Smart Speaker Basics  
Steve Kelley, CVRT,CRC, CATIS  
skelley@theiris.org

* Digital assistants are software or artificial intelligence, and may be on different devices. For example, you can find Alexa, the digital assistant on the Amazon Echo, Kindle Fire, in the Alexa app on an Android, etc.
* Smart speakers are pieces of hardware that contain a microphones, speakers, and a digital assistant:
  + Amazon Echo
  + Amazon Dot
  + Google Home
  + Google Home mini
  + Apple Home Pod
  + Sonos One with Alexa and Google coming
  + JBL with Google Assistant
* All speakers require wifi network and public wifi networks do not seem to work well or at all

Unique Features of the digital assistants

Apple Siri

* HomePod is great speaker
* For the Apple world only
* Very limited outside the Apple world
* Unique setup

Google Assistant

* Native to Google Home and Google Home mini
* Can call a number based on a request, “Call the Iris Network on Park Ave in Portland.”
* Phone calls by contact or number
* Conversational questions
* Google Play Books
* Choice of voices male/female; at least one is slower in rate than the others
* Currently plays radio stations on TuneIn but not podcasts

Amazon Alexa

* Native to Amazon Echo line
* Book reading includes some Kindles and Audible
* Text messages
* Phone calls by number or contact

Tunin Content Available on Amazon Echo and Google Home

[[](https://tunein.com/podcasts/Education-Podcasts/Free-Audio-Book-of-the-Month-Podcast-p1132480/)](https://tunein.com/podcasts/Education-Podcasts/Free-Audio-Book-of-the-Month-Podcast-p1132480/)

[Free Audio Book of the Month Podcast](https://tunein.com/podcasts/Education-Podcasts/Free-Audio-Book-of-the-Month-Podcast-p1132480/)

[[](https://tunein.com/podcasts/World-News/Guardian-Audio-Edition-p629428/)](https://tunein.com/podcasts/World-News/Guardian-Audio-Edition-p629428/)

[Guardian Audio Edition](https://tunein.com/podcasts/World-News/Guardian-Audio-Edition-p629428/)

Radio Reading Services

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/KPBS-Radio-Reading-Service-s47428/)](https://tunein.com/radio/KPBS-Radio-Reading-Service-s47428/)

[KPBS Radio Reading Service](https://tunein.com/radio/KPBS-Radio-Reading-Service-s47428/)

[Column One](https://tunein.com/radio/KPBS-Radio-Reading-Service-s47428/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Down-East-Radio-Reading-Service-s129209/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Down-East-Radio-Reading-Service-s129209/)

[Down East Radio Reading Service](https://tunein.com/radio/Down-East-Radio-Reading-Service-s129209/)

[US](https://tunein.com/radio/Down-East-Radio-Reading-Service-s129209/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/WKAR-RRS-s69101/)](https://tunein.com/radio/WKAR-RRS-s69101/)

[WKAR RRS](https://tunein.com/radio/WKAR-RRS-s69101/)

[US](https://tunein.com/radio/WKAR-RRS-s69101/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Owl-Radio-s300809/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Owl-Radio-s300809/)

[Owl Radio](https://tunein.com/radio/Owl-Radio-s300809/)

[Reading for those who cannot see](https://tunein.com/radio/Owl-Radio-s300809/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Mountain-Area-Radio-Reading-Service-s104827/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Mountain-Area-Radio-Reading-Service-s104827/)

[Mountain Area Radio Reading Service](https://tunein.com/radio/Mountain-Area-Radio-Reading-Service-s104827/)

[Asheville News](https://tunein.com/radio/Mountain-Area-Radio-Reading-Service-s104827/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Triangle-Radio-Reading-Service-s47432/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Triangle-Radio-Reading-Service-s47432/)

[Triangle Radio Reading Service](https://tunein.com/radio/Triangle-Radio-Reading-Service-s47432/)

[We breathe words into your life](https://tunein.com/radio/Triangle-Radio-Reading-Service-s47432/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/GaRRS-s121775/)](https://tunein.com/radio/GaRRS-s121775/)

[GaRRS](https://tunein.com/radio/GaRRS-s121775/)

[Serving All Of Georgia](https://tunein.com/radio/GaRRS-s121775/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Print-Radio-Tasmania-864-s107730/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Print-Radio-Tasmania-864-s107730/)

