Learning About the NVDA Review Cursor

# Introduction

Hey guys what’s up it’s your girl Thee Quinn here and I’m back with another video. In today’s video I will be explaining and demonstrating the use of the NVDA review cursor. But before we get into it, please be sure to like the video if you love the content, subscribe if you are new and turn on my notification bell to be alerted whenever I post the next video. Also note that the instrumentals for this video have been provided by Inner Sanctum Entertainment Ltd. But without further ado, let’s get right into it.

# Start of Tutorial

When using your keyboard to navigate your computer, you use what is called the system caret. This is a blinking cursor that allows you to navigate, highlight, and select text. You also use it where it is possible to insert and edit text. There are some instances however where either the system caret is not present, or you want to review text without moving your editing position. NVDA allows you to read the content on the screen by line, word or character, by using what is called the review cursor. The review cursor allows you to read text without moving the focus of your system caret. When you move the review cursor, the System caret does not follow it.

This allows you to review text without losing your editing position. On the other hand, by default, when you move the system caret, the review cursor moves with it. This can easily be toggled on and off if you wish. You can do this by going to the NVDA menu, preferences, settings, review cursor, and uncheck the checkbox that says follow system caret. Or you can use the keystroke NVDA + 6.

This is useful in situations where there is no system caret. For example, going through some long text in an installation dialog like a privacy policy or terms of use. Or maybe when you are reviewing a Microsoft Word document but you don’t want to move from where you are editing. Or maybe

When coding and you want to navigate the text in the terminal. To use the review cursor, you first need to turn your number lock off as the majority of the related keystrokes operate with the numpad. If your num lock is on, you will type numbers instead. All the keystrokes that include the num pad work on both laptop and desktop computers, as long as you have a numpad. If you don’t have a numpad on your keyboard there are some alternate keystrokes for laptop layout that you can use.

The following keystrokes are used to read text with the review cursor. Remember that the standard number pad on the computer’s keyboard is different from the one on your phones or tv remote. While the ones on your phone and on your tv remote start from the top left and move to the bottom right, the one on the standard computer keyboard starts from the bottom left and goes to the top right. When going through the keystrokes, you will realize that the numbers in the top row of the numpad relate to reviewing text by line. The numbers in the middle row relate to reviewing text by word, and the numbers in the bottom row relate to reviewing text by character. In each row, the order from left to right key is previous, current and next. For each action, I will mention the desktop layout keystroke first, then the laptop layout keystroke. Also, wherever I mention the NVDA key, I am referring to whatever you have your NVDA modifier key set as. For example, mine is set to Insert.

Here are the keystrokes:

* To move to and read the top line

Shift + Numpad7 or NVDA key + Ctrl + Home

* To move to and read the previous line

Numpad7 or NVDA key + up arrow

* To Read the current line

Numpad8 or NVDA key + Shift + full stop

* To move to and read the next line

Numpad9 or NVDA key + down arrow

* To move to and read the bottom line

Shift + Numpad9 or NVDA key+ Ctrl + End

* To move to and read the previous word

Numpad4 or NVDA key+ Ctrl + left arrow

* To read the current word

Numpad5 or NVDA key + Ctrl + full stop

* To move to and read the next word

Numpad6 or NVDA key+ Ctrl + right arrow

* To move to the start of the line

Shift + Numpad1 or NVDA key + Home

* To move to and read the previous character

Numpad1 or NVDA key + left arrow

* To read the current character

Numpad2 or NVDA key + full stop

* To move to and read the next character

Numpad3 or NVDA key + right arrow

* To move to the end of the line

Shift + Numpad3 or NVDA key + End

* To move to the previous page

NVDA key + page up or NVDA key + Shift + page up

* To move to the next page

NVDA key + page down or NVDA key + Shift + page down

* To say or read all

Numpad+ or NVDA key + Shift + A

* To report text formatting

NVDA key + Shift + F for all layouts

Now for all the key strokes above, pressing them once will just read the text as described regularly. Pressing them twice quickly will read the text by character, and pressing them thrice quickly will read the text phonetically