How to control your device with your voice in iOS 14 for iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch

Created February 2021

With Voice Control you can control your device by speaking commands to perform actions.

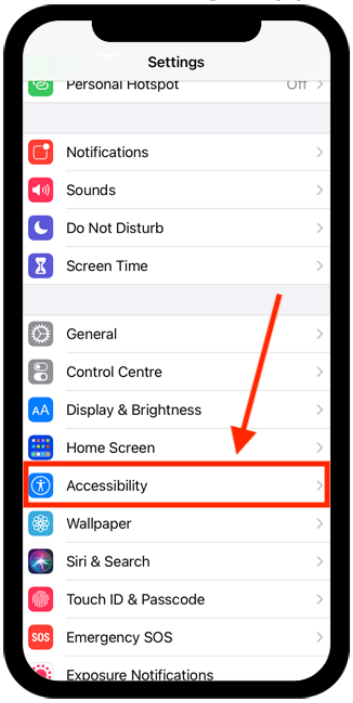
In this article

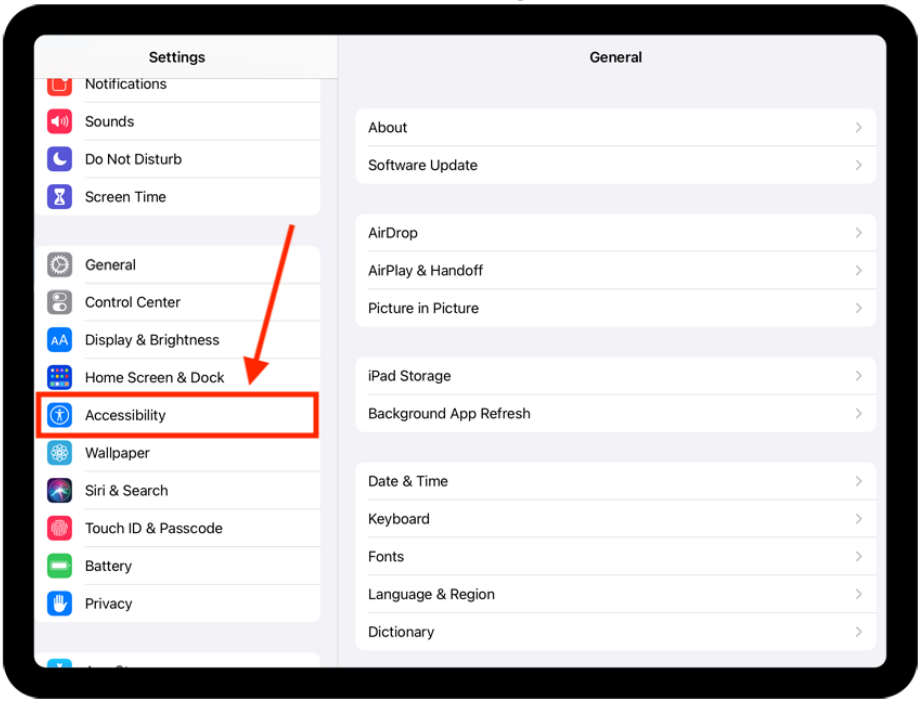
[How to set up Voice Control](#)
[Using Voice Control](#)
[Voice control settings](#)

How to set up Voice Control

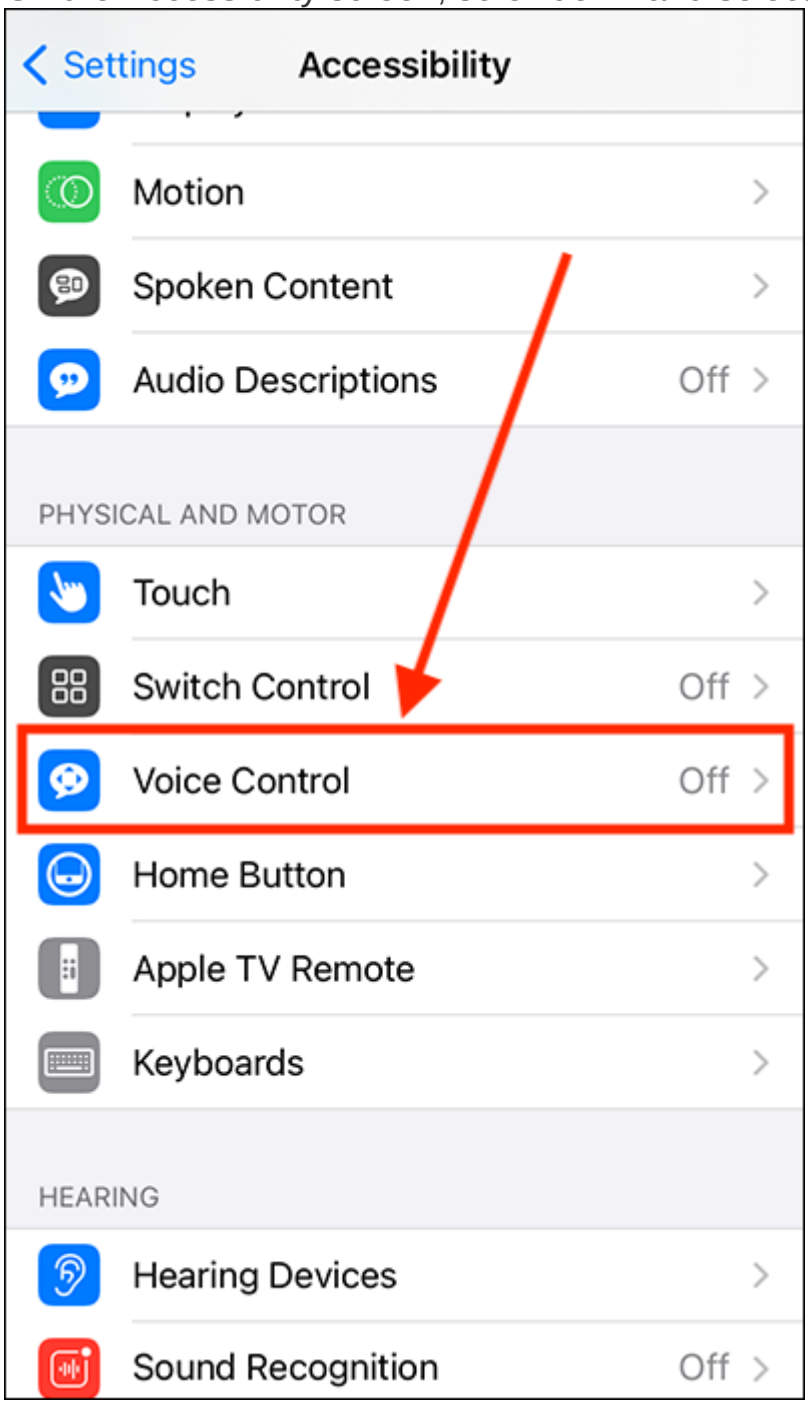
1. Open the **Settings** app . *Note: The Settings app icon may appear in a different place on your home screen than shown in our example, below.*

