

VoiceOver

This Appendix is designed to accompany Chapter 8 of [iPhone: The Missing Manual, 3rd Edition](#). That chapter presents an introduction to VoiceOver, the iPhone 3GS feature that lets you operate and navigate the iPhone entirely by touch. The material here is excerpted from Apple's own iPhone User Guide, available as a free download [here](#):

http://manuals.info.apple.com/en_US/iPhone_User_Guide.pdf

VoiceOver describes aloud what appears onscreen, so that you can use iPhone without seeing it. VoiceOver speaks in the language specified in International settings, which may be influenced by the Region Locale setting.

Note: VoiceOver isn't available in all languages.

VoiceOver tells you about each element on the screen as it's selected. When an element is selected, it's enclosed by a black rectangle (for the benefit of those who can see the screen) and VoiceOver speaks the name or describes the item. The enclosing rectangle is referred to as the VoiceOver cursor. If text is selected, VoiceOver reads the text. If a control (such as a button or switch) is selected and Speak Hints is turned on, VoiceOver may tell you the action of the item or provide instructions for you—for example, "double-tap to open."

When you go to a new screen, VoiceOver plays a sound and automatically selects and speaks the first element of the screen (typically, the item in the upper-left corner). VoiceOver also lets you know when the display changes to landscape or portrait, and when the screen is locked or unlocked.

Setting Up VoiceOver

Important: VoiceOver changes the gestures used to control iPhone. Once VoiceOver is turned on, you have to use VoiceOver gestures to operate iPhone—even to turn VoiceOver off again to resume standard operation.

Turn VoiceOver on or off: In Settings, choose General→Accessibility→VoiceOver and tap the VoiceOver On/Off switch.

You can also set Triple-click Home to turn VoiceOver on or off. See page 14 of [iPhone: The Missing Manual](#).

Note: You cannot use VoiceOver and Zoom at the same time.

- **Turn spoken hints on or off:** In Settings, choose General→Accessibility→VoiceOver, and tap the Speak Hints On/Off switch. Spoken hints are turned on by default.
- **Set the VoiceOver speaking rate:** In Settings, choose General→Accessibility→VoiceOver, and adjust the Speaking Rate slider.

You can choose what kind of feedback you get when you type. You can set VoiceOver to speak characters, words, both, or nothing. If you choose to hear both characters and words, VoiceOver speaks each character as you type it, then speaks the whole word when you finish it by entering a space or punctuation.

- **Choose typing feedback:** In Settings, choose General→Accessibility→VoiceOver→Typing Feedback, then choose Characters, Words, Characters and Words, or Nothing.
- **Change the language spoken by VoiceOver:** In Settings, choose General→International→Language, then select a language and tap OK. Some languages may be influenced by the Region Local setting. In Settings, choose General→International→Region Format and select the format.

Note: VoiceOver isn't available in all languages.

- **Practice gestures:** In Settings, choose General→Accessibility→VoiceOver→Practice Gestures, then tap Practice VoiceOver Gestures. Practice the gestures described in “VoiceOver Gestures,” below. When you're finished practicing, tap Done.

VoiceOver Gestures

When VoiceOver is turned on, the standard touchscreen gestures have different effects. These and some additional gestures allow you to move around the screen and to control the individual elements when they're selected.

VoiceOver gestures include using two and three fingers to tap or flick. For best results when using two- and three- finger gestures, relax and let your fingers touch the screen with some space between your fingers.

You can use standard gestures when VoiceOver is turned on, by double-tapping and holding your finger on the screen. A series of tones indicates that normal gestures are in force. They remain in effect until you lift your finger. Then VoiceOver gestures resume.

You can use many different techniques to enter VoiceOver gestures. For example, you can enter a two-finger tap using two fingers from one hand, or one finger from each hand. You can also use your thumbs. Try different techniques to discover which works best for you.

If your gestures don't work, try quicker movements, especially for double-tap and flicking gestures. To flick, try quickly brushing the screen with your finger or fingers. You can practice VoiceOver gestures in Settings: choose General→Accessibility→VoiceOver→Practice Gestures and tap the Practice VoiceOver Gestures button.

