# ­Accessible Apps for Smart Phones

**By Jolene Nemeth**

**Rehabilitation Teacher**

# Navigation of this document

**This document has been structured for easy navigation for screen reader users. Major sections are heading level one. Subsections are heading level two and the individual app names are heading level three. You can navigate to these using the quick navigation keys for your particular screen reader.**

**For JAWS users, when using quick keys in Microsoft Word, you will first need to turn quick keys on. You can do this by pressing insert Z. Then you can navigate the headings by pressing the letter H. To jump to a specific heading level, do the following:**

**For headings at level 1 press 1**

**For headings at level 2 press 2**

**For headings at level 3 press 3**

**For Window-Eyes users, there is an app that comes with the program called wordnav. This allows for quick navigation of word documents with headings, etc. To turn on wordnav press insert Z. To navigate the headings, do the same as you would for JAWS users as mentioned above.**

# Accessible apps for I/OS devices

**At the time of this writing, most of these apps have been tested and proven to have a certain level of accessibility. When updates for apps come out, sometimes things change that may make the app more or less accessible.**

**There are thousands of apps available for iPhone and other Apple devices that can be found by searching the app store on your particular device. There may be different versions of an app for the iPad versus the iPhone so there may be some slight differences. For this project, I tried to choose apps that would be helpful and useful to clients of BESB. I encourage you to look for other apps that you might like and give them a test drive.**

## Digital book Readers

**The first few apps are designed for the blind. There may be membership fees associated with using these apps depending on your circumstances and the book service you choose to use.**

### Read2go

**Bookshare’s daisy book reader**

**Download and read daisy books on your phone**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Learning Ally

**Daisy reader from learning ally**

**Is currently free but was a paid app**

**Requires the use of the internet in addition to the app**

### BARDMobile

**The National Library Service’s book reader**

### Voice Dream Reader - Text to Speech

**Listen to PDF and Word documents, eBooks, articles, and even Bookshare books**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### OverDrive Media Console

**This app is for borrowing digital books from the library. You will need to have a library card to use it**

**Not all libraries participate in lending overdrive books**

**These next book readers are free but the books cost money unless they are public domain books.**

### iBooks

**Order books and read them on your phone with Apple’s book app**

**You can also read PDF documents with this app**

### Audiobooks from Audible

**Download and read books from audible.com**

**Fee associated with membership to audible**

### Kindle

**Download and read books from Amazon**

### Nook

**Download and read books from Barnes and Noble**

## Education and reference

### Blackboard Mobile™ Learn for iPhone

**Works with blackboard’s Web-based teaching and learning software**

### Dictionary.com - Dictionary & Thesaurus

**Get definitions for those tricky words**

**May have some paid components but the basic app is free**

### PocketBraille Lite

**Learn the Braille code on your phone or iPad**

### gFlash+ Flashcards

**Make flash cards right on your phone for numerous subjects**

**For students of all ages**

### iTunes U

**Access to free educational content and more**

### Speaking Spelling Bee

**Improve your spelling skills**

**Some minor accessibility issues**

**There is a paid version without ads**

### Talking calculator

**A good basic calculator for blind or visually impaired**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Talking scientific calculator

**Accessible scientific calculator for both blind and visually impaired**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Free graphing calculator

**All buttons are labeled but you cannot read the graph with speech**

**Some minor accessibility issues**

### Google translate

**Translate words and phrases into multiple languages**

## News and information

### AccessWorld

**Official app for the AFB’s newsletter**

### Earl

**Read newspaper articles on your phone**

**Can be used without voiceover**

**There is a cost for subscription**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### iBlink Radio

**Listen to music, get news and information right on your phone**

**From Serotek**

### NFB Newsline

**News and information from the NFB right in your pocket**

### ViA

**Helps blind and visually impaired users find apps designed for them**

### VO Starter

**Learn and practice using voiceover**

## Independent living apps

### Saving star

**Get e-coupons right on your phone for products you use everyday**

**Some accessibility issues**

### Find My iPhone

**Find a missing phone if you have another Apple Device**

### Peapod

**Order groceries from your phone**

**Some accessibility issues**

### Light Detector

**Detects light levels and turns them into sound**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### MagLight+

**Magnifying Glass Flashlight**

### Vision assist

**A great Portable video magnifier**

**Store images in your camera roll for later viewing**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Yocto Alarm Clock