2. In the **Settings** app, scroll down and select **Accessibility** from the list.



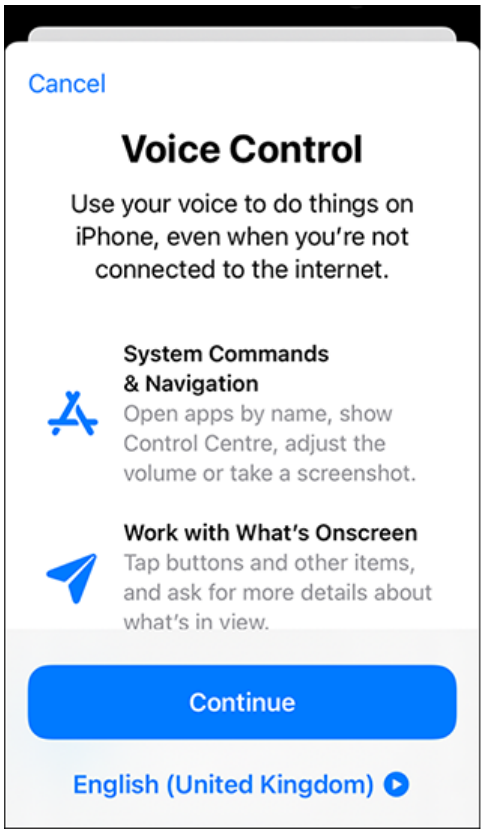


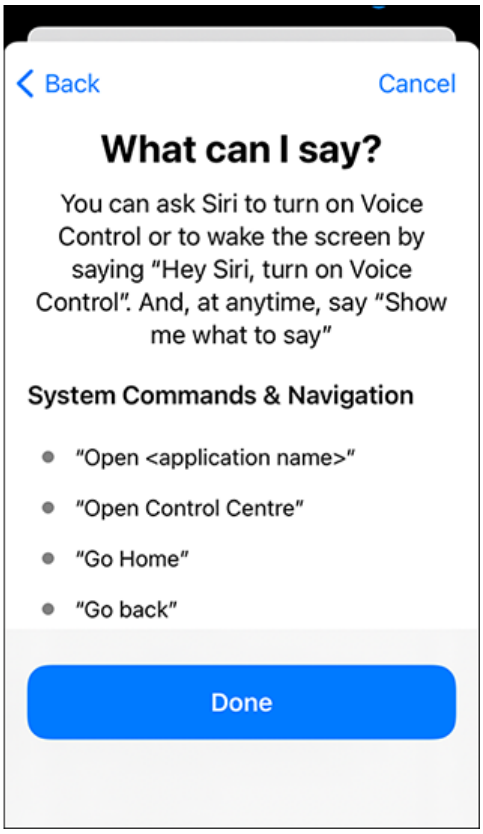
3. On the Accessibility screen, scroll down and select **Voice Control**.



4. On the Voice Control screen, select **Set up Voice Control**.

5. Voice Control will download in the background while you navigate through the information screens.





6. Once downloaded, a microphone icon will appear in the status bar at the top of the screen . This shows that Voice Control is listening for

commands.

Using Voice Control

Once you have completed the setup process, you can turn Voice Control on or off by saying “Hey Siri, turn on/off Voice Control”

To lock your device, say "Lock screen."

To wake your device, say "Hey Siri, turn on Voice Control."

Commands

You can control your device by speaking commands such as

- Open {app name}
- Scroll up/down
- Zoom in/out
- Turn volume up/down
- Turn brightness up/down.
- Swipe down (to refresh email or Twitter for instance)
- Open Notification Centre
- Go back (to return to the previous screen)

Show numbers or names

The real power of Voice Control comes when you use overlays.

You can ask voice control to “show numbers” or “show names" next to each item on the screen that can be selected. You can then select an item by saying the corresponding label or number.

Note: Names and numbers will disappear after you speak your command. To keep names or numbers on the screen all the time, say “Show numbers/names continuously”.
If you would prefer that numbers or names are visible all the time, you can enable this in settings. See the **Continuous Overlay - Numbers, Names, and Grids settings section** below..

Show grids

If selection requires more precision, you can say “show grid” to overlay a numbered grid. Selecting a number will zoom in on that grid square and give you a new set of numbers to choose from. You can also use the grid to specify where you would like to drag and drop items to and from.

Note: The grid will disappear when you make your final selection. To keep the grid onscreen all time, say" Show grid continuously".
If you would prefer that grids are visible all the time, you can enable this in settings. See the **Continuous Overlay - Numbers, Names, and Grids settings section** below.

Dictation

When you have selected an item where you can enter text, you can immediately start dictating what you would like to write. You can use commands to select the text and edit it. For instance you can say "Select {word or phrase}", then "Bold that".

