How to use Siri, the voice assistant in iOS 14 for iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch

Siri is the voice-controlled digital assistant built into iOS. You can ask Siri to perform a variety of tasks, such as setting reminders, getting travel directions, and turning on smart home devices. If you prefer, you can also type your Siri queries.

In this article

Examples of what Siri can do
How to enable Siri
How to launch Siri
Examples of using Siri
Typing queries to Siri
Siri settings
Siri Accessibility settings

Examples of what Siri can do

You can ask **Siri** to perform a wide variety of tasks such as:

- Make phone calls and Facetime calls
- Send emails and text messages
- Set calendar events and reminders
- Set alarms and timers
- Get weather forecasts
- Give directions on Apple Maps
- Perform calculations
- Open applications
- Open accessibility options
- Turn on certain accessibility features such as **VoiceOver**.
- Change setting on your device such as changing the brightness and volume or toggling Wi-Fi on or off.
- Perform web searches
- Play music, including particular artists, songs or albums
- Control smart home devices
- Siri now also works with a growing number of third-party apps such as Skype, Pinterest and Paypal

Tip: Want to find out what else Siri can do? Launch Siri and ask, "*What can you do?*"

How to enable Siri

If you didn't enable **Siri** when you first set up your device, follow these steps to get it up and running. Siri can be activated in two ways:

- By using the "*Hey Siri*" voice command

or

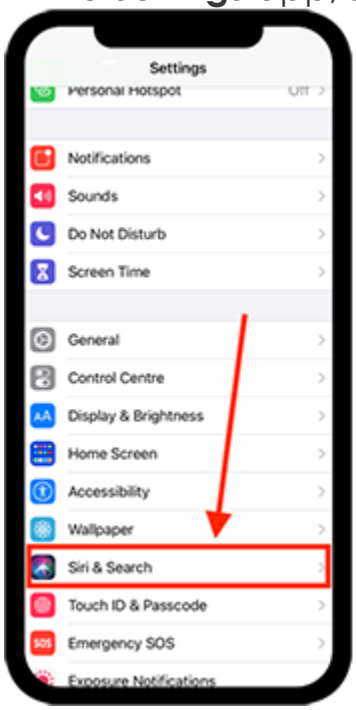
- *On devices with Face ID*: By pressing and holding the **Side** (power) button until the "What can I help you with" screen appears.
- *On devices with a Home button*: By pressing and holding the **Home** button until the "What can I help you with" screen appears.

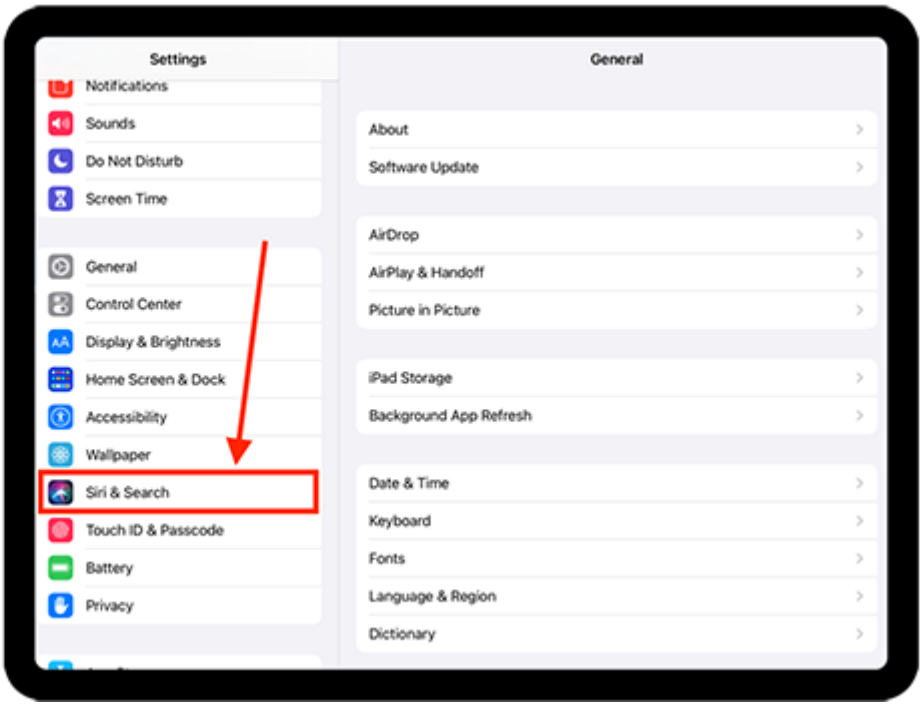
To enable "Hey Siri"

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.

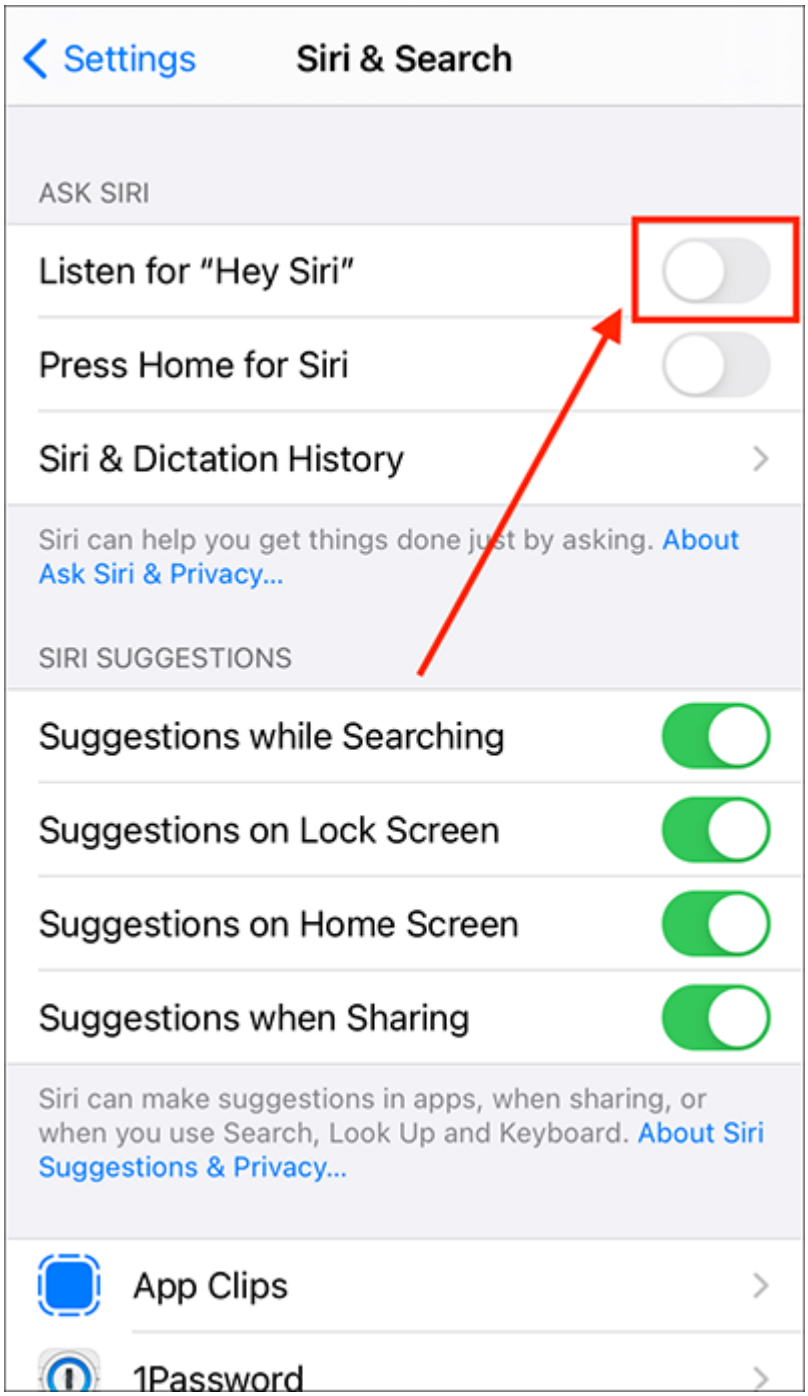
2. In the **Settings** app, scroll down and select **Siri & Search** from the list.





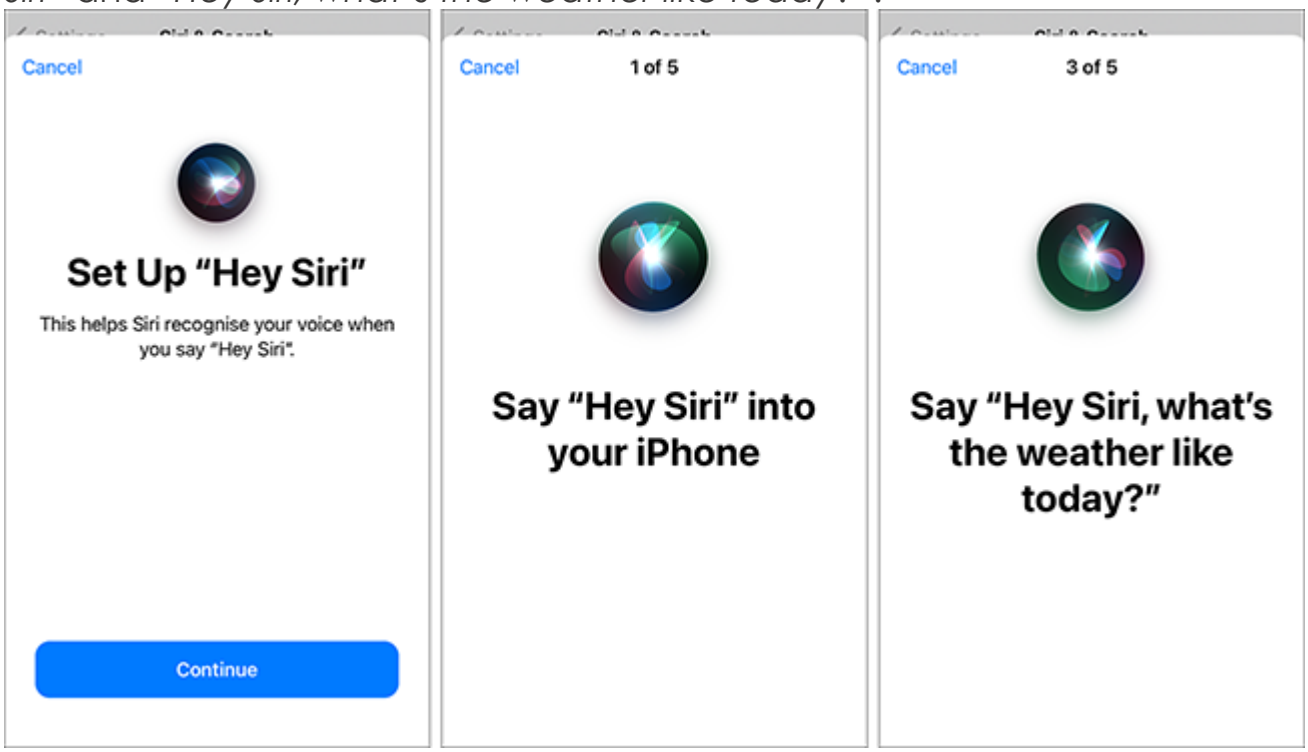
3. On the Siri screen, set the toggle switch for **Listen for "Hey Siri"** to **On.** *Note: On devices with Face ID you will only see an option for "Hey Siri" here. Once that has been set up you can also use the*

Side button to launch Siri.



