

Customising your devices

Topics

Screen

- Increase text size
- Screen magnifier
- Change contrast and colours

Mouse

- Increase cursor size and colour
- Change Mouse speed

Keyboard

- Keyboard shortcuts

Sound

- Increase volume
- Haptics
- Hearing aids

Helpful devices

- Keyboards, mice etc.
- The phone in the car

Customising a Phone or Tablet

Mendlesham Computer Club

By Giles Godart-Brown

iPhone and iPad accessibility features

The iPhone and iPad have a huge array of accessibility options in addition to Siri, most features are under Settings > Accessibility.

- Display & Text Size - Make text larger or change colours
- Zoom - Zoom in
- Spoken Content - Screen reader
- VoiceOver - Tap for it to read parts of the screen, double tap to select
- Text to speech - live captions
- Eye tracking
- Use the Magnifier app to scan your surroundings and get live descriptions of the scenes detected in the camera view

Android accessibility options

Android comes in a large number of versions, so some devices may not implement all of these features and many are provided by third party applications in addition to Google Assistant;

- If you go to settings you can search for the following;
 - Font size
 - Display size and text, this also allows you to change contrast and colour
 - Accessibility>Colour and motion, this also allows you to change mouse size
 - Magnification
- The TalkBack application is a Screen reader
- The Lookout application provides information about your surroundings
- The Voice Access application provides spoken commands -

Customising a computer

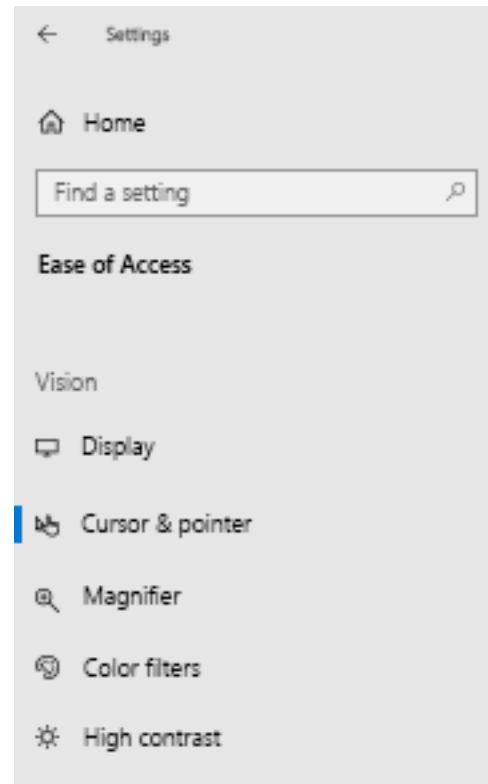
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Mouse settings

You can adjust the mouse size, colour, and speed.

- On Windows 10 go to Settings>Ease of Access>Mouse pointer
- On Windows 11 go to Settings>Accessibility>Mouse pointer and touch
- On Mac select System Settings>Accessibility>Display and scroll down to pointer



Cursor & pointer

Make pointer, cursor, and touch feedback easier to see.

Change pointer size and color

Change pointer size



Change pointer color

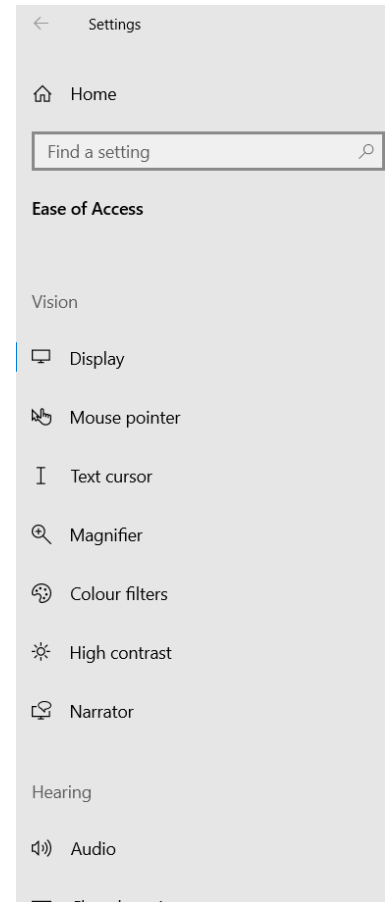


Suggested pointer colors



Text size

- On Windows 10 go to Settings>Ease of access to increase the text size, screen zoom, and brightness.
- On Windows 11 go to Settings>Accessibility to increase the text size, screen zoom, and brightness.
- On Mac its System settings>Display and Accessibility




Display

Make your display easier to see.

