

Connected with Care

Phone Setup for Visual Impairments

Smartphones are essential in today's world, but for those with visual impairments, using them can be challenging. Fortunately, most smartphones have built-in accessibility features to help users navigate their devices more comfortably.

This guide will show you how to adjust your loved one's phone for their needs, with instructions for both iPhones and Android devices. While settings may vary slightly depending on the model, this guide will give you a clear overview of the available features and how to use them.

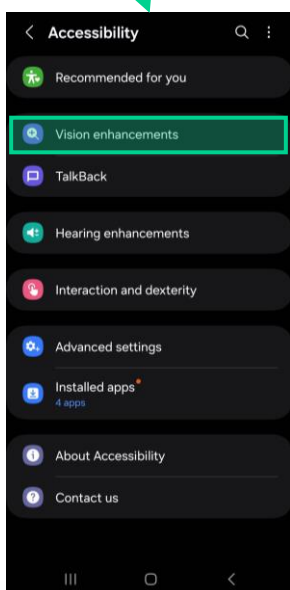
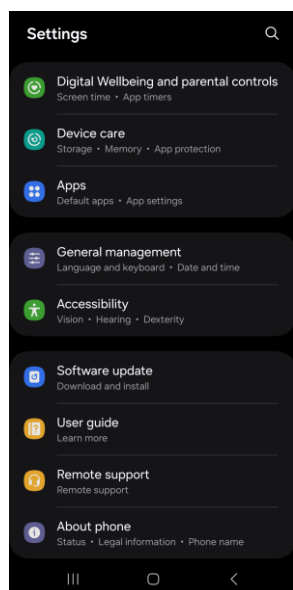
We hope this guide helps your loved one get the most out of their phone and live a more independent, fulfilling life.



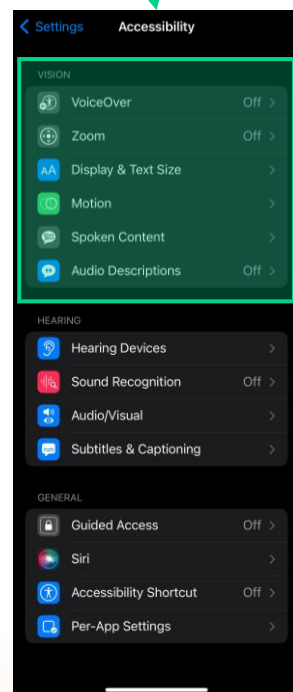
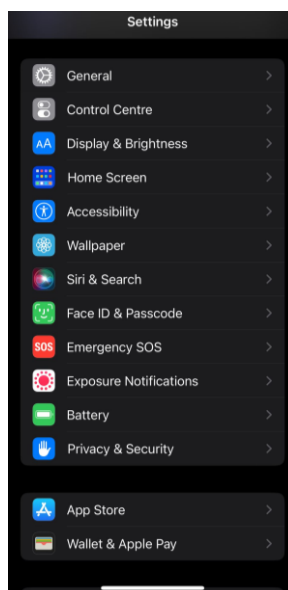
How to access the features

Go into the settings app and look for an 'accessibility' button. If you cannot locate it, try using the search bar or looking for 'additional settings'.

Android



iPhone



Android visual accessibility settings

Display mode

You may have an option of choosing already-set display mode. This can be:

- **High contrast:** dark mode, high contrast fonts, high contrast keyboard, reduced animations, reduced transparency and blur
- **Large display:** font size and screen zoom increased, bold font and highlight buttons turned on

Some models will not have a set display mode, or you might not like the specific features of it. You may also like to adjust the mode to your loved one's specific needs. The guidance below explains the specific settings.

Colours and clarity

The Colours and Clarity settings let you customise the display to make the screen easier to see and navigate. Options include **high-contrast fonts and keyboard, highlighted buttons, colour inversion, colour filters, and correction tools**. You can also **reduce screen animations, lower transparency levels, and dim the screen** beyond the usual limits. It's a good idea to explore these settings together with your loved one, so you can find the combination that best suits their specific visual needs.

