



MS Windows

Getting Online: Screen Reader

Exploring a Web Page

Here are some tips and tricks for exploring a web page using a screen reader.

These instructions are for using the Google Chrome browser along with NVDA as a screen reader, but the concepts are pretty similar no matter which screen reader and browser you're using. **Try it out.**

1. Open a website, such as Target.com.

Tip: In another workshop in this series, you can learn how to open a website.

2. Jump to the top of the page by pressing the Control key plus your Home key.
3. You can read this page line by line by pressing your down arrow key.

You will hear text like “home,” but before the text you will hear some extra information. That information tells you about how you can work with the item, or element, you’re focused on. For example, you may hear “Link.”

Links

Tip: Links are what move you from page to page on the web. They can move you to a different page on your current website, to a different website, or even to a different spot on the page you’re on. That’s called a same-page link.

4. As you’re focused on the link, press your NVDA key, which is your Insert key, and the up arrow to read your current line.
5. The screen reader announces the type of link and the purpose of the link. Press Enter to open the link.

Headings

A link may move you to a different spot on the web page where there are headings.

6. Headings are incredibly useful. They can help you jump right to important content on the page, as well as give you information about how this content is laid out. Press the letter H key for “heading” to jump through some of your headings.

Tip: A level 1 heading is used to jump to the most important content on the page, and then there are headings underneath that, like heading level 2 and heading level 3.

7. You can keep pressing the letter H to move through every heading on the page.
8. Press shift + H to move backward through your headings.
9. Headings organize content on the page so you can find the content you care about even faster. For example, instead of pressing H to move to your next heading no matter what level it is, try pressing the number 2 to move to the next heading at level 2.

10. Headings let you know how content on a page is related.

Tip: There's a little bit of bad news though: not all websites are well organized with headings. But for those that are, using headings to get right to the content you want is really powerful.

There are several more ways to explore your web page.

Reading the Entire Web Page

11. Move to the top of your page again with Control + Home. And now, what if you just want to read this entire page while you sit back and listen? All you have to do is press your NVDA key, which is your Insert key, plus your down arrow key.

Tip: This will be especially useful if you're reading a news article or a blog post.

12. Press the Control key to stop.

List of Links

13. There's another way to explore your web page. Hold down your NVDA key and press F7, or function key 7.
14. With this keystroke, you've just brought up a list of links on your page. Move through them by using your down arrow key.

Tip: This is a great way to find out every link on your page without having to read the entire page.

15. When you find the link you want, just press Enter to open it.

Now you can easily explore web pages. Try another workshop to learn more.