Quick Reference Guide: TalkBack 9.1+ for Android

Recommended browser: Chrome (Android OS 7.0 or higher), Firefox (Older versions of Android OS)

Getting Started

Enabling TalkBack: Go to Settings > Accessibility > TalkBack to turn on TalkBack. To activate the TalkBack shortcut, go to Settings > Accessibility and turn on the Volume Key Shortcut. You can then hold the volume keys for a few seconds to turn TalkBack on or off.

The TalkBack menu (TBM): contains commands that are relevant anywhere on your device. To open the TalkBack menu, swipe down then right, or swipe up then right. Or on devices with multi-finger gestures (MFG*), you can also do a three-finger tap.

Reading controls (RC): allow adjustment of reading settings, such as being able to swipe to read by headings or by lines, and to change the speech rate. To open the reading controls, swipe up then down, or down then up. Or on devices with multi-finger gestures (MFG*), you can also do a three-finger swipe left or right, or up or down. Repeat the same gesture to cycle through the different reading controls.

Explore by touch: Drag one finger around the screen to have TalkBack announce items as you reach them.

Voice commands: Swipe right then up, listen for a confirmation sound, then speak a command, e.g. "Next link." Available only with TalkBack 9.1 and up.

***Multi-finger gestures (MFG)**—gestures using three or more fingers simultaneously—are available only with TalkBack 9.1 and up, only on some Android devices, such as Google Pixel 3 and up, and some other brands' models like Samsung Galaxy.

The Basics

Task	Command
Turn TalkBack on or off	Hold volume keys for a few seconds (when setting is enabled)
Open the TalkBack menu (TBM)	Swipe down then right, or up then right, or three-finger tap (MFG*)
Cycle through reading controls (RC)	Swipe up then down, or down then up. Or three-finger swipe left or right, or up or down (MFG*).
Pause or resume reading	Two-finger tap
Start reading continuously from the top	TBM: Read from top
Start reading continuously from this point on	TBM: Read from next item. Or two-finger triple tap.
Read next item	Swipe right
Read previous item	Swipe left
Repeat last phrase	TBM: Repeat last spoken phrase
Activate element (link, button, etc.)	Double tap
Go to next heading	(RC: Headings) Swipe down
Go to next landmark/region	(RC: Landmarks) Swipe down
Go to main content region	Use the page's "Skip to Main Content" link if present, or explore by touch, or use TBM: "Search screen" to search for the desired section
Navigate table cells	Swipe right or left, or explore by touch.
Go to next link	(RC: Links) Swipe down
Scroll a page, menu, etc.	Two-finger swipe up, down, left, or right
Go to home screen	Swipe up, then left
Go back	Swipe down, then left
Recent apps	Swipe left, then up
Notifications	Swipe right, then down. Or two-finger swipe down from top.
Go to previous link, heading, form element (control) , landmark, etc.	(RC: select desired control) Swipe up

Reading Text

Task	Command
Say next line	(RC: Lines) Swipe down
Say from cursor	TBM: Read from next item. Or two-finger triple tap.
Say next character	(RC: Characters) Swipe down
Say character phonetically	TBM > TalkBack Settings > Verbosity > Speak phonetic letters
Say next word	(RC: Words) Swipe down
Say next paragraph	(RC: Paragraphs) Swipe down
Say prior line, character, word, paragraph, etc.	(RC: select desired control) Swipe up
Spell word	Navigate by words, then TBM: Spell last spoken phrase

Tables

Task	Command
Cell to right	Swipe right
Cell to left	Swipe left
Cell below	Explore by touch
Cell above	Explore by touch

Note: TalkBack reads table cells in order left to right, starting at the top row.

Forms

Task	Command
Next form element	(RC: Controls) Swipe down
Select and deselect checkboxes	Double tap
Open combo box (<select>)	Double tap
Browse combo box options	Explore by touch. Or swipe right or left.
Select multiple combo box options	Double tap each option to select or deselect
Toggle radio button selection	Swipe right or left to the desired option, then double tap to select

Other Commands

Task	Command
Adjust slider up or right	Swipe right, then left. Or swipe up.
Adjust slider down or left	Swipe left, then right. Or swipe down.
Search for a word or phrase	Swipe left, then down
Typing	When in a text editing field, a virtual keyboard appears at bottom of screen. Drag finger over letters, and release when you hear the desired letter.
Speak characters typed	TalkBack Settings > Keyboard echo
Reformat documents for simpler viewing	Chrome: Go to Chrome settings > Accessibility > select "Simplified view for web pages." A button for simplified view will appear at the bottom of the screen, when supported. Firefox: Reader View. When viewing an article, the button appears in the URL bar.
Pass-through next gesture to system / current application	Four-finger double tap and hold (MFG*)
Start or stop media	Two-finger double tap
Answer or end a call	Two-finger double tap
Gesture hints	Go to TalkBack Settings > Verbosity > select "Speak usage hints" to enable

Note: Some menu options and reading controls are hidden by default. Go to TalkBack Settings > "Customize menus" to choose which items to show.

Note: TalkBack varies depending on the version of Android and the web browser in use. Some options may be unavailable.

Full list of commands: http://tinyurl.com/commands-talkback