# iPhone iOS 15 Accessibility

With Nick Corbett

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This September, iOS 15 by Apple hit iPhones everywhere. With every major software update from Apple comes a whole host of new software features and functions designed to help ALL users get more out of their Apple devices. For blind and visually impaired Apple customers, iOS 15 has refreshed its suite of iPhone accessibility options. Join Nick Corbett, The Carroll Center for the Blind’s own Technology Instructor, for a dive into what’s new, what’s glitchy, and his recommendations for iOS 15. You’ll learn specifically about accessibility changes that affect people with display enhancement, text-to-Speech (TTS), and screen reader needs.

## Begin in the iOS Settings App

### Settings > Accessibility > VoiceOver

* VoiceOver Recognition
1. Image Descriptions (on, recommended for access to AI image interpretations)
2. Screen Recognition (on, recommended for roter access to VoiceOver recognition of inaccessible app components)
3. Text Recognition (on, recommended for access to text displayed in images and in the Camera)
* Verbosity
1. Speak Hints (off, recommended for users who intuitively know how and when to implement VoiceOver gestures)
2. Always Speak Notifications (off, recommended for privacy)
3. Flashlight Notifications (on, recommended to preserve accidental power depletion)
* Audio
1. Audio Ducking (on, recommended for VoiceOver to be better heard during playback of media)
2. Auto Select Speaker in Call (off, recommended for privacy)
* Activities
1. Add Activity (recommended for advanced VoiceOver users to customize how VoiceOver behaves in specific contexts or apps)
* Typing
1. Keyboard Interaction Time (recommended for all VoiceOver users to use the “Increment” button to increase to 4 seconds to facilitate ease of onscreen keyboard text input)
* Quick Settings
1. Listed options select or deselect (recommended for advanced VoiceOver users to toggle the VoiceOver settings wished to be shown when performing a two finger quadruple tap)
* Navigation Style
1. Flat verses Grouped (flat recommended for non-Mac OS users; grouped recommended for Mac OS users familiar with interaction and seeking greater contextual operation of their iPhone)
* Double Tap Timeout
1. Increase to 0.5 seconds via the “Increment” button (recommended for VoiceOver users who struggle with quickly performing gestures)

### Settings > Accessibility > Zoom

1. Follow Focus (on, recommended for low-vision users who desire an intuitive feel to onscreen magnification)
2. Smart Typing (on, recommended for low-vision users who wish to have their onscreen keyboards presented in its standard size when Zoom is active)
3. Zoom Controller (off, recommended for low-vision users who are comfortable using Zoom gestures)
* Zoom Region
1. Full Screen verses Window (customizable and recommended for exploration by low-vision users to optimize visual preferences for the display)
* Zoom Filter
1. Recommended for exploration by low-vision users who experience color blindness.
2. Maximum Zoom Level (adjustable and recommended for exploration by low-vision users who need higher magnification levels than is offered by default Zoom settings)

### Settings > Accessibility > Display & Text Size

1. Bold Text (on, recommended for all low-vision users)
2. Larger Text (on, recommended for low-vision users who do not also use VoiceOver; large text can negatively interact with VoiceOver gesture navigation)
3. Reduce Transparency (on, recommended for low-vision users who need increased contrast)
4. Increase Contrast (on, recommended for low-vision users who need increased contrast between foreground and background colors)
5. Differentiate Without Color (on, recommended for low-vision users who experience color blindness)
6. Smart Invert verses Classic Invert (smart invert recommended for low-vision users who need reversed contrast but who also enjoy standard presentation of visual media)
7. Color Filters (on and adjustable, recommended for low-vision users who experience color blindness)
8. Reduce White Point (on, recommended for low-vision users who are negatively affected by the intensity of bright colors)
9. Auto Brightness (on, recommended for low-vision users who are negatively affected by brightness variability)

### Settings > Accessibility > Motion

1. Reduce Motion (on, recommended for low-vision users who are negatively affected by perceived motion produced by the variability of viewing angles)
2. Auto Play Message Effects (off, recommended for low-vision users or those with seizure disorders who are negatively impacted by unprompted playback of sudden visual effects)
3. Auto Play Video Previews (off, recommended for users whose contextual understanding is disrupted by unprompted content playback)

### Settings > Accessibility > Spoken Content

1. Speak Selection (on, recommended for low-vision users who do not primarily depend upon VoiceOver)
2. Speak Screen (on, recommended for low-vision users who do not primarily depend upon VoiceOver)
* Speech Controller
1. Show Controller (on, recommended for low-vision users who do not primarily depend upon VoiceOver)
2. Idle Opacity (set to 100%, recommended for low-vision users who struggle to see the speech controller)
* Typing Feedback
1. Customize if letters, words, or phonetics or any combination of these are announced during text input (recommended for low-vision users who do not primarily depend upon VoiceOver)
2. Voices (choose a voice that is pleasant to listen to)
3. Speaking Rate (adjustable to suit users’ auditory processing preference)

### Settings > Accessibility > Audio Descriptions

1. If toggled on, audio descriptions will automatically be activated for content where it is offered (on, recommended for users who enjoy audio description)

### Settings > Accessibility > Touch

1. Tap to Wake (on, recommended for users who do not accidentally tap their screen)
2. Shake to Undo (on, recommended for users who can reliably shake their iPhone)
3. Back Tap (customizable to add quick access to native or in app features, recommended for users who might struggle with certain onscreen gestures or device interaction methods)

### Settings > Accessibility > Face ID & Attention

1. Require Attention (on, recommended for users who can focus their eyes at the display; this adds additional security)
2. Require Attention (off, recommended for users who cannot focus their eyes at the display; this is the only option for users who cannot focus their eyes on the display but whom wish to use Face ID)
3. Attention Aware Features (on, recommended for users who can focus their eyes at the display)
4. Haptic on Successful verification (on, recommended for all users)

### Settings > Accessibility > Side Button

1. Click Speed (default, slow, or slowest customizable; slowest recommended for users who struggle with hand dexterity)
2. Press and Hold to Speak (customizable, Siri option recommended for most users)

### Settings > Accessibility > Keyboards

1. Show Lowercase Keys (on, recommended for users who can differentiate between lowercase letters on onscreen keyboards)
2. Show Lowercase Keys (off, recommended for users who cannot differentiate between lowercase letters on onscreen keyboards)

### Settings > Accessibility > AirPods

1. Press Speed (default, slower, or slowest customizable; slowest recommended for users who struggle with hand dexterity)
2. Press and Hold Duration (default, shorter, or shortest customizable; shortest recommended for users who struggle with hand dexterity)
3. Noise Cancelation with One AirPod (off, recommended for all users for mobility concerns)
4. Spatial Audio Head Tracking (on, recommended for all users for increased spatial awareness when using accessible GPS apps)

### Settings > Accessibility > Accessibility Shortcut

1. Access to toggling of accessibility features by triple clicking the lock button on iPhones X or newer or home buttons on iPhones 8 or older (customization recommended for all users)

### Settings > Accessibility > Per-App Settings

1. Add App (recommended for low-vision users who benefit from variable display enhancements across apps)