Here's a summary of key VoiceOver gestures:

Navigate and Read

- Tap: Speak item.
- Flick right or left: Select the next or previous item.
- Flick up or down: Depends on the Rotor Control setting. See "Rotor Control" on page xx.
- Two-finger tap: Stop speaking the current item.
- Two-finger flick up: Read all from top of screen.
- Two-finger flick down: Read all from current position.
- Three-finger flick up or down: Scroll one page at a time.
- Three-finger flick right or left: Go to the next or previous page (such as the Home screen, Stocks, or Safari).
- Three-finger tap: Speak the scroll status (which page or rows are visible).

Select and Activate

- Double-tap: Activate selected item.

- Touch an item with one finger, tap the screen with another finger (“split-tapping”): Activate item.
- Double-tap and hold (1 second) + standard gesture: Use a standard gesture.

The double-tap and hold gesture tells iPhone to interpret the subsequent gesture as standard. For example, you can double-tap and hold, then without lifting your finger, drag your finger to slide a switch.

- Two-finger double tap: Answer or end a call. Play or pause in iPod, YouTube, Voice Memos, or Photos. Take a picture (Camera). Start or pause recording in Camera or Voice Memos. Start or stop the stopwatch.
- Three-finger double tap: Mute or unmute VoiceOver.
- Three-finger triple tap: Turn the display on or off.

Do single-finger flicking gestures quickly, to distinguish them from dragging gestures.

Rotor Control

The rotor control is an invisible dial that you can use to change the results of up and down flick gestures when VoiceOver is turned on.

- **Operate the rotor:** Rotate two fingers on the iPhone screen to “turn” the dial to choose between options.

The effect of the rotor depends on what you’re doing. For example, if you’re reading text in an email you received, you can use the rotor to switch between hearing text spoken word-by-word or character-by-character when you flick up or down. If you’re browsing a webpage, use the rotor to choose whether you hear text word-by-word or character-by-character, hear just the headers, hear just the links (all of them, visited links, or links not yet visited), hear form elements, or hear descriptions of images. In other words, you can use the rotor setting to hear all the text, or to jump from one element to another of a certain type, such as headers or links.

Rotor options depend on the context of what you’re doing.

Reading text

- Select and hear text character-by-character
- Select and hear text word-by-word

Browsing a webpage

- Select and hear text character-by-character
- Select and hear text word-by-word
- Select and hear headers
- Select and hear links
- Select and hear form controls
- Select and hear visited links
- Select and hear links not visited
- Select and hear images
- Select and hear static text
- Zoom in or out

Entering text

- Move insertion point and hear text character-by-character
- Move insertion point and text word-by-word
- Text editing functions
- Auto-text

Using a control (such as the clock-setting spinner)

- Select and hear value character-by-character
- Select and hear value word-by-word
- Adjust the value of the control object

Using VoiceOver

- **Select items on the screen:** Drag your finger over the screen. VoiceOver identifies each element as you touch it. You can also move systematically from one element to the next by flicking left or right with a single finger. Elements are selected from left- to-right, top-to-bottom. Flick right to go to the next element, or flick left to go to the previous element.

- **“Tap” a selected item when VoiceOver is turned on:** Double-tap anywhere on the screen.
- **Speak the text of an element, character by character or word by word:** With the element selected, flick up or down with one finger. Flick down to read the next character, or flick up to read the previous character. Twist the rotor control to read word by word.
- **Adjust a slider:** With a single finger, flick up to increase the setting or down to decrease the setting. VoiceOver announces the setting as you adjust it.
- **Scroll a list or area of the screen:** Flick up or down with three fingers. Flick down to page down through the list, or flick up to page up through the list. When paging through a list, VoiceOver speaks the range of items displayed (for example, “showing rows 5 through 10”). You can also scroll continuously through a list, instead of paging through it. Double-tap and hold. When you hear a series of tones, you can move your finger up or down to scroll the list. Continuous scrolling stops when you lift your finger.
- **Use a list index:** Some lists have an alphabetical index along the right side. The index cannot be selected by flicking between elements; you must touch the index directly to select it. With the index selected, flick up or down to move along the index. You can also double-tap, then slide your finger up or down.
- **Unlock iPhone:** Select the Unlock switch, then double-tap the screen.
- **Rearrange the Home screen:** On the Home screen select the icon you want to move. Double-tap and hold, then drag the icon. VoiceOver speaks the row and column position as you drag the icon. Release the icon when it’s in the location you want. You can drag additional icons. Drag an item to the left or right edge of the screen to move it to another page of the Home screen. When you’re finished rearranging the icons, press the Home button.
- **Mute VoiceOver:** Double-tap with three fingers. Double-tap again with three fingers to turn speaking back on. To turn off only VoiceOver sounds, set the Ring/Silent switch to Silent.
- **Stop speaking an item:** Tap once with two fingers. Tap again with two fingers to resume speaking. Speaking automatically resumes when you select another item.