Make text bigger

Sample text

Drag the slider until the sample text is easy to read, then click Apply

A  A

Apply

Make everything bigger

Change the size of apps and text on the main display

125% (Recommended) 

[Change the size of apps and text on other displays](#)

[Change the size and colour of your cursor and mouse pointer](#)

Make everything brighter

Change the brightness of your built-in display

  100 %

Colours and Contrast

- On Windows 10 go to Settings>Ease of access, Colour filters and High Contrast.
- On Windows 11 go to Settings>Accessibility, Colour filters and High Contrast
- On Mac select System Settings, Appearance

Colour filters

Make photos and colours easier to see by applying a colour filter to your screen.

Use colour filters

Turn on colour filters



Allow the shortcut key to toggle filter on or off

* Night light may decrease the effectiveness of colour filters. You may want to turn it off if you notice that some colours are harder to see.

Press the Windows logo key + Ctrl + C to toggle filter on or off.

Select a colour filter to see elements on the screen better

Inverted (reverse colours on the display)

Greyscale

Greyscale inverted

Or select a colour blindness filter to make the nine colours on the wheel more distinct.

Red-green (green weak, deuteranopia)

High contrast

Make text and apps easier to see by using more distinct colours.

Use high contrast

Turn on high contrast

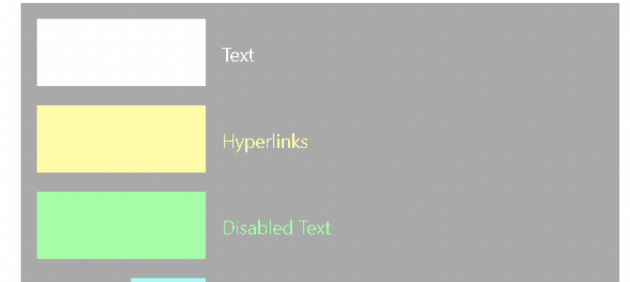


Press left Alt + left Shift + Print Screen to turn high contrast on and off.


