BILL'S HOME TECH

Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

AN EXTENDED GUIDE · NO. 2293

Updated November 2026

Make the Text Bigger Everywhere — Phone, TV & Computer

Turn up the size of the words on every screen you use, in a few calm steps

Plain-English tech help from:
Bill's Home Tech
Portage County, Ohio

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

Bill Davis — Bill's Home Tech
(330) 200-8042 · bill@billshometech.com · Atwater, Ohio

Book a visit · billshometech.com/book

What's Inside

Everything in this guide, with page numbers. Skip to whichever chapter answers your question right now.

The 60-Second Version 3

The Short Version 3

Why Everything Shipped Too Small 4

iPhone and iPad: The Main Text-Size Control 4

iPhone: Make One App Bigger Without Changing the Rest 5

Android Phones and Tablets 6

Your Web Browser: Zoom In on Any Website 7

Windows Computers 7

Mac Computers 8

Your Television's On-Screen Menus and Guide 8

E-Readers and the Kindle App 9

When Bigger Still Isn't Enough: The Magnifier 10

Settle on Sizes That Work Together 10

When to Call Bill 11

Everyday Cheat Sheet 12

A Note From Bill 13

Your Visit — and My Promise 14

SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

Every phone, tablet, TV, and computer has a built-in control to make the words bigger, and turning it up changes nothing else. On an iPhone it is Settings, Accessibility, Display & Text Size, Larger Text; on Android it is Settings, Accessibility, Font size. On a computer, hold Ctrl (or Command) and press the plus key to zoom any website, and raise the Display Scale in Windows settings for everything at once.

Turn on bold text too, enlarge your TV's captions, and if the biggest size still is not enough, a screen magnifier is the next step.

1 The Short Version

Small text is one of the most common and most fixable complaints in the whole of home technology. The companies that make your devices build in a text-size control precisely because so many people need it. Turning it up does not break anything, does not cost anything, and does not change how the device works — it simply makes the words larger and easier to read, and you can turn it back down at any time.

You can do all of this yourself, and this guide takes your screens one at a time: phone, tablet, web browser, computer, and television. If you only fix one thing today, make it the phone, since that is the screen most of us look at the most and the one that strains the eyes in poor light.

- Bigger text is a built-in setting on every phone, tablet, TV, and computer — it is meant to be used.
- Turning it up changes nothing else and can always be turned back down.
- On the phone it lives in Settings, under Accessibility or Display.
- Turning on bold text at the same time often helps even more than size alone.
- If the words are still too small at the maximum setting, a screen magnifier is the next step.

TIP

Start one notch bigger than you think you need. It is far easier to judge whether text is comfortable after living with it for a day than in the moment you change it, and there is no prize for small text. You can always nudge it back a step tomorrow.

2 Why Everything Shipped Too Small

Screens today pack an astonishing number of tiny dots into a small space, which makes photographs and video look wonderfully sharp — but it also means the factory-default text can be genuinely tiny. The default size is chosen to fit as much on screen as possible, not to be the most comfortable size for every pair of eyes.

So the small text is not a sign your eyes are failing or that you bought the wrong device. It is simply a default that was never meant to be left alone. Think of the text-size control like the recliner lever on a chair, or the seat in a car: it is there precisely so you can set it to fit you, and leaving it at the factory position helps no one.

GOOD TO KNOW

Making text bigger does mean a little less fits on the screen at once, so you may scroll a touch more. That is a fair trade for words you can actually read, and nearly everyone stops noticing the extra scrolling within a day or two.

3 iPhone and iPad: The Main Text-Size Control

On an iPhone or iPad, the main text-size control is quick to reach and takes effect immediately, so you can slide it and watch the words grow before your eyes. Nothing is committed until you are happy with it.

1. Open Settings (the gray gear icon on your home screen).
2. Tap Accessibility, then tap Display & Text Size.

3. Tap Larger Text.
4. Drag the slider at the bottom to the right; the sample text above grows as you move it.
5. For the very biggest sizes, first turn on the Larger Accessibility Sizes switch at the top, then drag the slider further right.

Most of the apps you use — Messages, Mail, Notes, your bank's app, the news — follow this setting automatically, so one change makes the whole phone easier to read.

> **TIP**
>
> While you are on the Display & Text Size screen, turn on Bold Text too. Thicker letters are often easier to read than merely bigger ones, and the two together make a real difference, especially in dim light or against a bright background.