- **Turn off the display while you use VoiceOver:** Triple-tap with three fingers. Triple-tap again with three fingers to turn on the display again.
- **Speak entire screen from the top:** Flick up with two fingers.
- **Speak from current item to bottom of screen:** Flick down with two fingers.

Status information about iPhone can be heard by touching the top of the screen. This can include the time, battery life, Wi-Fi signal strength, and more.

Entering and Editing Text

When you select a text field with VoiceOver, you can use the onscreen keyboard to enter text. You can use the editing features of iPhone to cut, copy, or paste in the text field.

Note: Safari doesn't support copying webpage content. The editing features work only in editable text fields.

Enter text:

1. Use VoiceOver to select an editable text field, then double tap to display the insertion point and bring up the onscreen keyboard. If the field already contains text, the insertion point is placed at the beginning or at the end of the text. Double-tap again to place the insertion point at the opposite end. VoiceOver tells you the position of the insertion point.

The insertion point and onscreen keyboard may appear automatically when you select a text field. VoiceOver announces when you're in editing mode.

2. To type, select a key on the keyboard by flicking left or right, then double-tap to enter the character. Or drag your finger around the keyboard to select a key, and, while holding the key with one finger, tap the screen with another finger to enter the character. VoiceOver speaks the key when it's selected, and again when it's entered.

To enter an accented character, double-tap and hold until you hear a sound that indicates the alternate characters have appeared, then drag left or right to select and hear the choices. Release your finger to enter the current selection.

Move the insertion point: Flick up or down to move the insertion point forward or backward in the text. VoiceOver makes a sound when the insertion point moves, and speaks the character that the insertion point moved across. Use the rotor to choose whether you want to move the insertion point by character or by word.

Select text: Use the rotor to choose edit. Flick up or down to choose between the Select and Select All functions, then double tap. If you chose Select, the word closest to the insertion point is selected when you double-tap. If you chose Select All, the entire text is selected.

Pinch to increase or decrease the selection.

Cut, Copy, or Paste: Make sure the rotor is set to edit. With text selected, flick up or down to choose Cut, Copy, or Paste, then double-tap.

Undo: Shake iPhone, flick left or right to choose the action to undo, then double-tap.

Using Maps

With VoiceOver, you can zoom in or out, select pins, and get information about locations.

- **Zoom in or out:** Use the rotor to choose zoom mode, then flick up or down to zoom in or out.
- **Select a pin:** Touch a pin, or flick left or right to move from one item to another.
- **Get information about a location:** With a pin selected, double-tap to display the information flag. Flick left or right to select the flag, then double-tap to display the information page.

Editing Videos and Voice Memos

You can use VoiceOver gestures to trim Camera videos and Voice Memo recordings.

- **Trim a voice memo:** On the Voice Memos screen, select the button to the right of the memo you want to trim, then double-tap. Then select Trim Memo and double-tap. Select the beginning or end of the trim tool. Flick up to drag to the right, or flick down to drag to the left. VoiceOver announces the amount of time the current position will trim from the recording. To execute the trim, select Trim Voice Memo and double-tap.
- **Trim a video:** While viewing a video, double-tap the screen to display the video controls. Select the beginning or end of the trim tool. Then

flick up to drag to the right, or flick down to drag to the left. VoiceOver announces the amount of time the current position will trim from the recording. To execute the trim, select Trim and double-tap.