Size and zoom

The size and zoom settings allow users to **adjust the size of text, icons, and other elements for better visibility**. You can increase the font size for easier reading and enable screen zoom to magnify the entire display. These options help improve readability and make it easier to interact with the phone.

Spoken assistance

Spoken assistance includes features that provide audio feedback to assist users. **Speak Keyboard Input Aloud** reads aloud the text as you type, **Audio Description** offers spoken descriptions of visual content in videos, and lets you assign voice labels to apps or contacts for easy identification. These features enhance accessibility, especially for users with visual impairments.

TalkBack

TalkBack is a screen reader that provides spoken feedback to help users with visual impairments navigate their device. It **reads aloud text, buttons, and other elements on the screen** and allows users to interact with the phone using gestures like swiping and tapping. **TalkBack** will help your loved one access and control their phone independently by providing audio descriptions of on-screen content.

VoiceAccess

VoiceAccess allows users to control their device by using voice commands, providing hands-free navigation and interaction. It enables users to perform tasks like **opening apps, scrolling through content, and tapping buttons** by simply speaking commands.

iPhone visual accessibility settings

VoiceOver

VoiceOver provides a screen reader for users with visual impairments. It **reads aloud the text and elements on the screen**, such as buttons, messages, and notifications, and allows users to navigate their device using touch gestures. VoiceOver can be customised in terms of speech rate, pitch, and verbosity.

Zoom

The **zoom feature** provides a **screen magnifier** for users with visual impairments. It allows them to zoom in on any part of the screen by double-tapping with three fingers, making text, images, and other content easier to see. The zoom level and other settings, like follow focus, can be customised to suit individual needs of the person you care for.

Display and text size

These settings allow adjustments like **increasing text size, applying bold text, and adjusting contrast** for easier readability. It also includes options like Invert Colours and Reduce Transparency, helping users tailor the display to their preferences and make text and elements more readable.

Motion

Motion settings help **reduce the movement and animation effects** on the screen, which can be helpful for users who experience motion sensitivity or discomfort. It includes options like **Reduce Motion**, which disables certain animations like parallax effects and screen transitions, and **Auto-Play Message Effects**, which stops automatic playback of message animations. These adjustments create a more stable and less distracting visual experience.

Spoken content

Spoken content provides accessibility options for users who prefer audio feedback. It includes tools like **Speak Selection**, where selected text is read aloud, and **Speak Screen**, which reads the entire screen's content when activated. Users can also adjust the speaking rate and choose different voices, making it easier to consume content through audio, whether it's reading articles, messages, or webpages.

Audio descriptions

Audio descriptions, when turned on, **automatically chooses the audio description option** when watching a video on supported apps, such as Apple TV and streaming services that use this feature. It **provides spoken descriptions of visual elements in videos**, such as actions, settings, and scene changes.

Useful mobile apps

There's a wide variety of apps available that can help make your loved one's phone more accessible and support their day-to-day life. Some apps can recognise objects, people, or products, while others offer help with navigation or daily tasks. While this guide highlights just a few options, all the apps listed here are free to use and available on both the App Store and Google Play.

TapTapSee

TapTapSee is an app developed to help those who are blind or have a visual impairment **recognise objects** through the lens of their smartphone camera. The person you care for will be able to **take a picture or a video of an object** and have it **described aloud**. It is a good option if you are looking for a simple object identifier.

Seeing AI

Seeing AI is an app that uses Artificial Intelligence to **recognise the scene around you, products, text and even faces** through the smartphone lenses. It is a good choice if you and the person you care for want a comprehensive option, however, its many features can be complicated if you are not confident with technology.

Be My Eyes

Be My Eyes is an app that **connects blind or visually impaired users with sighted volunteers** for on-the-spot support. Your loved one can select the languages they speak and, at any time of day or night, call a randomly assigned volunteer who can assist with everyday tasks that require sight - such as **reading a label, describing an object, or identifying colours**. It's a simple way to get help when it's needed most.

Lazarillo

Lazarillo is a GPS app that can help your loved one navigate when out and about. It features an easy-to-use interface with high-contrast buttons and when set up with accessibility feature of the smartphone, it can be managed by only using your voice. It shows directions to destinations using only voice commands, as well as announces current location and nearby intersections.



Notes

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