

VoiceOver Gestures for iPad

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Apple VoiceOver Resources

The content in this document comes primarily from Apple's [Learn VoiceOver gestures on iPad](#) webpage. Some gestures have been removed or added. Some descriptions have been altered for clarity.

Below is a collection of iPad VoiceOver resources from Apple.

- [Learn VoiceOver gestures on iPad](#)
- [Operate iPad using VoiceOver gestures](#)
- [Control VoiceOver using the rotor on iPad](#)

You may also find these keyboard and braille display cheat sheets helpful.

- [iOS Keyboard Commands and Data Collection Sheet](#)
- [iOS Focus 40 Commands and Data Collection Sheet](#)

Basic Navigation

To explore the screen, drag your finger over it. VoiceOver speaks the name of each item you touch.

You can also use VoiceOver gestures to explore the screen in order, from top to bottom and left to right.

Action	Gesture
Unlock iPad	Drag up from the bottom edge of the screen until you hear two rising tones. Enter passcode. iPads with Home button: Press the Home button. Enter passcode.
Select the next item	Swipe right
Select the previous item	Swipe left
Activate the selected item	Double-tap
Scroll left one page	Three-finger swipe right
Scroll right one page	Three-finger swipe left
Scroll up one page	Three-finger swipe down
Scroll down one page	Three-finger swipe up
Pause or continue speaking	Two-finger tap
Go to Home Screen	Drag one finger up from the bottom edge of the screen until you hear two rising tones, then lift your finger. iPads with Home button: Press the Home button
Open App Switcher	Drag one finger up from the bottom edge of the screen
Move from one open app to another	Four-finger swipe left or right

Explore and speak items on the screen

Action	Gesture
Speak the entire screen from the top	Two-finger swipe up
Speak the entire screen from the selected item	Two-finger swipe down
Announce current position. Speak additional information, such as the position within a list or whether text is selected.	Three-finger tap
Move to top of screen or document	Select the time at the top of the screen then double-tap with one finger

Use the VoiceOver rotor

You can use the rotor to change VoiceOver settings, jump from one item to the next on the screen, select special input methods such as Braille Screen Input or Handwriting, and more. For details, see [Control VoiceOver using the rotor on iPad](#).

Use these gestures to use the rotor.

Action	Gesture
Choose a rotor setting	Two-finger rotation
Move to the previous item or increase (depending on the rotor setting)	Swipe up
Move to the next item or decrease (depending on the rotor setting)	Swipe down

Writing and Editing

Action	Gesture
Move by Rotor (defined by Rotor choice)	One finger, Swipe up (move back) or down (move ahead)
Place cursor at start or end of page	After entering the text field, double-tap. The cursor will be moved to the start of the document. Double-tap again and the cursor will be moved to the end of the document.
Select text	Place 2 fingers on the screen and pinch in (select ahead of the cursor) or move fingers apart (select behind the cursor). The cursor will move according to the rotor is setting.

Take action on an item

Use VoiceOver gestures to perform actions on an item.

Action	Gesture
Drag a slider	Tap the slider to select it, then swipe up or down with one finger; or double-tap and hold the slider until you hear three rising tones, then drag the slider
Start or stop the current action (for example, play or pause music or a video, take a photo in Camera, start or stop a recording, start or stop the stopwatch)	Two-finger double-tap
Dismiss an alert or return to the previous screen	Two-finger scrub (move two fingers back and forth three times quickly, making a "z")
Move App Icon	Tap twice and hold until you hear "Started editing". Swipe up or down with one finger to review options.

Use gestures to control VoiceOver

*Be mindful of the "Mute" and "Screen curtain" functions. These can make it difficult to access content on the iPad. Using the gesture commands listed below should restore functionality.

Action	Gesture
Open the Item Chooser Item Chooser lists interactive elements in an app or page. This can make navigating much faster.	Two-finger triple tap. To move quickly through the list of items, type a name in the search field, swipe right or left to move through the list alphabetically, or tap the table index to the right of the list and swipe up or down. To dismiss the Item Chooser without making a selection, do a two-finger scrub (move two fingers back and forth three times quickly, making a "z").
Open the VoiceOver quick settings	Two-finger quadruple tap.
Mute or unmute VoiceOver ("Speech on" or "Speech off")	Three-finger double tap. If both VoiceOver and Zoom are enabled, use the three-finger triple-tap gesture.
Turn the screen curtain on or off (When the screen curtain is on, the screen contents are active even though the display is turned off.)	Three-finger triple tap. If both VoiceOver and Zoom are enabled, use the three-finger quadruple-tap gesture.

Search, Controls, Notifications

Action	Gesture
iPad search	From Home screen, swipe down with 3 fingers
Open Control Center	Drag one finger down from the top edge of the screen until you hear two rising tones
Open Notification Center	Drag one finger down from the top edge of the screen until you hear three rising tones.