[Print Radio Tasmania](https://tunein.com/radio/Print-Radio-Tasmania-864-s107730/)

[Turning Print Into Sound](https://tunein.com/radio/Print-Radio-Tasmania-864-s107730/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Sight-into-Sound-radio-reading-service-s55191/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Sight-into-Sound-radio-reading-service-s55191/)

[Sight into Sound radio reading service](https://tunein.com/radio/Sight-into-Sound-radio-reading-service-s55191/)

[Turning Sight into Sound](https://tunein.com/radio/Sight-into-Sound-radio-reading-service-s55191/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/The-Sight-Seer-Radio-s132204/)](https://tunein.com/radio/The-Sight-Seer-Radio-s132204/)

[The Sight Seer Radio](https://tunein.com/radio/The-Sight-Seer-Radio-s132204/)

[Audio for Independent Living](https://tunein.com/radio/The-Sight-Seer-Radio-s132204/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Goodwill-Easter-Seals-Miami-Valley-Radio-Reading-Service-s304729/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Goodwill-Easter-Seals-Miami-Valley-Radio-Reading-Service-s304729/)

[Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley Radio Reading Service](https://tunein.com/radio/Goodwill-Easter-Seals-Miami-Valley-Radio-Reading-Service-s304729/)

[US](https://tunein.com/radio/Goodwill-Easter-Seals-Miami-Valley-Radio-Reading-Service-s304729/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Radio-Talking-Book-Service-s266700/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Radio-Talking-Book-Service-s266700/)

[Radio Talking Book Service](https://tunein.com/radio/Radio-Talking-Book-Service-s266700/)

[Nebraska's Audio Companion](https://tunein.com/radio/Radio-Talking-Book-Service-s266700/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/WJCT-Radio-Reading-Service-s47085/)](https://tunein.com/radio/WJCT-Radio-Reading-Service-s47085/)

[WJCT Radio Reading Service](https://tunein.com/radio/WJCT-Radio-Reading-Service-s47085/)

[WJCT. Your Community. Your World.](https://tunein.com/radio/WJCT-Radio-Reading-Service-s47085/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/CRIS-RadioWindsor-s288314/)](https://tunein.com/radio/CRIS-RadioWindsor-s288314/)

[CRIS Radio/Windsor](https://tunein.com/radio/CRIS-RadioWindsor-s288314/)

[Audio Access for People Who Are Blind or Print-Challenged](https://tunein.com/radio/CRIS-RadioWindsor-s288314/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/IOWA-Radio-Reading-Information-Service-s91360/)](https://tunein.com/radio/IOWA-Radio-Reading-Information-Service-s91360/)

[IOWA Radio Reading Information Service](https://tunein.com/radio/IOWA-Radio-Reading-Information-Service-s91360/)

[Des Moines, IA](https://tunein.com/radio/IOWA-Radio-Reading-Information-Service-s91360/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/WQCS-Radio-Reading-Service-s289741/)](https://tunein.com/radio/WQCS-Radio-Reading-Service-s289741/)

[WQCS Radio Reading Service](https://tunein.com/radio/WQCS-Radio-Reading-Service-s289741/)

[US](https://tunein.com/radio/WQCS-Radio-Reading-Service-s289741/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Voicecorps-radio-s299997/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Voicecorps-radio-s299997/)

[Voicecorps radio](https://tunein.com/radio/Voicecorps-radio-s299997/)

[Audio Access to the World](https://tunein.com/radio/Voicecorps-radio-s299997/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/CKRE-s69088/)](https://tunein.com/radio/CKRE-s69088/)

[CKRE](https://tunein.com/radio/CKRE-s69088/)

[Seeing the world through the voice of another](https://tunein.com/radio/CKRE-s69088/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Northeast-Radio-Reading-Service-s224180/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Northeast-Radio-Reading-Service-s224180/)

[Northeast Radio Reading Service](https://tunein.com/radio/Northeast-Radio-Reading-Service-s224180/)

[US](https://tunein.com/radio/Northeast-Radio-Reading-Service-s224180/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/WBOR-911-s27559/)](https://tunein.com/radio/WBOR-911-s27559/)

[WBOR](https://tunein.com/radio/WBOR-911-s27559/)

