

Hearing-related Accessibility options on smartphones (Apple)

Live Captions

Offers real-time, on-device-generated transcriptions of conversations on Phone and FaceTime calls, and content from the web

- Capture and caption live on-person speech
- Customize live captions to size, placement, fonts, and colors to suit your needs
- Available on iPhone 11 and later when primary language is set to English (US/Canada)

Instructions (both for iOS 16 and 17):

Set up and customize Live Captions

1. Go to Settings  > Accessibility > Live Captions (Beta).
2. Turn on Live Captions, then tap Appearance to customize the text, size, and color of the captions.
3. By default, Live Captions are shown across all apps. To get live captions only for certain apps such as FaceTime or RTT, turn them on below In-App Live Captions.

See live captions

With Live Captions turned on, iPhone automatically transcribes the dialogue in apps or around you. You can do any of the following:

- Transcribe a conversation near you: Tap .
- Make the transcription window bigger: Tap . To restore the window to the smaller size, tap .
- Pause the transcription: Tap .
- Hide the transcription window: Tap . To restore the window, tap .

Sound Recognition

iPhone can continuously listen for certain sounds – such as a doorbell, siren, or a crying baby and notifies you when it recognizes these sounds

Instructions (iOS 14/15):

Set up Sound Recognition

1. Go to Settings  > Accessibility > Sound Recognition, then turn on Sound Recognition.
2. Tap Sounds, then turn on the sounds you want iPhone to recognize.

 **Tip:** To quickly turn Sound Recognition on or off, [use Control Center](#).

Instructions (IOS 16/17)

Set up Sound Recognition

1. Go to Settings  > Accessibility > Sound Recognition, then turn on Sound Recognition.
2. Tap Sounds, then turn on the sounds you want iPhone to recognize.

 **Tip:** To quickly turn Sound Recognition on or off, [use Control Center](#).

Add a custom alarm, appliance, or doorbell

You can also set up iPhone to recognize a custom alarm, appliance, or doorbell if they aren't recognized automatically.

1. Go to Settings  > Accessibility > Sound Recognition > Sounds.
2. Tap Custom Alarm or Custom Appliance or Doorbell, then enter a name.
3. When your alarm, appliance, or doorbell is ready, place iPhone near the sound and minimize background noise.
4. Tap Start Listening, then follow the onscreen instructions.

RTT/TTY

If you have hearing or speech difficulties, you can communicate by telephone using Teletype (TTY) or real time text (RTT)

iPhone defaults to built-in software RTT protocol whenever the carrier supports it

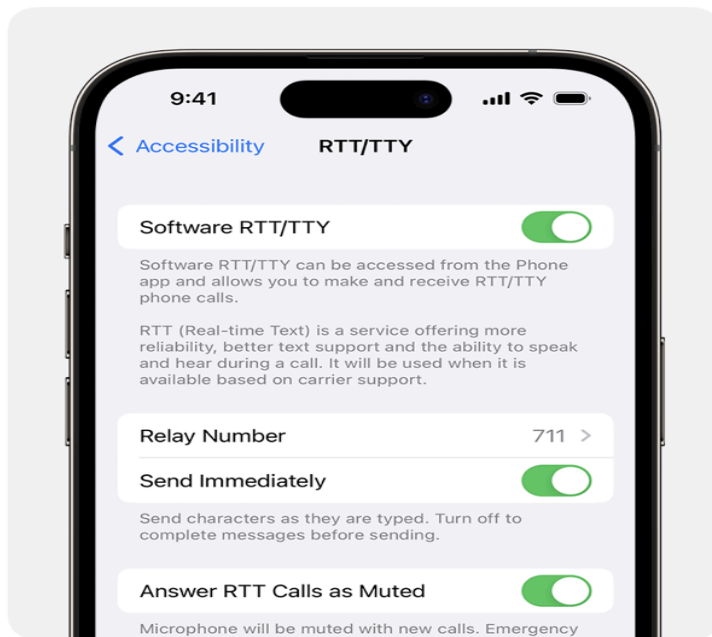
iPhone supports Hardware TTY, so you can connect iPhone to an external TTY device the iPhone TTY adapter (sold separately)

Important: RTT and TTY aren't supported by all carriers or in all countries or regions. RTT and TTY functionality depends on your carrier and network

environment. When making an emergency call in the U.S., the iPhone sends special characters or tones to alert the operator. The operator's ability to receive or respond to these tones can vary depending on your location. Apple doesn't guarantee that the operator will be able to receive or respond to an RTT or TTY call.