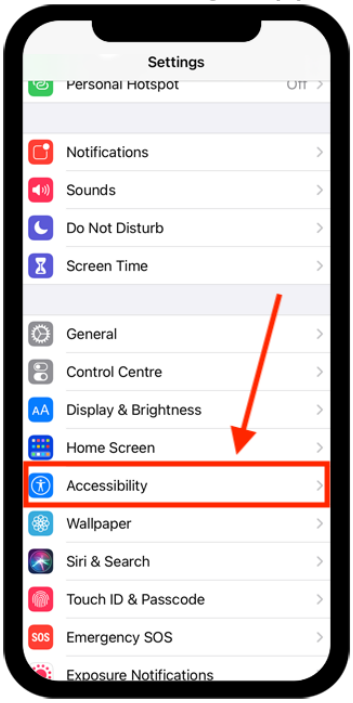
To view the full list of available Commands that you can use with Voice Control:

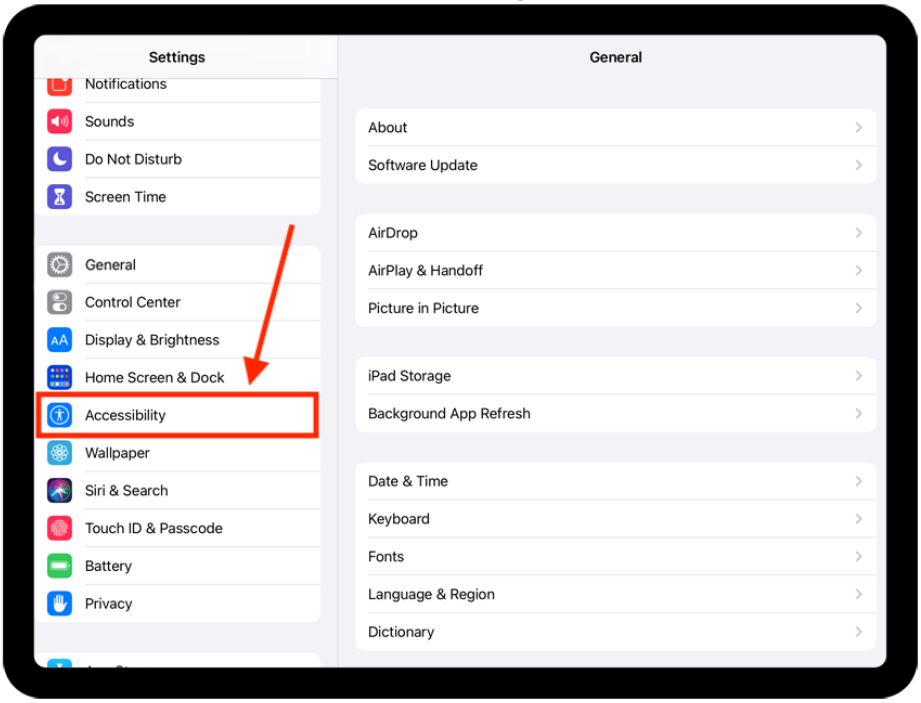
- Open **Settings** > **Accessibility** > **Voice Control** and select **Customise Commands**. Click through on a command to see which phrase can be used to trigger it.
  Or
- Visit the online **list of commands** at iMore.com

