deque Desktop Screen Readers Survival Guide

Basic Keyboard Commands for Reading and Navigating Web Content

Task	JAWS	NVDA	Narrator	VoiceOver
Turn screen reader on	*Not available*	Control + Alt + N	Windows logo + Control + Enter	Command + F5
Turn screen reader off	Insert + F4	Insert + Q	Windows logo + Control + Enter or Caps Lock + Escape	Command + F5
Stop reading	Control	Control	Control	Control
Read next item	Down Arrow	Down Arrow	Caps Lock + Right Arrow*	VO + Right Arrow
Read previous item	Up Arrow	Up Arrow	Caps Lock + Left Arrow*	VO + Left Arrow
Read next *focusable* item (e.g. link, button)	Tab	Tab	Tab	Tab
Activate link	Enter	Enter	Caps Lock + Enter or Enter** or Space Bar**	VO + Space Bar or Enter
Activate button	Enter or Space Bar	Enter or Space Bar	Caps Lock + Enter or Enter or Space Bar	VO + Space Bar or Enter or Space Bar
Start reading continuously from this point on	Insert + Down Arrow	Insert + Down Arrow or Numpad Plus	Caps Lock + Down Arrow or Caps Lock + Control + R	VO + A
Go to next heading	H	H	H**	VO + Command + H
Show list of all headings	Insert + F6	Insert + F7	Caps Lock + F6	VO + U (Rotor), then Left/Right Arrow Keys
Go to next heading of level [1-6]	1-6	1-6	1-6**	*Not available*
Go to next landmark/region	*JAWS 16+:* R *JAWS 15:* ; (Semicolon)	D	D**	*Not available*
Go to the main content landmark	Q	*Not available*	Caps Lock + N	*Not available*
Open Elements List or Rotor	Insert + F3	Insert + F7	Caps Lock + [F6 or F7], then Tab (twice) to the Scoping drop-down list	VO + U
Go to next table	T	T	T**	VO + Command + T
Navigate table cells	Control + Alt + Arrow Keys	Control + Alt + Arrow Keys	Control + Alt + Arrow Keys	VO + Arrow Keys
Go to next list	L	L	*Not available*	VO + Command + X
Go to next list item	I	I	*Not available*	*Not available*
Go to next graphic	G	G	*Not available*	VO + Command + G
Show list of all links	Insert + F7	Insert + F7	Caps Lock + F7	VO + U (Rotor), then Left/Right Arrow Keys
Go to next link	*Not available*	K	K**	VO + Command + L
Go to next *unvisited* link	U	U	*Not available*	*Not available*
Go to next *visited* link	V	V	*Not available*	VO + Command + V
Go to next form element	F	F	F	VO + Command + J
Go back to previous heading, landmark, table, focusable item, etc.	Shift + [H, R, T, Tab, etc.]	Shift + [H, D, T, Tab, etc.]	Shift + [H**, D**, T**, Tab, etc.]	VO + Shift + Command + [H, T, Tab, etc.]
Toggle screen reader mode	*Forms Mode:* (On) (Automatic when in form element), (Off) Numpad Plus	To *Browse Mode* or *Focus Mode^:* Insert + Space Bar	*Scan Mode:* Caps Lock + Space Bar	*Not available*
Interact with (go into/out of) objects (like iframes, menus, application regions, etc.)	*Not applicable*	*Not applicable*	*Not applicable*	VO + Shift + Down/Up Arrows
Toggle between: Radio buttons, `<select>` list items, Tabs (ARIA widget), Tree view items (ARIA widget), Menu items (ARIA widget)	Arrow Keys [`<select>` *list:* then Enter]	Arrow Keys [`<select>` *list:* then Enter]	Arrow Keys [`<select>` *list:* then Space Bar or Enter, then Tab to exit list]	Arrow Keys, then [VO + Space Bar or Space Bar]
Toggle Virtual PC Cursor	Insert + Z	*Not available*	*Not available*	*Not available*

Recommended browsers:

- JAWS + Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or Internet Explorer
- NVDA + Firefox, Chrome, or Edge
- Narrator + Edge
- VoiceOver + Safari

Notes:

- Insert is the default NVDA modifier key, but Caps Lock can be set as a duplicate modifier key (so that it can be used in place of Insert).
- NVDA's shortcut keys listed here are for NVDA's desktop keyboard layout setting. Some shortcuts are different when using NVDA's laptop keyboard layout setting, such as Insert + A to start reading continuously.
- The Narrator key, Caps Lock (or Insert can be used in its place), can be locked so it doesn't need to be pressed with every command by pressing Caps Lock + Z (or Insert + Z) (only when not in Scan Mode).
- VO is an abbreviation for VoiceOver keys Control + Option. The VO keys can be locked so that they don't need to be pressed to perform VoiceOver commands by pressing VO + ; (Semicolon).

Footnotes:

- * Cycle between element types with Caps Lock + Page Up or Caps Lock + Page Down (or Caps Lock + Control + Up Arrow or Caps Lock + Control + Down Arrow), then advance through those page elements one at a time.
- ** Scan Mode only.
- ^ Allows interaction with forms and controls.

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