

Quick Reference Guide: Desktop Screen Readers Basic Keyboard Commands

Task	Narrator	JAWS	NVDA	Window-Eyes	VoiceOver
Turn screen reader on	Windows logo + Control + Enter	Not available	Control + Alt + N	Control + Alt + W	Command + F5
Turn screen reader off	Windows logo + Control + Enter or Caps Lock + Escape	Insert + F4	Insert + Q	Control + Insert + F4 (L: Control + Caps Lock + F4)	Command + F5
Stop reading	Control	Control	Control	Control	Control
Read next item	Caps Lock + Right Arrow*	Down Arrow	Down Arrow	Down Arrow	VO + Right Arrow
Read previous item	Caps Lock + Left Arrow*	Up Arrow	Up Arrow	Up Arrow	VO + Left Arrow
Read next <i>focusable</i> item (e.g. link, button)	Tab	Tab	Tab	Tab (L: Insert + Tab)	Tab
Activate link	Caps Lock + Enter	Enter	Enter	Enter	Enter
Activate button	Caps Lock + Enter	Enter or Space Bar	Enter or Space Bar	Enter or Space Bar	Enter or Space Bar
Start reading continuously from this point on	Caps Lock + M	Insert + Down Arrow	Insert + Down Arrow or Numpad Plus	Control + Shift + R	VO + A
Go to next heading	H** / Caps Lock + J	H	H	H	VO + Command + H
Show list of all headings	Not available	Insert + F6	Insert + F7	Insert + Tab (Elements List), then Alt + H	VO + U (Rotor), then Left/Right Arrow Keys
Go to next heading of level [1-6]	Not available	1-6	1-6	(1-6) then H	Not available
Go to next landmark/region	D**	R (JAWS 16+) ; (JAWS 15)	D	;	Not available
Go to the main content landmark	Caps Lock + N	Q	Not available	Not available	Not available
Open Elements List or Rotor	Not available	Insert + F3	Insert + F7	Insert + Tab	VO + U
Go to next table	T** / Caps Lock + K	T	T	T	VO + Command + T
Navigate table cells	Control + Alt + Arrow Keys	Control + Alt + Arrow Keys	Control + Alt + Arrow Keys	Insert + Arrow Keys	VO + Arrow Keys
Go to next list	Not available	L	L	S	VO + Command + X
Go to next list item	Not available	I	I	I	Not available
Go to next graphic	Not available	G	G	G	VO + Command + G
Show list of all links	Not available	Insert + F7	Insert + F7	Insert + Tab (Elements List), then Alt + L	VO + U (Rotor), then Left/Right Arrow Keys
Go to next link	K** / Caps Lock + L	Not available	K	L	VO + Command + L
Go to next <i>unvisited</i> link	Not available	U	U	Not available	Not available
Go to next <i>visited</i> link	Not available	V	V	V	VO + Command + V
Go back to previous heading, landmark, table, focusable item, etc.	Shift + [Command]	Shift + [H, R, T, Tab, etc.]	Shift + [H, D, T, Tab, etc.]	Shift + [Command]	VO + Shift + Command + [H, T, etc.]
Toggle screen reader mode	<i>Scan Mode</i> : Caps Lock + Space Bar	<i>Forms Mode</i> : (On) (Automatic when in form element), (Off) Numpad Plus	<i>Browse/Focus Mode</i> : Insert + Space Bar <i>Forms Mode</i> ^: Insert + Space Bar	<i>Browse Mode</i> : Control + Shift + A	Not available
Interact with (go into/out of) objects (like iframes, menus, application regions, etc.)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	VO + Shift + Down/Up Arrows
Toggle between: Radio buttons, <select> list items, Tabs (ARIA widget), Tree view items (ARIA widget), Menu items (ARIA widget)	Arrow Keys	Arrow Keys	Arrow Keys	Arrow Keys	Arrow Keys, then VO + Space
Toggle Virtual PC Cursor	Not available	Insert + Z	Not available	Not available	Not available

- *Cycle between element types with Caps Lock + Up/Down Arrows, then advance through those page elements one at a time.
- **Scan mode only.
- ^When in a form element
- The Narrator key, Caps Lock, can be locked so it doesn't need to be pressed with every command by pressing Caps Lock + Z.

- Insert is the default NVDA modifier key, but Caps Lock can be set as a duplicate modifier key (so that it can be used in place of Insert).
- VO is an abbreviation for VoiceOver keys Control + Option. The VO keys can be locked so that they do not need to be pressed to perform VoiceOver commands by pressing VO + ;.
- Window-Eyes commands marked with L: are for use with laptop computers.

Recommended browsers:

- Narrator + Edge
- JAWS + Chrome, Firefox, or Internet Explorer
- NVDA + Firefox or Chrome
- Window Eyes + Internet Explorer
- VoiceOver + Safari