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# Guide to the Blind Low Vision Skill

### Start

Launch the skill by saying, “Alexa, start Blind Low Vision.”

The first time you use the skill, you will be guided through a tutorial that teaches you the basics of talking to Alexa, and how to find and read a book in the Blind Low Vision skill.

If you are coming back to the skill from a previous session, Alexa will ask whether you want to continue reading the same book, magazine, or newspaper issue. If you say, “No”, Alexa will take you back to the main menu.

### Main menu

Alexa will ask whether you want to read audio books, magazines, or newspapers. Say “Books”, “Magazines”, or “Newspapers” to continue to the appropriate section.

### Book search

You can search for books by author and title, or just part of that information. Say, “Alexa, find [title] by [author]”, to get a list of books matching your request; for example, “Alexa, find *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood.”

If you don’t ask for an author, Alexa will confirm whether you would like to search for books with a similar title.

You can also search for all books by a particular author in the library, by saying, “Alexa, list books by [author]”; for example, “Alexa, list books by Margaret Atwood.”

If you’re not sure what you want to read next, you can ask for more help, and Alexa will provide more options.

### Book number search

You can also find books by book number (BN), by saying, “Alexa, find [book number]”. For example, “Alexa, find 1 0 2 5 1 8” will take you to the book *Deep Beyond the Reef* by Owen Scott. This can be useful if Alexa has trouble understanding you, or if you want to go straight to a book which is promoted in a Library newsletter.

### Latest books in a genre

You can ask Alexa to list the latest books added to the Library in a particular genre or subject by saying, “Alexa, list [genre]”; for example, “Alexa, list Romance.” If there are several similar genres available, such as light romance, or historical romance, you will hear a numbered list of genres to choose from. Alexa will then read out a numbered list of the 50 most recent books available in that genre. You can interrupt by saying, “Alexa”, followed by the number of the book you want to start reading.

### Genre list

If you’re not sure what genre or subject you want to read next, just say, “Alexa, list”, and you will hear a numbered list of all the available genres, in alphabetical order. You can interrupt by saying, “Alexa”, followed by the number of the genre you want. Alexa will then offer you a numbered list of the latest 50 books added to the collection in that genre.

### Recommend something

Our library skill includes a rating feature, that lets you recommend individual books from our collection for other readers. To choose from a numbered list of the most popular books recommended by our membership, say, “Alexa, recommend something.”

### Surprise me

You can ask Alexa to surprise you with a random book from our collection, by saying, “Alexa, surprise me.”

You can also browse our collection by subjects, by saying “Alexa, surprise me with [subject]”; for example, “Alexa, surprise me with romance.” Subject terms include fiction and literature (such as thrillers, romance, or fantasy) and non-fiction (such as biographies, history, or travel). If there are several subjects matching your request, you will get a numbered list to choose from.

### Book selection

If there is only one book matching your search, Alexa will take you straight to it, and get ready to start reading. If there are several books to choose from, you will hear a numbered list. You can either wait to hear all the choices, or interrupt by saying, “Alexa, [number]”; for example, “Alexa, two.”

### Reading a book

When you have selected a book title, Alexa will tell you a little about the audio version, and you have a choice of starting reading, hearing the synopsis or description of the book, selecting a chapter from the table of contents, or rating the book. The table of contents is a numbered list, and you can start at a particular chapter by interrupting with the number matching your selection; for example, “Alexa, sixteen”. This list includes the introductory material as well as the book contents, so the numbers won’t be the same as the book chapter numbers.

If the book is part of a series, there will also be the option to hear about other books. Say “Series information” to hear the name of the series, and any prequels and sequels in our collection relevant to the current title.

If you are enjoying the book and would like to recommend it to our other readers, say, “Rate this book.”

To start reading the book, say, “Alexa, start.” To go back to the book search, say, “Alexa, cancel.”

While the book is playing, you can go between chapters by saying, “Alexa, forward”, or “Alexa, back.” You can also jump by time intervals, with the command, “Alexa, ask Blind Low Vision to go [forward/back] [time interval]”; for example, “Alexa ask Blind Low Vision to go forward ten minutes.”

You can pause the book while it is playing by saying, “Alexa, pause.” To continue reading, say “Alexa, resume.” To stop reading and choose another book, say, “Alexa, cancel.” Then say, “Alexa, books”, to return to the book search. You can also say, “Alexa, magazines”, to go to the magazine search.

