

1-Finger Double Tap Gesture

Action

The 1-finger double tap activates the selected item.

Why Is The 1-Finger Double Tap Gesture Important?

- Paired with swipe gestures: Left and right swipes move between items, and double tap selects the focused item.
- With VoiceOver on, touching an item only announces it—double tapping is needed to activate it.

Prerequisite

Before introducing the **1-finger double tap**, children should first learn:

- Drag gesture
- Split tap gesture
- Spatial awareness
- 1-finger tap (to understand basic tapping movements)

Warm Up Activities

These activities should be done before introducing the double tap gesture and should be used as warm up activities to help build muscle memory for double tapping:

- Tickle Touch
- Knock-Knock

Note: Most children need to practice making quick double taps, as they often tap too slowly, which can cause the gesture to be misinterpreted.

Physical Gesture

- Use a light, quick touch.
- Keep fingers relaxed—avoid stiff or extended fingers.
- Movements should be small, using only the index finger, not the whole hand.
- The hand should hover above the iPad's surface.
- Only the index finger moves: Drop it lightly onto the screen twice in a quick motion.

Hand Positioning:

- **Open hand method** (Recommended):
 - Fingers relaxed, slightly apart, and curved down.
 - Index finger taps gently.
- **Fist method** (For younger children developing dexterity):

- Index finger extended, relaxed, and slightly curved.

Once an item is announced, a double tap anywhere on the screen will activate it. You do not need to tap directly on the item; the last announced item is activated when double tapped.

Modifications

Young children are just learning to have isolated finger control, which is important when making various one finger gestures. Often a young child will start by making a fist with only the index finger extended. As their finger dexterity improves, the child learns to hold their fingers out flat (open palm, not fisted) and only tap the index finger.

Common Issues

- **VoiceOver interprets the gesture as a 1-finger tap, not a double tap:**
 - **Cause:** Finger is held on the screen too long
 - **Fix:** Release the finger quickly
 - **Cause:** Double tap is too slow
 - **Fix:** Practice “knocking” on the table – using a quick double knock.
 - **Cause:** “Dive bombing” the iPad screen (holding the hand too high and swooping down to tap), causes a slow double tap.
 - **Fix:** Hover the hand just above the screen and only move the index finger to double tap.
- **VoiceOver interprets the gesture as a 2-finger double tap or more than one finger touches the screen:**
 - **Cause:** If using an open hand with stiff fingers or fingers are touching, the longer middle finger may inadvertently touch the screen along with the index finger.
 - **Fix:** Ensure relaxed, bent fingers.
 - **Fix:** Ensure that fingers are slightly apart.
 - **Fix:** If unable to isolate the index finger, create a fist and extend only the index finger.
- **Speed of double tap:**
 - **Cause:** Slow double tap.
 - **Tip:** Use the Turtle vs. Rabbit method. A turtle is a slow-moving reptile. Say the word ‘turtle’ slowly with a pause between syllables. Tap slowly with each syllable. A rabbit is fast! Say the word ‘rabbit’ quickly and make quick, sharp claps for each syllable. Demonstrate and have your child mirror first the turtle double tap then the rabbit double tap.

Remember to always encourage the child to actively listen to the announcements when his/her finger drags over an item on the screen before performing the 1-finger double tap to activate the item.

Earcons

- A “click” sound plays when right or left swiping over each item.
- A double tone is heard when the item is selected.

Lessons

Lessons without detailed explanations were covered in previous lessons.

Lesson 1: 1-finger tap

Lesson 2: 1-Finger Double Tap

- **Goal:** Learn the 1-finger double tap gesture.
- **Screen Layout:**
 - A large wooden door is in the center of the screen.
 - When the door opens, a woman appears in the middle of the screen.
- **Breakdown:**
 - Using a light touch, double tap anywhere on the screen.
 - The door opens, and the woman says, “Hello!”
 - Repeat the activity five times to complete the lesson.

This structured approach ensures children develop essential navigation skills and reinforces active listening and motor control while practice the 1-finger double tap gesture.