

Mac dictation commands

Say these while Apple's Dictation is listening. From Apple's Mac User Guide, checked October 6, 2026.

Punctuation

apostrophe	An apostrophe
open square bracket	[
close square bracket	]
open parenthesis	(
close parenthesis	)
open brace	{
close brace	}
open angle bracket	<
close angle bracket	>
colon	:
comma	,
dash	A dash, longer than a hyphen
ellipsis	...
exclamation mark	An exclamation mark
hyphen	A hyphen
period, point, dot or full stop	.
question mark	?
quote	An opening quotation mark
end quote	A closing quotation mark
begin single quote	An opening single quote
end single quote	A closing single quote
semicolon	;

Formatting

new line	Starts a new line
new paragraph	Starts a new paragraph
tab key	Moves the cursor to the next tab stop
numeral	Formats the next phrase as a number
roman numeral	Formats the next phrase as a Roman numeral
no space on	Formats the next phrase without spaces
no space off	Goes back to normal spacing

Capitals

caps on	Formats the next phrase in Title Case
caps off	Goes back to normal capitals
all caps	Puts the next word in capitals
all caps on	Puts the next phrase in capitals
all caps off	Goes back to normal capitals

Symbols

ampersand	&
asterisk	*
at sign	@
backslash	\
forward slash	/
caret	^
center dot	A small center dot
large center dot	A large dot
degree sign	°
hashtag or pound sign	#
percent sign	%
underscore	_
vertical bar	

Math

equal sign	=
greater than sign	>
less than sign	<
minus sign	A minus sign
multiplication sign	x
plus sign	+

Currency

dollar sign	\$
cent sign	¢
pound sterling sign	£
euro sign	€
yen sign	¥

Emoticons and trademarks

smiley face	: -)
frowny face	: - (
winky face	; -)
cross-eyed laughing face	XD
copyright sign	©
registered sign	®
trademark sign	™

Good to know

- **Start and stop.** Press the Microphone key or your dictation shortcut, or choose Edit, Start Dictation. Press Esc to stop.
- **Pauses.** Dictation stops by itself after 30 seconds without speech.
- **On and off pairs.** Say the on command, the phrase, then the off command.
- **No delete command.** Fix words with the keyboard, or use Voice Control.
- **Auto-punctuation.** Turn it off under Dictation in Keyboard settings to place every mark yourself.