**Full featured alarm clock with multiple sounds and features**

**Attractive display, fully configurable**

### White & Yellow Pages

**Look up phone numbers and addresses**

## Color identification apps

### Color ID Free

**One of the better free color identifiers**

### ColorDetect

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### ColoredEye

**Download from the app store for a fee**

## Recognition apps

### Prizmo

**Scan and recognize text with your phone**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Text Grabber

**Scan and recognize text**

**Also has translation ability**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Say Text

**Free text recognition for your device**

### ZoomReader

**Text recognition app for low vision users from the makers of Zoomtext**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Text Detective

**Finds and reads text in printed documents within seconds using your iPhone’s camera**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Digit-Eyes Audio Scanner and Labeler

**Scans barcodes to identify products**

**You can also make your own barcode labels**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

**The following three apps use people to look at the picture you take to identify what the object is. Use caution and do not take pictures of items of a sensitive nature such as credit cards, or anything else with information you would not want anyone else to have.**

### TapTapSee

**Take a picture of something and find out what it is**

**Gives great details about the object**

### VizWiz

**Take a picture, ask a question, get answers**

### oMoby

**Find out what things are by snapping a picture**

## Money identifiers

### EyeNote

**Free money identifier from the U.S. Treasury**

### LookTel Money Reader

**Identifies money in real time using iPhone camera**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

## Health and safety apps

### Calorie Counter & Diet Tracker by MyFitnessPal

**Connect with friends for support along your fitness journey**

**Gives nutritional facts about a wide variety of foods**

### Diabetes App Lite

**Blood sugar control, glucose tracker and carb counter**

### Emergency Contact

**Emergency information on your phone’s wallpaper**

### WebMD Mobile

**Medical information at your fingertips**

### Lumen Trails

**Track Anything! Make lists, snap photos, take notes, create daily food diary, fitness tracker, etc.**

### Siren Pro™

**Use as a theft deterrent or to help someone find you in an emergency**

**Also has a beacon**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### My Medical Info

**Organize all of your medical info in one place for easy access**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Pill Monitor – Medication Reminders and Logs

**Never miss a dose again**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Pocket Yoga

**Talks you through sessions with pictures**

**Dictionary of poses with descriptions**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### PetFirstAid

**In case the guide dog or family pet gets injured**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Dogs Nutrition Calculator

**Information on what your dog is eating**

**Great for deciding what food to feed your guide dog**

**Some minor accessibility issues but useable**

## Mobility apps

### Ariadne GPS

**Touch the map to find out where you are**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### BlindSquare

**Find out what’s around you, get contact information and more**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Around Me

**Find out what’s nearby, get directions, and so much more**

### Seeing eye gps

**Get turn by turn instructions with helpful descriptions**

**Developed in cooperation with The Seeing Eye**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Sendero GPS LookAround

**Announces the current street, city, cross street, heading and nearby points of interest**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Location Alarm

**Enter your location, receive notifications when you are close to your destination**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Where to go

**Use this app to locate points of interest around you**

## Text editors and utilities

### BrailleTouch

**Type text into your device using a braille keyboard similar to the Perkins Brailler**

**There is a free version and a paid version**

### MBraille

**Type text using braille, and post to Facebook, email, etc.**

**There is a free version and a paid version**

### Plaintext

**Simple to use interface**

**sync with drop box**

### Drop box

**File sharing and storage**

### Bump

**Share contacts, photos, and apps by bumping phones with another bump user**

## Dictation apps

### Dictabulus

**Dictate text on your portable device and watch it appear on your Macintosh computer**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Vokul

