

Guide for seniors #5 –How to use different voice assistants

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEHMfdqwWXA>

WHAT IS A VOICE ASSISTANT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

Simply, it means you can communicate through a device by using your voice. But it is not just about voice recognition. Today it also means understanding the words that are spoken.

Example

Siri from Apple

Google Assistant from Google

Bixby Voice from Samsung

WHAT CAN THEY BE USED FOR?

As voice assistants get better and better they can do more things and so their popularity grows, both at home and in the work place. Some tasks are performed in the device you are talking to, regardless of whether it is a phone or a speaker, and at the same time these devices can control more and more things in our surroundings.

Example

You control it with your voice. By saying a command you get the voice assistant's attention. Then you can ask a question or give a command.

Through your phone and tablet you can:

- Call, text, email
- Create reminders or shopping lists
- Play music
- Set an alarm or timer
- Plan meetings or events, and read out the itinerary
- Find answers to questions etc

WHEN CAN THEY BE USEFUL?

Sometimes it is good to ask your smart devices to do things when you have your hands full. Here are some situations where voice control can be beneficial.

Example

When you are cooking: If you are cooking and want to check the recipe, but your hands are messy.

When you have got your hands full: If you are carrying moving boxes or have your hands full with something you do not need to put it down to find out which restaurants are nearby.

When you are concentrating on traffic: It is now required by law to use a handsfree when you talk on the phone while driving.

When you want to dictate: Sometimes speaking is quicker than writing.

COMMON WORRIES

When you use a smart speaker you might be wondering what information it saves about you. Does it really listen to everything you say? Here you can learn more about how they work. Here we use Google Home as an example.

In standby-mode the smart speaker uses a separate chip which only reacts to a key phrase, like "OK, Google". To listen for that phrase is the chips only function. This happens inside the speaker, not online.

As soon as the chip hears the magic words: "OK, Google" the light on top of the speaker turns on. It indicates that the speaker is now listening to you.

Is information about me saved?

Stored data can be erased. It might be good to know that you can control what data is being stored.

When you are logged in to you Google account you can view your search history and what pages you have visited through Google under the tab "Min aktivitet". You can filter the results through "voice and audio" to see what searches you made through voice recognition.

HOW DOES VOICE ASSISTANTS WORK?

When you use smart speakers it might be good to check what you need in order to use them. For example, you need to be connected to the internet and usually you need an account and an app to get started. Change between the tabs to see the different smart speakers.

Activate with voice command

Say "OK, Google" or "Hi, Google" to activate.

About Google Home

Google assistant can tell you about the weather, traffic updates and what your itinerary for the day looks like. It can even tell you the latest news and set a timer.

This is how you do it

First of all you need to download and start the app "Google Home" on your phone or tablet. Then you can begin talking to your Google assistant.

Example

You can set different routines for different times. For example if you say "Hi Google, good morning" it can turn the lights on, tell you about your day, tell you the news and play music.

TRY ASKING A QUESTION

Here are some examples of things you can ask your assistant.

You: "What is the weather like?" **Google:** You get the weather forecast for the day.

You: "What came first, the chicken or the egg?" **Siri:** "I looked through their diaries. They've got the exact same birthday!"