Set up RTT/TTY

1. Go to Settings > Accessibility > RTT/TTY.
2. Turn on Software RTT/TTY or Hardware TTY.

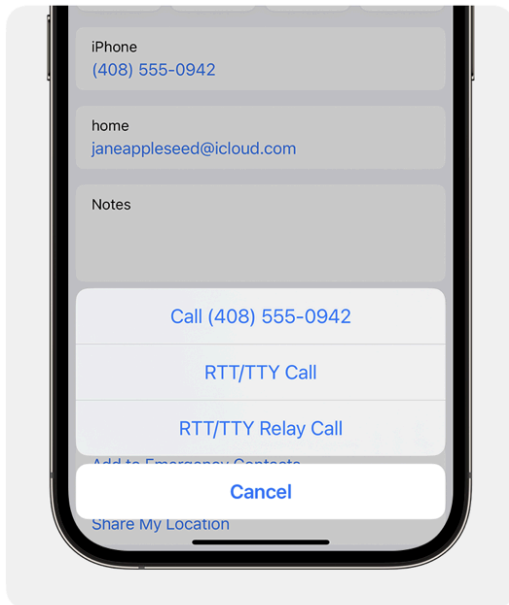


3. Tap Relay Number and enter a phone number for RTT/TTY relay calls.
4. RTT/TTY sends characters immediately as you type them. If you don't want to send text as you type, turn off Send Immediately to send full messages after you're done typing.
5. To answer every call as RTT/TTY, turn on Answer All Calls as RTT/TTY.*
6. If you want to answer and make RTT/TTY calls from an external RTT/TTY device instead of your iPhone, turn on Hardware TTY.

* If you turn on Answer All Calls as RTT/TTY, you won't get voice calls anymore.

Make or receive RTT/TTY phone calls

1. Open the Phone app.
2. Select your contact and tap their phone number.
3. Select RTT/TTY or RTT/TTY Relay.



4. Wait for the call to connect, then select RTT/TTY.



5. Enter your message.



- If you [turn on Send Immediately in Settings](#), your recipient sees your message as you type.
- If not, enter your message, then tap the Send button (↗) to send.
- Want to find shortcut phrases? As you type, choices for words and phrases you'd probably type next appear. Tap the arrow to the right of those words to find shortcut phrases, like SK for "Ready to hang up" and GA for "Go ahead."

Subtitles and closed captions

When you watch video content in the Apple TV app or another supported app, you can see subtitles and closed captions (if available). iPhone usually shows standard subtitles and captions, but you can also choose special accessible captions—such as subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing (SDH)—if available.

Turn on subtitles and captions in the Apple TV app

1. While playing video content, tap .
 2. Choose from the list of available subtitles and captions.
-

Customize the subtitles and captions in supported video apps

1. Go to Settings  > General > Accessibility > Subtitles & Captioning.
2. If you prefer closed captioning or subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing when available, turn on Closed Captions + SDH.
3. Tap Style, then choose an existing caption style or create a new style based on the following:
 - Font, size, and color
 - Background color and opacity
 - Text opacity, edge style, and highlight

MFi Hearing devices

You can use MFi hearing aids or sound processors with iPhone and adjust their settings.

MFi = Third-party hardware accessories that use Apple's MFi-licensed technology to connect to Apple devices.

Instructions (IOS 12/13/14/):

Pair a hearing device with iPhone

If your hearing devices aren't listed in Settings  > General > Accessibility > MFi Hearing Devices, you need to pair them with iPhone.

1. Open the battery door on each hearing device.
2. On iPhone, go to Settings > Bluetooth, then make sure Bluetooth is turned on.
3. Go to Settings > General > Accessibility > MFi Hearing Devices.
4. Close the battery doors on your hearing devices.
5. When their names appear in the list of devices (this could take a minute), tap the names and respond to the pairing requests.

Pairing can take as long as 60 seconds—don't try to stream audio or otherwise use the hearing devices until pairing is finished. When pairing is finished, you hear a series of beeps and a tone, and a checkmark appears next to the hearing devices in the Devices list.

You need to pair your devices only once (and your audiologist might do it for you). After that, your hearing devices automatically reconnect to iPhone whenever they turn on.

Instructions (IOS 15/16/17):

Pair hearing devices with iPhone

If your hearing devices aren't listed in Settings  > Accessibility > Hearing Devices, you need to pair them with iPhone.

