



How to Use Siri

What is Siri?

Siri is the intelligent personal assistant that helps you get things done just by asking. It allows you to use your voice to send messages, schedule meetings, place phone calls, and more. But Siri isn't like traditional voice recognition software that requires you to remember keywords and speak specific commands. Siri understands your natural speech, and it asks you questions if it needs more information to complete a task.

Siri is available for iPhone 5, iPhone 4S, iPad with Retina display, iPad mini, and iPod touch (5th generation).

Using Siri How do I ask Siri something?

To talk to Siri, hold down the Home button and you'll hear two quick beeps and see "What can I help you with?" on the screen. Just begin speaking. The microphone icon lights up to let you know that Siri hears you talking. Once you've started a dialogue with Siri, tap the microphone icon to talk to it again.

There's more than one way to talk to Siri. Siri works with headphones and Bluetooth headsets. When you're using headphones with a remote and microphone, you can press and hold the center button to talk to Siri. With a Bluetooth headset, press and hold the call button to bring up Siri. On iPhone 4S and iPhone 5, simply bring iPhone up to your ear when the screen is on. You'll hear two quick beeps to indicate that Siri is listening to you.

In a car that supports Eyes Free, you can also start a conversation with Siri just by pressing a button on your steering wheel.

Siri waits for you to stop talking, but you can also tap the microphone icon to tell Siri you're done talking. This is useful when there's a lot of background noise.

What happens after I ask Siri a question or ask it to do something?

When you finish speaking, Siri displays the text of what you said and provides a response. If Siri needs more information to complete a request, it will ask you a question. For example, if you say "Remind me to call my mom," Siri will ask "What time would you like me to remind you?"

When you use earphones or a headset, Siri reads back text messages and email messages that you've dictated before you send them, and it reads back the subjects of reminders before you create them. This is especially helpful when you're driving and can't see the screen.

Do I have to say things a certain way to get Siri to respond?

No. You can speak to Siri as you would to a person — in a natural voice with a conversational tone. If you want to know what the weather will be like tomorrow, simply say "What will the weather be like tomorrow?" Or "Does it look like rain tomorrow?" Or even "Will I need an umbrella tomorrow?" No matter how you ask, Siri will tell you the forecast.

Does Siri work out of the box, or do I have to teach it?

Siri works right out of the box, without any work on your part. And the more you use Siri, the better it will understand you. It does this by learning about your accent and other characteristics of your voice. Siri uses voice recognition algorithms to categorize your voice into one of the dialects or accents it understands. As more people use Siri and it's exposed to more variations of a language, its overall recognition of dialects and accents will continue to improve, and Siri will work even better.

Siri also uses information from your contacts, music library, calendars, and reminders to better understand what you say. So it responds more accurately when you ask to make a phone call, play music, or create an appointment or reminder.

If you like, you can reset what Siri has learned about your voice by turning Siri off and then back on in Settings > General > Siri.

What Siri Can Do For You What types of things can I ask Siri about or ask it to do?

You can ask Siri to make a call, find a business and get directions, schedule reminders and meetings, search the web, and more. You can even ask Siri "What can you do for me?" or tap the "i" in the right corner of the screen when you bring Siri up. You'll see examples of things Siri can do, along with ways you can ask for things.

How does Siri learn who I am?

If Siri knows who you are, it can use your information to help you. To make sure Siri knows who you are, select your contact information in Settings > General > Siri > My Info.

Your information is used for questions like "How do I get home?" or "What good restaurants are near work?"

How does Siri learn about my key relationships?

Siri helps you by learning about the key people in your life. The first time you ask Siri to call your sister, it will ask you who your sister is. That information is stored in Contacts along with other relationship information like "mom," "husband," and "grandma."

How do location-based reminders work?

Because Siri knows your current location and other locations like "home" and "work," it can remind you to do a certain task when you leave a location or arrive at a location. So if you tell Siri, "Remind me to call my wife when I leave the office," Siri does just that.

To turn off the ability for Siri to use your location, go to Settings > Location Services and set the switch for Siri to Off. Regardless of how Locations Services is set for Siri, information about your location is not tracked or stored outside your device.

Does iOS take dictation?

Yes. iPhone 5, iPhone 4S, iPad with Retina display, iPad mini, and iPod touch (5th generation) support dictation in any app that has a keyboard. So instead of typing, you can speak and your words will be entered as text.

To start dictation, tap the microphone button on your keyboard and start talking. When you're finished, tap Done and your words will be turned into text. Dictation for each language is built into the keyboard for that language.

Is Siri accessible to blind and visually impaired users?

Yes. VoiceOver, the screen reader built into iOS, can speak any text that's displayed in responses from Siri. You can navigate through the responses and have each one read to you. This includes the days of a weather forecast, the body of an email, the details of an answer from Wolfram|Alpha, and more.