4. You'll now be guided through the set-up process to help Siri recognise your voice. This involves speaking phrases such as "*Hey*

Siri" and "*Hey Siri, what's the weather like today?*".



To enable the Home button option

- Set the toggle switch for **Press Home for Siri** to **On**.

How to launch Siri

1. Siri can be activated in two ways:
   - Say "*Hey Siri*" (if Hey Siri is enabled)
     or
   - *On devices with Face ID*: Press and hold the **Side** (power) button until the "What can I help you with" screen appears.

- *On devices with a Home button*: Press and hold the **Home** button until the "What can I help you with" screen appears.

2. When the animated Siri icon appears on the screen, you can ask your query. In our example, below, we asked Siri "*What time is it*?".

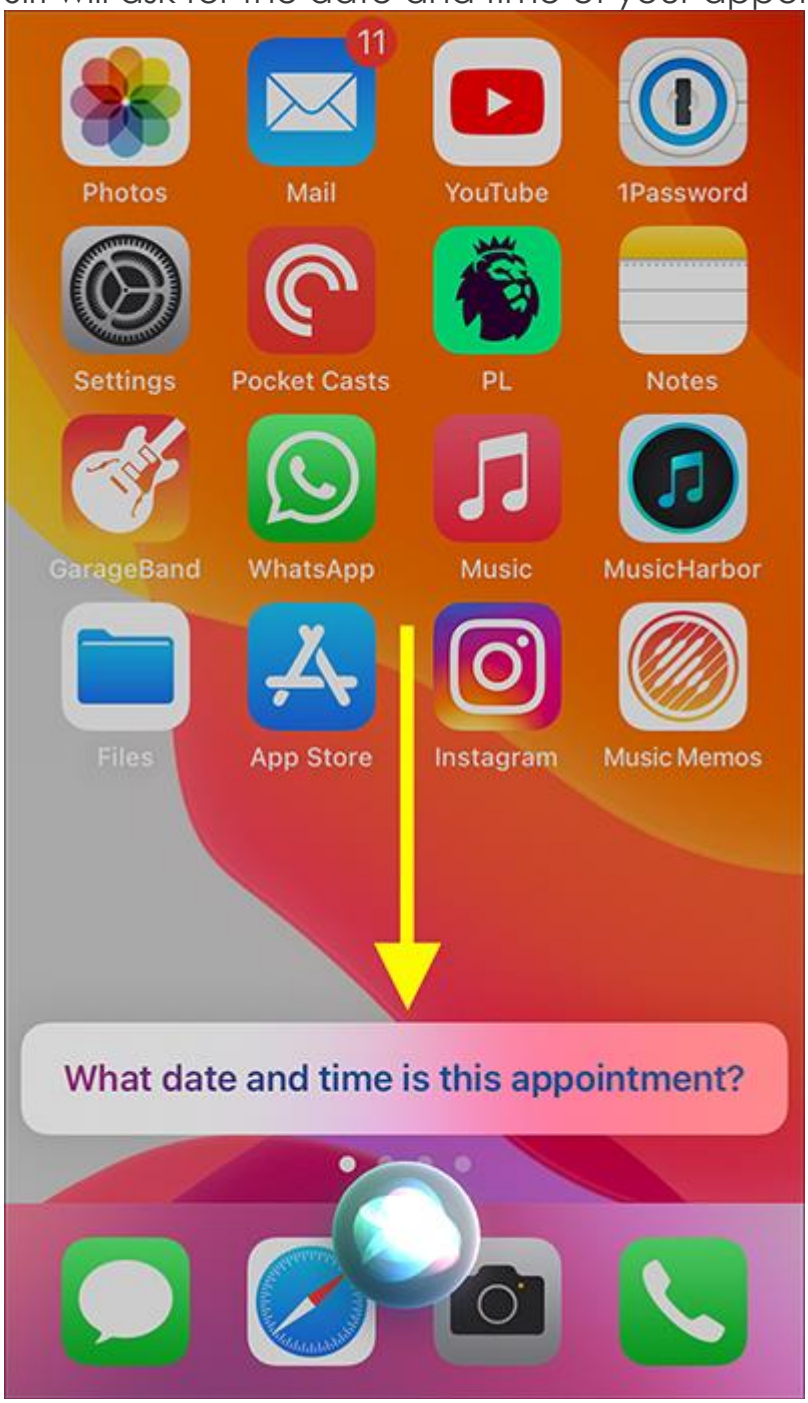
3. Siri gives a spoken and visual response.

Tip: You can prompt Siri to listen for another query by tapping the animated Siri icon whilst it is still on the screen.

Examples of using Siri

Adding a new Calendar event

1. Launch **Siri** and say, "*Add a calendar event for a dentist appointment*".
2. Siri will ask for the date and time of your appointment.



3. In our example we gave the details as '*21st July at 2.30 pm*'.

4. Siri will show a calendar notification confirming these details.

Asking for direction

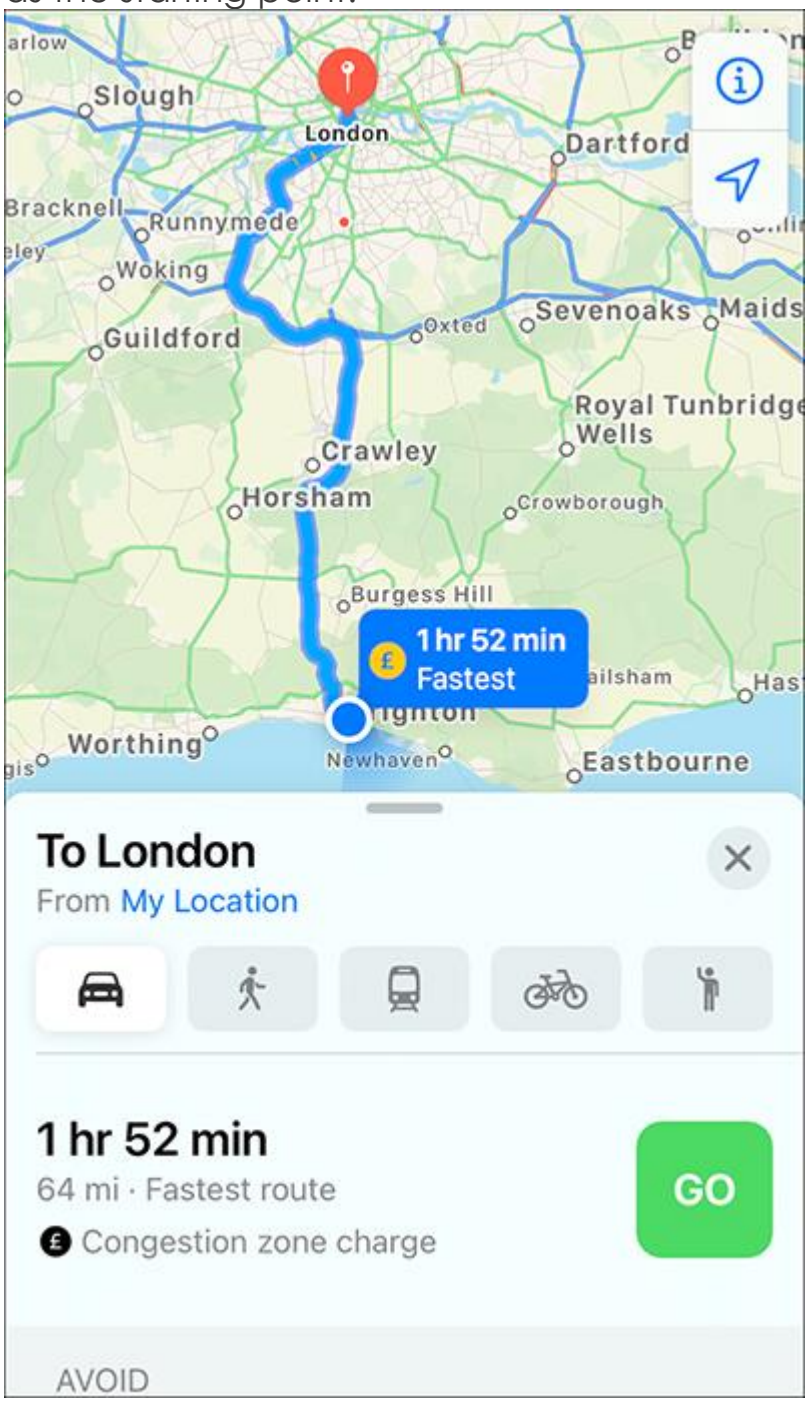
When you ask for directions, **Siri** opens the Apple Maps app showing your route.

1. Launch **Siri** and say, "*Give me directions to London*".

2. Siri will confirm it is getting directions to the destination you requested.

3. Siri will open the **Apple Maps** app with the route plotted. Because we only asked for the end destination, Siri used our current location

as the starting point.

