



MS Windows

Getting Online: Screen Reader

Online Searches

Here are some tips and tricks for online searches 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. Use the shortcut Alt + D to get to your address and search bar.
2. You can enter the address of a particular website you want to visit or you can type in key words if you're looking for something more general.
3. For example, you can type in "medium dog breeds" in the address and search bar, and press the Enter key to search.
4. Press the Control key to stop the screen reader from speaking.

5. Just like with any web page, use the down arrow key to move through the page.
6. To go through the page faster, press the H key to move through the page by headings. Then press the down arrow key to read the text under the heading.
7. Press the Enter key on images or videos if you want to tell Google you're searching specifically for images or videos.
8. Press H again to move to the next heading.

Tip: Your search results will always be shown as level 3 headings. So if you want to go right to your first search result, you can press the number 3 to jump to it.

9. If your search result is a link, press the Enter key to open it.
10. Press the down arrow to see what's under the link, for example, the address.
11. Press the spacebar to find similar results to the link you're focused on right now.
12. Press the down arrow again to get more information about your search result.

Tip: You can get a preview of what you'll find when you open the link. This can give just enough information for you to know whether to open this page or skip to the next result.

13. Go to your address and search bar again by pressing Alt + D.
14. Press the Control key to stop the screen reader from speaking.
15. Start typing in “medium dog breeds” again. Notice that as you type, Google is trying to guess what you might be searching for.
16. Try typing in just the word “medium” and press the down arrow a few times.
17. Google will make suggestions about what you might be searching for. If any of the suggestions sound interesting, you can just press the Enter key, and it will be like you typed all those search words yourself.

Now you know how to do online searches. Try another workshop to learn more.