deque Quick Reference Guide: NVDA for Windows Keyboard Commands

Recommended browser: Firefox, Chrome, or Edge

Getting Started

Browse Mode: Browse mode is used when reading documents or web pages.

Focus Mode: Focus mode is used when the user enters a form or other fields that require user input. NVDA automatically switches between Browse and Focus modes, but the user can toggle them using Insert + Space Bar.

Turn on Speech Viewer: Enabling Speech Viewer opens a window that shows everything NVDA states. This is useful for sighted users learning NVDA for testing purposes. Enable it under Tools in the NVDA menu.

To install NVDA: Go to http://www.nvaccess.org/download/ . We encourage you to donate if you can. If you can't, you can skip the donation and just download the software.

Note: These shortcut keys are for NVDA's desktop keyboard layout setting. Some shortcuts are different when using NVDA's laptop keyboard layout setting.

The Basics

Task	Command
Turn NVDA on	Control + Alt + N
Turn NVDA off	Insert + Q
Stop reading	Control
Start reading continuously from this point on	Insert + Down Arrow or Numpad Plus
Read next item	Down Arrow
Read next *focusable* item (e.g. link, button)	Tab
Activate link	Enter
Activate button	Enter or Space Bar
Go to next heading	H
Go to next heading of level [1-6]	1-6
List all headings	Insert + F7
Go to next landmark/region	D
Show list of all links, headings, form fields, buttons, and landmarks	Insert + F7
Go to next table	T
Navigate table cells	Ctrl + Alt + Arrow Keys
Go to next list	L
Go to next list item	I
Go to next graphic	G
List all links	Insert + F7
Go to next link	K
Go to next *unvisited* link	U
Go to next *visited* link	V
Read entire foreground window (e.g. for dialogs)	Insert + B
Announce title of the current foreground window	Insert + T
Toggle between: radio buttons, <select> list items, tabs (ARIA widget), tree view items (ARIA widget), menu items (ARIA widget)	Arrow Keys
Go back to previous heading, landmark, table, focusable item, etc.	Shift + [H, D, T, Tab, etc.]

Reading Text

Task	Command
Say prior line	Up Arrow or Numpad 7
Say next line	Down Arrow or Numpad 9
Say current line	Insert + Up Arrow or Numpad 8
Start of line	Shift + Numpad 1
End of line	Shift + Numpad 3
Top line	Shift + Numpad 7
Bottom line	Shift + Numpad 9
Say prior character	Left Arrow or Numpad 1
Say next character	Right Arrow or Numpad 3
Say current character	Numpad 2
Say character phonetically	Numpad 2 twice quickly
Say prior word	Ctrl + Left Arrow or Numpad 4
Say next word	Ctrl + Right Arrow or Numpad 6
Say current word	Numpad 5
Say prior sentence	Alt + Up Arrow
Say next sentence	Alt + Down Arrow
Say current sentence	Alt + Numpad 5
Next paragraph	Ctrl + Up Arrow or Q
Spell word	Numpad 5 twice quickly
Spell word phonetically	Numpad 5 thrice quickly
Spell current line	Insert + Up Arrow twice quickly
Spell current line phonetically	Insert + Up Arrow thrice quickly

Forms

Task	Command
List all form elements	Insert + F7
Next form field	F
Next focusable item	Tab
Next button	B
Select and deselect	Space Bar
Next checkbox	X
Open combo box	Alt + Down Arrow
Browse/select options	Down Arrow or First letter
Select multiple options	Shift + Down Arrow (or Up Arrow)
Next <select> combo box	C
Toggle selection	Up/Down Arrow
Next radio button	R
Toggle between focus mode and browse mode*	Insert + Space Bar

* "Focus mode" allows you to enter data into form fields. Browse mode allows you to navigate the page using standard screen reader shortcuts (e.g. to navigate headings, landmarks, links, etc.)

Tables

Task	Command
Go to next (previous) table	T (Shift + T)
Cell to right	Ctrl + Alt + Right Arrow
Cell to left	Ctrl + Alt + Left Arrow
Cell below	Ctrl + Alt + Down Arrow
Cell above	Ctrl + Alt + Up Arrow

Full list of commands: http://tinyurl.com/commands-nvda

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