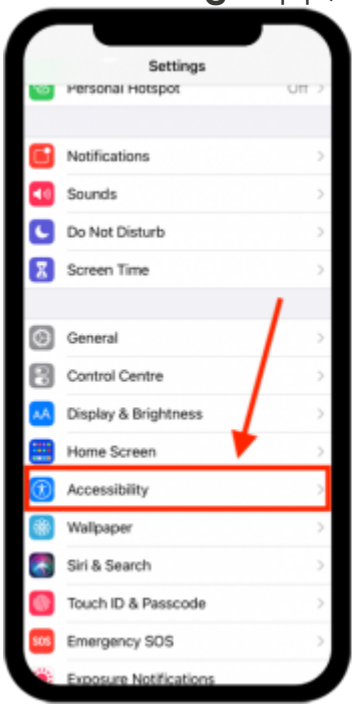


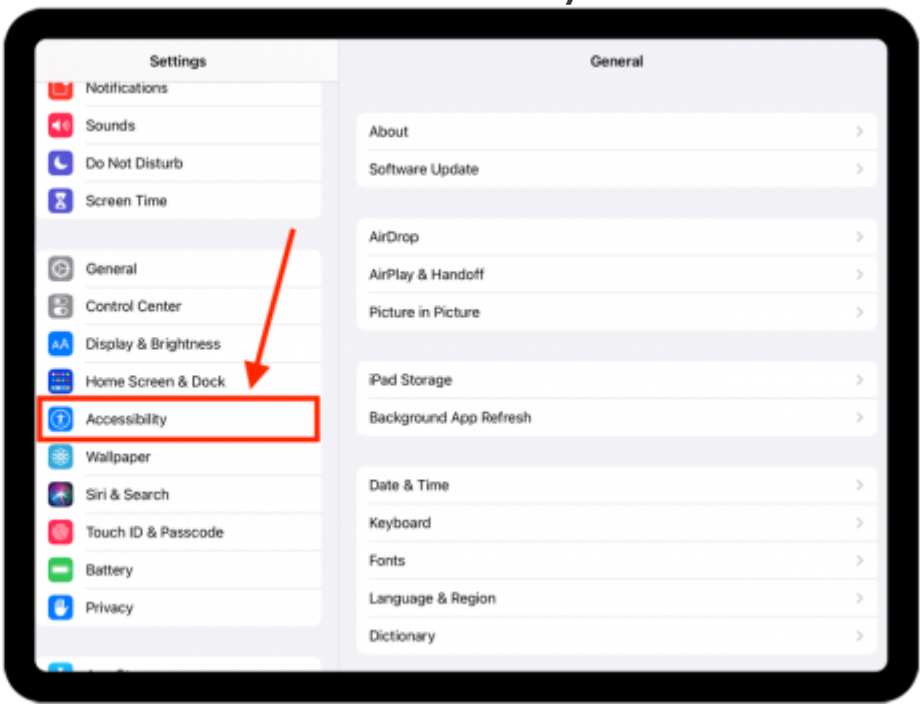
Typing queries to Siri

If you would prefer to type your queries to **Siri** instead of speaking them, you need to enable **Type to Siri** in Accessibility settings.

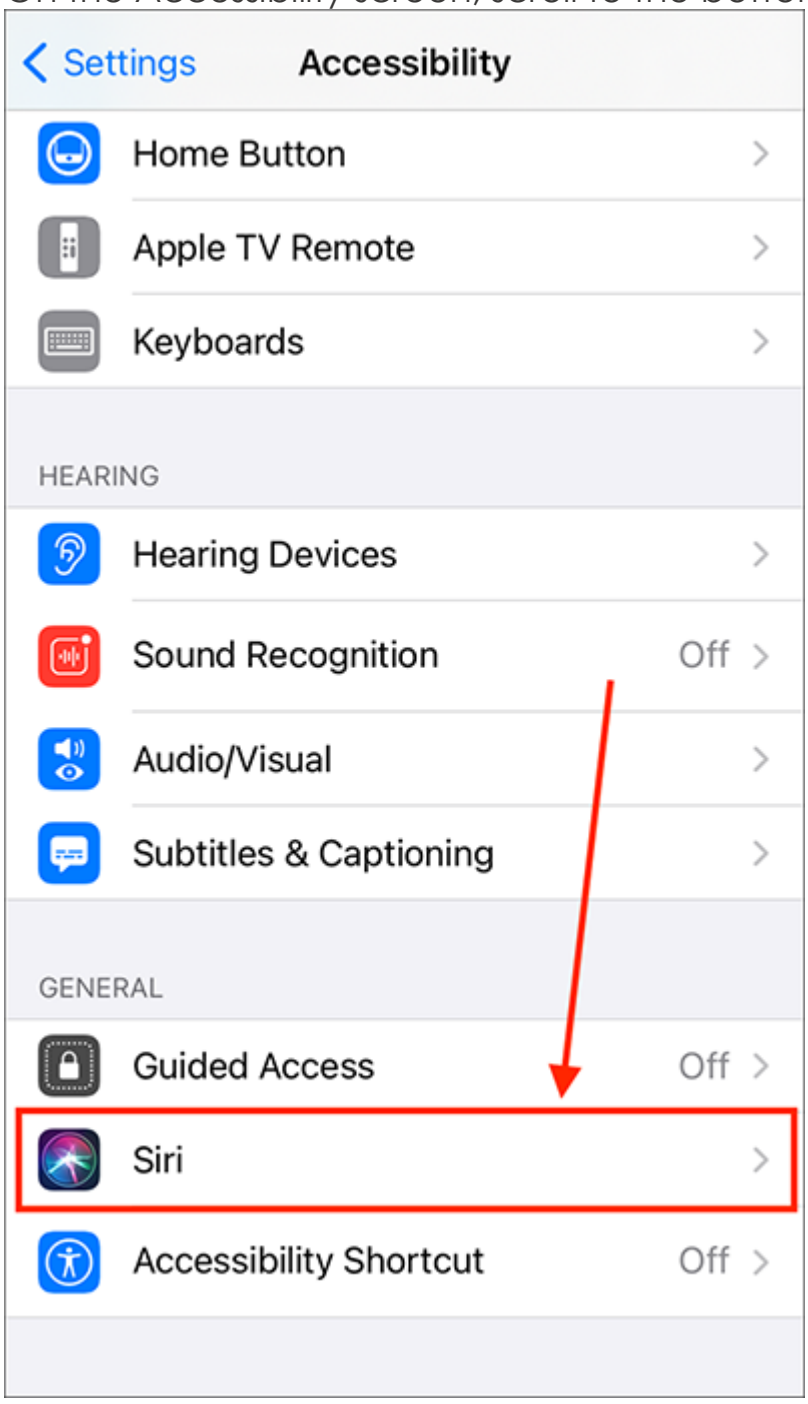
1. Open the **Settings** app . *Note: The Settings app icon may appear in a different place on your home screen than shown in our example, below.*

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





3. On the Accessibility screen, scroll to the bottom and select **Siri**.



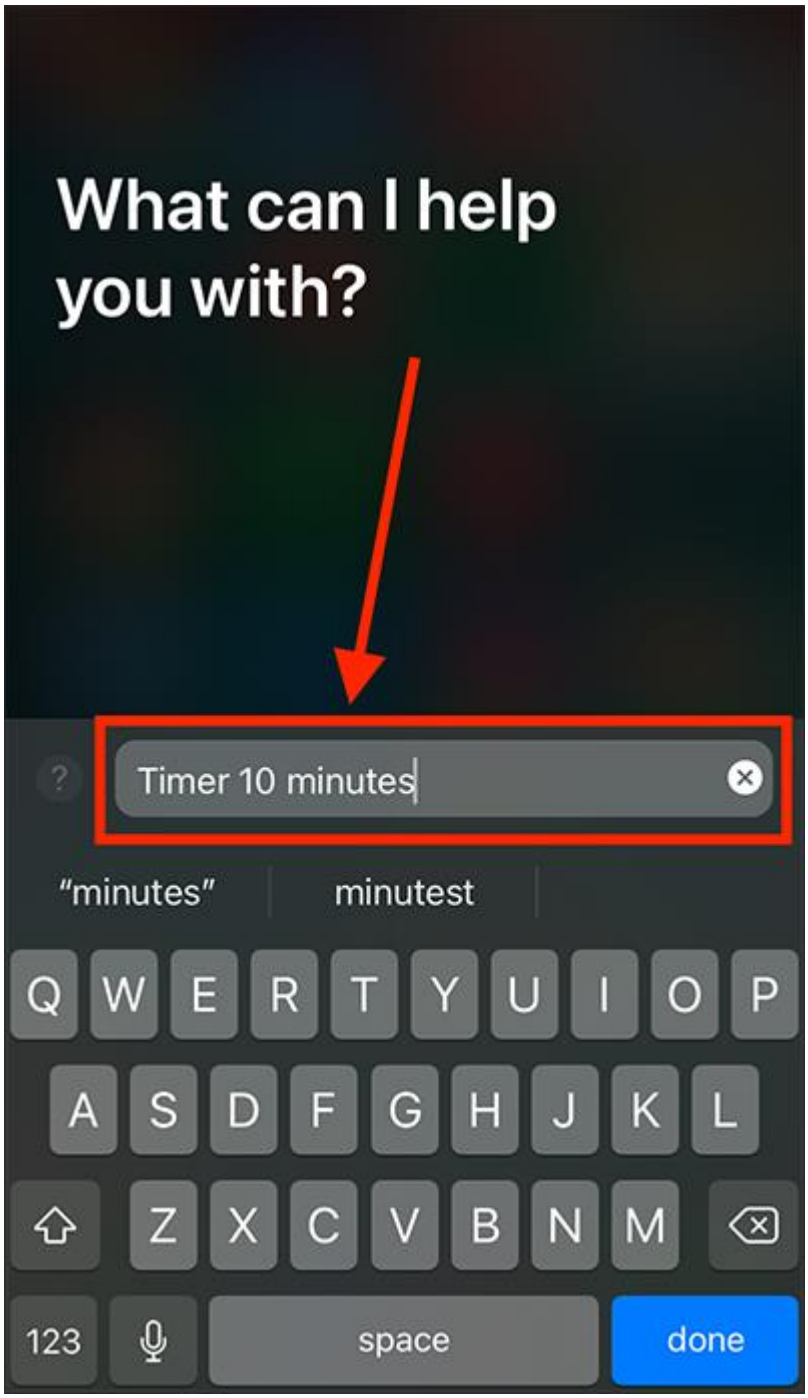
4. On the Siri screen, select **Type to Siri** to set the toggle switch to **On**.

