



Mac Low Vision

Spoken Content Feature

Did you know your Mac can read to you?

Your Mac's Spoken Content feature reads aloud what is on the screen. **Try it out!**

Voice-Related Features on the Mac

- **Siri:** Smart assistant that lets you ask questions aloud and gives spoken answers.
- **VoiceOver:** Screen reader that speaks all the visible info on your screen, like buttons, text, menu options, and icons.
- **Spoken Content:** Reads aloud only the text you ask it to read. Perfect for reading long emails, documents, and articles on web pages.

Accessibility Menu

1. Select the **Apple icon** on the left side of the **Apple** menu bar at the top of the screen.
2. Select **System Settings** from the drop-down menu.

Tip: On some Macs, **System Settings** might be called **System Preferences**

3. Select **Accessibility** in the left pane of the **System Settings** window to open the **Accessibility** pane.

Spoken Content Options

4. Select **Spoken Content** under the **Vision** heading in the **Accessibility** window.

Tip: If you don't see **Spoken Content** on your Mac, check out the **Speech** section in the **System Preferences** to find out what's available to you.

5. The first section of the **Spoken Content** pane lets you choose the language and voice you'd like to use. And below the **System Voice** option, sliders let you adjust the speaking rate and volume. Leave these set to the defaults.

Tip: Contact a Hadley specialist for more information on how to adjust the voice for **Spoken Content**.

6. The next section in the **Spoken Content** pane uses **On/Off** toggle buttons so you can choose what on your screen gets read aloud:
 - **Speak Announcements:** Speaks notifications to go along with visual alerts. This is handy if you're using the screen magnifier and can't see the part of the screen where an alert pops up.

- **Speak Selection:** Speaks aloud selected text. This is a good option for long documents and emails that can be a strain on the eyes. The keyboard shortcut to start and stop the reading aloud is **Option + ESC**.
- **Speak Item Under the Pointer:** Speaks whatever item is under the pointer. Use this to listen for the names on buttons and other controls instead of trying to read the small print.
- **Speak Typing Feedback:** Speaks what you're typing, as you type.

Tip: Each setting has an **Options** button to the right of the toggle button that opens its own window where you can customize that setting.

Speak Announcements

7. Select the toggle button next to **Speak Announcements** to turn it on.

Tip: **Speak Announcements** will say the notification out loud if you haven't noticed and dismissed it after 20 seconds. You can change that timing by selecting the **Options** button on the right.

Speak Selection

8. Select the toggle button next to **Speak Selection** to turn it on.

9. If you have an open text document, like an email or Word doc, go to it and then press **Option + ESC** to start reading.
10. **Spoken Content** reads the text aloud and highlights the words as they are read.
11. Press **Option + ESC** again to stop reading.

Tip: Contact a Hadley specialist for more info on how to set the highlight color.

Tip: When Spoken Content starts reading, a controller appears on the screen. You can pause, play, slow down, speed up, and more.

Speak Item Under Pointer

12. Turn on the toggle button next to **Speak Item Under Pointer**.
13. Move your pointer to the **Help** button at the bottom right of the window to hear **Spoken Content** read the button name.

Tip: Select the Options button to adjust the delay for how long the pointer is paused before Spoken Content reads it.

Speak Typing Feedback

14. Turn on the toggle button next to **Speak Typing Feedback**.

15. Go to a text document you can type in, like an email or Word doc.
16. Type: **This is a test.**
17. **Spoken Content** reads each character as you type and then reads the full word when you press the spacebar or a punctuation key.
18. In the **Spoken Content** window, select the **Options** button next to the toggle for **Speak Typing Feedback**.
19. Select the toggle next to **Echo Characters** to turn it off.
20. Go back to your document and type: **Hadley is the best!**
21. Now **Spoken Content** reads what you type by words instead of characters.