Accessible Apps for Android

- ## @Voice Aloud Reader (TTS Reader): Free

Listen to this app read web pages, news articles, long emails, and various documents.

- ## Aira – Visual Info On Demand: Free* & Subs

Aira is a service that connects blind and low-vision people to highly trained, remotely-located agents. Through an app on your smartphone, Aira delivers instant access to visual information at the touch of a button. Free to download, but pricing is set by the amount of minutes per month. You can also connect for free by utilizing Aira Access offers within the app. Aira is free to use in a variety of locations that they are partnered with, such as Walgreens, airports, federal buildings, and some Starbucks!

- ## Android Accessibility Suite: Free

This app functions as an accessibility feature update for your phone, helping to provide various features like Google TalkBack, spoken content, live transcription, and vibration. Download to have the most up to date offerings for accessibility.

- ## Amazing MP3 Recorder: Free & Paid Features

A no-nonsense audio, field, and call recorder as well as a voice changer. This app is TalkBack and blind/low vision user friendly. Paid features (except MP3) are free for TalkBack users, otherwise you must pay for MP3, Voice Changer, Call Recorder (auto-outgoing), Themes, Noise Gate, and Voice Activity Detect.

- ## Assistive Touch for Android: Free, In-App Purchases

An easy tool for Android devices that puts a floating panel on the screen to stop from having to use the physical buttons (home, volume, power). You can have virtual home, volume, back, favorite app, settings, and close applications buttons for your Android, however in-app purchases are likely to apply.

- ## Audex: Free

This app can be very useful to screen reader users and can be used in conjunction with Android TalkBack to refine the accessibility of your device using a Smart Labeling System that automatically labels all unlabeled controls throughout your apps and device. Users can customize sounds for every event, such as clicking, touching/hovering, swiping, scrolling, etc.

- ## Ava: Free & Subs

Provides deaf or hard-of-hearing people instant captions to follow any conversation and be included. The perfect companion to making your conversations accessible. This app is free for occasional use and costs $14.99 monthly or $9.99/month for a year for "power users."

- ## BARDMobile: Free

Allows people registered with their local NLS library to download books from the NLS BARD library – which contains nearly 50,000 books and magazines – onto their phone, save them, and have them read aloud featuring simple to use navigation and playback controls.

- ## Be My Eyes: Free

Utilizes your camera to allow a sighted person to see what the camera is looking at and tell you what it is. Simply point the camera at something you want identified and it will connect with a sighted volunteer. They can then see through your devices camera and tell you what it is pointed at! The app also has various organizations partnered as resources, providing an easy method of contact through the app.

- ## Big Launcher: $10.99

Simplifies the home screen for seniors or people with visual impairments by replacing it with enlarged buttons. The customizable menu features 6 easy to use, high-contrast buttons for calling, texting, gallery, camera, SOS, and accessing other applications. TalkBack is supported for blind users.

- ## Blind Bargins: Free

An app showcasing news, resources, and deals on Blind and Low Vision technology.

- ## CallerName Announcer Hands-Free Pro: Free

A free call and SMS announcer app that lets you hear who is contacting you.

- ## Desmos Scientific Calculator: Free

Scientific graphing calculator that cannot speak but can pair with a braille display.

- ## Envision AI: Free Trial & Subs

A fast and reliable OCR app that speaks out the visual world. Use your phone camera to scan any piece of text, your surroundings, objects, people, or products and have them read out to you. Envision is free to install and offers a 14 day trial to experience all of the apps features. Thereafter, you must purchase a $1.99 monthly subscription, $19.99 annual subscription, or $99.99 for a lifetime subscription. To connect with people through video call within the app, download the Envision Ally app.

- ## GetThere GPS nav for blind: Free
Designed specifically for blind or visually-impaired users. It does not display a map, and instead tells you where you are and how to navigate to your destination. Receive alerts when you veer off from or get close to your final destination, and receive helpful descriptions of nearest cross streets, the street you're on, and more. You can utilize this app using speech recognition or by entering text on the touchscreen.

- ## Giganticon Big Icons: Free & In-App Purchases
Have big icons on your home screen for any app you want. Users can have two widget icons for free and must pay thereafter.

