

# Using smart home devices

Let's learn in more detail about how you can perform a number of common tasks with smart devices.

## What can I do with smart devices?

Here are just some of the things you can do with smart devices:

- Ask for a weather report – for example, “OK Google, how's the weather?”
- Turn on or dim the lights in the living room.
- Ask your **smart speaker** to play internet radio, such as ABC Classic FM.
- Tell a **smart TV** to find and play a TV show, change channels or volume.
- Make a voice call to another **smart speaker**.



Smart speakers can help you stay organised, and provide information and entertainment

## Using voice control

A smart home can have many more smart devices than just speakers and TVs. Let's see what other devices you can control using the voice assistant in your smart speaker.

- **Smart devices** are similar to their non-smart counterparts, but they can connect to your Wi-Fi so you can control them with your voice assistant.
- For example, a **smart light bulb** looks just like a normal LED light bulb, but you can just tell it to switch on or off.
- A **smart switch** lets you switch on and off your favourite appliances. You plug this into a standard power point and then the appliance into the switch.
- Each **smart switch** or **smart light bulb** is given its own name in the smart home app so it can be controlled by the app, or by your **voice assistant**.
- But remember, all a smart switch can do is switch on or off. It can't change the speed of a fan, or set the temperature on a heater.

# Using smart devices

- Some **smart TVs** are specifically designed to work with **Google Assistant** or **Amazon Alexa**, and some work with both. Look for the **Works with** label on the TV to check which voice assistant the TV uses.

## Listen to internet radio with a smart speaker

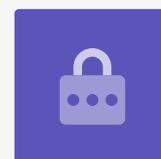
Let's work through how you can listen to internet radio on a smart speaker. We're using the **Google Nest Mini** smart speaker in our example, but the steps are similar for other models.

- 1.** Make sure your smart speaker is set up properly.
- 2.** Just tell your smart speaker to play what you want it to play – for example, **“OK Google, play ABC Radio National.”**
- 3.** The smart speaker will respond, **“Sure, here's Radio National on TuneIn.”** Then you'll hear the familiar sounds of ABC. TuneIn is a free internet radio service.



You can search for and play internet radio on a smart speaker

**While smart speakers and other smart home devices do not need very much data, most will stop working if you run out of data allowance. An unlimited home data plan helps ensures your smart home won't miss a beat.**



- 4.** You can change the playback volume by saying **“OK Google, volume up”** or **“volume 5”** (it will go from 1 to 10) or **“volume maximum”** and so on. It's really quite flexible.
- 5.** And when you're finished, **“OK Google, stop.”** Or, if you prefer, **“OK Google, please stop.”**

# Using smart devices

## Using Google Assistant to organise your day

Google Assistant can also be your personal assistant, helping you organise your day. This section is based on an Android phone and a Google Nest Mini smart speaker, but Alexa and Siri work similarly:

- Your **Google Assistant** account is the same as your **Google Account**, so Google Assistant can read your Google calendar and contacts, as long as you're signed into both.
- Some Google Assistant commands are **Ready Made Routines**.
- One such is **"OK Google, good morning"**. This will tell you the time, the weather, any calendar events or reminders that you have set and may play some news headlines from the ABC.
- You can add an event to your calendar by voice. **"OK Google, create an event called Mario's birthday."** The Google Assistant will then ask, **"When's the event?"** and you can reply, **"tomorrow at 3 pm"**.
- When you ask, **"OK Google, what's on my calendar?"** Google Assistant will tell you the next few items on your calendar, including Mario's birthday if it's near the top of the list.

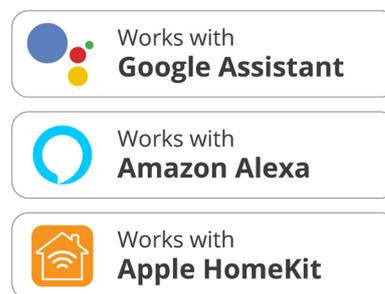


Google Assistant can help organise your day

## Using Google Assistant to do even more

Here are a few more things to keep in mind regarding your voice assistant:

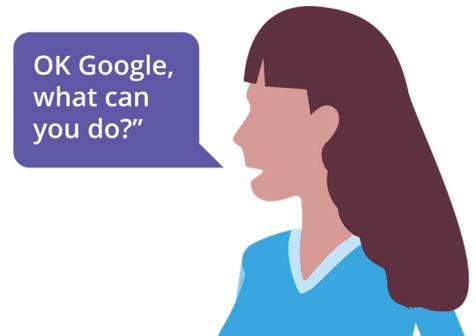
- Remember, **Google Assistant** doesn't work with **Alexa** or **Siri** devices, (and Alexa and Siri don't work with each other either).
- If you have started a smart home system based on **Google Assistant**, look for **Works with Google Assistant** when you want to buy new devices. If **Alexa**, look for **Works with Amazon Alexa**. If you're using **Siri**, look for **Works with Apple HomeKit**.



The different voice assistants don't work with each other

# Using smart devices

- Because **voice assistants** are getting smarter all the time, you should keep your smart devices up to date. Most smart speakers will automatically update their software as required.
- Want to find out what else it can do? Just ask: **“OK Google, what can you do?”** Ask again to hear more suggestions. And just feel free to experiment. You won’t break it.
- Even try asking difficult questions like **“How did Don Bradman get so good at cricket?”** You’ll often be surprised how useful and interesting the answers are. You can even get your assistant to do arithmetic for you.



Experiment with a smart speaker to discover what it can do