

Cortana commands

If you don't use Cortana, Microsoft's voice-activated personal assistant, you're missing out on some handy, hands-free functionality -- especially now that she's fully integrated into Windows 10, and **Windows 10 is everywhere**.

Like Apple's Siri and Google's Google Now, Cortana is an intelligent personal assistant who can help you with everything from launching applications to scheduling appointments. She can even adjust a handful of device settings, such as toggling your Wi-Fi on and off. Microsoft hasn't published a full list of Cortana commands, so I pulled together this unofficial list of all the things you can ask or say to Cortana on Windows 10 devices.

Hey, Cortana

There are a few ways to get Cortana's attention.

- Click or tap the Cortana button on the taskbar. If you do not see Cortana on your taskbar, right-click the taskbar and go to **Cortana > Show Cortana icon**.
- If you have 'Hey, Cortana' enabled, simply say "Hey, Cortana," followed by your question. **Here's how to enable 'Hey, Cortana.'**
- If you're using a Windows Phone, you can press and hold the search button to activate Cortana.

Basics

- Ask about the weather. Ex.: "What's the weather like?" or "What will the weather be like in two days?" or "Is it going to rain tomorrow?"
- Launch a program or open a website. Ex.: "Launch Mozilla Firefox" or "Open CNET.com."
- Make a phone call. Ex.: "Call Sarah," or "Call John on speakerphone."
- Hear Cortana read the top news headlines. Ex.: "Show me top headlines."
- Take a note in OneNote. Ex.: "Take a note" or "Note it down."
- Draft an email. Ex.: "Write an email to [contact] saying [message]."
- Draft a text message. Ex.: "Write a text to [contact] saying [message]."
- See texts or emails from a specific person. Ex.: "Show me emails from Timmy."

- Perform simple calculations. Ex.: "What's 35 times 16?" or "What's 23 minus two?"
- Perform conversions. Ex.: "What is five miles in kilometers" or "How many teaspoons in a cup?"
- Define a word. Ex.: "What's the definition of 'table'?" or "Do you know what 'gargantuan' means?"
- Track packages (needs email account configured in the Mail app). Ex.: "Where are my packages?"

Settings

- Turn on/off Wi-Fi.
- Turn on/off Bluetooth.
- Turn on/off Airplane Mode.

Scheduling/Reminders

- See your calendar events at a glance. Ex.: "How's my schedule looking?" or "What do I have next week?" or "When is my dentist appointment?"
- Add an appointment to your calendar. Ex.: "Add dentist appointment to Thursday at 3 p.m." or "Schedule phone call with Lisa tomorrow at 5 a.m."
- Move an appointment. Ex.: "Move my dentist appointment to Friday."
- Set up reminders based on time, person, or location. Ex.: "Remind me to call Timmy at 2 p.m." or "Remind me to ask about vacation time when I talk to Jenny" or "Remind me to take out the trash when I get home." Reminders can be one-offs or recurring (e.g., every Wednesday), and location-based reminders require a mobile device.
- Set an alarm. Ex.: "Set an alarm for 9 a.m." or "Wake me up in an hour."
- Show me my alarms.
- Ask about major holidays. Ex.: "What day is Christmas?" or "When is Labor Day?"

Search

- Find pictures, videos, documents, etc., on your device from a specific time frame. Ex.: "Find pictures from last week" or "Find documents from May 2015" or "Find videos from yesterday."

- Search files by name. Ex.: "Can you find a document called CNET?" or "Can you find a picture called 'cute dog'?"
- See basic search results, such as information about public figures, companies, places, and pop culture in Cortana's windows (without opening a browser window). Ex.: "How tall is Harrison Ford?" or "Who is the CEO of Google?" or "When was the Lincoln Memorial built?"

Maps/Navigation

- Where am I?
- Show me driving/public transit/walking directions to [location/landmark].
- How long will it take me to get to [location]?
- What is traffic like on the way to [location]?
- Show me a map of [location]. Ex.: "Show me a map of downtown Los Angeles," or "Show me a map of the area around Disneyland."

Entertainment

- Look up a sports score. Ex.: "What was the score of the last Detroit Tigers game?"
- Find the run time of a movie. Ex.: "How long is Star Wars: Episode I?"
- Control music in the Groove app. Ex.: "Play [artist/song/genre/playlist/album]," or "Shuffle the music."
- Limited control over music in other apps. Ex.: "Pause song" or "skip track."
- Identify the song that's playing. Ex.: "What is this song?"

Travel

- Track flight status (from your mail/messages). Ex.: "Is my flight on time?"
- Get a five-day forecast for any location. Ex.: "How's the weather in Tokyo?"
- Translate a word or phrase into a different language. Ex.: "How do you say 'dog' in French?" or "How do you say 'how are you' in Japanese?"
- Convert currency. Ex.: "What's 400 reais in Euros?" or "What's 1,000 yen in US dollars?"
- Find the current time in another city/country. Ex.: "What time is it in Los Angeles?" or "What time is it in Japan?"

- What are the seven wonders of the world?

Random tips and tricks

- Ask Cortana about her origins, aka Halo. Ex.: "Do you love Master Chief?" or "Tell me about Halo 5."
- What's up?
- What does the fox say?
- Tell me a joke.
- Where's Clippy?
- What do you think of Windows 10?
- What do you think of Google?
- Do you like Google Now?
- Who's better, you or Siri?
- Sing me a lullaby/Sing me a song.
- Rock, paper, scissors.
- Play the movie game.
- Heads or tails?
- Roll a die/dice (one die) or roll dice (two dice).
- Surprise me!