

1-Finger Tap

Action

When VoiceOver is on, 1 finger tap is not a recognized gesture, and it does not have an action. Touching an item on the screen will only announce the item.

Why Is The 1-Finger Tap Gesture Important?

The 1-finger tap helps build skills for other VoiceOver gestures like the split tap and double tap. However, by itself, it will not select or activate anything.

Prerequisites

The child should:

- Enjoy touching and interacting with the screen.
- Have basic finger control to tap.
- First learn to explore by dragging their finger on the screen before tapping.

Warm Up Activity

The “Tickle Touch” activity helps prepare for a gentle 1-finger tap. This can be done before each lesson to strengthen muscle memory.

Physical Gesture

The correct 1-finger tap gesture involves:

- **Touch lightly** with a quick, controlled movement.
- **Don’t hold the tap**—just a quick touch.
- **Keep your hand relaxed** with an open palm slightly above the screen.
- **Fingers should be relaxed**—not stiff or straight.
- **Only move the index finger** while keeping the rest of the hand still.

To practice, keep the hand open and slightly above the iPad. Only move the index finger to tap lightly and quickly. Fingers should be slightly apart and relaxed. Listen carefully to what is announced as the screen is touched.

Modification

Young children are still developing isolated finger control. Often children will start by making a fist with just the index finger extended. As they improve, they should use an open palm with fingers slightly apart and only drop the index finger.

Earcon

Since the 1-finger tap is not recognized as a real gesture when VoiceOver is engaged, it does not have an associated earcon (sound).

Common Issues

- **Tapping too hard:**
 - **Cause:** If you hear the tap, the child is pressing too hard.
 - **Fix:** Use a light “Tickle Touch.”
- **More than one finger touches the screen:**
 - **Cause:** If using an open hand with stiff or fingers together, the longer middle finger may also touch the screen, changing the gesture to a 2-finger tap gesture.
 - **Fix:** Relax the fingers – fingers should be slightly curved.
 - **Fix:** Spread fingers slightly apart.
 - **Fix:** Make a fist with only the index finger extended.
- **Dive Bomb vs. Hoover Tap:**
 - **Cause:** A child who is blind or low vision may initially create the one finger tap by “dive bombing” – meaning that his/her hand starts shoulder height or above and hurtles down to hit the iPad screen. This dive bomb method is hard on the iPad, inefficient, and is a bad habit. The dive bomb technique makes the one finger double tap gesture challenging. (It is hard to create a double tap fast enough if the hand is raised above the shoulder again after the first tap).
 - **Fix:** Instead of holding the hand high above the iPad and dropping the hand, hold the hand about an inch above the screen and drop only the index finger.
 - **Tip:** If the student holds the hand high above the iPad and then “dives” to touch the screen, name the movement ‘dive bomb’ to differentiate this big movement from the desired small movement. When explaining the difference, exaggerate the movement to make it fun, then compare the dive bomb movement to the desired hover position.

Lessons

Lesson 1: 1-finger tap

- **Goal:** Learn the 1-finger tap gesture.
- **Screen Layout:**
 - A large cartoon teddy bear face is in the middle of the screen.
- **Breakdown:**
 - Using your index finger, quickly tap once anywhere on the screen to make the bear smile and giggle.
 - Complete the task three times to finish the lesson.