

2-Finger Tap Gesture

Action

The 2-finger tap gesture pauses or resumes VoiceOver speech.

Why Is The 2-Finger Tap Gesture Important?

- The 2-finger gestures are known as **“reading” gestures**, used for navigating and reading text on a screen, document, or book.
- When VoiceOver is reading aloud, a 2-finger tap pauses it, and another 2-finger tap resumes reading from the same point.
- VoiceOver can be “chatty”—providing a lot of information. As children become more comfortable with VoiceOver, they may not need to hear full announcements. The 2-finger tap quickly stops unnecessary speech.

Prerequisite

- 1-finger tap

Warm Up Activities

- Not applicable

Physical Gesture

Young children are still developing isolated finger control. For children with good fine motor skills:

- Use an open palm that hovers about an inch (about 1.25 cm) above the screen.
- Fingers should be relaxed, slightly bent, and spread apart.
- Only the index and middle fingers should move to tap the screen.
- The tap should be gentle “tickle touch” and quick.

Fun Memory Aids

Two ways to help the child remember what the 2-finger tap does:

- **“Shhh! Tap”:**
 - Young children love the game of making the chatting VoiceOver “Shhh!” by quickly tapping the screen to pause the speech.
- **“Viper Gesture”:**
 - Have children hold two bent fingers like a snake’s forked tongue and make a “sss” sound as the child strikes (taps) the screen.

Modification

- Young children may find it easier to make a fist and extend their first two fingers.
- Fingers should be relaxed, slightly apart, and bent.
- Both fingers must tap the screen simultaneously using a gentle, “tickle touch”.

Common Issues

- **Gesture is recognized as a 1-finger tap:**
 - **Cause:** Fingers are touching, are stiff, or are straight causing the taller middle finger to touch the screen before the index finger.
 - **Fix:** Ensure fingers are relaxed, spread slightly apart, and are slightly bent.
- **Gesture is recognized as a 2-finger double tap:**
 - **Issue:** In other apps, the 2-finger double tap will start or stop music, videos, etc. It is important that the student learn to do the 2-finger single tap correctly!
 - **Fix:** Ensure it is a 2-finger single tap. Practice and build muscle memory!
 - **Fix:** Point out good listening skills. Young students often hear “2” (for 2-finger) and interprets “2 taps”.

Lessons

Lessons without detailed explanations were covered in previous lessons.

Lesson 1: 1-finger tap

Lesson 2: 2-finger tap

- **Goal:** Learn the 2-finger tap gesture
- **Screen layout:**
 - A robot is in the middle of the screen saying, “blah, blah, blah”.
- **Breakdown:**
 - The child is asked to perform a 2-finger tap anywhere on the screen to pause the robot’s talking.
 - Perform another 2-finger tap resumes the robot’s speech.
 - Perform a 2-finger tap again and the person resumes talking.
 - Perform the 2-finger tap three times to complete the lesson.

This structured approach ensures children develop control over VoiceOver speech, improving listening comprehension, efficiency and focus while practicing the 2-finger tap gesture.