

Exploring the Accessibility Features available in Windows 11

Accessibility Features in Windows 11

Let's explore the accessibility features in Windows 11 that empower every user. Whether you're looking to enhance your screen experience, improve audio accessibility, or streamline navigation, Windows 11 has you covered. Below is a comprehensive guide. (Press *Windows Key + U* to display Windows 11 Accessibility settings.)

Vision Features

- **Text size:** Adjust the text size that appears throughout Windows and your applications.
- **Visual effects:** Turn on or off Always show scrollbars, Transparency effects, and Animation effects,
- **Mouse Pointer and Touch:**
 - Change the Mouse Pointer color and/or size
 - Turn on or off a mouse indicator when the Ctrl key is pressed
 - Turn on or off mouse pointer trails to make the mouse pointer movement easier to see
 - Turn on or off showing a shadow under the mouse pointer
 - Turn on or off showing a circle on the screen when it is touched (touchscreens only)
- **Text Cursor:**
 - Turn on or off text cursor indicators which are displayed above and below the text cursor.
 - Change the size and color of the text cursor indicators.
 - Adjust the thickness of the text cursor
- **Magnifier:** Zoom-in on words and images with Magnifier. Customize the zoom level and increment to tailor your screen experience. (Press *Windows Key + '+'* to start Magnifier.)
 - Increase the magnification level (press *Windows Key + '+'*)
 - Decrease the magnification level (*Windows Key + '-'*)
 - Change the Magnifier's View:
 - Docked (*Ctrl + Alt + D*)
 - Full screen (*Ctrl + Alt + F*)
 - Lens (*Ctrl + Alt + L*)
 - Invert the colors of the magnifier window (*Ctrl + Alt + I*)
 - Turn on or off smoothing the edges of images and text when magnified
- **Color Filters: Use a color filter to make colors on the screen easier to see and differentiate.** (*Windows Key + Ctrl + C*)
 - Adjust Intensity and Color Boost
 - Select:
 - Red-green (green weak, deuteranopia)
 - Red-green (red weak, protanopia)
 - Blue-yellow (tritanopia)
 - Grayscale
 - Grayscale inverted
 - Inverted

- **Contrast Themes** – Color themes for low vision and light sensitivity
 - **None** – No contrast themes applied
 - **Aquatic** – Dark gray background with white, sky blue, gray, blue-gray, and light-turquoise contrast colors
 - **Desert** – White background with dark gray, dark teal, gray, white, and brown contrast colors
 - **Dusk** – Blue-gray background with white, aqua, gray, blue-gray, and light blue contrast colors
 - **Night sky** – Black background with white, light blue, gray, dark gray, lavender and yellow contrast colors

NOTE: Each theme's background, text, hyperlink, inactive text, selected text, and button text colors can be changed to create your own personal contrast theme.
- **Narrator:** Windows 11's built-in screen reader, Narrator, provides natural, human-sounding voice descriptions and works seamlessly with supported braille devices. It simplifies navigation and ensures a more inclusive experience. (Press *Windows Key + Ctrl + Enter* to start and exit Narrator.)

Hearing Features

- **Audio** – Turn Mono audio on and off and enable/disable flashing the screen during audio notifications.
- **Captions** – Automatically transcribe spoken content from any audio, including microphone input. Perfect for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, live captions work across apps and even in-person conversations. (Press *Windows Key + Ctrl + L* to open the Live Captions window.)
 - **Adjust Caption Style:**
 - Text Color, Font Style, Font Size, and Opacity
 - Background Color and Opacity
 - Window Color and Opacity

NOTE: Turning on live captions will download the live captions language files. Voice data will be processed locally and your data isn't shared to the cloud.

Mobility Features

- **Voice Access:** Command and control your PC using voice commands. Open apps, browse the web, read, and author emails—all without a mouse or keyboard. (Press *Windows Key + Ctrl + S* to turn voice access on or off.)
- **Keyboard:**
 - **Sticky keys** – Press keyboard shortcuts that use multiple keys (such as *Ctrl + S*) one key at a time.
 - **Filter keys** – Set the sensitivity of the keyboard so it can ignore brief or repeated keystrokes.
 - **Toggle keys** – Play a sound when you press *caps lock*, *num lock*, or *scroll lock* keys.
 - **On-screen keyboard** – Press *Windows Key + Ctrl + O* to turn the on-screen keyboard on or off.
 - **Underline access keys** – When this is turned on, access keys will be underlined even when not holding down the Alt key.
 - **Print screen key** – Turn on or off using the Print screen key to open screen capture.

- **Mouse:**

- **Snap to default button** – Move the mouse pointer to the default button when opening a supported dialog box.
- **Hide pointer when typing** – Hide the mouse pointer when typing in supported applications.
- **Double click speed** – Adjust the amount of time needed between two clicks to make them a double click.
- **Click lock** – Enables highlighting or dragging without holding down the mouse button.
- **Activate on hover** – Change which window receives keyboard input without clicking.
- **Mouse keys** – Use your numeric keyboard to move the mouse pointer.

Learn More

- [Windows 11 Accessibility Features | Microsoft](#)
 - [Meet Windows 11: Accessibility - Microsoft Support](#)
 - [Accessibility Features and Tips | Microsoft Windows](#)
 - [Windows accessibility information for IT Pros - Configure Windows | Microsoft Learn](#)
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