Using Type to Siri

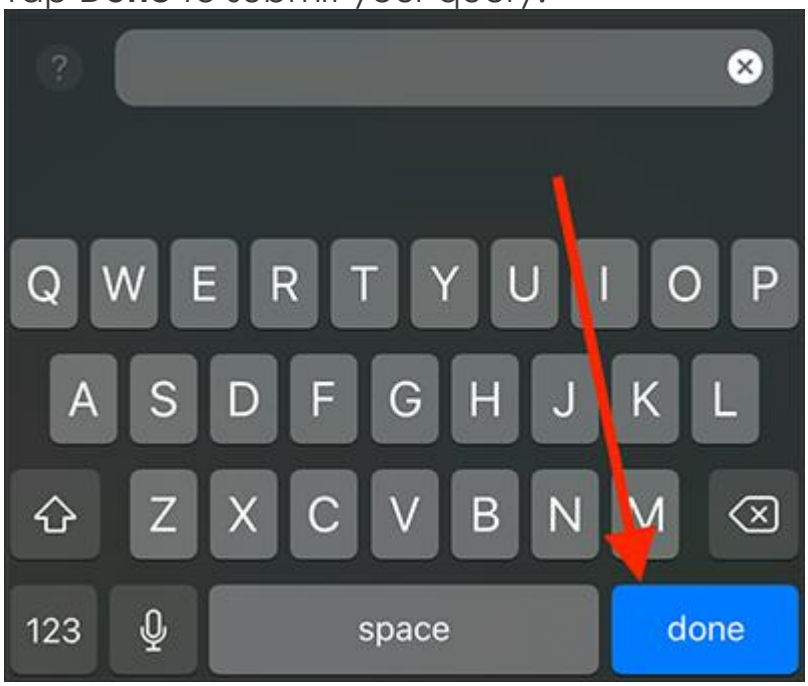
1. Launch **Siri** by:
   - *On devices with Face ID*: Press and hold the **Side** (power) button until the "What can I help you with" screen appears.

- *On devices with a Home button*: Press and hold the **Home** button until the "What can I help you with" screen appears.
- Alternatively, you can say "*Hey Siri*" and wait for Siri to *stop* listening. When Siri stops listening, a Type to Siri search box appears.

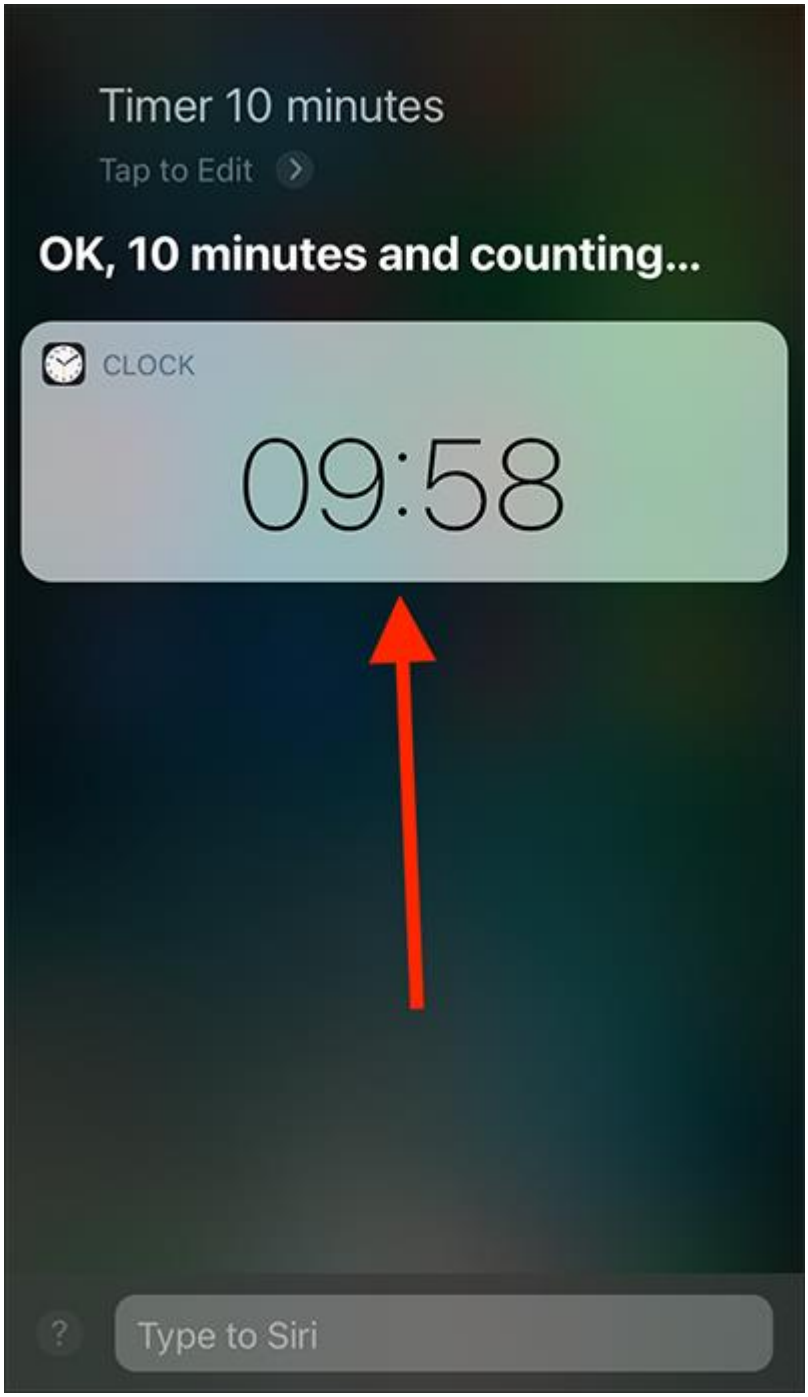
2. Type your query into the search box. In our example, we ask Siri to set a timer.



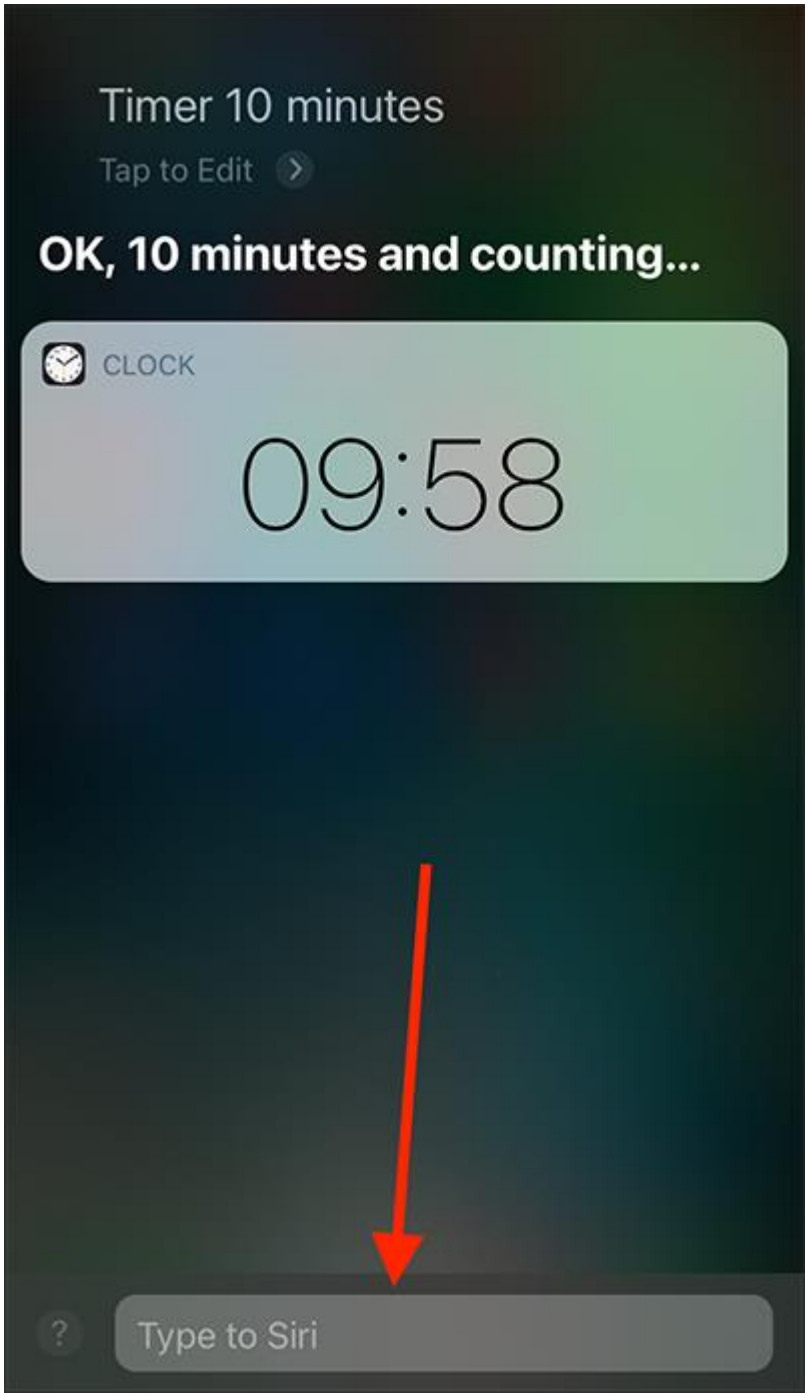
3. Tap **Done** to submit your query.



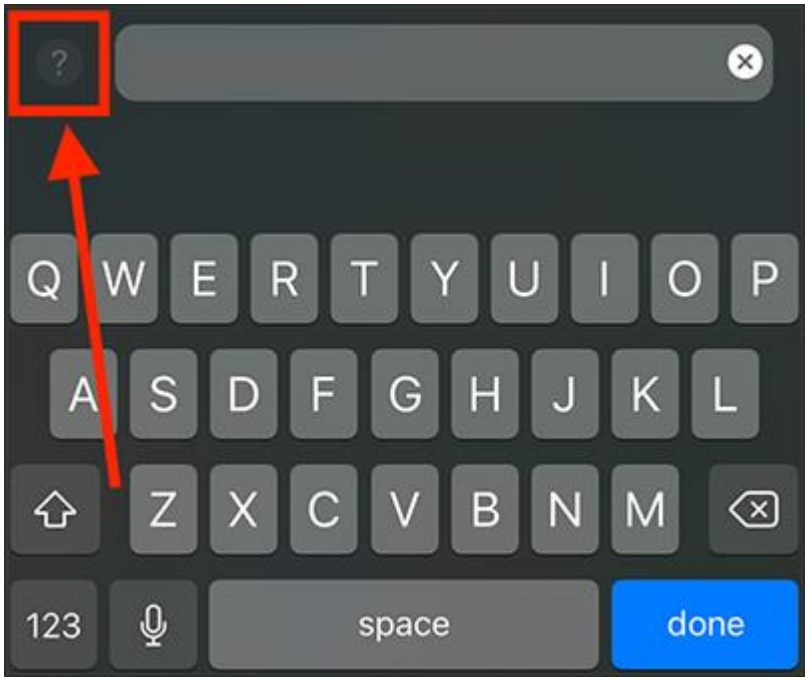
4. Siri will confirm a timer has been set and show you the countdown clock.