**Dictation app for those who do not have Siri**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### Dragon Dictate

**Dictate text and send emails, post to Facebook, and much more**

**The accessibility of this app changes often with updates**

### Dragon Go

**Just speak and this app searches the web for you**

**The accessibility of this app changes often with updates**

## Weather apps

### Forecast Now

**Get forecasts and weather alerts on your phone.**

### iMap Weather Radio

**Some minor accessibility issues but useable**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### MyWarn

**Weather warnings and forecasts on the go**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### NOAA Storm Center

**The official app of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association**

**Keep tabs on storms**

**Some minor accessibility issues but useable**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

### NOAA Weather Radio

**Another app from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association**

**NOAA Weather Radio in your pocket**

**Some minor accessibility issues but useable**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

## Social Networking

**Keep up with your friends on Facebook and Twitter.**

### Facebook

**The official Facebook app**

### Friends Planet

**An app that makes Facebook easy to use**

### Twitter

**The official Twitter app**

### Twitterific

**An app that makes Twitter easier to use**

## Entertainment apps

### iBird Pro Guide to Birds

**Hear bird calls and track various species**

**Download from the app store for a fee**

**There is a free version- iBird lite**

### Tune in radio

**Listen to radio shows on your phone**

**There is a paid version called tune in radio pro**

### I heart radio

**Listen to live shows or create custom stations**

### Pandora

**Get Pandora radio on your phone**

**There may be some cost for service**

### 7 little words

**This word game is a mix between a crossword puzzle and an anagram**

### Clever clues

**A challenging word game**

**The app is free but you can purchase other packages of puzzles**

### Diceworld

**Play different dice games, post your scores to social media**

**The app is free but you can purchase dice, etc.**

### Audio archery

**Use your ears to track the target and fire your arrow**

**Completely audio app, no pictures**

**Accessible Fruit Machine**

**Play slots on your phone**

### You Tube

**Audio and videos for just about anything**

**This is listed under entertainment but you can use it to do so much more**

**Learn to do various projects, get great tips, or just entertain yourself**

# More Information on Apple devices and apps

**This is only a partial listing. There are numerous other accessible apps out there. A good resource for searching for such apps is a website called applevis. The address is** [**www.applevis.com**](http://www.applevis.com)**. There is a lot of information on this site including reviews of the apps, detailed information on the level of accessibility of each app, as well as a short description.**

**Other blind users also can write their comments and rate the apps.**

**Below is the direct link to browse the Applevis site for iPhone and iPad apps.**

[**http://www.applevis.com/ios-app-directory/browse**](http://www.applevis.com/ios-app-directory/browse)

**There is also a site called Mac for the Blind that might have some useful information.**

[**www.macfortheblind.com**](http://www.macfortheblind.com)

**You might also want to sign up for the Top Tech Tidbits email newsletter from Flying Blind.**

[**http://www.flying-blind.com**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Tztefmh7pynec6o15c2OMpiTNkRvll3PpfwJ3YGFTXgDHHzimxERyP-FIrattbjYf9yYtLNisDQgKvpQ5BPrkhifEMiPUGvjw6YoukdL-f7YhVoAkUELmiEAr2XMT4GyvaLdOCLKCqnVuFBFDmmRqaYFflvLRZ5gS_QMDuxuBRk=&c=BfK1sVS6q7fRUSa6vxPwUMSFV_v1pdTc5B4JBVRSqsU6bJDaRIeMeQ==&ch=lgWTPzMIkSvpZJ7NFtYcR54DQi6tifpZIiEB_DlHpCuZbf-y6pYQlQ==)

**Here is a link to the archives of the 2013 issues**

[**http://www.flying-blind.com/tidbits2013.html**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Tztefmh7pynec6o15c2OMpiTNkRvll3PpfwJ3YGFTXgDHHzimxERyPDgZc9rr-PrSGfwpnh1ISOPdv4q25EsS0NJGtl8Ee08HBcNJIA0pdlFzOua4pfGi_cExXUty1HmtoOzuf6Dc4jA3BAvT-CJzNReZMfA7zjlfNkDfdT3fIJlL9Tnh0Mi55BeE8O_t4SxTrTb9Ilg2bc=&c=BfK1sVS6q7fRUSa6vxPwUMSFV_v1pdTc5B4JBVRSqsU6bJDaRIeMeQ==&ch=lgWTPzMIkSvpZJ7NFtYcR54DQi6tifpZIiEB_DlHpCuZbf-y6pYQlQ==)