Voice control settings

1. Open the **Settings** app . *Note: The Settings app icon may appear in a different place on your home screen than shown in our example, below.*

2. In the **Settings** app, scroll down and select **Accessibility** from the list.





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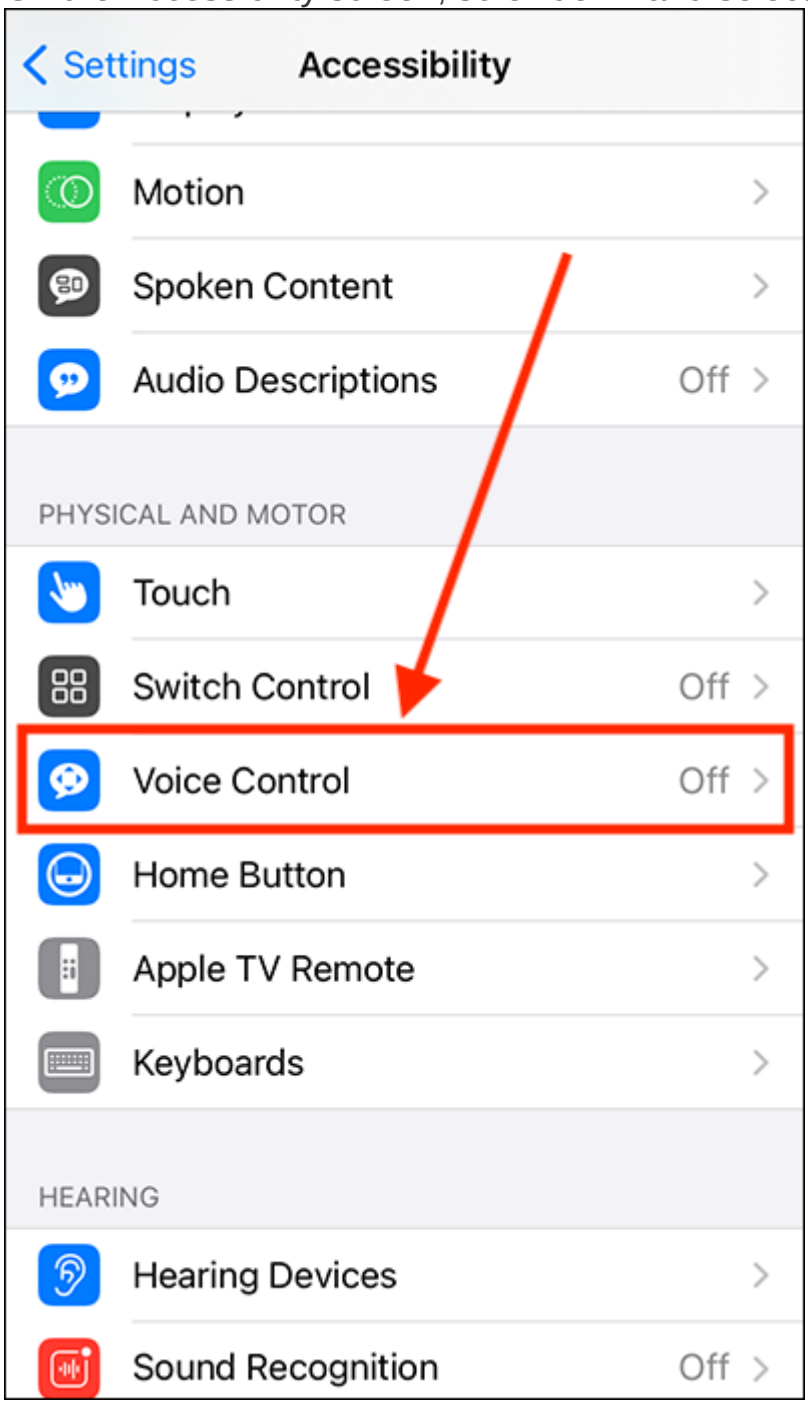
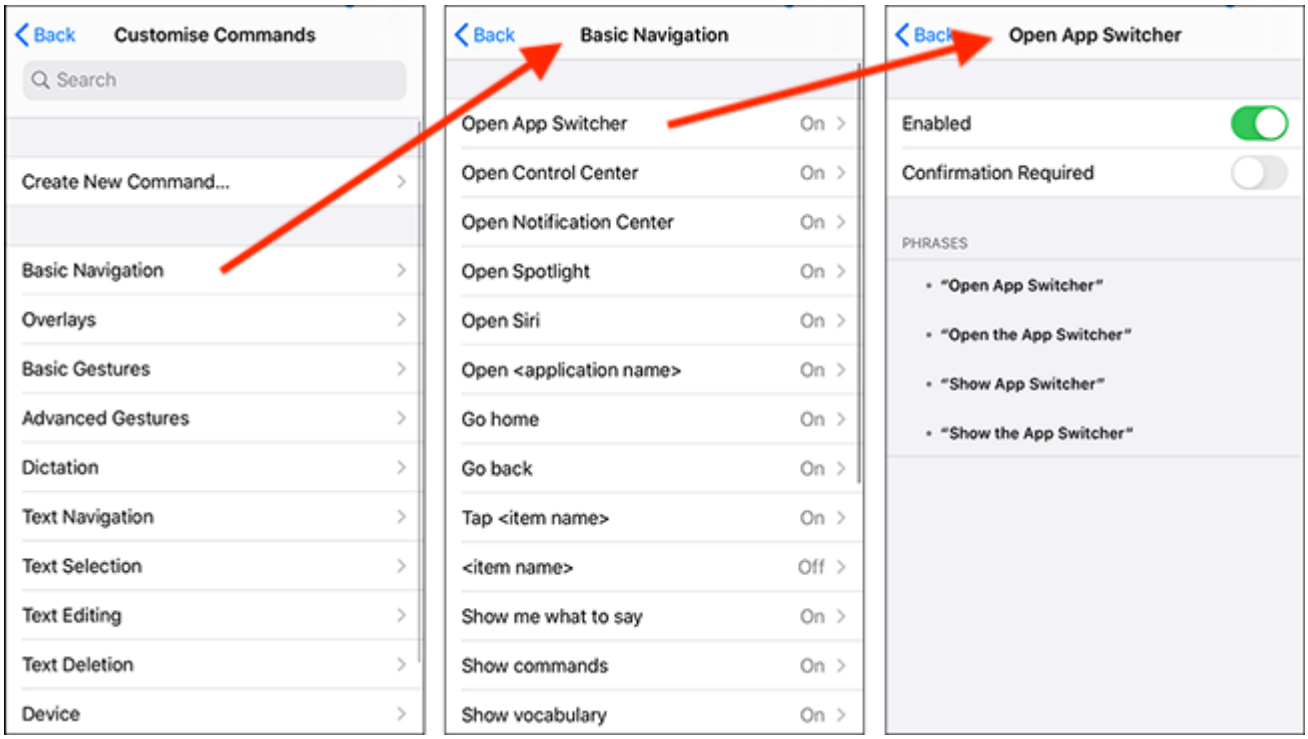


