



Sending and Receiving Messages (Android Device)

Presented by Chia Hong Sen

Part of ***Calling and Messaging Series***

Hi, my name is Hong Sen, I am an IT trainer at Guide Dogs Singapore. Today, I'll be showing you how you can send and read messages with TalkBack on Android.

Reading Messages on a Default 'Messages' App

Today, we will be demonstrating on a Google Pixel 6 with the default messaging app. Over here, we have the 'Messages' app opened.

[Demo: Hong Sen shows the phone with the 'Messages' app opened]

At the top of the screen, there is a search field where you can search for messages that you have sent or received.

[Demo: Hong Sen shows the top of the phone screen.]

Below that, you will find the main messages list, where you can view your message history, displayed as message threads of people you have been texting with. At the bottom right corner of the screen, or if you were to use the swipe gesture, you will find the 'Start Chat' button, where you can start a new conversation.

[Demo: Hong Sen shows the bottom right corner of the screen, taps on it, and TalkBack reads out the 'Start Chat' button.]

Let's now browse through the messages on this phone.

[Demo: Hong Sen browses through messages on the phone with TalkBack using the one-finger swipe gesture.]

Let's take a look at this thread.

[Demo: Hong Sen taps and opens the chat thread and uses one finger swipe gesture to read chat history with GDA. TalkBack reads out chat history accordingly.]

On this page, we'll have our chat history with GDA. At the top of the screen, we will find the name, below that, we'll have the list of messages, and at the bottom of the screen, we'll have the text message 'EditBox', where we can type a reply. To the right of that, you will find the 'Send' button, amongst other things. You can use the swipe gestures to navigate through this screen, just like any other screen.

Sending Messages on a Default 'Messages' App

You have now learned how to read messages with TalkBack. To reply, double-tap on the 'EditBox' at the bottom of the screen. Once done, find the 'Send' button to the right of the 'EditBox'.

For now, I will show you how to send a text message to a new contact instead, the steps are similar. On the main screen, you can find the 'Start Chat' button at the bottom right corner of the screen. Alternatively, you can use the swipe gestures. Once you find it, double-tap to open. Let's give that a try.

[Demo: Hong Sen locates the 'Start Chat' button, then double taps to open, keypad appears.]

The first 'Edit Box' allows you to enter name of your contact or a phone number whom you wish to chat with. I'm going to enter a phone number now.

[Demo: Hong Sen enters a phone number, and TalkBack reads out the numbers accordingly.]

I have now entered a number; I'll now find the 'Done' button at the bottom right of the keyboard.

[Demo: Hong Sen locates the 'Done' button. TalkBack reads out the phone number that was just keyed in. Hong Sen taps on the 'EditBox'.]

Now, TalkBack focuses on the 'Edit Box' where I can type a short message.

I will now type a short message.

[Demo: Hong Sen types a short message, and TalkBack reads out what is being typed.]

To send this message, find the 'Send' button to the right of the 'Edit Box'.

[Demo: Hong Sen locates the 'Send' button, and double taps it to send the message.]

And now the message has been sent.

So we've now learned how you can send and read messages with the default 'Messages' app on Android with TalkBack. Another popular way of instant messaging is via WhatsApp, which we will be covered in the next phase. In the meantime, if you require assistance with WhatsApp, please feel free to reach out to GDS for support. Once again, my name is Hong Sen, and we will meet again next time.

If you would like to learn more about operating your phone, you can contact our IT trainers in Guide Dogs Singapore by calling us at 6339 7900 or emailing us at IT@guidedogs.org.sg.