

# TECH TALK

## Smartphone Accessibility Features That Make Life Better



Accessibility Features You Can Use Today





# SESSION GOALS

**By the end of this session, participants will:**

- **Understand what accessibility features are and why they benefit everyone**
- **Discover key features for vision, hearing, mobility, and cognitive support**
- **Compare iPhone and Android accessibility tools**
- **Learn how to turn on and customize accessibility settings**
- **Gain confidence in using their phone to increase independence and ease**







# ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES HELP EVERYONE

Examples of who benefits:

- 🧓 Older adults using larger text or voice commands
- 🧠 People with ADHD using reminders, focus modes, or guided access
- 🤕 Temporary injury? Use Voice Control when you can't tap
- 🧑‍🦻 Deaf and hard-of-hearing users relying on live captions and visual alerts
- 👁️ Low vision users navigating via VoiceOver or TalkBack

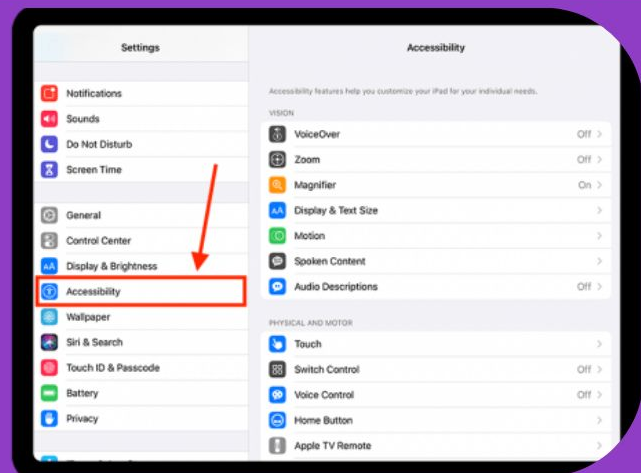
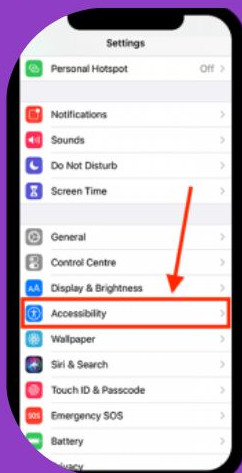
📌 These are built into your phone — no extra downloads required.

Go to: **Settings** → **Accessibility**

### Key features:

- VoiceOver: Screen reader that speaks everything on screen
- Zoom and Magnifier: Makes everything larger
- Spoken Content: Reads what's on screen aloud
- Display & Text Size: Increase contrast, bold text, reduce motion
- Sound Recognition: Alerts for doorbells, alarms, crying
- Live Captions: Real-time captions for any audio
- AssistiveTouch: Use on-screen buttons instead of physical ones
- Back Tap: Tap the back of your phone to trigger actions (e.g., screenshot, flashlight)

# IPHONE ACCESSIBILITY (IOS)



Go to: **Settings** → **Accessibility** (*menu names may vary by device*)

**Key features:**

- TalkBack: Screen reader for blind/low vision users
  - Magnification: Triple-tap to zoom or use floating magnifier
  - Live Transcribe: Converts speech to text in real time
  - Sound Amplifier: Boosts and clarifies audio with headphones
  - Action Blocks: Create simple tap-to-do tasks for users with cognitive disabilities
  - Accessibility Menu: Large-button control for basic functions (volume, lock, recent apps)
  - Switch Access: Use external switches or facial gestures to control the phone
- 📌 Android's customization is ideal for specific needs or older users.

# ANDROID ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS



TalkBack

# TOOLS FOR VISION SUPPORT

<b>Feature</b>	<b>iPhone</b>	<b>Android</b>
Screen Reader	VoiceOver	TalkBack
Zoom/Magnifier	Zoom + Magnifier app	Magnification gesture/tool
Text Size/Contrast	Bold text, Color Filters	Font size, High Contrast Text
Speak Selection	Speak Screen/Content	Select-to-Speak

# TOOLS FOR HEARING SUPPORT

Feature	iPhone	Android
Sound Recognition	Detects sirens, knocks, etc.	Sound Notifications in Live Transcribe
Live Captions	Auto captions for media/speech	Built-in captions + Live Captions
Audio Balance & Mono	Customize left/right channels	Audio balance and mono toggle
Flash Alerts	Flash LED for incoming alerts	Flashlight notifications

📌 Captions help with more than hearing — they boost understanding and reduce fatigue.