Choose a theme

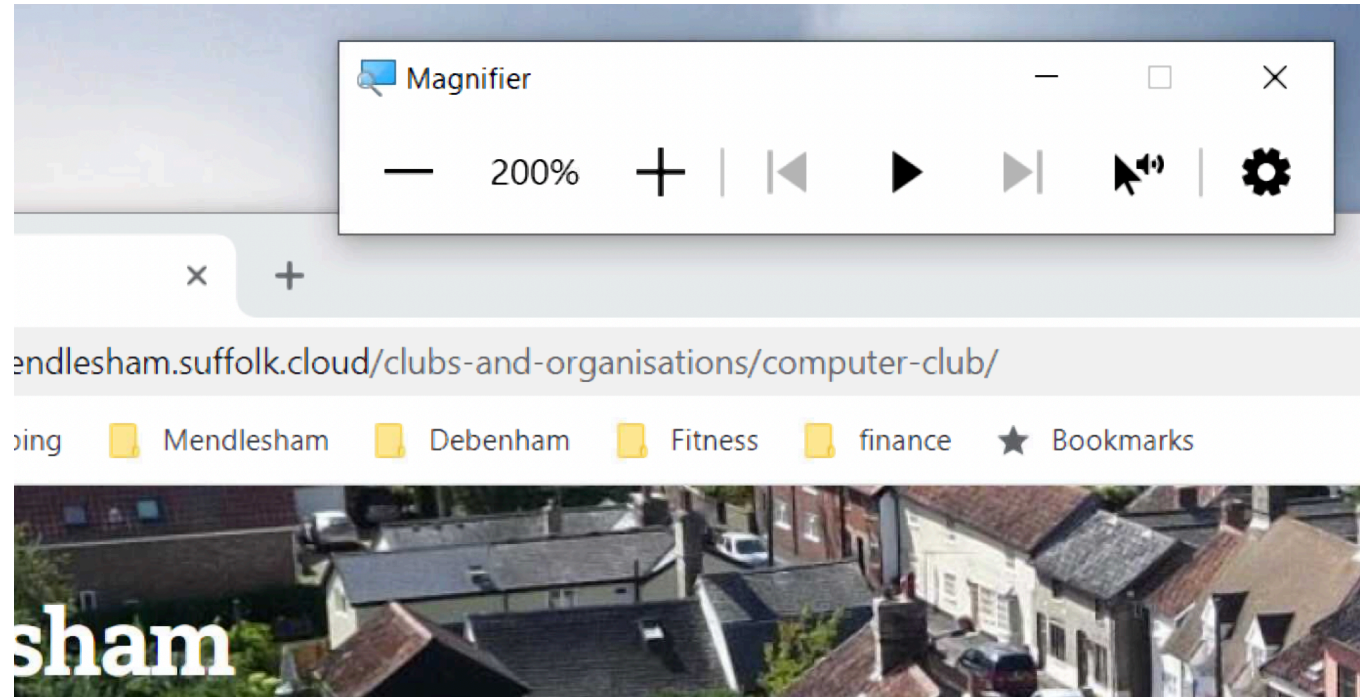
High Contrast 3 ac<

Select a coloured rectangle to customise high contrast colours























Screen Magnifier

- On Windows press the Windows key  and + to activate the magnifier
- On Mac to zoom in, press Option, Command and + keys together, Option, Command and – zooms out



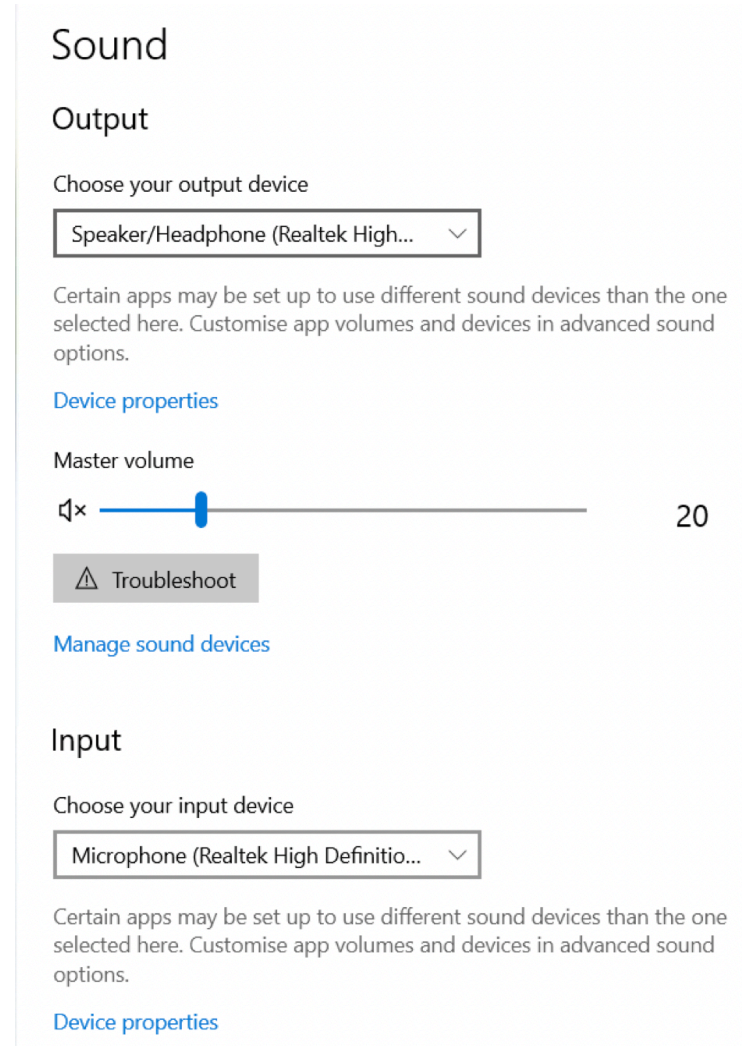
Keyboard shortcuts

Use keyboard shortcuts (such as pressing ALT to move the cursor up to the menu bar and then using arrow keys to navigate the menus)