4. You can now edit the following settings:

Customise Commands

1. To turn individual commands on or off, select **Customise Commands**.

2. Click through on any command, the select the toggle switch for **Enabled** to turn it on or off.

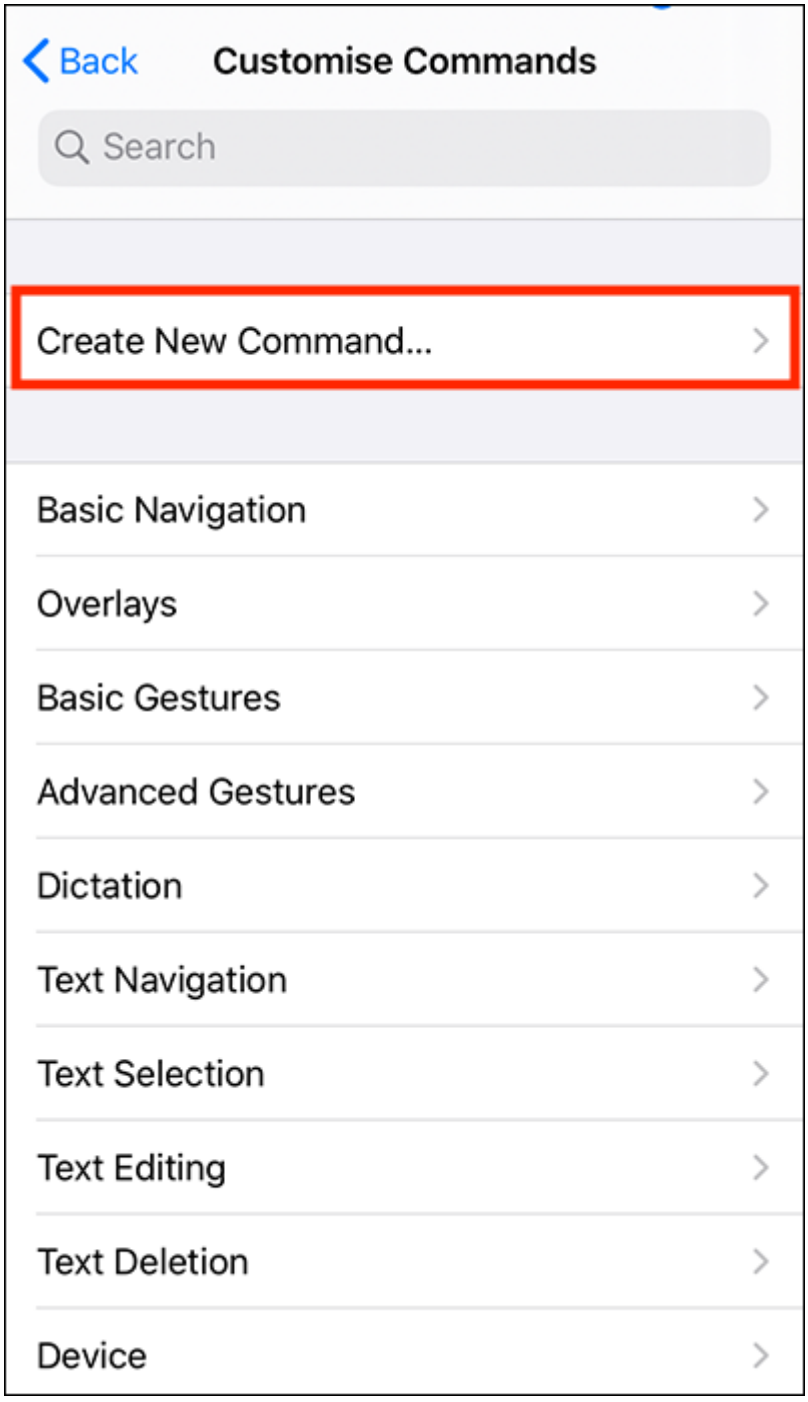


3. You can also set whether you would like to have to confirm a command before it is carried out.
4. Select **Confirmation Required** if you would like to use it with this command.
5. Each command will list the phrases that can be used to trigger it.

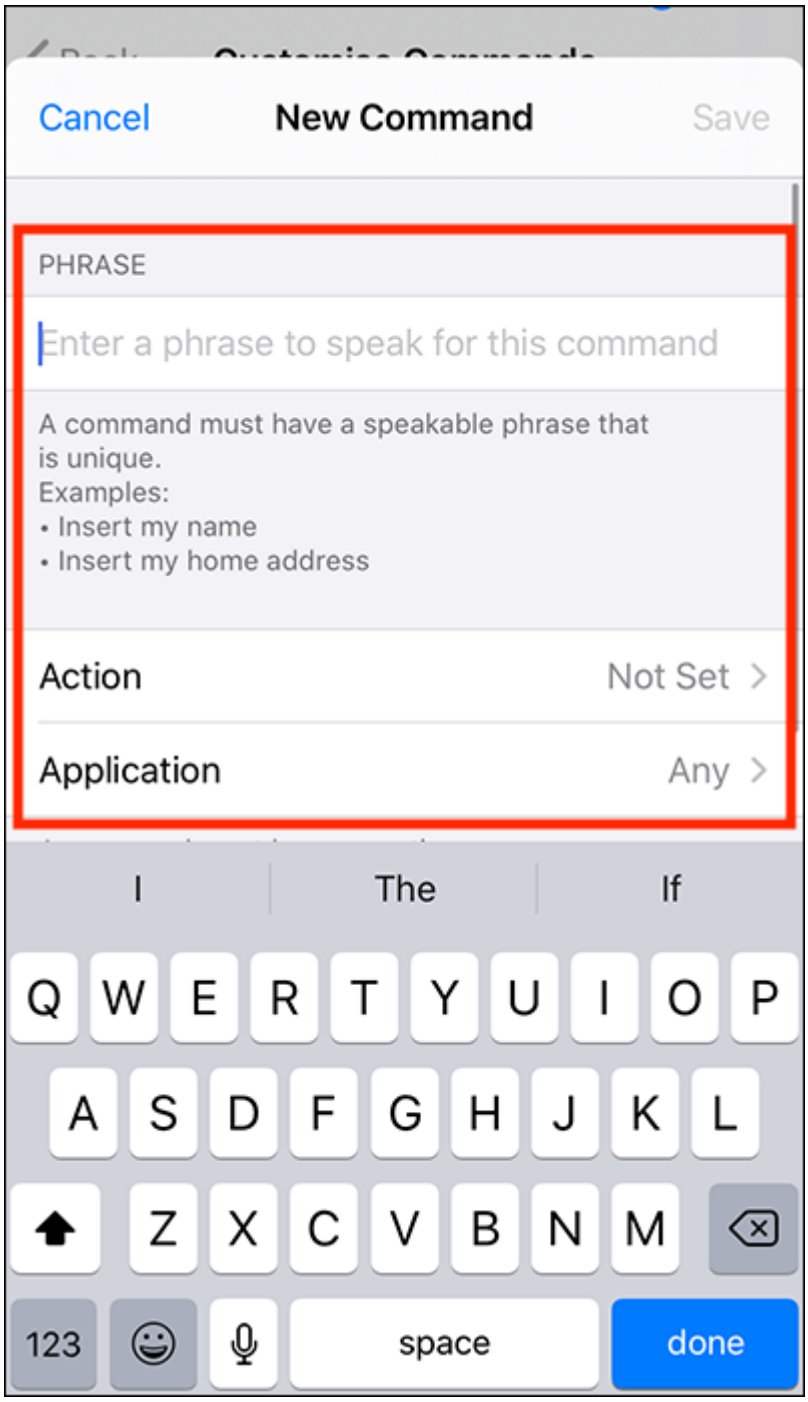
Create your own phrase

1. Select **Customise Commands**.

2. Select **Create New Command**.



3. Speak or type the phrase you would like to use to trigger your custom command.



4. Select the action you would like to associate with the phrase.
   - **Insert text** - Allow you to set text that is entered when you say this command. For example, you address.
   - **Custom Gesture** - Set up a custom gesture to be performed.
   - **Run Shortcut** – choose from a list of Siri Shortcuts that can be activated by Voice Control.
   - **Play Back Recorded Commands** - You can record a series of commands that can be played back when you speak this command.
5. Select the apps you would like to use the command with.

Vocabulary

Teach Voice Commands new words.

