Getting Started

Alexa will only listen to requests when it hears the ‘wake word’ Alexa

For example:
“Alexa, set an alarm for 9 o’clock”
Whenever you want Alexa to do something, start with the word Alexa and then give it a command or ask a question.
Speak clearly, and try to make requests as simple as possible.
Sometimes Alexa will ask you a question back, and you can respond without having to say the wake word again.

For example:
“Alexa, set an alarm for 9 o’clock”
“Did you mean 9 o’clock AM or PM?”
“AM”

Everyday Tasks

Alexa can do a range of useful, everyday tasks. Here are some you might find useful:

Time and Date
“Alexa, what time is it?” and “Alexa, what’s the date today?”

Alarm
“Alexa, set an alarm for 9am tomorrow.”
This will let Alexa act as an alarm clock. To get an alarm to stop you can say:
“Alexa, stop” or “Alexa, be quiet” or even “Alexa, shut up!”

Timer
“Alexa, set a 30 minute timer”
Similar to setting an alarm, this can be useful for cooking if you have your hands full.

Reminders
“Alexa, set a reminder for 1pm tomorrow to walk the dog.”

Shopping List
“Alexa, add milk to my shopping list” and “Alexa, what’s on my shopping list?”

Weather
“Alexa, what’s the weather today?” or “Alexa, what’s the weather in Leeds tomorrow?”

News
“Alexa, what’s the news?”
Music
Alexa has a range of music it can play for you. You can ask for a specific song, an artist, or music from a particular era.

For example:

“Alexa, play Yellow Submarine by the Beatles”
“Alexa, play songs by Johnny Cash”
“Alexa, play hits from the 70s”

Calming Sounds
Alexa can also play a wide range of relaxing sounds and white noise, such as ocean or thunderstorm sounds. Here are a couple of options:

“Alexa, open Thunderstorm Sounds”
“Alexa, start Ocean Sounds”
“Alexa, open Spa Music”

Health
Amazon has teamed up with the NHS to provide health information through your Alexa.
You can ask all sorts of health related questions, such as how to treat minor issues or what the symptoms of a condition are.

For example:

“Alexa, I have a cough.”
“Alexa, how do I treat a migraine?”
“Alexa, what are the symptoms of chickenpox?”

Games
Alexa can play all sorts of games, such as guessing games, trivia, and interactive stories.
Here are a few examples, but there are many more available.

Animal Game
A guessing game, where you think of an animal and Alexa will ask you questions to guess it.
“Alexa, play Animal Game”

Pointless
A game based on the popular TV quiz show. “Alexa, open Pointless”

Magic Door
An interactive adventure story where you can make choices. “Alexa, open the Magic Door”

These are just a few examples of things you can do with your Alexa