

Windows Narrator Overview and Key Commands

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Introduction

The native screen reader for Windows, Narrator, has become a better accessibility tool in recent years. This feature can be helpful when third-party accessibility tools (such as JAWS and NVDA, an open source screen reader) crash. Another factor for learning Narrator is the fact that, when setting up a new computer or doing a clean install of Windows 10, Narrator can be used to independently perform these tasks.

In the [Complete Guide to Narrator](https://bit.ly/2SuM5Bx) (bit.ly/2SuM5Bx), Microsoft covers the basics of using Narrator.

Common Key Commands

In addition to the guide, the following key commands can be helpful in becoming more familiar with the program.

Key Command	Action
Ctrl	Stop reading
Caps Lock + M	Start reading
`,`	Increase voice volume
Caps Lock + Page Down	Decrease voice volume
Caps Lock + Plus	Increase voice speed
Caps Lock + Minus	Decrease voice speed
Caps Lock + C	Read current date and time
Caps Lock + D	Read item
Caps Lock + S	Read item spelled out
Caps Lock + V	Repeat phrase
Caps Lock + W	Read window
Caps Lock + H	Read document
Caps Lock + Ctrl + U	Read current page

Key Command	Action
Caps Lock + U	Read next page
Caps Lock + Shift + U	Read previous page
Caps Lock + Ctrl + I	Read current paragraph
Caps Lock + I	Read next paragraph
Caps Lock + Shift + I	Read previous paragraph
Caps Lock + Ctrl + O	Read current line
Caps Lock + O	Read next line
Caps Lock + Shift + O	Read previous line
Caps Lock + Ctrl + P	Read current word
Caps Lock + P	Read next word
Caps Lock + Shift + P	Read previous word
Caps Lock + R	Read all items in containing area
Caps Lock + Q	Move to last item in containing area
Caps Lock + Y	Move to beginning of text
Caps Lock + B	Move to end of text
Caps Lock + J	Jump to next heading
Caps Lock + Shift + J	Jump to previous heading
Caps Lock + K	Jump to next table
Caps Lock + Shift + K	Jump to previous table
Caps Lock + L	Jump to next link
Caps Lock + Shift + L	Jump to previous link
Caps Lock + F3	Jump to next cell in row
Caps Lock + Shift + F3	Jump to previous cell in row
Caps Lock + F4	Jump to next cell in column
Caps Lock + Shift + F4	Jump to previous cell in column
Caps Lock + Space	Do primary action

Key Command	Action
Caps Lock + Right Arrow	Move to next item
Caps Lock + Left Arrow	Move to previous item
Caps Lock + Up/Down Arrow	Change view
Caps Lock + F1	Show commands list
Caps Lock + F2	Show commands for current item
Caps Lock + F12	Toggle character reading
Caps Lock + Enter	Toggle search mode
Caps Lock + Num Lock	Toggle mouse mode
Caps Lock + A	Change verbosity mode
Caps Lock + Esc	Exit Narrator
Caps Lock + Z	Lock Narrator key
Caps Lock + G	Move Narrator cursor to system cursor
Caps Lock + T	Move Narrator cursor to pointer
Caps Lock + Backspace	Go back 1 item
Caps Lock + Insert	Jump to linked item
Caps Lock + F7	Read current column
Caps Lock + F8	Read current row
Caps Lock + F9	Read current column header
Caps Lock + F10	Read current row header
Caps Lock + F5	Read which row and column Narrator is in
Caps Lock + F6	Jump to table cell
Caps Lock + Shift + F6	Jump to cell contents
Caps Lock + Ctrl + Left Arrow	Navigate to parent
Caps Lock + Ctrl + Down Arrow	Navigate to next sibling
Caps Lock + Ctrl + Up Arrow	Navigate to previous sibling