# TIME-SAVING ACCESSIBILITY SHORTCUTS

Shortcut Type	iPhone (iOS)	Android
<b>Triple-Click Side Button</b>	Quickly launch VoiceOver, Zoom, Magnifier	Assign shortcut to Power or Volume keys
<b>Back Tap</b>	Double/triple tap the back to launch tools	Not available by default (can use third-party apps)
<b>Control Center / Quick Settings</b>	Add Accessibility Shortcuts	Add tile for Accessibility Menu
<b>Voice Commands</b>	“Hey Siri, turn on VoiceOver”	“Hey Google, open Magnifier”

📌 These shortcuts make accessibility tools fast, discreet, and user-friendly.

# APP-BASED ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS TO EXPLORE

App	What It Helps With
<b>Voice Dream Reader</b>	Read PDFs, webpages, and books aloud
<b>Be My Eyes</b>	Connect with volunteers for visual support
<b>Seeing AI (iOS)</b>	Describes text, people, scenes (by Microsoft)
<b>Google Lookout</b>	Android app for scanning labels, money, documents
<b>Ava / Live Transcribe</b>	Real-time captions for live conversations

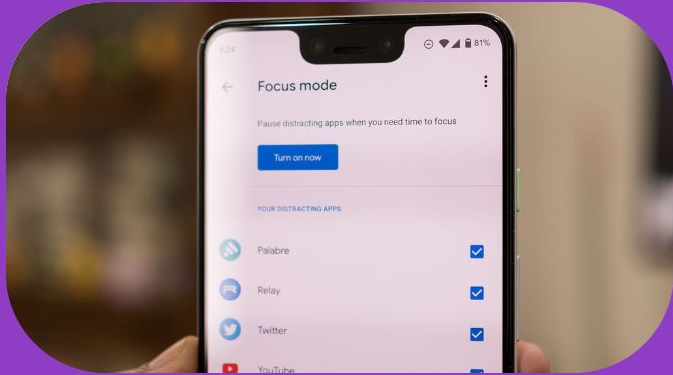
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# TOOLS FOR MOTOR & TOUCH SUPPORT



- AssistiveTouch (iOS): Use a floating menu to control the device without pressing buttons
- Switch Control (iOS) / Switch Access (Android): Use physical switches or facial movements
- Voice Control (iOS) and Google Assistant (Android): Navigate the phone hands-free
- Touch Accommodations: Adjust how screen taps are recognized (useful for tremors or coordination differences)

# TOOLS FOR COGNITIVE & DAILY LIFE SUPPORT



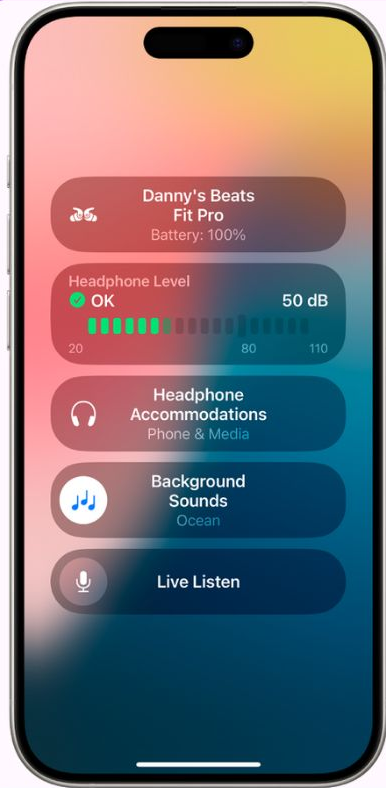
- Reminders & Alerts: With visual/audible cues, recurring reminders
- Focus Mode / Do Not Disturb: Minimize distractions, schedule quiet time
- Guided Access (iOS): Lock into one app at a time — great for kids or focus
- Action Blocks (Android): Set one-tap actions for common tasks (e.g., “Call Mom”)
- Digital Wellbeing Tools: Track screen time, set limits, prioritize balance

# CUSTOMIZATION TIPS THAT MAKE PHONES EASIER TO USE



- 🧠 Reduce Motion to limit screen animation (great for migraines or ADHD)
- 🖐️ Touch accommodations for tremors or motor delays
- 📱 Use widgets on home screens to access tools like reminders, notes, or camera quickly
- 🔴 Use Focus Modes / Do Not Disturb to reduce distractions (with visual alerts still allowed)

# GETTING STARTED WITH ACCESSIBILITY SETTINGS



1. Open Settings > Accessibility
2. Browse by category: vision, hearing, mobility, cognitive
3. Turn on one feature to try
4. Adjust settings to fit your preferences
5. Explore Help menus or YouTube tutorials for demos
6. 📌 Start with what matters most — even one feature can make a big difference.

# FINAL TAKEAWAYS

- Accessibility features are:
  - Free and built-in
  - Customizable
  - Useful for all ages and abilities
- Whether you need support for now or for later, your smartphone can adapt to your needs
- 📌 Inclusive tech = empowering tech.





# PANEL



Andrea Patrick and Phill Kirk

# Q&A



# THANK YOU





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- Poppins 25