4 iPhone: Make One App Bigger Without Changing the Rest

Sometimes you want the Mail app large but the camera normal. Newer iPhones let you set the text size for one app at a time using the Control Center, so you are not locked into one size everywhere and can keep each app comfortable for how you use it.

1. Swipe down from the top-right corner of the screen to open Control Center.
2. Look for the Text Size button (it shows a small A next to a large A); if it is not there, it can be added in Settings under Control Center.
3. Open the app you want to adjust first, then open Control Center and tap Text Size.
4. Choose whether the change applies only to that app or to everything, then drag the size up.

GOOD TO KNOW

This per-app control is handy for the apps you read in most — messages, news, your bank — while leaving the home screen and everything else at a normal size. It is one of the nicest touches on a modern iPhone and almost nobody knows it is there.

5 Android Phones and Tablets

Android phones (Samsung, Google Pixel, Motorola and others) have the same idea, though the exact wording varies a little by brand. There are usually two separate controls: one for the size of the words themselves and one for the overall size of everything on the screen, including the buttons and menus.

1. Open Settings.
2. Tap Accessibility (on some phones this lives under Display instead).
3. Look for Font size and style, or Display size and text.
4. Drag the Font size slider up for bigger words.
5. If menus and buttons still feel small, drag Display size up as well.

Changing both the font size and the display size together is what gives the biggest improvement — the words grow and so do the buttons you tap, which makes the phone easier on both your eyes and your fingers.

TIP

On a Samsung phone the setting is called “Font size and style” and also lets you turn on bold. On a Pixel it is under Display size and text. If you cannot find it, type “font” into the search box at the top of Settings and it will jump you right to it.

6 Your Web Browser: Zoom In on Any Website

Websites can override your phone's or computer's text size, so a page may still look small even after you have made everything else bigger. The fix is to zoom the page itself, and it works on the computer and the phone alike — and the computer even remembers your choice for each site.

- On a computer, hold the Ctrl key (or Command on a Mac) and press the + key to zoom in, the - key to zoom out, and the 0 key to reset to normal.
- In the Safari browser on an iPhone, tap the AA letters at the left of the address bar and choose a larger percentage.
- In Chrome on Android, open the three-dots menu, tap Settings, then Accessibility, and raise Text scaling.
- On any computer you can also hold Ctrl and roll the mouse wheel to zoom quickly.

GOOD TO KNOW

Browser zoom is remembered per website on a computer, so once you make your bank's site or your email comfortable, it stays that way each time you visit — you only have to set each site once.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

7 Windows Computers

On a Windows computer you can make just the text bigger, or make everything bigger, and the two are separate controls so you can pick what suits you. For most people the single most effective change is the overall Scale setting.

1. Open Settings (the gear icon on the Start menu).

2. Click Accessibility, then Text size.
3. Drag the Text size slider and click Apply to grow just the words.
4. For larger menus, icons and buttons too, go to System, then Display, and raise the Scale setting — try 125% or 150%.

> **TIP**
> If the whole screen feels cramped, the Scale setting under Display is the big lever — it enlarges everything at once and is the single most effective change for tired eyes on a Windows computer. Try 150% and live with it for a day before deciding.

8 Mac Computers

A Mac gives you a few ways to make text and everything else bigger and sharper, and they work together nicely so you can combine them to taste.

1. Open System Settings, then Accessibility, then Display, to raise the overall text size and turn on bolder text.
2. For a larger picture overall, open System Settings, then Displays, and choose a scaled resolution labeled “Larger Text.”
3. In most apps you can also press Command and the + key to enlarge the content of that window.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Choosing the “Larger Text” display option makes everything on a Mac a comfortable size without any blurriness, which is usually nicer than zooming each app one at a time. It is the Mac equivalent of the Windows Scale setting.

9 Your Television's On-Screen Menus and Guide

Televisions are trickier, because the size of the show itself is fixed by the broadcast and cannot be enlarged. But the TV's own menus, the program guide, and especially the subtitles can usually be made bigger and bolder, and that is where most of the squinting actually happens.

- Look in the TV's Settings for an Accessibility section — most modern sets have one.
- Turn on High Contrast or Larger Text for the menus if offered.
- Turn on subtitles (also called captions or CC) and look for a Caption Style or Text Size option to make them larger and bolder.
- On a streaming box like a Roku, Fire TV, or Apple TV, the same options live in that box's Accessibility settings.