5. If you would like to ask another query while **Siri** is open, select the search box at the bottom of the screen to bring up the keyboard.



Tip: Want to find out what else Siri can do? Launch Siri and select the ? button next to the search box.

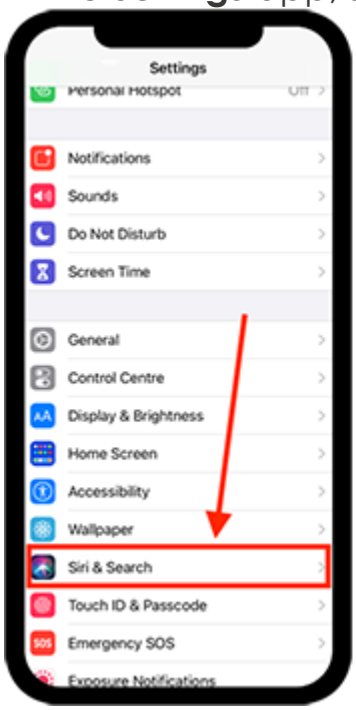


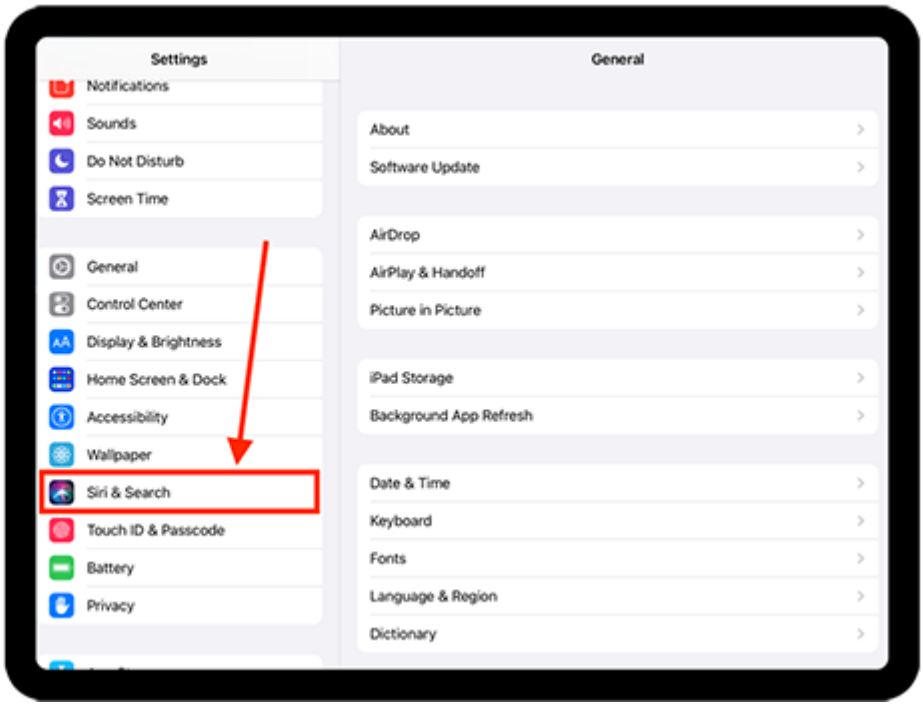
Siri settings

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 **Siri & Search** from the list.





3. You can now edit the following settings:

Allow Siri When Locked

If you want to be able to use Siri when your device is locked, set the toggle switch for **Allow Siri When Locked** to **On**. *Note: You'll need to enter your passcode to confirm*.

Language

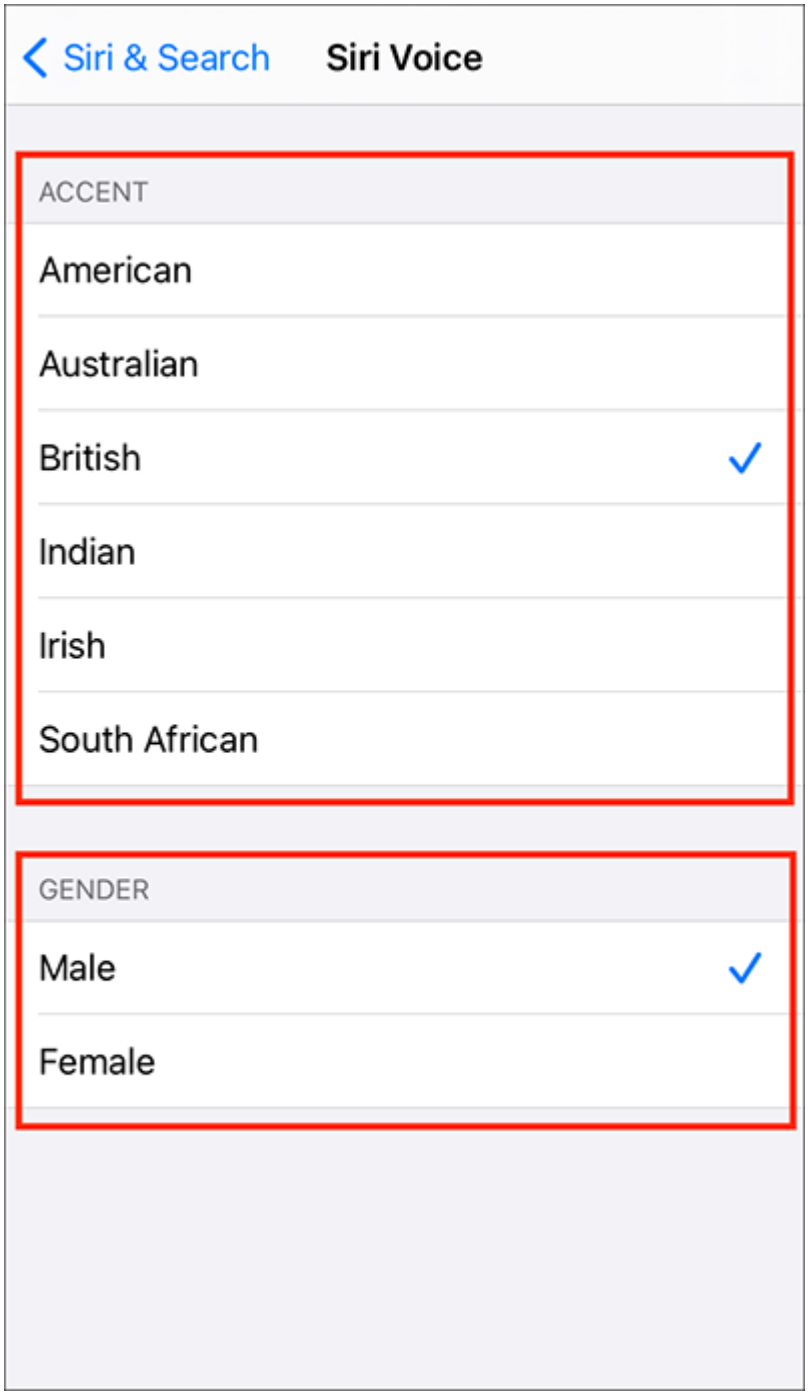
If you want to change the language Siri uses, select **Language** and choose from the options. *Note: Selecting a new language turns off "Hey Siri" so you will need to set it up again.*

Settings
Siri & Search
ASK SIRI
Listen for "Hey Siri"
Press Home for Siri
Allow Siri When Locked
Language
English (United Kingdom)
Siri Voice
British (Male)
Siri Responses
My Information
Siri & Dictation History
Siri can help you get things done just by asking. About Ask Siri & Privacy...
SIRI SUGGESTIONS
Suggestions while Searching
Suggestions on Lock Screen

