

iOS Keyboard & Word Prediction (iOS) v.10 +

Introduction

The iOS keyboard has a number of features available to users in regard to writing support and physical accessibility. Word prediction is a powerful and effective writing support that can increase speed and accuracy for students who struggle to use the keyboard efficiently. A new added tool in iOS 10 and above is Hold to Speak Predictions which reads predicted words aloud prior to selecting them.

iOS also allows for the “splitting” of the keyboard. This feature divides the keyboard in half, placing each half near the edge of the device making it more accessible to users who “thumb-type” or have smaller hands.

Learning Objectives

Completion of this tutorial will give you experience with the following:

- Enabling predictive keyboard on iOS devices
- Using predictive keyboard in various apps
- Turning on the Hold to Speak Predictions
- Toggling predictive keyboard on and off in specific apps
- Undocking and splitting the iOS keyboard

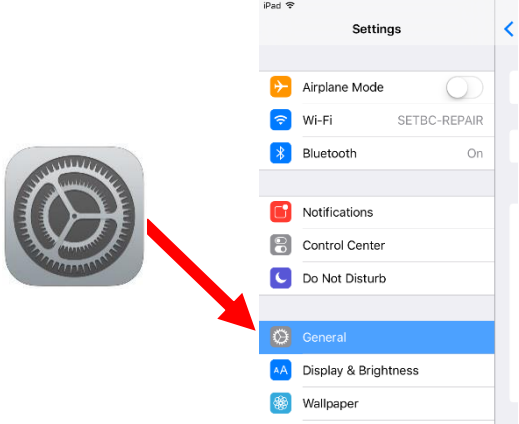
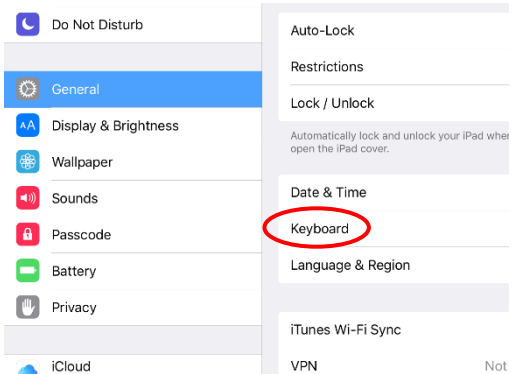
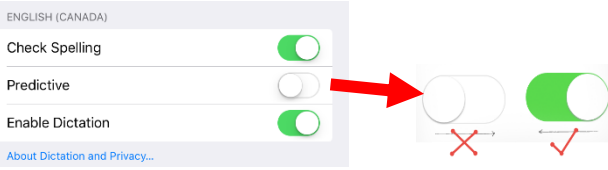
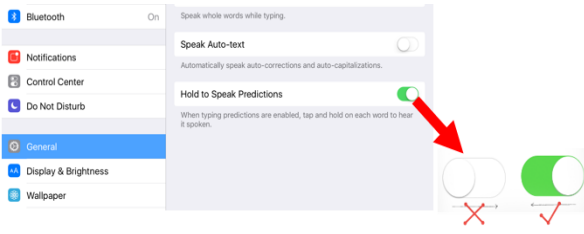
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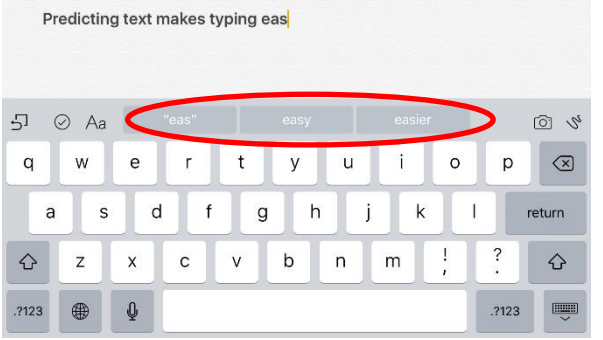
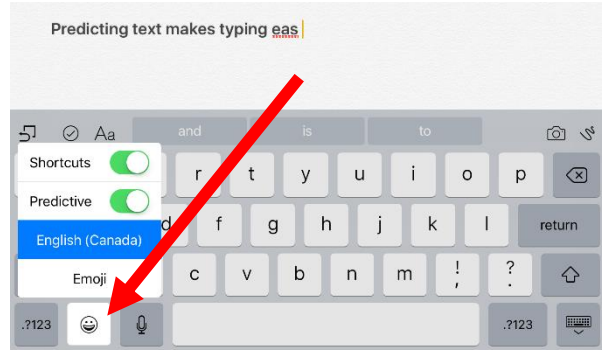
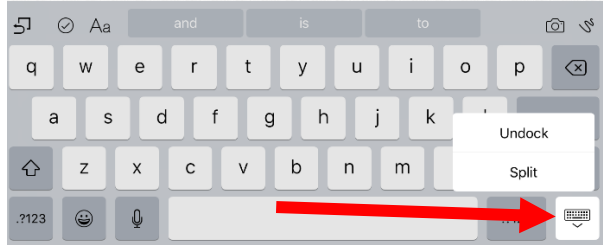
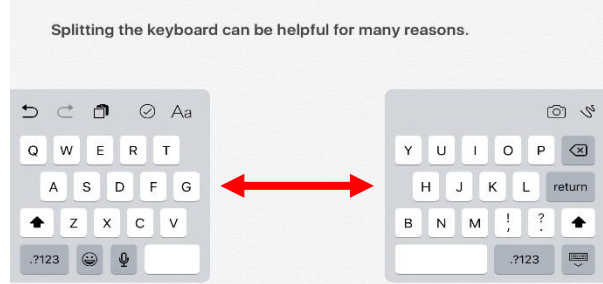
- You have an iOS device running at least iOS v.8.1 (note that images in this tutorial are captured from an iPad running iOS v.9.3.1)