> **TIP**
>
> Big, clear subtitles are the single best comfort upgrade on a TV, even for people who hear perfectly well — they catch the mumbled lines and quiet dialogue that modern shows are famous for. There is a whole separate guide on captions if you want to go deeper.

10 E-Readers and the Kindle App

If you read books on a tablet or a Kindle, the text size there is entirely under your control — this is one of the real joys of digital reading, because the very same book can be set as large as you like without buying a special edition.

1. While reading, tap the middle or top of the page to bring up the menu.
2. Tap the text or “Aa” option.
3. Drag the font size up until it is comfortable; you can also choose a bolder, easier-to-read typeface.
4. Adjust the page brightness and the background color (white, cream, or black) to whatever is easiest on your eyes.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Large-print books can be expensive and the selection is limited. Setting a big font in a reading app turns every book you own into a large-print edition at no extra cost — and you can make the print bigger than any large-print book on the shelf.

11 When Bigger Still Isn't Enough: The Magnifier

If you have turned text to its largest and it is still a strain, the next step is a magnifier — a feature that enlarges just a part of the screen, like a magnifying glass you move around with your finger or your mouse. It can blow up a single word to fill the screen.

- iPhone and iPad: Settings, Accessibility, Zoom turns on a screen magnifier; there is also a separate Magnifier app that uses the camera to enlarge real-world things like labels, menus, and bills.
- Android: Settings, Accessibility, Magnification does the same on screen.
- Windows: press the Windows key and the + key to open the Magnifier.
- Mac: System Settings, Accessibility, Zoom.

> **WATCH OUT**
> The screen magnifier is wonderfully powerful but takes a few minutes to get the hang of, because the whole screen moves as you move your finger. This is a good one to have set up and demonstrated in person, so you are comfortable turning it on and off at will rather than feeling trapped in it.

12 Settle on Sizes That Work Together

Once you have been through your screens, live with the new sizes for a day or two before deciding they are final. Comfort is personal, and the right size is simply the one you stop noticing — the one that lets you read without leaning in or pulling back.

- If you are still leaning in, go one notch bigger — there is no prize for small text.
- If words are now so big you scroll constantly, ease back one notch.
- Bold text plus a slightly smaller size is often more comfortable than huge, thin letters.
- Write down what you chose, or let me note it for you, so it is easy to restore if an update ever resets it.

GOOD TO KNOW

Occasionally a big software update nudges these settings back toward the factory default. If your text ever shrinks on its own overnight, an update is almost always the reason — and the fix is simply to set it again, which takes a minute once you know where it lives.

13 When to Call Bill

Making text bigger is something most people can do themselves with this guide, and I would rather you felt able to. But there is no reason to struggle alone, and some of the more powerful tools — the magnifier, per-app sizes, getting the TV captions and the computer scaling all set the same comfortable way — are quicker and calmer with someone beside you.

I come to you, go through every screen in the house in one visit, and set each one to a size that is genuinely comfortable for your eyes rather than a guess. I will leave you a simple note of what is where, so you can always nudge it yourself later, and show you the magnifier so you are never stuck with something too small to read.

- You would like every screen in the house set comfortably in one go.
- The text is still too small even at the maximum, and you want the magnifier set up.
- A software update shrank everything back and you would rather not redo it.
- You simply want it done right, once, without the hunting through menus.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this handy. Each screen has its own place to turn up the words — fix the phone first.

I want to…	Do this…
Bigger text on iPhone	Settings Accessibility Display & Text Size Larger Text
Bigger text on Android	Settings Accessibility Font size (or Display size and text)
Bigger on a website	Hold Ctrl (or Command) and press + to zoom in
Bigger on Windows	Settings System Display raise Scale to 125% or 150%
Bigger TV subtitles	TV Settings Accessibility Captions raise text size
Magnify part of the screen	Turn on Zoom (iPhone/Mac) or Magnification (Android)
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

You don't have to remember all of it — just that a friendly, patient person is one call away, whenever you'd rather have a hand.

KEY SPECS

In your home — $99 flat for the first visit, no contracts and no surprises, with a 30-day come-back-free follow-up. In-home visits cover Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities.
Outside the area? Remotely — $49 for a screen-share session (free for Support Plan members, $39/mo), refundable if I can't fix it — and credited toward a visit if you'd rather have me in person. Book either at billshometech.com/book.

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Whenever you're ready, I'll come to your home anywhere in Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities, at your pace. Too far for a house call? I also help remotely. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042. — Bill

Call or text (330) 200-8042 · bill@billshometech.com

This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.