Siri Voice

1. To change Siri's voice, select **Siri Voice**.

2. On the next screen, select which accent and gender you would like Siri to use.



Siri Responses

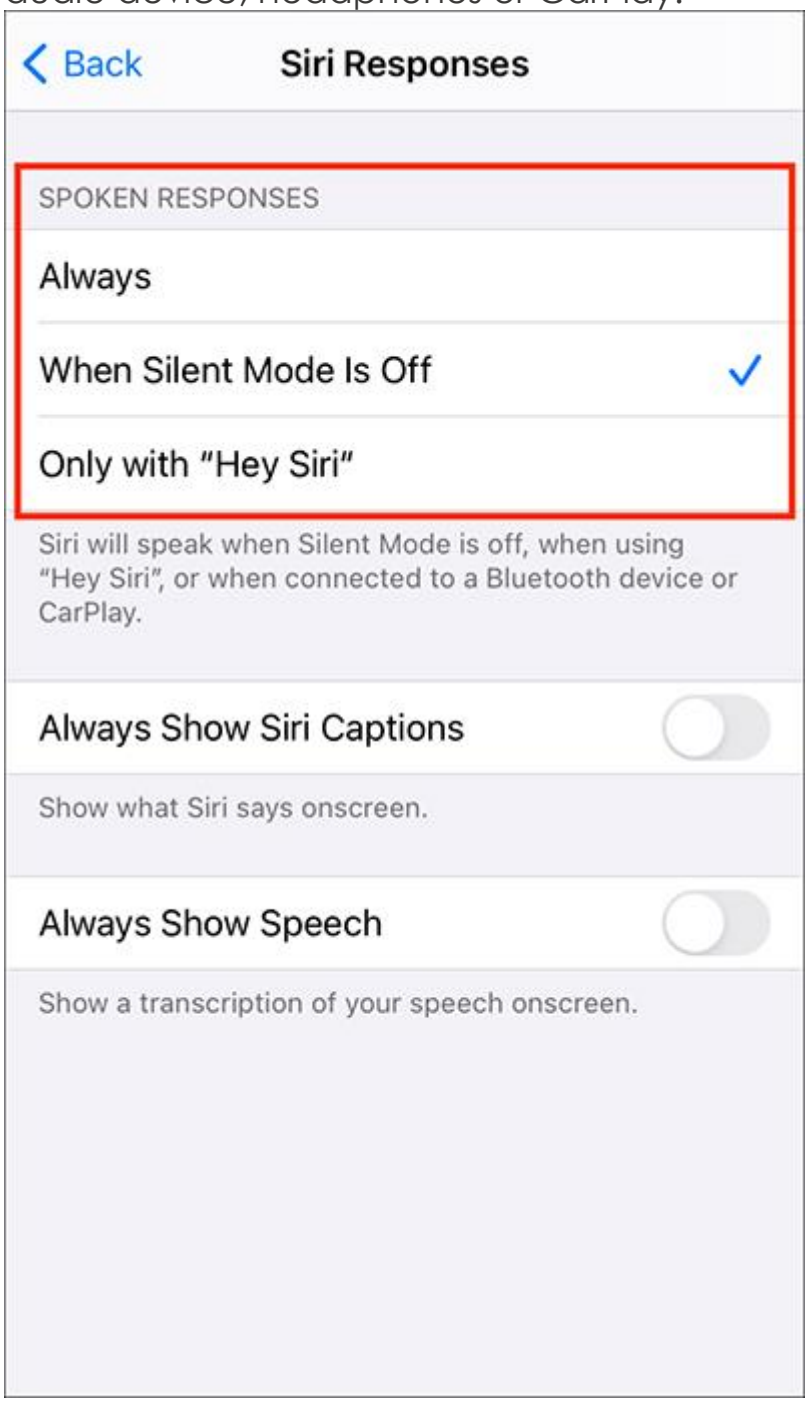
To change the level of feedback you receive when asking a query, select **Siri Responses.**

On the next screen you can edit the settings for:

Spoken responses

By default, when Siri answers your queries you will be given spoken feedback alongside visual, on-screen feedback. To change when you receive spoken feedback, choose from the following:

- **Always:** Receive spoken feedback, even when your phone is in silent mode.
- **When Silent Mode is Off:** Only receive spoken feedback when silent mode is off. *Note: You will still receive spoken feedback if you use the "Hey Siri" command or when your device is connected to a Bluetooth audio device, headphones, or CarPlay.*
- **Only with Hey Siri**: Only receive spoken feedback when you use the "Hey Siri" command or if your device is connected to a Bluetooth audio device, headphones or CarPlay.

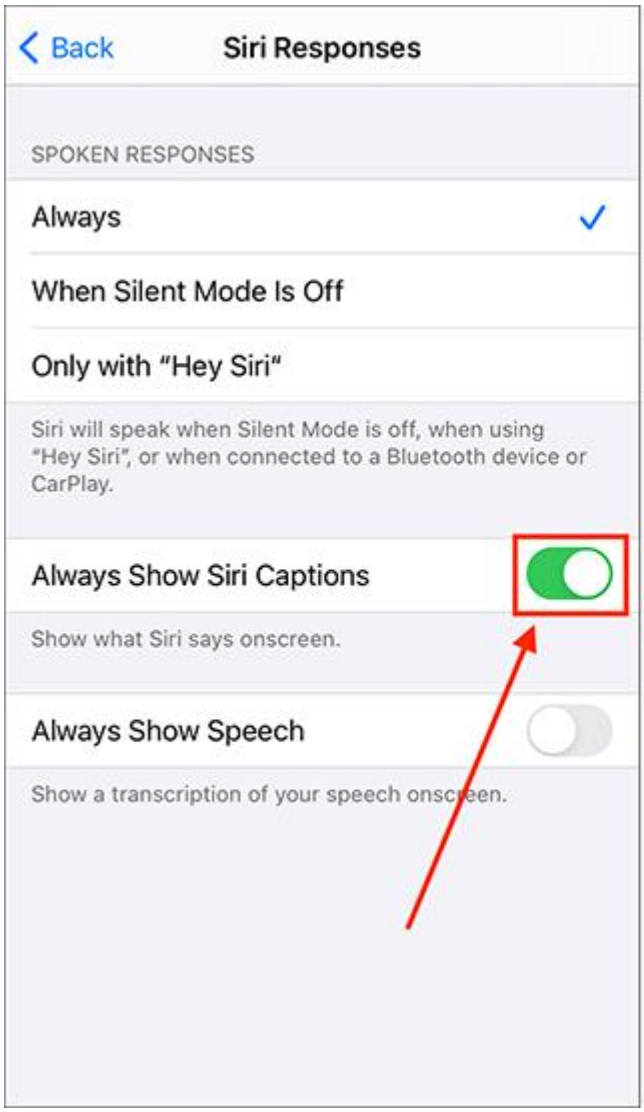


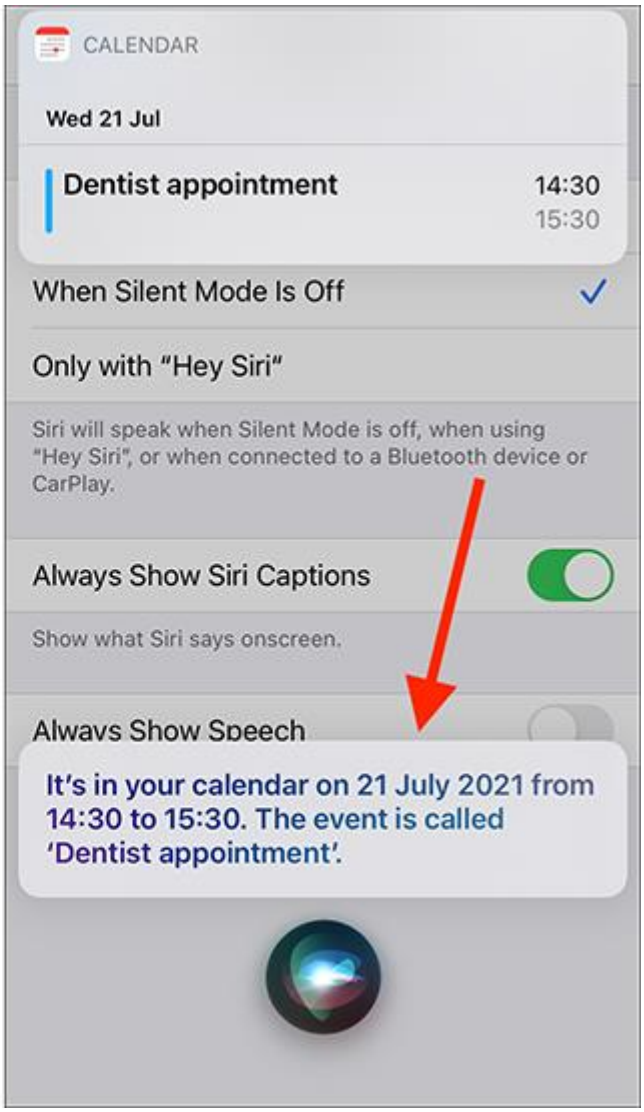
Visual responses

Always Show Siri Captions

To show *everything* Siri says onscreen, set the toggle switch for **Always Show Siri Captions** to **On**. See our example on the right, below.

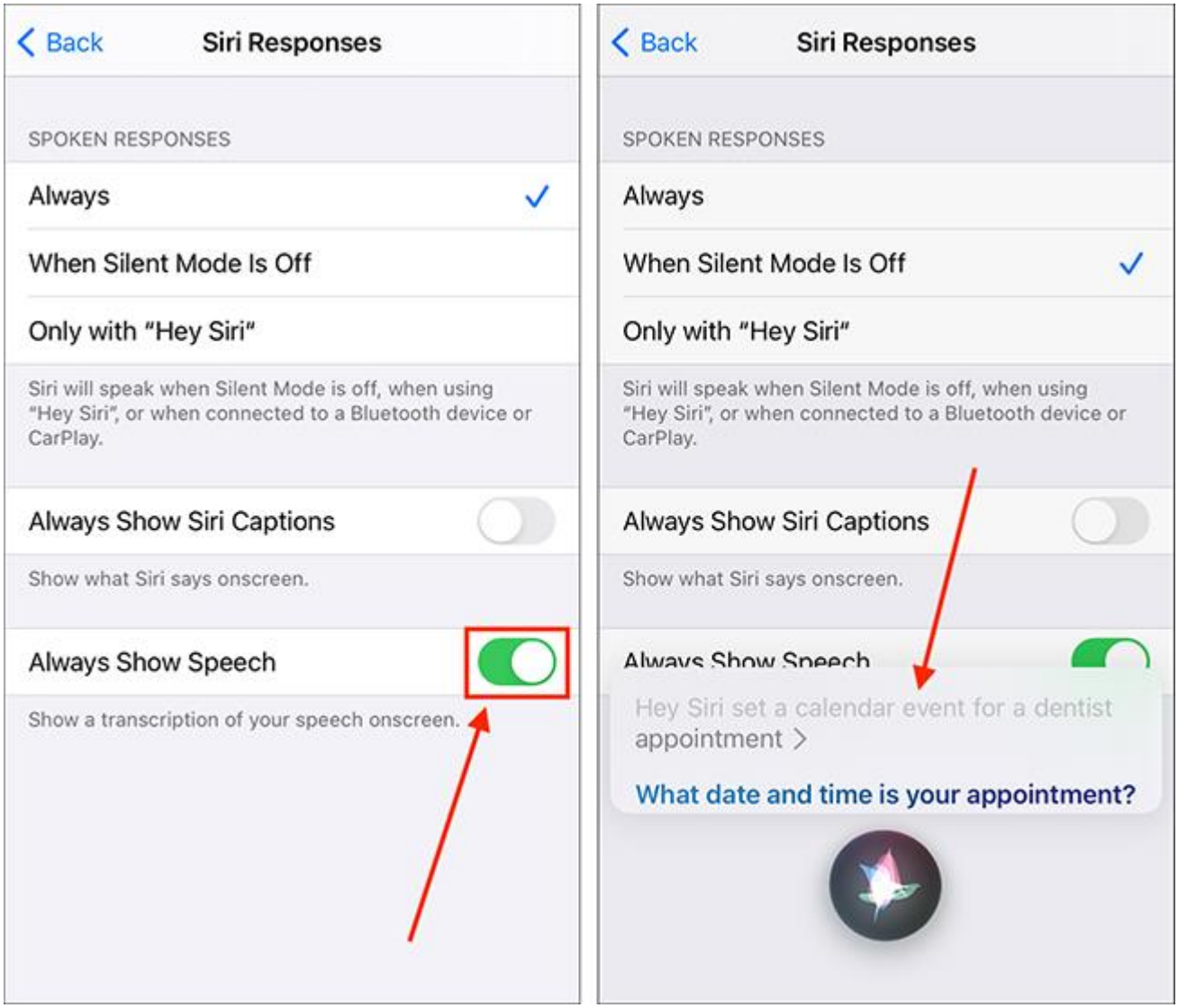
Note: When this setting is off you will still see captions of the questions Siri asks.