# Accessible apps for android devices

**This is a list that was compiled by doing some research on the internet. We at BESB have not personally tested these apps for their accessibility using an android device. These results are from other blind users who have experimented with the apps.**

**You can download all of these apps directly onto your android device through the market app or by visiting Google play.**

## Accessibility

### TalkBack

**An open source screen reader for Android devices**

**TalkBack, Kickback, and SoundBack are apps for the Android Accessibility Service to help blind and vision-impaired users use their devices more easily.**

### Mobile accessibility by Code Factory

**12 accessible apps in one**

**Screen reader for android devices**

**Includes web browser**

**There is a 30 day trial available**

**Download for a fee through the market app**

## Social networking

### Facebook

**The official Facebook app**

### Twitter

**The official Twitter app**

### Tweetings for Twitter

**Another popular way to access your Twitter account**

### Google Plus

**Google’s social media app**

## Multimedia

### Hi-Q MP3 Voice Recorder

**There is a lite version and a full version which costs money**

### Accessible music player from Code Factory

**An easy interface for playing your favorite tunes**

**Download from the market for a fee**

### Pandora

**Listen to your favorite music on your device**

**There may be some subscription cost but the app is free**

## Recognition and independent living apps

### Google Goggles

**Object recognition and simple text recognition**

### Color ID

**Color identifier**

### Your Magnifying Glass

**Full-featured magnifying app**

## Book readers

### Nook

**Buy, download, and read books on your device**

**The app itself is free**

### Ideal Group Reader

**Read Bookshare books and more**

### Learning Ally

**Read books from Learning Ally (formerly RFB&D)**

**This app was in beta when this article was written**

## Email apps

### K-9 Mail

**An accessible email program based on the native Android app.**

### Enhanced Gmail Reader

**Reads Gmail messages for you**

### Aqua Mail

**Easy to set up Yahoo, Gmail, and other popular email accounts**

**There is a free version and a paid version**

## News and information apps

### NPR News

**News from National Public Radio**

### CNN News

**CNN’s latest news right on your phone**

## Internet browsers

### IDEAL Web Reader

**An accessible gesture-based browser**

### Firefox

**Gesture based browser from Mozilla**

## Mobility apps

### Google Maps

**Get directions to anywhere**

### Talking compass

**Use if your device has an internal compass**

### Walky Talky

**Gives you turn by turn instructions as you walk**

**Speaks nearby addresses as you pass them**

### Intersection Explorer

**Speaks names of streets as you drag your finger on the map**

### Sendero GPS LookAround

**Self-voicing GPS app for the blind**

**Download from the market for a fee**

## Text editors and utilities

### Checkmark Calendar

**Full-featured calendar app**

### Quick Calendar

**Places appointments in the notifications bar**

### Notes

**An app for taking notes and more**

### Drop box

**File sharing and storage**

### Google Translate

**Translate words and phrases into different languages**

### Bump

**Share contacts, photos, and apps by bumping phones with another bump user**

## Weather apps

### Weather notification

**Forecast and weather alerts**

### Simple Weather Alert

**Stay informed with weather warnings and watches**

# More information on Android devices and apps

**More information on TalkBack and other accessibility features on Android devices:**

[**https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.android.marvin.talkback&hl=enhttps://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.android.marvin.talkback&hl=en**](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.android.marvin.talkback&hl=en)

**More information on mobile accessibility**

[**http://www.codefactory.es/en/products.asp?id=415**](http://www.codefactory.es/en/products.asp?id=415)

**This is a link to information provided by Google on the accessibility of their products:**

[**http://www.google.com/accessibility/products/**](http://www.google.com/accessibility/products/)

**Note: Google offers a 15 minute refund for purchased apps. If you buy an app and decide it doesn’t meet your needs, you can get your money back.**