- ## Google BrailleBack: Free
An accessibility service that allows you to use your braille display with your Android device via Bluetooth. It can work together with TalkBack to give a combined braille and speech experience.

- ## Google Assistant: Free
The google assistant is built into most android phones, or can be downloaded as an app. To start the google assistant, hold down the home button until it begins to listen. One way of activating the voice assistant through speech is by enabling the setting, "Hey Google" under Voice Match settings. This will teach your assistant to recognize your voice and begin listening when you say, "Hey Google" or "Ok Google" aloud. The Hey Google feature must be enabled under Voice Match settings. Once it is enabled, you can utilize this voice assistant by having it read and write messages, texts, or emails to people in your contacts. It can also search the internet, get you directions, answer basic questions, perform math calculations, and a whole lot more using simple voice commands!

- ## IDEAL Currency Identifier: Free
Identifies US currency notes for people who are blind or low vision.

- ## Image to Text & Translator: Free
Take a picture or use one from your gallery to then convert the text, have it translated into multiple languages, read aloud, or shared!

- ## JABtalk: Free
A speech communication application designed to help non-verbal children and adults communicate, known as augmentative & alternative communication (AAC).

- ## Lazarillo GPS for Blind: Free
A GPS app that incorporates mobility tools while using audio messages to tell you about a nearby place, the street you're walking on, the upcoming intersections, and more! This app can run in the background while you use other apps and features of your phone, while announcing places around you while you more.

- ## Live Transcribe & Sound Notifications

Real time transcriptions of conversations and sound event notifications. An easy way to make everyday conversations and surrounding sounds more accessible when with deaf and hard of hearing individuals. You can change the size of the text that is transcribed use as well as color contrast to provide white text on a black background. This is a research app by Google that may not be available for every phone.

- ## Lookout by Google: Free – Android 6+

Helping people with low vision explore the world with 5 modes: Food Labels mode to quickly identify packaged foods by their label in addition to their barcodes, Documents mode to read a whole page of text and have it read aloud or magnified, Text mode to quickly skim text and hear it read aloud – perfect for sorting mail –, Currency mode to identify banknotes, and Explore mode to offer information about objects in your surroundings. This app may not be available on all Android devices.

- ## Magnification: Free

You can quickly zoom in on the screen to display content more clearly by enabling magnification in your phone's accessibility settings. Instructions for usage should be displayed in the Magnification setting.

- ## Microsoft Lens: Free with Office 365 Subscription

A pocket PDF scanner with integrated OCR through an Immersive Reader feature that can read out the text from the images in text sizes ranging from 14 to 64pt with various contrast colors available. Scanned text and images can also be saved as PDFs, into OneNote, OneDrive, PowerPoint, or Word as an OCR document.

- ## Otter.ai: Free & Subs.

Record, transcribe, share, and turn meetings in searchable notes. Otter.ai records and takes meeting notes for you in real time for 600 minutes free every month (English only). For a Pro subscription, you can have 6,000 minutes of transcription per month.

- ## OverDrive: Free

Borrow eBooks, audiobooks, and streaming video from your library, with 24/7 access, no late fees, and easy signup with a valid account with a participating library, school, or other institution where library builds its own collection of titles.

- ## RightHear: Free

A virtual accessibility assistant that helps users easily orient themselves in new or casual environments. In Outdoor Mode, get your current location and direction headed, points of interest (sourced from Open Street Map) around you and nearby, make recordings of personal points of interest for navigating, and use an object recognition tool. In Indoor Mode (supported in RightHear enabled locations), you can get all of the same information customized to the building you are in. In addition, this app contains public transit information on bus and train arrivals and departures.

- # ScripTalk Mobile: Free

Use this app to read your ScripTalk Talking Labels, which are RFID tags attached to medication containers by pharmacies participating in the ScriptAbility accessibility program to provide those who are blind or low vision with audible prescription info.

- # Shouter Pro – The Announcer

Customize what this app can do with voice notifications for battery and charging status, a notification reader,caller name, missed calls and time announcement, and text message reading.

