

Basic Gestures for iPhone

Presented by Dallon Au

Hi, I'm Dallon, an IT trainer from Guide Dogs Singapore. Today, I will be sharing with you some finger gestures to navigate your iPhone with the use of Voiceover.

These finger gestures will allow you to navigate a list of items, scroll up and down a page, and activate an item.

There will be three different gestures that we are covering. The first gesture is the one-finger swipe to the left or right. The second gesture is three-fingers scrolling. And the last gesture that we will be learning is the one-finger double tap.

Enabling Voiceover

Before we begin, let's turn on our Voiceover. There are two ways to turn on the Voiceover. The first way, which is the easiest way is to use the accessibility shortcut. This is the condition if the accessibility shortcut has been set up to turn on Voiceover, or if

you have set up your iPhone with Voiceover. To turn it on, we just need to press the side button or power button three times rapidly. You should hear “Voiceover on”.

Let’s see that in action.

[DEMO: Turning on Voiceover by pressing the power button quickly three times. Voiceover speaks, “Voiceover on, Calender, Friday”]

The second way is to manually go to Settings, then to Accessibility, then to Voiceover, and press the ‘On’ toggle.

Explore by Touch

Before we begin to explore the different finger gestures, let me share a feature that Voiceover has, which is the ‘Explore by touch’. As I move my finger across the screen, Voiceover will read out what is underneath my finger. For example...

[DEMO: Voiceover reads out apps as Dallan’s finger moves across the screen]

You notice that Voiceover read up different apps on the home screen as I was moving around. Now as I move my finger further up to the status bar of the phone, we will find information such as time and battery level. So let’s check the time.

[DEMO: Shows finger touching the top-left of the screen]

[Voiceover reads time]

So we noticed that the time is at 5:55 pm.

And now if I move my finger to the right of the status bar, it will announce the battery level.

[DEMO: Dallan's finger moves to the right of the status bar, ending up on the top-right of the screen]

[Voiceover announces battery level]

Which is at 78% and it's not charging.

One-Finger Swipe Gesture

So we have just explored the “Explore by touch” feature. So let's move on to the finger gesture. So the first finger gesture that I'll be talking about today is the one-finger swipe left or right. This gesture allows you to navigate between items sequentially.

To start off with our demonstration, we will be using our home screen to practice our gestures. Starting off from the status bar, which is on the left of the home screen, slightly move your finger downward to the first item on the home screen.

[DEMO: Dallan's finger moves to the top left of the status bar, and then moves down to one of the apps on the home screen]

[Voiceover reads out time on the upper left of the status bar, then followed by one of the apps where Dallan's finger lands on]

Notice that the first app that was read out was 'Calender'. Now, to perform the one-finger swipe to the right gesture, quickly flick the one-finger to the right anywhere on the home screen.

[DEMO: Dallan's finger flick to the right]

[Voiceover reads the next item on screen]

Notice that the next item that was read up to me was 'Clock'. Let's try to perform the gesture again. Remember, it's one finger flick to the right anywhere on your home screen.

[DEMO: Dallan's finger flick to the right]

[Voiceover reads 'Contacts' on home screen]

Notice that the next item that reads out to us was 'Contacts'.

Now, let's move on to the next gesture. We have discovered how to move to the next item, so how do we move backwards to the previous item? Well, we just need to perform a one-finger swipe to the left gesture. It is really similar to the first gesture that we covered. So to perform this gesture, we just need to

quickly flick from right to left and it'll move to the previous item.

[DEMO: Dallan's finger swiping from right to left on the screen]

[Voiceover reads the item on screen]

In this case, you heard 'Clock'. So let's try to perform this gesture again. Same thing, one-finger flick to the left of anywhere on your home screen.

[DEMO: Dallan's finger flick to the right]

[Voiceover reads 'Calender' on home screen]

This brings us back to where we have started. Do note that these gestures that we have covered could be performed on anywhere on your phone screen. It could be performed in an app say, 'Settings', 'WhatsApp', or any app that you use, as long as you use Voiceover.

Three-Fingers Scroll Gesture

The next pair of finger gestures we'll be looking at is the "Three-finger scrolling gesture". These gestures allow you to go to the next page, or to reveal more items, or information on the screen. To perform these gestures we have to place three fingers anywhere on our screen, you could either swipe left, right, up or down. For instance, if you want to go to the next

page of your home screen, you have a three-finger swipe from right to left. So let's see that in action.

[DEMO: Dallan uses a three-fingers swipe from right to left to navigate to the next screen on the home screen]

[Voiceover announces 'Page 2 of 4.']

Noticed that it read, 'page 2 of 4'. And now, the next gesture is to go to the previous page. So to go to the previous page, you just need to swipe three fingers from left to right. Let's see that in action.

[DEMO: Dallan uses three-fingers swipe to the right]

[Voiceover announces 'Page 1 of 4']

Notice we are back to page 1. Depending on where you are, you can use the three-fingers to scroll up or down to perform this scrolling gesture. So for instance, you would use these gestures when you are scrolling through a list of items. In this case, we will be using 'Settings' for demonstration.

To perform the scrolling down gesture to reveal more information, we simply place three fingers on the screen and swipe upwards.

[DEMO: Dallan puts three fingers on the screen and swipes upwards]

[Voiceover announces 'Rows 20 to 35 of 58']

Notice it says 'Rows 20 to 35'. Let's do the gesture one more time. Three fingers place down on the screen and swipe upwards.

[DEMO: Dallan puts three fingers on the screen and swipes upwards]

[Voiceover announces 'Rows 32 to 47 of 58']

Now it says, 'Rows 32 to 47', this shows us that it has gone down the list. Now, how do we go back up? We will use three-fingers swipe downwards. So simply place three fingers on the screen and swipe downwards.

[DEMO: Dallan puts three fingers on the screen and swipes downwards]

[Voiceover announces 'Rows 20 to 35 of 58']

Now we are back to 'Rows 20 to 35'. Let's see that gesture one more time. Three fingers place on the screen and swipe downwards.

[DEMO: Dallan puts three fingers on the screen and swipes downwards]

[Voiceover announces 'Rows 8 to 23 of 58']

Now we are back to 'Rows 8 to 23'.

One-Finger Double-Tap Gesture

The last gesture that we will be looking at today is the one-finger double-tap gesture. This gesture is used when you would like to activate an item. For example, opening an app. To perform this gesture, simply use one finger and tap on your phone screen twice. Do note that this is a fast gesture, which means you should not tap once and lift up your finger for too long before tapping again. Let's try it now.

First, let's find an item that we want to activate.

[DEMO: Dallan touching list of items on the 'Settings' screen]

[Voiceover reads out items as Dallan moves his fingers]

For example, 'General', so let's activate it.

[DEMO: Dallan performs a one-finger double-tap on 'General']

[Voiceover reads out the activated item]

So we are currently in 'General. Let's try this gesture one more time. Let's locate another item.

[DEMO: Dallan moves his finger along the list of items, and performs a one-finger double-tap on 'Software update']

[Voiceover announces 'Automatic updates']

Notice that we are currently in Updates, we have activated 'Software Updates'

We've come to the end of this video. In this video, we have covered three basic gestures. The gestures are a one-finger swipe left or right to navigate a list of items, three-fingers for scrolling, and lastly one-finger double tap to activate an item.

Once again, I am Dallan, and thanks for listening, and I'll see you next time!

Contact Our IT Trainers

If you would like to learn more about operating your phone, you can arrange an appointment with our IT trainers at Guide Dogs Singapore by calling 6339 7900 or email us at IT@guidedogs.org.sg.