Windows	Mac	Action
  <delete>		Reboot
 c	 c	Copy selected items to clipboard
 x	 c	Cut selected items
 v	 v	Paste items from clipboard
 a	 a	Select all
 z	 z	Undo an action
 y	 y	Redo an action
 p	 p	Print to a printer
 w	 w	Close the active window
 n	 n	Open new window

Sound

- On Windows 10 or 11 go to Settings>System>sound to adjust devices and volume
- On Mac System Settings>Sound



The screenshot shows the Windows 'Sound' settings page. It is divided into 'Output' and 'Input' sections. The 'Output' section has a dropdown menu for 'Speaker/Headphone (Realtek High...)' and a 'Master volume' slider set to 20. Below the slider is a 'Troubleshoot' button. The 'Input' section has a dropdown menu for 'Microphone (Realtek High Definitio...)' and a 'Device properties' link. Both sections include explanatory text about app-specific sound settings.

Sound

Output

Choose your output device

Speaker/Headphone (Realtek High... ▾)

Certain apps may be set up to use different sound devices than the one selected here. Customise app volumes and devices in advanced sound options.

[Device properties](#)

Master volume

🔊 20

[Troubleshoot](#)

[Manage sound devices](#)

Input

Choose your input device

Microphone (Realtek High Definitio... ▾)

Certain apps may be set up to use different sound devices than the one selected here. Customise app volumes and devices in advanced sound options.

[Device properties](#)

Physical devices

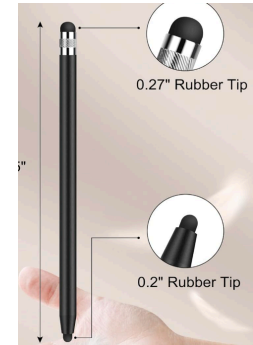
Keyboards

- If you are a fast typist, you may consider getting a USB mechanical keyboard.
- There are also keyboards for tablets, usually bluetooth and may fold into a case.
- There are many specialist keyboards, large keys (or keyboard stickers), illuminated...
- It may be a good idea to stick down the keyboard with Blu-tak if it moves around.



Pointing and drawing devices

- The Trackball is good if you have wrist problems (e.g. RSI)
- A stylus may help for a tablet
- A 'Drawing Tablet' is good for artwork



Lighting

- Natural lighting is preferable to artificial lighting; make sure that the monitor is perpendicular to the light source to reduce glare.
- If overhead fluorescents are the only options in the room, consider investing in an inexpensive gooseneck lamp to focus lighting on the keyboard



Displays

- If you do a lot of work on your device it may be a good idea to get a large monitor
- You can connect a monitor to a phone or tablet via an HDMI cable with a suitable cable.
- Some Smart TV's allow you to share your phone screen wirelessly



Sounds

- Bluetooth hearing aids
- Bluetooth headphones
- Bluetooth Speakers



In extremis



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The phone in the car

The phone in the car

- Modern cars have a 'hands free' facility that works via Bluetooth to your phone
- To enable this you need to 'pair' your phone to the car.
 - Find the setting on the car that corresponds to 'search for Bluetooth devices'
 - Make sure Bluetooth is enabled on your phone
 - When the car discovers the phone, enter the pairing code and it will connect.
- Once connected, there may be additional functions;
 - Play music or audio books from the phone on your car stereo.
 - Apple CarPlay or Android Auto, these use your car's screen to drive apps on your phone e.g. Navigation, Music, Communication and Voice control.
 - Beware of ones that use a lot of data.
- Car Manufacturer Applications

Other resources

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Other resources

- All devices have good resources for assistance with Accessibility such as screen readers. Search for 'accessibility' with Google for more information.
- There are companies that specialise in consultancy to organisations creating Accessible web sites. E.g. <https://mcmw.abilitynet.org.uk/> who also have an online form you can use to get help with your home setup.