Language Support and Availability

Siri is available for iPhone 5, iPhone 4S, iPad with Retina display, iPad mini, and iPod touch (5th generation). Siri understands and can speak the following languages:

- United States (English, Spanish)
- United Kingdom (English)
- Australia (English)
- France (French)
- Germany (German)
- Japan (Japanese)
- Canada (English, Canadian French)
- China (Mandarin)
- Hong Kong (Cantonese)
- Italy (Italian)
- Korea (Korean)
- Mexico (Spanish)
- Spain (Spanish)
- Switzerland (Italian, French, German)
- Taiwan (Mandarin)

Can I use Siri in any of these languages in other countries?

Yes. Siri can be enabled in any country, and you can choose to speak to it in any of the languages that Siri supports. However, Siri is designed to recognize the specific accents and dialects of the supported countries listed above. Since every language has its own accents and dialects, the accuracy rate will be higher for native speakers.

Which apps does Siri work with?

Siri works with almost all your built-in apps. And it's smart enough to figure out which apps to use to provide you with answers. It also uses Search and Location Services to help you with your requests. Here's a list of apps and services that Siri works with worldwide:



Maps



Sports



Movies



Local Search



Post on Facebook



FaceTime



Phone



Mail



Web Search



Send a Tweet



App Launch



Find My Friends



Music



Messages



Calendar



Reminders



Notes



Contacts



Weather



Stocks



Wikipedia search



Alarms, World Clock and Timer



Wolfram|Alpha (English only)

Dictation Guide

Below is a visual guide to the current dictation shortcuts in Siri. If you've used any sort of voice recognition software before a lot of these will be familiar.

Command	Action	Before	After
New line	Move to the next line		
New paragraph	Start a new paragraph		
Cap	Capitalise the next word	I like 'cap' sunshine	I like Sunshine
Caps on ... caps off	Capitalise a section of text	'caps on' twenty types of flower 'caps off'	20 Types of Flower
All caps	Make the next word all uppercase	I 'all caps' love summer	I LOVE summer
All caps on ... all caps off	Make part of what you say uppercase	I 'all caps on' love summer 'all caps off'	I LOVE SUMMER
No caps	Make the next word lowercase	I like 'no caps' Capitals	I like capitals
No caps on ... no caps off	Make sure part of what you say is all lowercase	We like the cities 'no caps' London and Sydney 'no caps off' the most	We like the cities london and sydney the most
Space bar	Prevent a hyphen from appearing in a normally hyphenated word		
No space	Prevent a space between words		
No space on ... no space off	Prevent a section of text from having spaces between words		
"Period" or "full stop"	Place a "." at the end of a sentence		
Dot	.	The number pi is three 'dot' one four	The number pi is 3.14
Point	.	The 'point' number pi is three 'point' one four	The point number pi 3.14 (note the subtle difference between saying 'point' and 'dot' dot

Command	Action	Before	After works between words)
"Ellipsis" or "dot dot dot"	...		
Comma	,		
Double comma	„		
"Quote" or "quotation mark"	"		
"Quote ... end quote" or "quote ... close quote"	Place quotes around a section of text	She said 'quote' see you next week 'end quote'	She said "see you next week"
Apostrophe	'		
Exclamation point	!		
Inverted exclamation point	¡		
Question mark	?		
Inverted question mark	¿		
Ampersand	&		
Asterisk	*		
Open parenthesis	(
Close parenthesis)		
Open bracket	[
Close bracket]		
Open brace	{		
Close brace	}		
Dash	-	This dash is dash my dash cheese	This - is - my - cheese (note the difference in spacing between this and when saying hyphen)
Hyphen	-	This 'hyphen' is 'hyphen' my 'hyphen' cheese	This-is-my-cheese (note the difference in spacing between this and when saying dash)
Em dash	—		
Underscore	—		
Percent sign	%		
Copyright sign	©		
Registered sign	®		
Section sign	§		
Dollar sign	\$		
Cent sign	¢		

Command	Action	Before	After
Euro sign	€		
Yen sign	¥		
Degree sign	°		
Caret	^		
At sign	@		
Pound sterling sign	£		
Pound sign	#		
Greater than sign	>		
Less than sign	<		
Forward slash	/		
Back slash	\		
Vertical bar			
"Smiley" or "smiley face" or "smile face"	: -)		
"Frowny" or "frowny face" or "frown face"	: -(
"Winky" or "winky face" or "wink face"	; -)		
E.g. (pronounced as "e g")	e.g.	'e g' when you learn to ride a bike	E.G. when you learn to ride a bike
i.e. (pronounced as "i e")	i.e.	'i e' when you learn to ride a bike	I.e. when you learn to ride a bike