- # Speak!: Free

Assists the visually impaired to read text and identify products with various modes, such as: Document, Short Text, Barcode, Object, Color, Money Recognition, and Product Identification.

- # Supersense: Free Trial & Subs.

Read text, explore your surroundings, and find objects such as people, chairs, doors, stairs, animals, and more! You can have unlimited access to Quick Read, Explore, Find, Import, and Read History modes. For premium features such as Document, Handwriting, Currency, Multi-Page Scanning, Barcode, and additional languages, you must subscribe at $4.99/month, $48.99/year, and $99.99 for a lifetime.

- # Sullivan+: Free

A visual-aid app to enhance accessibility through various features like AI Mode, Text, Face, Image, Color, Light and Document Recognition, PDF Reader, and Magnifier.

- # TalkBack: Free

Enable Android's TalkBack feature by going into Settings, then Accessibility. When TalkBack is on, it provides spoken feedback so that you can use your device without looking at the screen.

- # Text Fairy (OCR Text Scanner): Free

Free app that can extract text from images and read it aloud. Easy to use with automatic paper detection. Scan and share documents or edit and manage them in your files.

- # Visor – low vision magnifier: Free

A magnifying glass for your Android device with 3 different magnification levels and 5 different contrast modes with the option of pausing & turning on the LED flashlight.

- ## Voice Access: Free

Provides accessibility by voice for hands-free mobile computing, helping anyone who has difficulty manipulating a touch screen. Various commands provide basic navigation (go back, go home, open Chrome), control over the current screen (tap next, scroll down), and text editing or dictation (type hello, replace coffee with tea). You can say "Help" at any time to see a short list of commands. This app can be activated after installation using Google Assistant by saying "Hey Google, Voice Access." To stop your device from listening temporarily, say "stop listening."

- ## Voxer Walkie Talkie Messenger: Free & Subs.

A walkie talkie app for teams with live voice, text, photos, and location sharing with end-to-end encryption. This app is free to use, with the option for subscription to its pro features for $3.99/month or $29.99/year.

- ## WeWalk – Orientation/Mobility App: Free

An accessible navigation and exploration app that pairs with the WeWalk Smart Cane, or can be utilized alongside your everyday white cane. In this app, you can receive O&M friendly walking directions as you navigate to your desired destination. Along the way, you can view public transportation stops near you along with their arrival times and receive alerts when you are reaching your bus or train stop so that you're never left rushing for the exit.

- ## weZoom – Magnifier and Low Vision Aid: Free

Free magnifier app with color contrast filters, autofocus, flashlight, & up to 8x mag.

Resources

- ## Hadley School for the Blind's iFocus Series

Series of videos regarding accessible technology use. A highly recommended resource. See all the videos at: https://www.youtube.com/user/HadleySchool/

- ## The Chicago Lighthouse's Technology Helpdesk: 1-888-825-0080

A free technology helpdesk available to help with technology questions regarding any blindness or low vision device, including questions on phone and tablet accessibility.

- **Free workshops by AT&T (you do not need to be an AT&T customer to attend)**

AT&T are providing free workshops to teach those with disabilities, caregivers and professionals how to use smartphones and tablets. Contact **Kendra.Cox@att.com** for more information.

- **Verizon Resource Center for People with Disabilities**

Their resource center includes: quick tips on how to zoom, change color, and use a screen reader, accessibility standards they abide by, and support by disability. They also offer different resources based on specific disabilities, such as: a visual assistance landing page; accessible apps and features; fios text-to-speech; descriptive video services; fios TV channel lineups; alternate billing formats; unlimited plans; prepaid plans; and connected device plans. Access the resource here: **https://www.verizon.com/about/accessibility/overview**.

- **The Chicago Lighthouse Tools for Living Store offers Android phone & tablet training! Training on a device is $40/hour with the first 30 minutes free of charge.**

If you are 55 or older, contact Noreen Costello at 1-847-510-2500 or email Noreen.Costello@chicagolighthouse.org for hourly training – FREE OF CHARGE!

If you are under the age of 55, please call Patrick Andrade (312-997-3649) or Michelle Fiocchi (847-510-2061) to schedule Android phone/tablet training or accessibility help.