Caps Lock+Y	Move to beginning of text
Caps Lock+B	Move to end of text
Caps Lock+C	Read current date/time

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## Touch commands

If you have a new PC that supports four or more contact points, you can use touch commands to control your PC.

## Use this touch command

## To do this

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Swipe left/right with one finger

Move to next or previous item

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Swipe up/down with one finger

Change move increment

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Tap or drag a single finger

Read what's under your finger

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Double-tap with one finger

Activate primary action

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Triple-tap with one finger

Activate secondary action

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Swipe left/right/up/down with two fingers

Scroll

---

Tap with two fingers

Stop Narrator from reading

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Double-tap with two fingers

Show context menu

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Hold with one finger and tap with a second

Activate primary action

---

Hold with one finger and double-tap with a second

Activate secondary action

---

Swipe left/right with three fingers

Tab forward and backward

---

Swipe up with three fingers

Read current window

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Swipe down with three fingers

Start reading explorable text

---

Tap with three fingers

Change verbosity mode

---

Double-tap with three fingers

Read Text Attributes

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Hold with one finger and tap with two other fingers

Start dragging or extra key options

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Swipe left/right with four fingers

Move Narrator cursor to beginning / end of unit

---

Swipe up/down with four fingers

Turn zoom on/off

---

Tap with four fingers

Show commands for current item

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Double-tap with four fingers

Toggle search mode

Triple-tap with four fingers

Show Narrator commands list

#### Note

Narrator provides basic screen-reading capabilities so you can use Windows when you don't have a more comprehensive screen reader. Narrator isn't designed to read content in all apps. For more info about screen readers and other assistive technologies, go to the [Microsoft Accessibility](#) website.

## Need more help?

See all support pages for [personalization & ease of access](#).

Ask a question in the [community forums](#).

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