

Screen Reader Comparison Chart

JAWS vs NVDA vs Narrator (Windows 11)

Designed for accessibility professionals, AT evaluations, and client-friendly explanations.

\$ Cost

<u>Feature</u>	<u>JAWS</u>	<u>NVDA</u>	<u>Narrator</u>
Price	Paid (annual or perpetual)	Free	Free (built-in)
Licensing	Per-device or enterprise	Open source	Included with Windows

Platform Support

<u>Feature</u>	<u>JAWS</u>	<u>NVDA</u>	<u>Narrator</u>
OS	Windows	Windows	Windows
Portable version	Yes	Yes	No
Works on login screen	Yes	Yes	Yes

Learning Curve

<u>Feature</u>	<u>JAWS</u>	<u>NVDA</u>	<u>Narrator</u>
Beginner-friendly	Moderate	Moderate	High (simplest)
Training materials	Extensive	Good	Basic
Customization depth	Very high	High	Low–moderate

Performance With Microsoft Office

<u>Feature</u>	<u>JAWS</u>	<u>NVDA</u>	<u>Narrator</u>
Word	Excellent	Very good	Good
Excel	Best-in-class	Good–very good	Improving
Outlook	Excellent	Good	Good
Teams	Very good	Good	Good

Web Browsing (Edge, Chrome, Firefox)

<u>Feature</u>	<u>JAWS</u>	<u>NVDA</u>	<u>Narrator</u>
Edge	Excellent	Very good	Good
Chrome	Excellent	Very good	Good
Firefox	Very good	Excellent	Limited

⠠ Braille Support

<u>Feature</u>	<u>JAWS</u>	<u>NVDA</u>	<u>Narrator</u>
Display support	Extensive	Extensive	Moderate
Auto-detection	Yes	Yes	Limited
Braille input	Strong	Strong	Basic

Scripting & Customization

<u>Feature</u>	<u>JAWS</u>	<u>NVDA</u>	<u>Narrator</u>
Scripting language	JAWS Script	Python add-ons	None
App-specific customization	Best available	Good	Minimal
Community add-ons	Moderate	Extensive	Minimal

Update Frequency

<u>Feature</u>	<u>JAWS</u>	<u>NVDA</u>	<u>Narrator</u>
Release cycle	Annual + monthly updates	Monthly	With Windows updates
Responsiveness to bugs	High	Very high	Moderate

Ideal Use Cases

<u>Scenario</u>	<u>JAWS</u>	<u>NVDA</u>	<u>Narrator</u>
Professional workplace	Best choice	Strong alternative	Limited
Heavy Excel/Outlook users	Top performer	Good	Fair
Budget-constrained users	Not ideal	Perfect	Built-in
Training/AT evaluations	Industry standard	Common	Good for beginners
Emergency access	40-minute mode	Portable version	Always available

Σ Summary

- **JAWS** → Best for employment, heavy Office use, scripting, and enterprise environments.
- **NVDA** → Free, powerful, highly customizable, excellent for most users.
- **Narrator** → Great built-in option, ideal for beginners or emergency access.