

Windows 11 Native Accessibility Tools Guide

This guide documents **built-in accessibility tools available natively in Windows 11**, how to open them using standard navigation, and a **keyboard-shortcut cheat sheet** for quick access. It is designed for IT staff, educators, and support teams who need a clear, printable reference.

All tools referenced are included with Windows 11—no third-party software required.

NOTE: The tools listed in this document could be blocked by OSN Policies. If you encounter a blocked application let Education IT staff know so that we can review the software.

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1. Accessibility Settings (Central Hub)

Category: Vision, Hearing, Interaction

What it does: Central location for all Windows 11 accessibility features.

Open normally:

- Start → Settings → Accessibility

Keyboard shortcut:

- **Windows + U** — Open Accessibility Settings

2. Magnifier

Category: Vision

What it does: Zooms part or all of the screen to make content easier to see.

Open normally:

- Settings → Accessibility → Vision → Magnifier

Keyboard shortcuts (cheat sheet):

- **Windows + +** — Turn Magnifier on
- **Windows + -** — Zoom out
- **Windows + Esc** — Exit Magnifier
- **Windows + Ctrl + M** — Open Magnifier settings

3. Narrator (Screen Reader)

Category: Vision

What it does: Reads on-screen text, UI elements, and notifications aloud.

Open normally:

- Settings → Accessibility → Vision → Narrator

Keyboard shortcuts:

- **Ctrl + Windows + Enter** — Turn Narrator on or off
- **Windows + Ctrl + N** — Open Narrator settings

4. Color Filters

Category: Vision

What it does: Adjusts screen colors to assist users with color-vision differences.

Open normally:

- Settings → Accessibility → Vision → Color filters

Keyboard shortcut:

- **Windows + Ctrl + C** — Toggle color filters on/off

5. Contrast Themes

Category: Vision

What it does: Applies high-contrast themes for improved readability.

Open normally:

- Settings → Accessibility → Vision → Contrast themes

Keyboard shortcut:

- **Left Alt + Left Shift + Print Screen** — Toggle contrast themes

6. Text Size & Display Scaling

Category: Vision

What it does: Increases system-wide text size and display scale.

Open normally:

- Settings → Accessibility → Vision → Text size

Keyboard shortcut:

- No direct toggle shortcut (adjusted via Settings)

7. Cursor, Pointer, and Text Cursor Indicators

Category: Vision

What it does: Makes mouse pointer and text cursor easier to locate.

Open normally:

- Settings → Accessibility → Vision → Mouse pointer & touch
- Settings → Accessibility → Vision → Text cursor

8. Live Captions

Category: Hearing

What it does: Automatically displays captions for any system audio.

Open normally:

- Settings → Accessibility → Hearing → Captions

Keyboard shortcut:

- **Windows + Ctrl + L** — Turn Live Captions on/off

9. Mono Audio

Category: Hearing

What it does: Combines left and right audio channels into one.

Open normally:

- Settings → Accessibility → Hearing → Audio → Mono audio

10. Visual Audio Alerts

Category: Hearing

What it does: Flashes screen when system sounds occur.

Open normally:

- Settings → Accessibility → Hearing → Audio → Flash my screen during audio notifications

11. On-Screen Keyboard

Category: Interaction

What it does: Displays a virtual keyboard for mouse or touch input.

Open normally:

- Settings → Accessibility → Interaction → Keyboard

Keyboard shortcut:

- **Windows + Ctrl + O** — Toggle On-Screen Keyboard

12. Sticky Keys

Category: Interaction

What it does: Allows modifier keys to be pressed one at a time.

Open normally:

- Settings → Accessibility → Interaction → Keyboard

Keyboard shortcut:

- **Press Shift 5 times** — Toggle Sticky Keys

13. Filter Keys

Category: Interaction

What it does: Ignores brief or repeated keystrokes.

Keyboard shortcut:

- **Hold Right Shift for 8 seconds** — Toggle Filter Keys

14. Toggle Keys

Category: Interaction

What it does: Plays sounds when Caps Lock, Num Lock, or Scroll Lock are pressed.

Keyboard shortcut:

- **Hold Num Lock for 5 seconds** — Toggle Toggle Keys

15. Voice Typing

Category: Interaction

What it does: Converts speech to text for typing.

Keyboard shortcut:

- **Windows + H** — Start voice typing

16. Windows Speech Recognition

Category: Interaction

What it does: Controls Windows using voice commands.

Keyboard shortcut:

- **Windows + Ctrl + S** — Turn on Speech Recognition

Quick Reference (Most Used Shortcuts)

- **Windows + U** — Accessibility Settings
- **Windows + + / -** — Magnifier zoom
- **Ctrl + Windows + Enter** — Narrator
- **Windows + Ctrl + L** — Live Captions
- **Windows + H** — Voice Typing
- **Windows + Ctrl + O** — On-Screen Keyboard

Source references: Microsoft Support and Microsoft Accessibility documentation.