Command Feedback

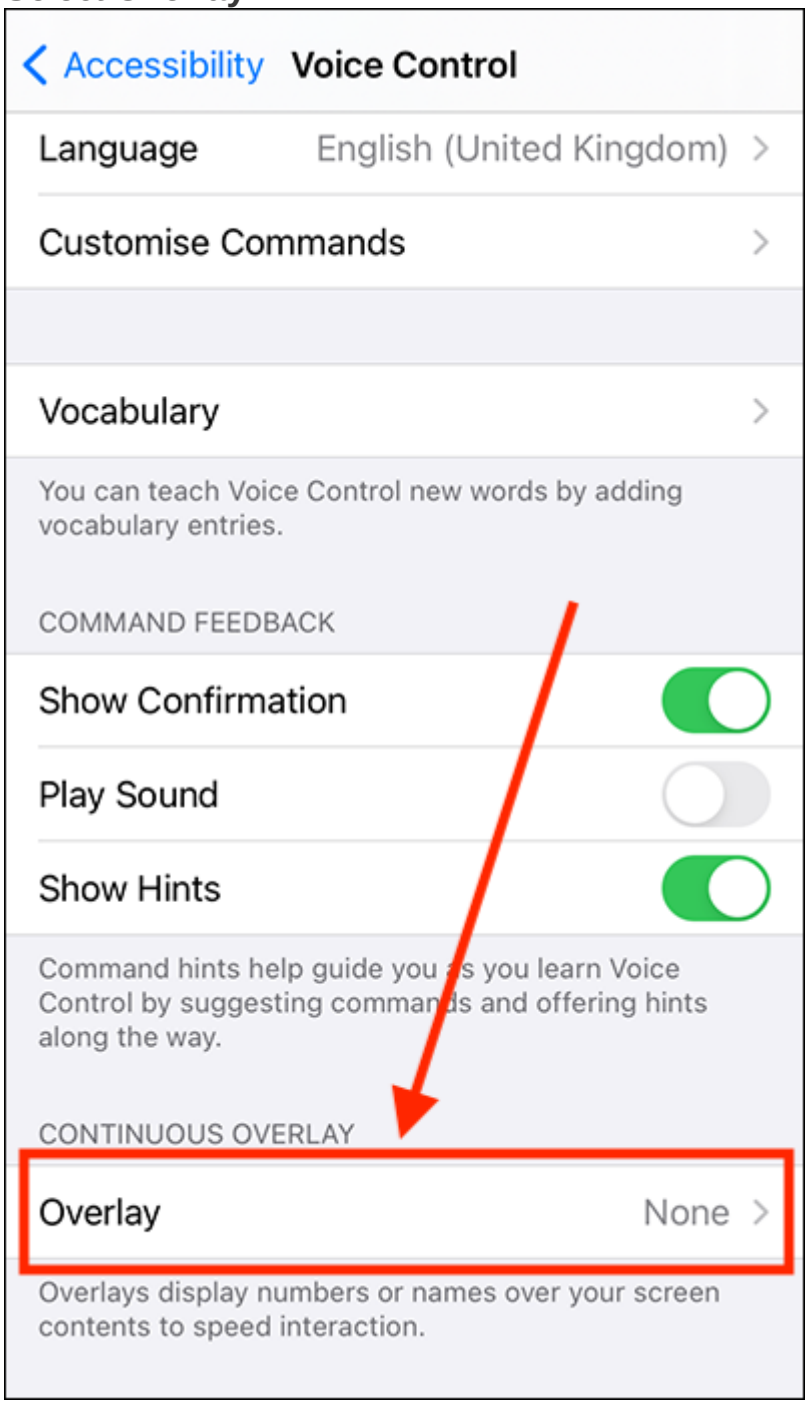
- **Show confirmation** - A confirmation of what Voice Control heard is show at the top of the screen
- **Play Sound** - Hear a sound when a command has been recognised.
- **Show Hints** - When the command you use doesn't quite match the system command, Voice Control will show hints for what you can say.

Continuous Overlay - Numbers, Names, and Grids

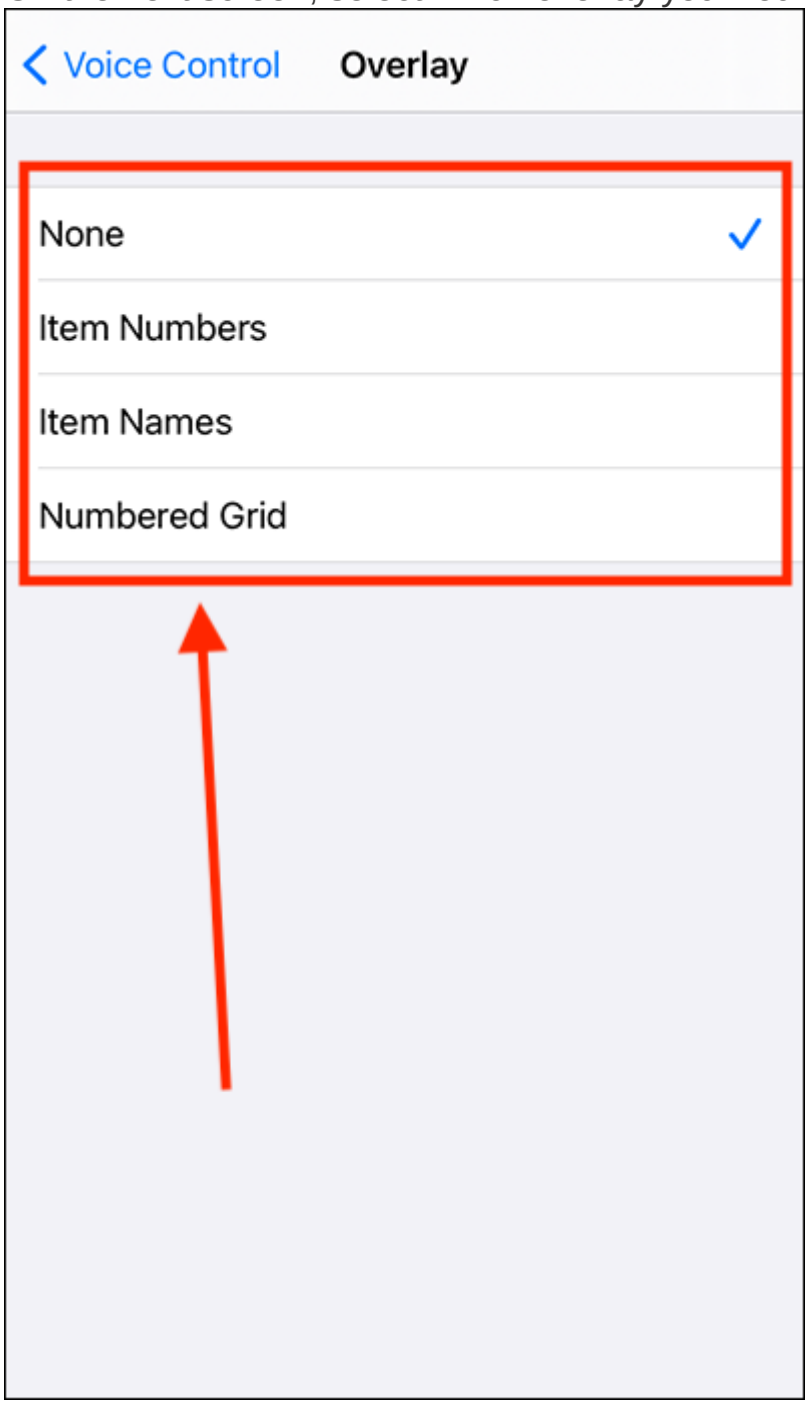
You can display **numbers or names** next to each item on the screen. You can then select an item by saying its corresponding number or label. If more precision is required to select a specific area of the screen you can display a **grid overlay**.

