



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.

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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.



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 AirPods 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.



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.



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.

WATCH NOW

Text Size for iPad

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

WATCH NOW

Dark Mode for iPad

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

WATCH NOW

Hover Text for iPad

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

WATCH NOW

Zoom for iPad

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

WATCH NOW

Speak to an Expert

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EDUCATION CONSULTANTS TODAY



Our Education Consultants partner with institutions across the UK to deliver tailored Apple solutions that align with each project's financial, curriculum, and technical needs.

Ready to discuss? Reach out by email, phone, or book a meeting with our team.

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