[Peach Fuzz](https://tunein.com/radio/WBOR-911-s27559/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Radio-1RPH-1125-s99927/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Radio-1RPH-1125-s99927/)

[Radio 1RPH](https://tunein.com/radio/Radio-1RPH-1125-s99927/)

[Turning Print into Sound](https://tunein.com/radio/Radio-1RPH-1125-s99927/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Audio-Journal-s47429/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Audio-Journal-s47429/)

[Audio Journal](https://tunein.com/radio/Audio-Journal-s47429/)

[An Affilate Of TIC Network](https://tunein.com/radio/Audio-Journal-s47429/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Lexington-Radio-Eye-s281244/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Lexington-Radio-Eye-s281244/)

[Lexington Radio Eye](https://tunein.com/radio/Lexington-Radio-Eye-s281244/)

[Your Eye on the Written World](https://tunein.com/radio/Lexington-Radio-Eye-s281244/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Eastern-Kentucky-Radio-Eye-s288762/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Eastern-Kentucky-Radio-Eye-s288762/)

[Eastern Kentucky Radio Eye](https://tunein.com/radio/Eastern-Kentucky-Radio-Eye-s288762/)

[Your Eye on the Written World](https://tunein.com/radio/Eastern-Kentucky-Radio-Eye-s288762/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Louisville-Radio-Eye-s288429/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Louisville-Radio-Eye-s288429/)

[Louisville Radio Eye](https://tunein.com/radio/Louisville-Radio-Eye-s288429/)

[Your Eye on the Written World](https://tunein.com/radio/Louisville-Radio-Eye-s288429/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Morehead-Radio-Eye-s288565/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Morehead-Radio-Eye-s288565/)

[Morehead Radio Eye](https://tunein.com/radio/Morehead-Radio-Eye-s288565/)

[Your Eye on the Written World](https://tunein.com/radio/Morehead-Radio-Eye-s288565/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/2RPH-1224-s100326/)](https://tunein.com/radio/2RPH-1224-s100326/)

[2RPH](https://tunein.com/radio/2RPH-1224-s100326/)

[Sydney's Radio Reading Service](https://tunein.com/radio/2RPH-1224-s100326/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/WGTD-HD3-911-s175487/)](https://tunein.com/radio/WGTD-HD3-911-s175487/)

[WGTD-HD3](https://tunein.com/radio/WGTD-HD3-911-s175487/)

[Community Radio for Kenosha & Racine](https://tunein.com/radio/WGTD-HD3-911-s175487/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/FBConline-Radio-s295730/)](https://tunein.com/radio/FBConline-Radio-s295730/)

[FBConline Radio](https://tunein.com/radio/FBConline-Radio-s295730/)

[Making Lives Meaningful](https://tunein.com/radio/FBConline-Radio-s295730/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/4RPH-1296-s103579/)](https://tunein.com/radio/4RPH-1296-s103579/)

[4RPH](https://tunein.com/radio/4RPH-1296-s103579/)

[Bringing the printed word to life!](https://tunein.com/radio/4RPH-1296-s103579/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Radio-Illusion-897-FM-s281387/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Radio-Illusion-897-FM-s281387/)

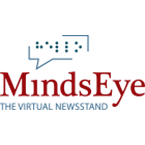
[Radio Illusion 89.7 FM](https://tunein.com/radio/Radio-Illusion-897-FM-s281387/)

[We love hearing from your all fans Illusion fm 24/7](https://tunein.com/radio/Radio-Illusion-897-FM-s281387/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/WRBH-883-s22329/)](https://tunein.com/radio/WRBH-883-s22329/)

[WRBH](https://tunein.com/radio/WRBH-883-s22329/)

[Reading Radio For The Blind And Print Handicapped](https://tunein.com/radio/WRBH-883-s22329/)

[[](https://tunein.com/radio/Minds-Eye-s247410/)](https://tunein.com/radio/Minds-Eye-s247410/)

[Minds Eye](https://tunein.com/radio/Minds-Eye-s247410/)

[Sight Becomes Words](https://tunein.com/radio/Minds-Eye-s247410/)

Smart speakers, like the Amazon Echo and Google Home can bring a great deal of information, practical communication functions, and leisure to older adults, without the need for a computer science degree or even a keyboard. Explore the basics and some features of each to consider during an assessment.