

Mac Voice Control commands to learn first

Say these with Voice Control on. Quoted from Apple's Mac User Guide, checked October 2026. Say Show commands to see every command your Mac knows right now.

Commands

Open Mail	Opens Mail; Apple's own example of opening an app by voice
Click Done	Clicks the button named Done. Click followed by any item's name or number works the same way
Scroll down, Scroll up	Scrolls what is in front of you
Show numbers, Hide numbers	Puts a number next to each item you can click, and takes the numbers away
Show names, Hide names	Shows the names of items, and hides them
Show grid, Show window grid, Hide grid	A numbered grid over the screen, or over the active window only, and away again
Show commands	Lists the commands that work right now
Dictation mode	On by default: any words that are not commands are typed as text
Command mode	Responds only to commands; nothing else is typed
Spelling mode	Enters one character at a time
Replace cat with dog	Swaps one word for another in the text you are editing
Stop listening, Start listening	Pauses Voice Control, and resumes it
Make this speakable	Opens the New Voice Control Command window to make a command of your own
Add to vocabulary	Adds the selected word to your custom vocabulary

Modes

- **Dictation mode.** The default. Any words that are not Voice Control commands are entered as text.
- **Command mode.** Voice Control responds only to commands, and words and characters that are not commands are ignored instead of typed. Use it for a run of commands near a text field.
- **Spelling mode.** One character at a time, for a password, a web address or a name no recognizer will guess. Apple suggests the phonetic alphabet, so **Alfa Bravo Charlie** types abc, and says Spelling mode is not available in every Voice Control language.
- **Swift mode.** On macOS Tahoe 26 and later, Apple's guide adds a mode that writes Swift code as you read it aloud. The [dictation for coding guide](#) covers it.

Good to know

- **Turn it on.** Apple menu, System Settings, Accessibility, Voice Control. The first time, it downloads a file from Apple, so the Mac must be online once.
- **Click anything.** Say Click and the name of a button. When there is no name, say Show numbers, then the number. For an empty spot, say Show grid.
- **Typing.** While Voice Control is on, standard macOS Dictation is not available; Voice Control types instead.
- **Your own commands.** System Settings, Accessibility, Voice Control, Commands, then the Add button.

Source: support.apple.com/guide/mac-help/mh40719 (Use Voice Control commands on Mac). The full guide: yaptotext.com/voice-control-commands-mac. YapToText is a free dictation app for Apple silicon Macs that runs on the Mac and works alongside Voice Control: yaptotext.com