If your hearing devices are already paired to another nearby device, such as a Mac or iPad, make sure Bluetooth® is turned off on those devices. (When you finish pairing your hearing devices to your iPhone, you can turn Bluetooth on again on those devices.)

1. On iPhone, go to Settings > Bluetooth, then make sure Bluetooth is turned on.
2. Go to Settings > Accessibility > Hearing Devices.
3. Turn your hearing devices off and back on again.

If you're unsure how to turn them off, refer to the instructions that came with them, or check with the audiologist who helped you set them up.

4. When their name appears below MFi Hearing Devices (this could take a minute), tap the name and respond to the pairing requests.

Pairing can take as long as 60 seconds—don't try to stream audio or otherwise use the hearing devices until pairing is finished. When pairing is finished, you hear a series of beeps and a tone, and a checkmark appears next to the hearing devices in the Devices list.

You need to pair your devices only once (and your audiologist might do it for you). After that, your hearing devices automatically reconnect to iPhone whenever they turn on.

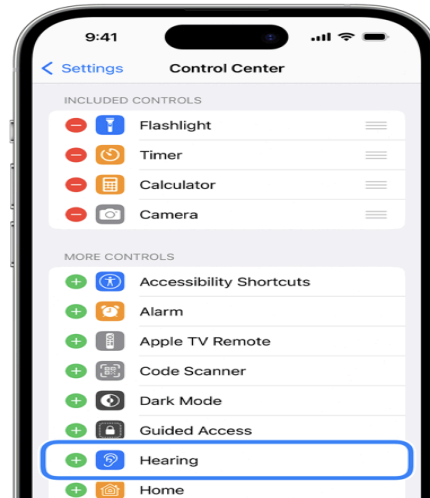
Live Listen

You can stream sound from the microphone on iPhone to your Made For iPhone (MFi) hearing devices or AirPods. This can help you hear better in some situations—for example, when having a conversation in a noisy environment.

Add Live Listen to Control Center

To use Live Listen, you need to add it to Control Center:

1. Go to Settings > Control Center.
2. Scroll down and tap the Add button  next to the Hearing button .



Use Live Listen

1. With your AirPods or Beats in your ears and connected to your iPhone or iPad, [Open Control Center on your iPhone](#), or [open Control Center on your iPad](#).
2. Tap the Hearing button .



3. Tap the Live Listen button .
4. Place your iPhone or iPad in front of the person that you want to hear. If you can't hear well enough, make sure to adjust the volume on your device.

You can also see your headphone audio levels in real time as you're listening to content. You can quickly glance to see detailed decibel-level information.

To use Live Listen with an external wired microphone, connect the microphone to the Lightning port or headphone jack on your iPhone or iPad.

If you can't connect to your AirPods, AirPods Pro, AirPods Max, Powerbeats Pro, Beats Fit Pro, or Beats Studio Pro, or if Live Listen won't turn on, make sure that Bluetooth is on and that your headphones are charged.

Notice your alerts

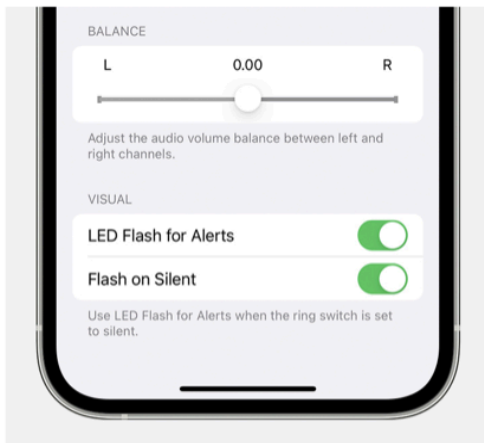
LED Flash

If you can't hear the sounds that announce incoming calls and other alerts, iPhone can flash its LED (next to the camera lens on the back of iPhone). The LED flashes only if the iPhone is locked.

Tip: LED Flash for Alerts is a useful feature for anyone who might miss audible alerts in a noisy environment.

How to turn on LED Flash for Alerts

1. Open the Settings app, tap Accessibility, then tap Audio/Visual.
2. Turn on LED Flash for Alerts.



To prevent LED flashes when your iPhone or iPad* is in silent mode, turn off Flash on Silent.

LED Flash for Alerts works only when your device is locked.

* LED Flash for Alerts is available for iPad Pro (9.7-inch), iPad Pro (10.5-inch), iPad Pro 12.9-inch (2nd generation) and later, iPad Pro 11-inch (all models), and iPad mini (6th generation).