

Apple iPad and iPhone

Setting up Siri



What is Siri?

Siri is the name Apple has given to its speech recognition software. Speech recognition allows computers, including tablets and smart phones, to recognize spoken commands or words and then act on them. Using Siri you can command your device to perform many tasks. For example, locate information, make appointments, set reminders or dictate text.

Siri can be used to do so many useful things on your iPhone, that you will probably come to rely on it. However, before you can use the Siri feature, you first need to set it up. There are two ways in which you can activate Siri. The first is by holding down the Side Button, or Home Button if your device has one. The second is by teaching Siri to recognise your voice and then saying the phrase "Hey Siri, or Siri".

Note 1: The instructions given in this document have been designed using an iPhone 13 Pro and version 26.2 of the iOS Operating System. If you are using an earlier version of iOS, you may find some minor differences!

Activating Siri with the Home or Side Button

To set up Siri to be activated when the Side Button is held down, or the Home Button if your device has one of these, follow these steps:

Note 2: In order for Siri to function, it is necessary that your device is connected to the internet.

1. From the Home Screen, activate the "Settings" icon. Upon doing this, the Settings screen will be displayed.
2. Locate and activate the "Apple Intelligence & Siri" button. Upon doing this, the Apple Intelligence & Siri screen will be displayed.

3. Activate the "Talk & Type to Siri" button. Upon doing this, the Talk & Type to Siri screen will be displayed.
4. Activate the "Press Side Button for Siri" button. If your device has a Home Button, this button will be labelled "Press Home Button for Siri" instead.

That's it, you've successfully configured Siri to be activated when the Side Button, or Home Button, is held down.

5. Activate the "Back" button, situated at the top left corner of the Talk & Type to Siri screen. Upon doing this, you will be returned to the Apple Intelligence and Siri screen.

Activating Siri using the Phrase "Hey Siri" or "Siri"

To set up Siri to be activated when you say either "Hey Siri" or "Siri", follow these steps:

1. From the Home Screen, activate the "Settings" icon. Upon doing this, the Settings screen will be displayed.
2. Locate and activate the "Apple Intelligence & Siri" button. Upon doing this, the Apple Intelligence & Siri screen will be displayed.
3. Activate the "Talk & Type to Siri" button. Upon doing this, the Talk & Type to Siri screen will be displayed.
4. Activate the "Siri or Hey Siri" button. Upon doing this, the "Set Up Siri and Hey Siri" screen will be displayed.
5. In the "Set Up Siri and Hey Siri" screen, activate the "Continue" button, situated at the bottom of the screen. Upon doing this, the first of 5 setup screens will be displayed. Follow the on-screen prompts to complete the setup procedure.
6. When the set up procedure has been completed, the "Siri Is Ready" screen will be displayed. In this screen, activate the "Done" button, situated at the bottom of the screen. Upon doing this, you will be returned to the Talk & Type to Siri screen.

That's it, you have set up Siri to be activated when the phrase "Hey Siri" is spoken.

7. Activate the "Back" button, situated at the top left corner of the Talk & Type to Siri screen. Upon doing this, you will be returned to the Apple Intelligence and Siri screen.

Choosing a Siri Voice

Siri has many voices to choose from. To choose a voice which meets your needs, follow these steps:

1. In the Apple Intelligence and Siri screen, activate the button labelled "Voice". Upon doing this, the Voice screen will be displayed.

In the Voice screen, you will find a heading labelled "Variations", and beneath this, the available accents. Beneath the available accents, you will also find another heading labelled "Voices" with 2 associated voices - Voice 1 and Voice 2. Activating each of the voice buttons plays a sample of the voice!

2. Activate the desired accent and then activate each of the voices to find out which one you prefer. One will be a female voice and the other will be a male voice.
3. When you have chosen your desired accent and voice, activate the "Back" button, situated at the top left corner of the Voice screen. Upon doing this, you will be returned to the Apple Intelligence and Siri screen.

Customising Siri's Responses

You now need to specify how Siri will respond to you.

1. In the Apple Intelligence & Siri screen, activate the "Siri Responses" button. Upon doing this, the Siri Responses screen will be displayed.
2. Under the heading labelled Spoken Responses, activate the "Prefer Spoken Responses" button. Next, activate the "Always Show Request" button until it is turned on.

3. When you are done, activate the "Back" button, situated at the top left corner of the Siri Responses screen. Upon doing this, you will be returned to the Apple Intelligence & Siri screen.
4. Activate The "Settings" back button, situated at the top left corner of the screen. Upon doing this, you will be returned to the Settings screen.
5. Finally, place one finger at the bottom edge of the screen and then slide it up approximately a third of the way, then lift your finger. This should take you back to the Home Screen! Alternatively, if your device has a Home Button, you can press this instead to return to the Home Screen!

Adjusting the Volume of Siri

The volume of Siri can only be adjusted when it is speaking. To adjust the volume, follow these steps:

1. Invoke Siri using one of the two available methods. Upon doing this, Siri will start listening to you.
2. Now say "Tell me a joke". When Siri starts to tell you the joke, use the volume buttons to adjust the volume until you have it at the desired level.
3. Finally, place one finger at the bottom edge of the screen and then slide it up approximately a third of the way, then lift your finger. This should take you back to the Home Screen! Alternatively, if your device has a Home Button, you can press this instead to return to the Home Screen!

Speaking to Siri

When using Siri, speak naturally and at a normal pace. You don't need to slow down from your usual speaking rate. Also, after invoking Siri, pause for a second or two, before issuing your command or request. This will ensure that the microphone is fully engaged!

Remember, Siri is a computer generated voice assistant and not a human. Therefore, from time-to-time, it will make mistakes. If this happens, it might be an idea to cancel what you are doing and start again. To cancel a Siri request, place one finger at the bottom edge of the screen and then slide it up approximately a third of the way, then lift your finger. This should take you back to the Home Screen! Alternatively, if your device has a Home Button, you can press this instead to cancel a Siri request.

Things to Try with Siri

Some common things you can do with Siri include:

Opening apps - simply activate Siri and say "Open", followed by the name of the app you wish to open.

Sending Messages - simply activate Siri and say "Send a message to", followed by the name of the person you wish to send a message to. Siri will then ask you what you want to say and when done, whether or not you would like to send it.

Note 3: When sending messages with Siri, the contact details of the person you wish to send the message to must be entered into the Contacts app on your device. This is where Siri looks for the information!

Making calls - simply activate Siri and say "Call", followed by the name of the person you want to call.

Note 4: When making calls with Siri, the telephone number/s of the person you wish to call must be entered into the Contacts app on your device. This is where Siri looks for the information!

Setting Timers - simply activate Siri and say "Set a timer for ", followed by the amount of minutes and/or seconds you desire. When the timer sounds, a notification will be displayed. To stop the timer, simply dismiss the notification!

Finding out the battery status - simply activate Siri and say "What's my battery status". Upon doing this, he/she will tell you how much battery life is remaining.

Changing the screen brightness – simply activate Siri and say “Turn the brightness up”. Upon doing this, Siri will say “OK”, I’ve made the screen brighter”, and the brightness will be adjusted by 10%.

Finding out the weather conditions - simply activate Siri and say "What's the weather like". Upon doing this, Siri will inform you of the current temperature, the upcoming forecast for the day and minimum and maximum temperatures you can expect.

This is the end of the introduction to setting up Siri. If you require further information regarding Siri, please contact the author, Gary Eady, using the following email address:

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