### Sleep timer

You can tell Alexa to stop automatically after a certain period of time, which can be useful if you are reading before you go to sleep, and don’t want to lose your place in a book or magazine. While you are reading, say, “Alexa, set sleep timer for [time interval]”; for example, “Alexa, set sleep timer for one hour.”

### Magazine search

You can search for magazine titles in much the same way, after choosing “magazines” from the main menu, or saying, “Alexa, magazines” while you are in the book search. Select a magazine by saying, “Alexa, find [magazine title]”; for example, “Alexa, find New Zealand Gardener.” You can browse all available magazine titles by saying, “Alexa, list magazines.”

### Magazine selection

Alexa will either go straight to your requested magazine, or give you a list of similar titles to choose from. Select your magazine by number as you would from a list of books; for example, “Alexa, one.” Only the latest issue of each magazine is currently available for reading.

### Reading a magazine

You can read a magazine with Alexa the same way you would a book. Say, “Alexa, start”, to read the magazine from the beginning, or “Alexa, table of contents” to choose an article from a numbered list.

### Reading lists

Alexa can remember the books and magazines you have been reading recently. To review your recent titles, you can ask for these reading lists by saying, “Alexa, reading list.” You can then choose between recent books or magazines. Alexa will give you a numbered list of the last ten books or magazines you were reading to choose from.

This is the best way to switch between books, magazines, and newspapers, if you are reading several things at once.

### Newspaper search

You can search for newspaper titles from the newspaper menu, and Alexa will provide a numbered menu of the best matches for that title. For example, “Alexa, find New Zealand Herald” will offer you a choice of “NZ Herald” or “Hauraki Herald”.

Once you have chosen your newspaper, you can choose between sections from the next list, such as sports, business, general news, or features. Choose a section from the menu, and Alexa will start reading through the articles in that section.

### Reading a newspaper

While reading newspaper articles, you can use “Alexa, next” and “Alexa, back” to move between articles within that section. To go back to the menu for your current newspaper and choose another section, say “Alexa, cancel”. When you have read the last article in a section, Alexa will go back to the menu for your current newspaper. To change newspapers, say “Alexa, cancel”.

### Newspaper list

To browse through all available newspaper titles, just say “Alexa, list” from the newspaper menu. This list updates for you automatically, so that the first newspaper in the list will be the last one you read. The more you use this section, the easier it will be to read your favourite newspapers from the newspaper list.

### Closing the skill

You can use the pause and resume commands to stop reading briefly without closing the skill, but when you are ready to do something else, say, “Alexa, stop.” This will close the Blind Low Vision skill, and you can ask Alexa to do something else. The next time you start the skill, Alexa will ask whether you want to carry on reading where you left off.

# List of Commands

How to start

* Alexa, Start Blind Low Vision

## Main Menu Commands

* Alexa, books
* Alexa, magazines
* Alexa, newspapers
* Alexa, tutorial

## Navigation Commands

* Alexa, pause
* Alexa, continue
* Alexa, repeat
* Alexa, cancel (goes back one step in menu)
* Alexa, stop (cancels skill)
* Alexa, shortcuts
* Alexa, help

## Controlling Volume

* Alexa, louder
* Alexa, volume up
* Alexa, quieter
* Alexa, volume down
* Alexa, volume [choose between 1 to 10]

## Menu Commands

* Alexa, find [book title] by [author name]
* Alexa, find [magazine title]
* Alexa, list books by [author name]
* Alexa, find [book number]
* Alexa, list [genre]
* Alexa, list
* Alexa, recommend something
* Alexa, reading list
* Alexa, change skip level
* Alexa, list magazines
* Alexa, what magazines do you have?
* Alexa, surprise me
* Alexa, surprise me with [genre]
* Alexa, how many books do you have
* Alexa, how many magazines do you have
* Alexa, tutorial

## Audio Reader Commands

* Alexa, continue
* Alexa, resume
* Alexa, start
* Alexa, table of contents
* Alexa, rate this book
* Alexa, forward
* Alexa, next
* Alexa, skip
* Alexa, back
* Alexa, previous
* Alexa, ask Blind Low Vision to Go [forward/back] [time interval]
* Alexa, set sleep timer for [time interval]

The Blind Low Vision Skill and Commands are also available in audio. Once in the book menu, just say

* Alexa, find, 126430

or

* Alexa, find, Guide to Blind Low Vision Skill

You can also request a list of commands in Braille format by calling our Contact Centre on **0800 24 33 33**.