Always Show Speech

If you would like to see a transcription of your query onscreen, as you speak, set the toggle switch for **Always Show Speech** to **On**. See our example on the right, below.

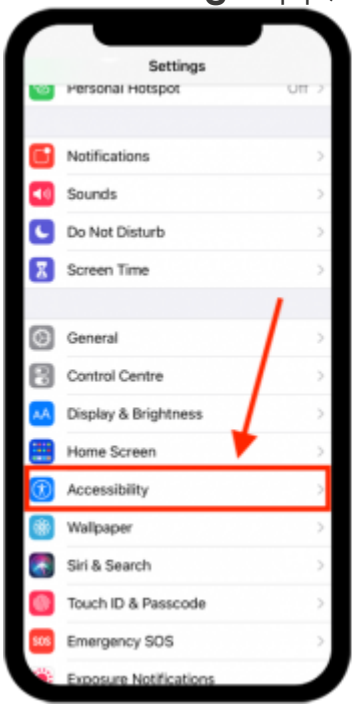


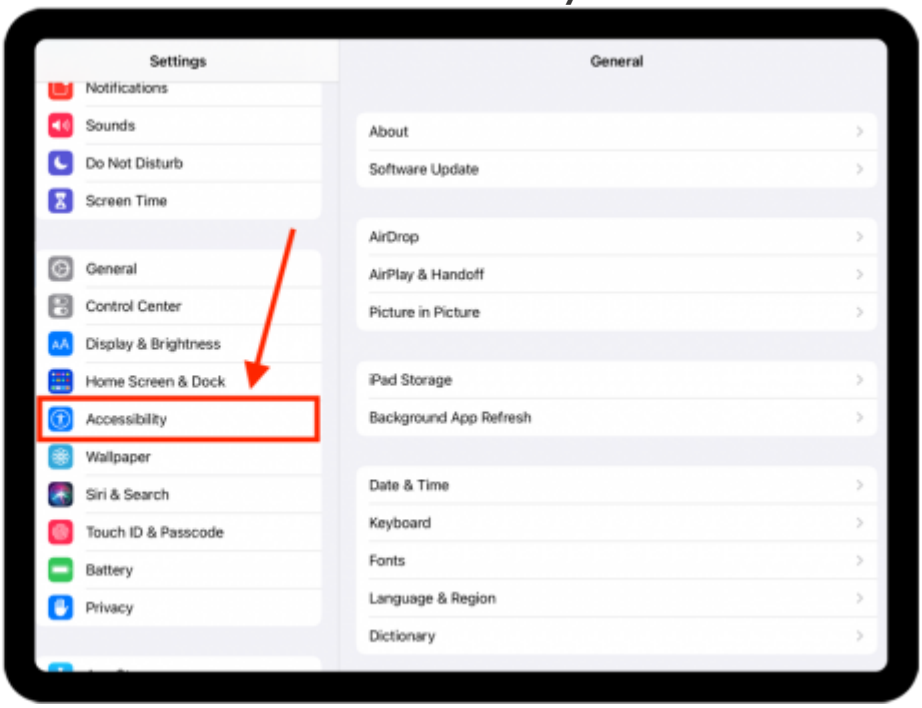
Siri Accessibility settings

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

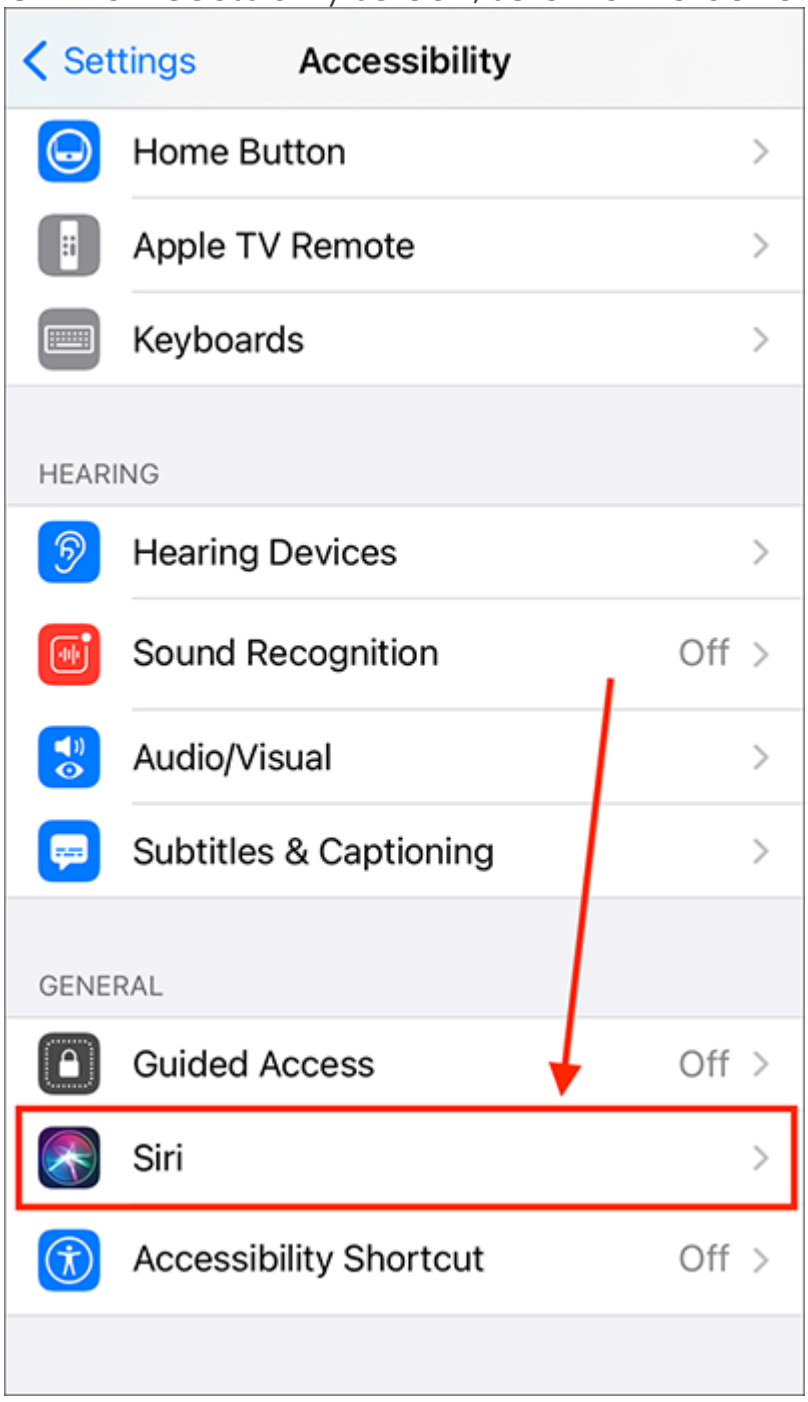
example, below.

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





3. On the Accessibility screen, scroll to the bottom and select **Siri**.



4. You can now edit the following settings:

Type to Siri

See the **Typing Queries to Siri section** above.

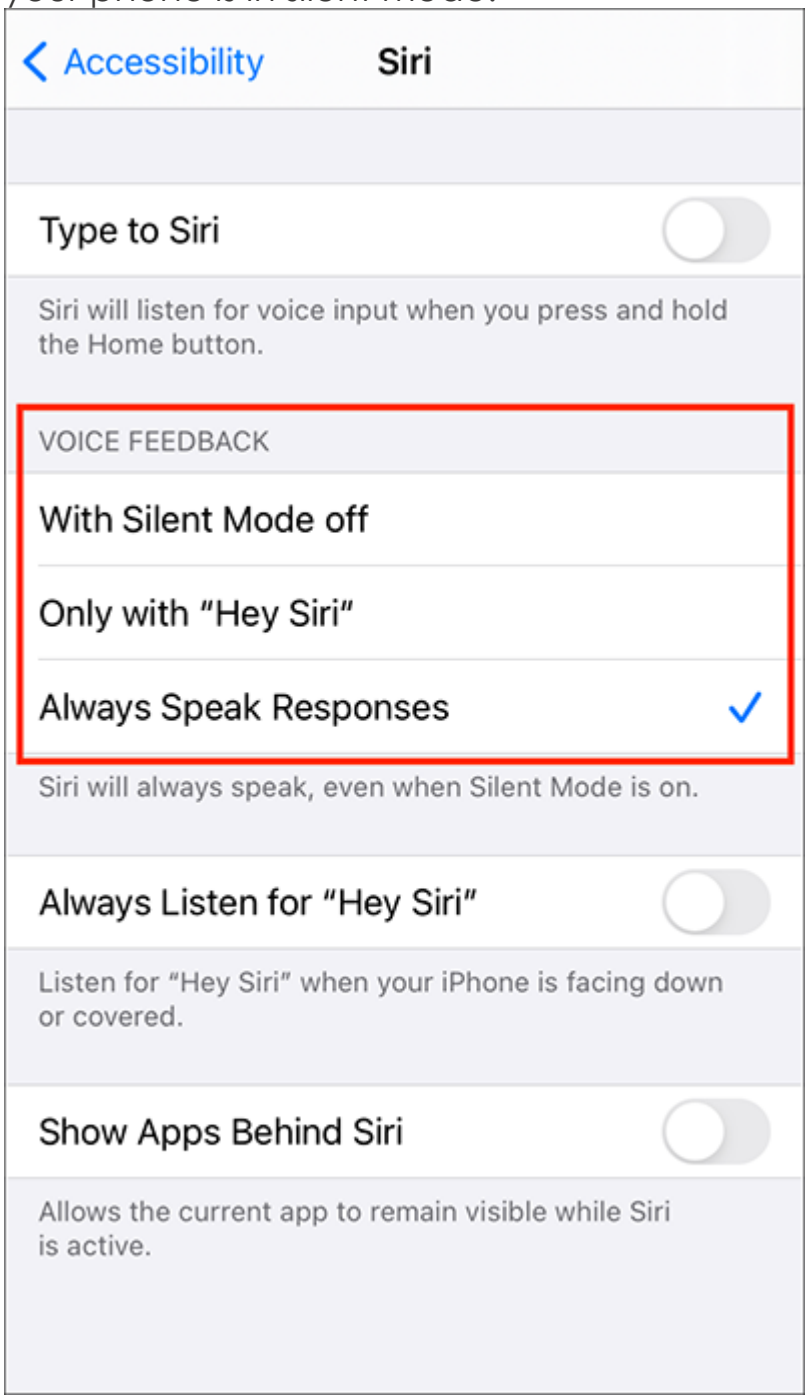
Voice feedback

Note: This is the same as Spoken Responses covered in the Siri Settings section, above.

