# iPad Accessibility Guide

## Making Education More Accessible

This guide outlines the key accessibility features built into iPad, focusing on support for **Vision**, **Hearing**, and **Motor Skills** in educational settings.

## Tools That Adapt To Every Learner

Apple technology is designed to support every learner — with built-in features that empower students of all abilities to access, engage with, and enjoy their education. Every student deserves a learning experience that is creative, collaborative, and meaningful.

iPad is more than just a device — it's a gateway to learning, creativity, and independence. With powerful accessibility tools integrated into iPadOS, students with a wide range of physical, sensory, or learning needs can interact with the curriculum in ways that work best for them. Whether supporting a student who is blind, hard of hearing, or has limited mobility, iPad offers inclusive solutions that ensure no learner is left behind.

## Removing Barriers

This guide explores how iPad supports three key areas of accessibility: Vision, Hearing, & Motor Skills. We will cover the various tools that can be utilised to enable and enhance participation, communication, and achievement within the classroom.

## Features for Vision Support

### Who Is This For?

- Students who are blind, low vision or with visual impairments.
- Learners with colour blindness or light sensitivity.

### Key features:

**VoiceOver**
A screen descriptive tool, providing auditory descriptions of each onscreen element and offering helpful hints along the way.
- Customisable gestures let students explore content with taps and swipes.
- Describes onscreen elements – buttons, icons, text, and even images.
- Supports Braille displays via Bluetooth for learners who use tactile reading.

**Display & Text Size Adjustments**
Manipulate text on-screen to meet user specifications.
- Increase text size and boldness. Enhance contrast and reduce motion.
- Apply colour filters or invert colours to reduce visual strain.

**Magnifier**
Digital magnifying glass that uses the iPad camera to zoom in on, detect and describe objects.
- Magnify your surroundings using the device camera.
- Increase the size of physical objects, textbooks or whiteboard.

**Zoom**
A built-in screen magnifier that can be activated with a simple gesture.
- Enables independent access to learning materials on the device.
- Allows up to 15x magnification of any part of the screen.

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# Features for Hearing Support

## Who Is This For?

- Students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Learners with fluctuating hearing loss - need visual reinforcement of audio content.

## Key features:

**Live Captions**
Generate real-time captions for any audio content on iPad.
- Works across FaceTime, video content, and other supported apps.
- Particularly useful in group work, presentations, and remote learning.

**Sensory Alerts**
Replace or supplement traditional audible alerts with visual or haptic feedback.
- Quiet, private notifications for students with sensory needs.
- Enables non-disruptive alerts (e.g. vibrations or flashes) to avoid drawing unnecessary attention or triggering sensory discomfort.

**Live Listen**
Turns iPad into a directional microphone.
- Allows students to better focus on a teacher's voice, especially in loud classrooms.
- Amplifies teacher's voice or peer discussion in real time.
- Hearing aid and AirPod compatible.

**Subtitles & Closed Captions**
System-wide support for captioning in videos and educational apps.
- Encourages better understanding and literacy development.
- Useful for learners in noisy environments & with English as an Additional Language.

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# Features for Motor Skill Support

## Who Is This For?

- Anyone with limited hand dexterity or coordination
  (Students with cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, or other motor conditions)
- Students who find it difficult to tap, swipe, or use multi-touch gestures.

## Key features:

### Assistive Touch
A customisable onscreen menu that lets students perform gestures with singular taps, enabling a virtual button for navigation and actions.
- Replace pinches and multi-finger swipes with simple taps.

### Switch Control
Controlling the iPad using external switches (hardware / software / camera based) to build a new interactive system for your device.
- Enables iPad use via external switches, the front camera (head movements), or screen scanning.

### Voice Control
Lets students navigate, edit text, and interact with iPad using only their voice.
- Hands-free navigation controlling the iPad using spoken commands.
- Supports navigation, text dictation, and commands including:
  Open Safari" — launches a specific app. "Scroll down" — moves the screen view.
  "Swipe left / right" — navigates through pages. "Go back" — returns to previous screen.

### Dictation
Allows users to speak instead of type, converting spoken words into written text in real time. Works system-wide – in Notes, Word, Safari, email, and more.
- Helps students structure thinking aloud, supporting memory & understanding.
- Removes barriers to writing tasks & encourages spoken word.

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## Get Started

**See how to enable these features in Settings:**

Explore our accessibility video tutorials for more information and guidance on how to get the most out of your classroom devices.

### Accessibility Shortcuts for iPad

Provides quick access to essential accessibility features such as VoiceOver, Zoom, AssistiveTouch & Switch Control.

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### Text Size for iPad

Increase system-wide font size, making text easier to read in apps, menus, and messages – Reducing visual strain.

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### Dark Mode for iPad

Reduces glare by inverting backgrounds and bright interfaces, making screens easier on the eyes.

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### Hover Text for iPad

Displays a large, high-contrast popup of any item the pointer hovers over, including buttons, text, or menu items.

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### Zoom for iPad

System-wide magnification tool. Zoom into apps, web pages, or textbooks and provide gesture-based control.

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