

Accessing Audio Description

The ability to access audio description depends on having a television that can access it. The age and model of the television will impact on how easy it is to access audio description.

With a number of sets the placement of buttons and accessibility features means you will need a sighted person to assist with initial set up. While a mobility support person may be able to help, in most cases a sighted person in the household should be adequate. Using be my eyes, Aira or seeing AI may also be useful for people who are unable to gain sighted support.

To see if your television or set top box supports audio description, check the instruction manuals or on-screen settings menus. Retailers or manufacturers may also be able to provide advice.

There are a range of ways people can turn on the audio description features depending on the television that they use. The two easiest ways are to turn on audio description via the accessibility features on your remote or television set.

Please be aware that for some TVs and set top boxes, audio description may not stay on after the device is switched off, or if the channel is changed. You may have to turn audio description on again if you experience this problem.

Via the remote control

Check your remote for a button with the words Accessibility, AD or Audio Description. Press this button and follow the screen instructions to activate audio description. This should activate audio description for all programs.

Using the Televisions On-screen Options

Many TVs have an accessibility section in settings. If your television has accessibility settings, go to those settings and turn on audio description.

Alternatively, check if your television has a setting to switch on a secondary language, which is likely to be listed in the menu as 'english' or 'eng' Switch this on to access audio description. For Panasonic receivers the secondary language will be displayed as 'aus'.

Alternatively, check your remote for a button with the words Audio, Settings, Options, Smarthub or Language. Press this button and follow the screen instructions to activate audio description.

Older Television Models

Some older devices (manufactured before 2014) may not support audio description. A set top box capable of receiving audio description may be required to connect to your existing TV.

If your TV doesn't support the audio description service, you may have to upgrade your television receiver or purchase a set top box capable of receiving audio description may be required to connect to your existing TV. Those who are part of the NDIS can apply for support.

Instructions for common television models

The following table lists the television brands that have been independently tested to receive audio description. This table also tells you the steps for activating audio description on current and recent models.

The process to activate audio description for a particular television model may be different from the instructions below. This is because manufacturers regularly change settings menus between models.

TV brand	Instructions	Compatible with universal remotes?
Samsung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press the remote control 'Home' button • Navigate left to the 'Settings' in on-screen menu • Navigate to item 'Audio Language' and select • Select the secondary AD audio language 'English (HE-AAC)' • Press 'enter' button on remote and exit menu 	Yes
Panasonic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press button on remote labelled 'Options' or 'AD' • Select item 'Audio Selection' in on-screen menu • Select the secondary AD audio language 'aus (HE-AAC)' • Press 'enter' button on remote & exit Options menu 	Yes
JVC TV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access the 'Sound' Menu from the main menu • Enter the 'AD switch' sub- menu • Select this option to adjust AD volume 	Yes
Sony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press button on remote labelled 'Audio' • Select the secondary AD audio language 'English' in on-screen menu using the down button on remote 	Yes
LG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press button on remote labelled 'Audio' or 'AD' • Select the secondary AD audio language 'English' in on-screen menu using up/down buttons on remote • Press 'enter' button on remote 	Yes
Hisense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press the remote control 'Home' button • Navigate left to the 'Settings' in on-screen menu • Navigate to item 'Audio Language' and select • Select the secondary AD audio language 'English (HE-AAC)' • Press 'enter' button on remote and exit Menu 	Yes
Kogan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press 'Menu' on the remote control • Select 'Sound Menu' • Select 'Audio Description' to turn it on 	Yes

TV brand	Instructions	Compatible with universal remotes?
TCL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press button on remote labelled 'Language' or select 'Sound', then 'Advanced settings', then 'Audio Description' • Select the secondary AD audio language 'English2' • Press 'enter' button on remote and exit Menu 	Yes
Soniq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press 'Audio Button I II' • Selected secondary AD audio language 'ENGLISH' 	Yes
Hitachi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press button on remote labelled 'Smart Hub' • Select item 'Sound' in on-screen menu • Select item 'Audio Language' • Select the secondary AD audio language 'ENGLISH' • Press 'enter' button on remote and exit Options menu 	Yes
Philips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press button on remote labelled 'Options' or 'AD' • Select item 'Audio Lang' in on-screen menu • Select the secondary AD audio language 'English' • Press 'enter' button on remote and exit Options menu 	Yes
seiki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press button 'Menu' • Select 'Sound Settings' • Select the secondary AD audio language 'English' 	Yes
Ffalcon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press button on remote labelled 'Language' or select 'Sound', then 'Advanced settings', then 'Audio Description' • Select the secondary AD audio language 'English2' • Press 'enter' button on remote and exit menu 	Yes
Linsar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press the 'Menu' button on the remote control • Go to 'System Settings' then 'Accessibility' • Select the secondary AD audio language 'English' 	Yes
Blaupunkt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press 'Menu' button on the remote control • Go to 'Sound Menu' • Select 'AD Switch' 	Yes
ChiQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press 'Menu' button on the remote control • Go to 'Sound Menu' • Select 'Audio Description' 	Yes