By default, when Siri answers your queries you will give you spoken feedback alongside visual, on-screen feedback. To change when you receive spoken feedback, choose from the following:

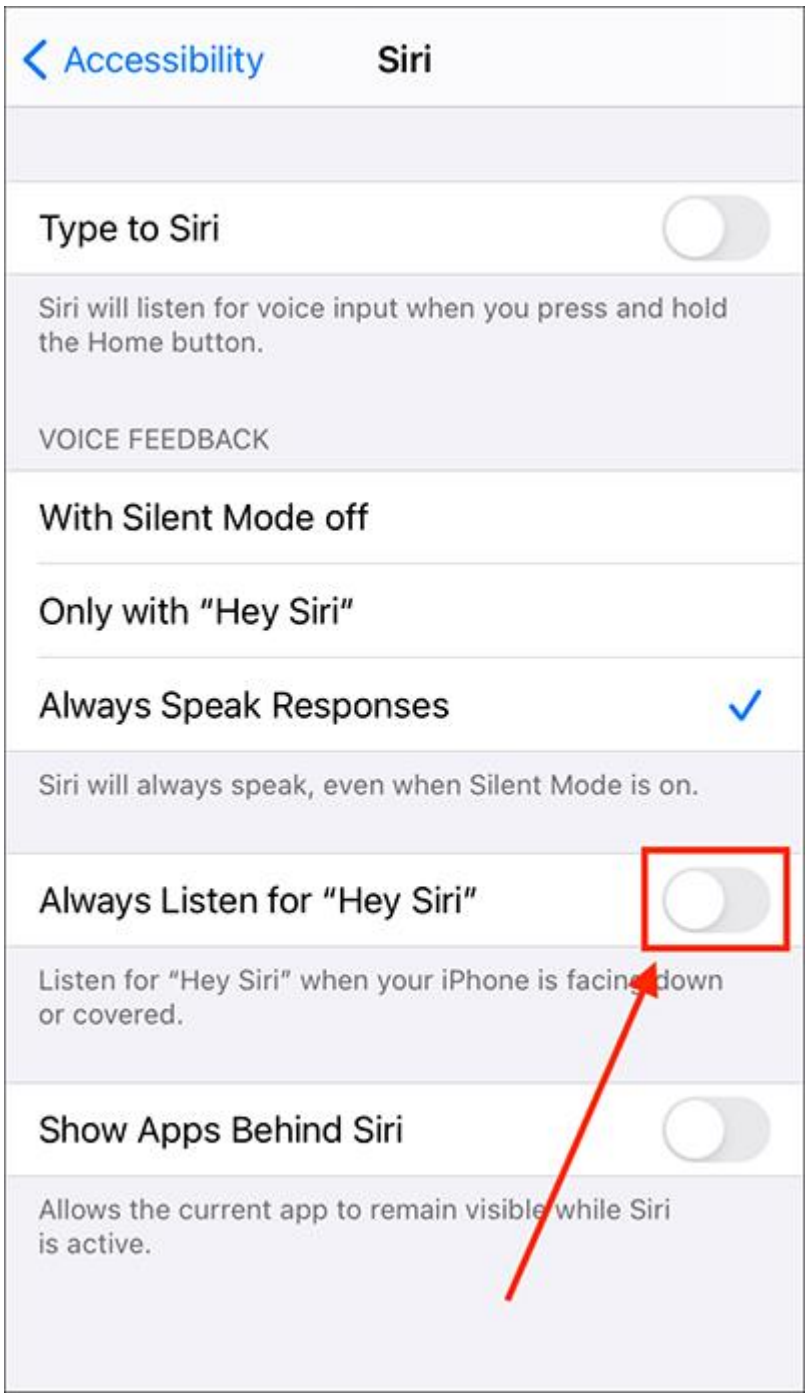
- **When Silent Mode is Off:** Only receive spoken feedback when silent mode is off. *Note: You will still receive spoken feedback if you use the "Hey Siri" command or when your device is connected to a Bluetooth audio device, headphones, or CarPlay.*
- **Only with Hey Siri**: Only receive spoken feedback when you use the "Hey Siri" command or if your device is connected to a Bluetooth audio device, headphones or CarPlay.

- **Always Speak Responses:** Receive spoken feedback, even when your phone is in silent mode.



Always Listen for "Hey Siri"

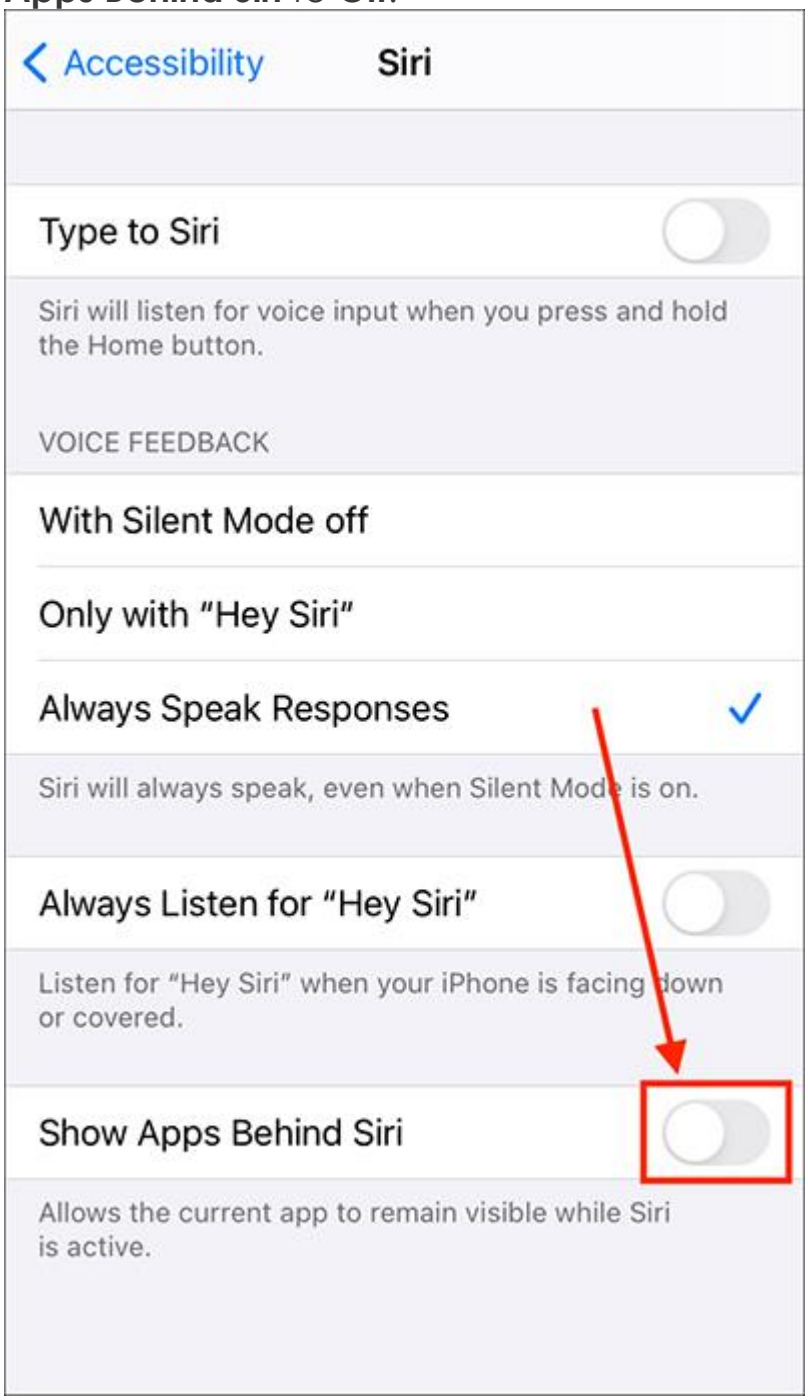
If you want your device to listen for "Hey Siri" even when facing down or covered, set the toggle switch for **Always listen for "Hey Siri"** to **On**.



Show Apps Behind Siri

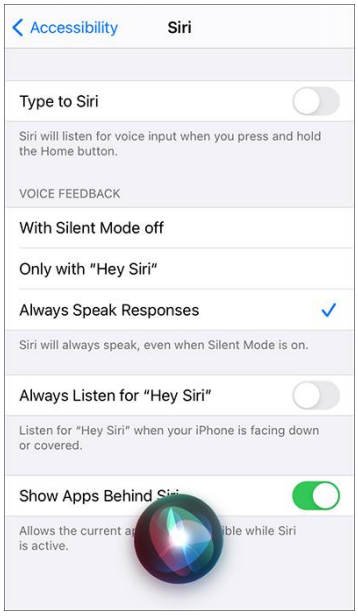
1. By default, the current app remains visible in the background when you use Siri. If you find this distracting, set the toggle switch for **Show**

Apps Behind Siri to **Off**.



2. Now when you use Siri, the background will be blurred out. See our examples below illustrating when this setting is turned on *and* off.

*Show Apps Behind Siri turned **Off***



*Show Apps Behind Siri turned **On***

Note: If you have enabled Type to Siri, the background will always be dark and blurred.