Quick Reference Guide: TalkBack 8.2 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 three seconds to turn TalkBack on or off.

The Local Context Menu (LCM): contains navigation options relevant to the current page. Options appear in a menu list by default. To open the local context menu, swipe up, then right.

The Global Context Menu (GCM): contains options relevant anywhere on your device. Options appear in a menu list by default. To open the global context menu, swipe down, then right.

Reading controls (RC): allow adjustment of reading settings, such as being able to swipe to read by headings or by lines. Swipe down or up 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.

The Basics

Task	Command
Turn TalkBack on or off	Hold volume keys for three seconds (when setting is enabled)
Open Global Context Menu (GCM)	Swipe down, then right
Open Local Context Menu (LCM)	Swipe up, then right
Cycle through reading controls (links, headings, form elements (controls), etc.) (RC)	Swipe down or up
Stop reading	Single tap
Start reading continuously from the top	GCM: Read from top
Start reading continuously from this point on	GCM: Read from next item
Read next item	Swipe right
Read previous item	Swipe left
Repeat last statement	GCM: Repeat last utterance
Activate element (link, button, etc.)	Double tap
Go to next heading	(RC: Headings) Swipe right
Go to next landmark/region	(RC: Landmarks) Swipe right
Go to main content region	Use the page's "Skip to Main Content" link if present, or explore by touch, or use GCM: "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 right
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
Go to previous link, heading, form element (control) , landmark, etc.	(RC: select desired control) Swipe left

Reading Text

Task	Command
Say next line	(RC: Lines) Swipe right
Say from cursor	GCM: Read from next item
Say next character	(RC: Characters) Swipe right
Say character phonetically	GCM > TalkBack Settings > Verbosity > Speak phonetic letters
Say next word	(RC: Words) Swipe right
Say next paragraph	(RC: Paragraphs) Swipe right
Say prior line, character, word, paragraph, etc.	(RC: select desired control) Swipe left
Spell word	Navigate by words, then GCM: Spell last utterance

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 right
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
Adjust slider down or left	Swipe left, then right
Search for a word or a phrase	Swipe left, then down
Typing	When in a text editing field, virtual keyboard appears at bottom of screen. Drag finger over letters, and release when you hear the desired letter.
Speak characters typed	GCM > 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.
Ignore TalkBack, report gesture to current application	Use 2 or 3 fingers
Gesture hints	GCM > TalkBack Settings > Verbosity > select "Speak usage hints" to enable

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