How to use your iPad as a Switch Device (and other Accessibility Features)



FROM: http://www.breezyspecialed.com/2016/04/how-to-use-your-ipad-as-switch-device.html

At the beginning of this year I went to an iPad training and was absolutely MIND BLOWN. Did you know you can use your iPad with a switch? Don't have a switch? Do you know you can use your iPad as a switch?! I'll show you where you can find these options, try them out and let me know how it works!

[](https://3.bp.blogspot.com/-cevTB57WK-0/Vwr1bPxTjCI/AAAAAAAABIs/5cq0ac3GGUc_z-lF1oJkYc5PRY_Uf8cHw/s1600/ipad+sped+switch.png)

First, you're going to go into **Settings** > **General** > **Accessibility**.

Have you ever been here before? Take a minute to take in the awesomeness.

***Vision Accessibility Options:***

You can **Invert Colors** or **Increase Contrast** for students with poor vision. You also have options to choose**Larger Text** - which I love because not only does it make things easier to read, it naturally displays less on a page.

You can use **Voice Over** to have your iPad speak every option for blind/very poor vision students (warning - this can get crazy!)

***Speech Accessibility Options:***

Or you can check out the **Speech** options in order to set it up to read selected text for struggling readers (**Speech** > **Speak Selection** and you might also want to choose **Highlight Content** to have the words highlighted as they are read!).

***Interaction / Switch Accessibility Options:***

Seriously, I was SO EXCITED about these options! Like, who knew?!

The **Assistive Touch** menu options is great because you can add commands like turning volume up or down to a box on the screen if you have students who have difficulties accessing the volume control.

The **Touch Accommodations** include options such as telling the iPad to use the initial touch location, or the final touch location, which would be great for students who drag their fingers across the screen when trying to make a selection! You can also tell your iPad to ignore repeat touches!

And now my favorite, the **Switch Control** options!

Head over to **Switch Control** > **Switches** > **Add New Switch...** You then have three options.

**External**: If you have an external switch that plugs in or uses bluetooth, you can connect it and use it with the iPad.

**Screen**: You can use the screen on the iPad as a switch. (I think this is the easiest, especially if you don't have an external switch). See the video below for how I set this up and how it works!)

[How to use an iPad as a Switch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zw1fL8OIZds)

<div class="player-unavailable"><h1 class="message">An error occurred.</h1><div class="submessage"><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zw1fL8OIZds" target="\_blank">Try watching this video on www.youtube.com</a>, or enable JavaScript if it is disabled in your browser.</div></div>

**Camera**: You can use left and/or right head movements as switches too!

Then you will want to scroll through the options to choose things like your scanning style, time, repeats, and tap behavior. You could easily use these switch options in combination with [a communication app](http://www.breezyspecialed.com/2015/09/communication-apps-for-special-education.html) for students to speak too! *Still have questions? There's a lot of options! Read* [*this switch control article from Apple*](https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201370) *for more information on these scanning choices!*

***Easy Access to your Programed Accessibility Options:***

If you end up using one of these accessibility options a lot, you can scroll to the bottom and choose **Accessibility Shortcut** and pick which options you want to pick from next time you triple click the home button (so that you don't always have to go through settings to go to your accessibility features!)