Case Study

Kara is a grade 8 student who uses her iPad for taking notes in class. She accesses the keyboard with two fingers at a rate of 8-10 words per minute. Using Predictive Keyboard (word-prediction) is a tool that may help Kara increase her note-taking speed and accuracy.

Word Prediction (Predictive Keyboard) in iOS (v. 10+)

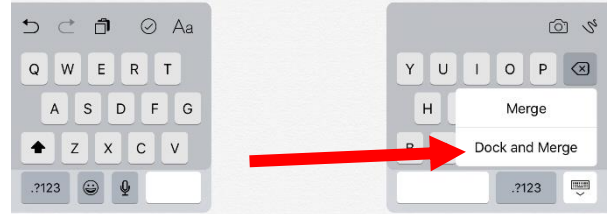
<p>1</p>	<p>To enable Predictive Keyboard in iOS, click the Settings icon and select the General tab.</p>	
<p>2</p>	<p>Scroll down through the General settings until you find the Keyboard option.</p> <p>This will open up a sub-menu of keyboard options.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Within the Keyboard sub-menu, find the “English (Canada)” subsection, and slide the Predictive toggle to the right to enable the Predictive keyboard.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>To have the predicated words spoken when your finger rests on the word you must turn on Hold to Speak Predictions.</p> <p>Settings > General > Accessibility > Speech > > Typing Feedback > slide the Hold to Speak Predictions toggle to the right.</p>	

<p>5</p>	<p>Once Predictive is enabled, open any app that allows text entry, (such as Notes) and notice the three grey Predictive boxes about the keyboard. Hold your finger on the predicted word to hear it. Tap on the predicted word to insert it into the text field.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>To toggle off the Predictive Keyboard within a specific app, press and hold the smiley face icon located to the left of the spacebar, to open a pop-up menu. Slide the Predictive toggle to the left to disable the feature in the app. Note that it will remain enabled in other apps.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>To split the keyboard in iOS, press and hold the keyboard icon located on the bottom right of the keyboard to reveal the keyboard sub-menu.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Once the keyboard is split, it each half moves to the edge of the screen. Note: Predictive Keyboard is automatically disabled while split keyboard is being used.</p>	

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To restore the keyboard, press and hold the keyboard icon, and **select Dock and Merge**. The keyboard will return to its original position and Predictive Keyboard will be re-enabled.



Tip...

While modifying and augmenting the onscreen iOS keyboard provides a number of solutions and supports, adding a physical (Bluetooth) keyboard is another option to consider!