You can ask Siri to display *"number / names / grids"* at any time. If you would prefer to display one of these overlay on-screen all the time, you can enable it in the **Continuos Overlay** section.

1. Select **Overlay**.

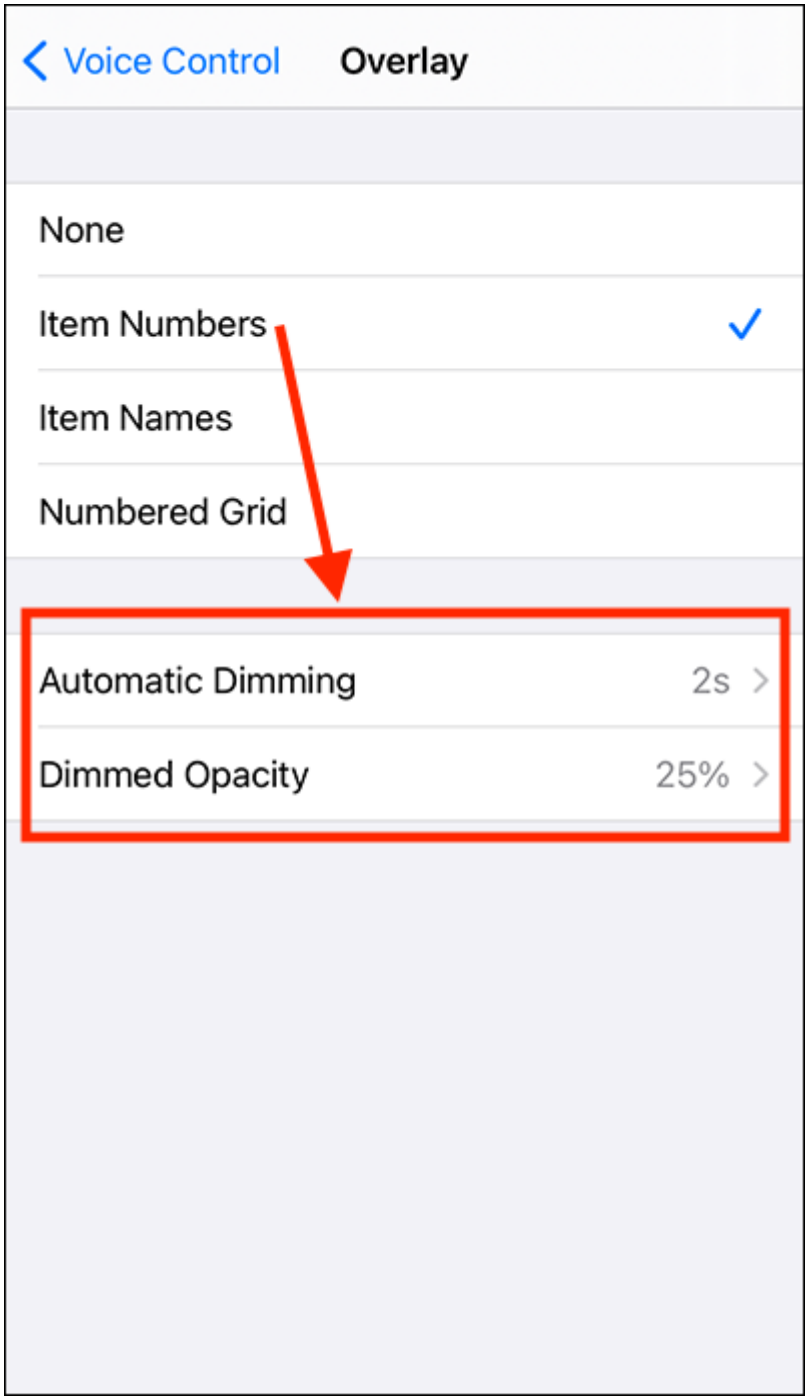


2. On the next screen, select which overlay you would like to use.



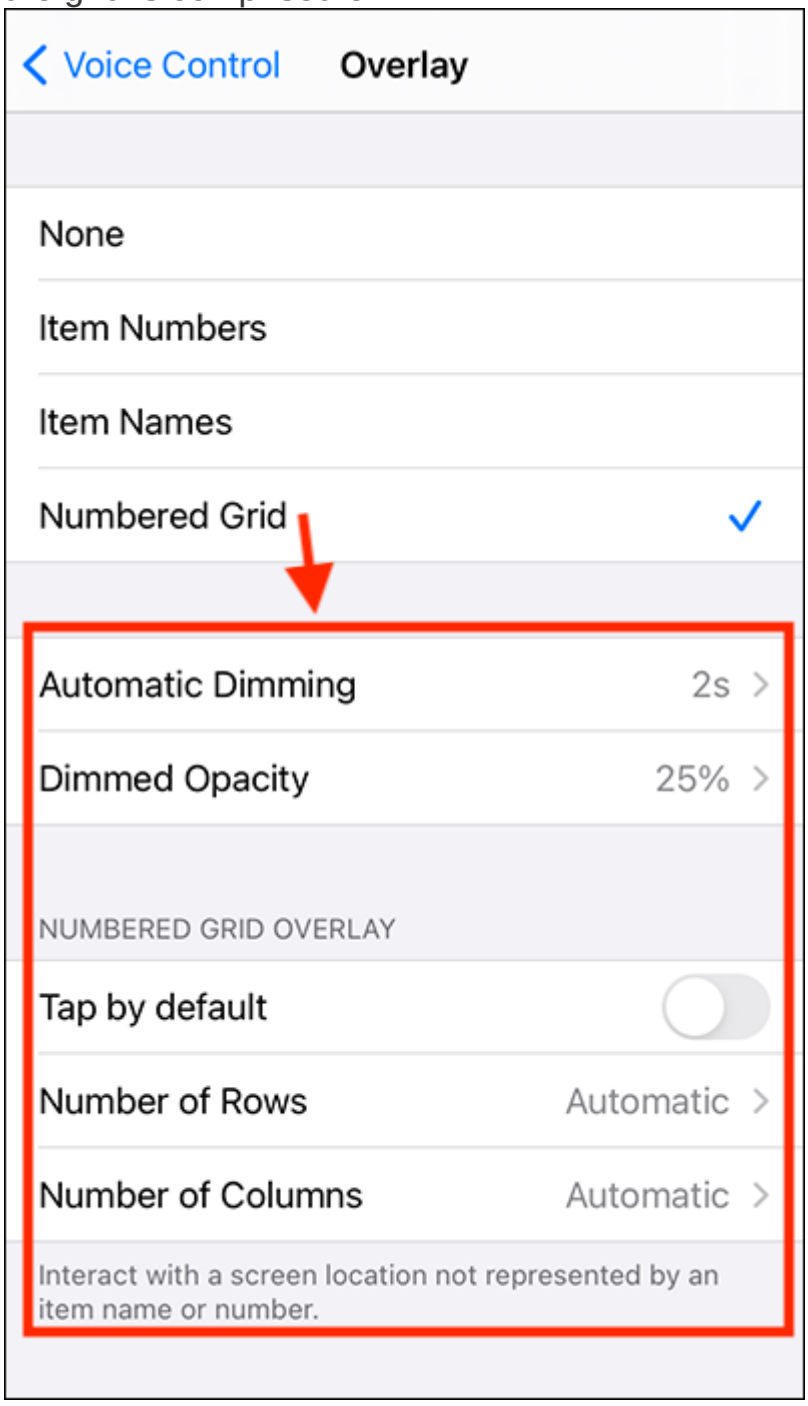
3. If you choose **Item Numbers** or **Item Names**, you can set how long they appear on the screen before dimming. You can also set the opacity for

dimmed numbers or names.



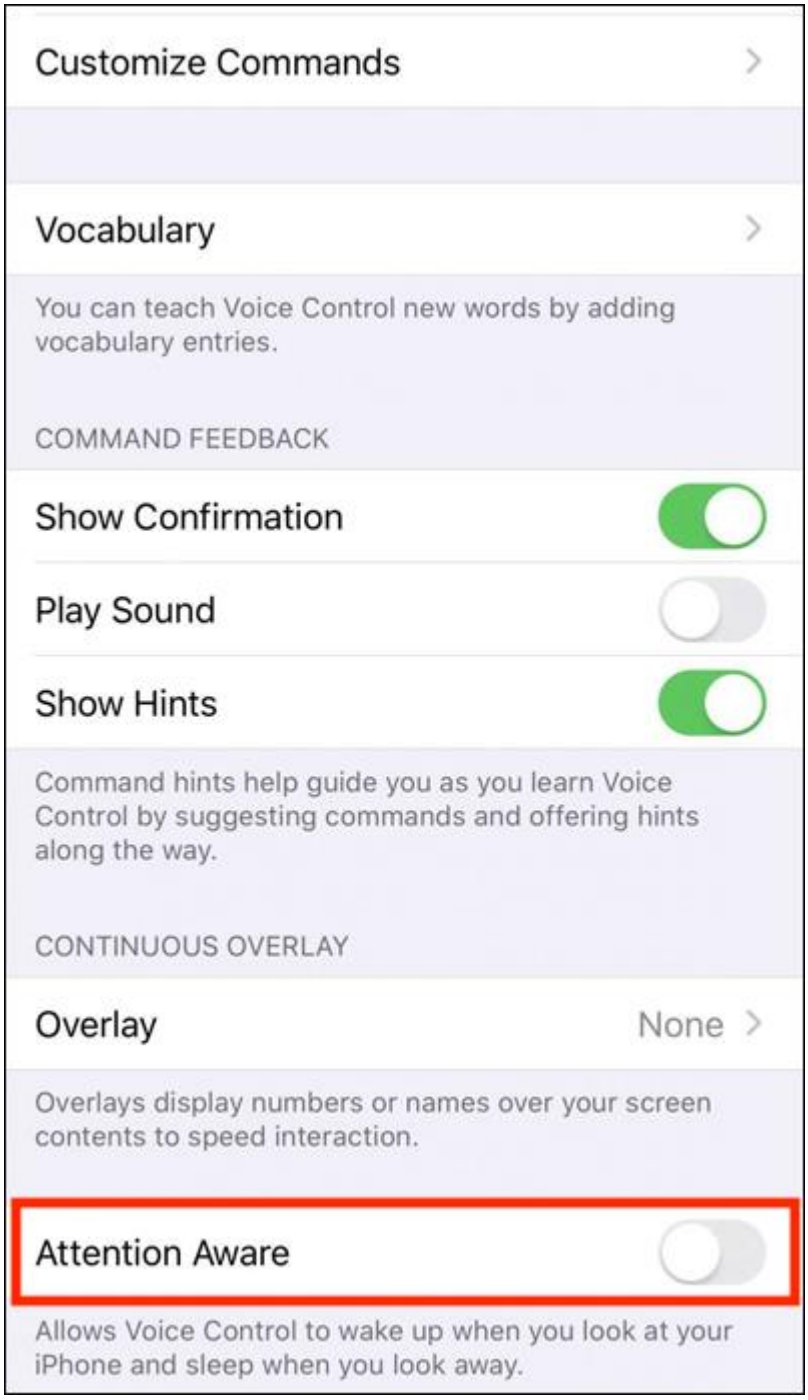
4. If you choose **Numbered Grid**, you can set how long the grid appears on the screen before dimming. You can also set how many rows and columns

the grid is comprised of.



Attention Aware

If your device uses Face ID, you can set listening to turn on or off based on whether or not you're looking at the screen.


Customize Commands
Vocabulary
You can teach Voice Control new words by adding vocabulary entries.
COMMAND FEEDBACK
Show Confirmation
Play Sound
Show Hints
Command hints help guide you as you learn Voice Control by suggesting commands and offering hints along the way.
CONTINUOUS OVERLAY
Overlay
None
Overlays display numbers or names over your screen contents to speed interaction.
Attention Aware
Allows Voice Control to wake up when you look at your iPhone and sleep when you look away.