



GOOGLE PIXEL 6 PHONES NOW HAVE THE OPTION FOR REAL-TIME TEXT-TO-SPEECH CALLS

Live Caption is the product of Google's Live Relay research, an initiative that began in 2019 to devise better captioning and other live accessibility features for callers who are deaf. One of the latest accessibility features is real-time phone call captions for Google Pixel users who cannot or prefer not to speak on the phone.

The Live Caption feature for phones will let users initiate two-way text-to-speech tools within a call, providing live captions of what the other person says in real time and letting users type a response that's read out loud by Google's text-to-speech voice during the call. Once initiated, the phone call converts into an easily navigable text chat exchange on the user's side. It also alerts the caller on the other line that the person is using these services, making it easier for everyone involved. Furthermore, there are also suggestions that appear so the user can automatically tap and send messages quickly based on what the caller has said. A mute icon appears in the top-left as well which indicates that the user can still use their microphone should they wish to talk and read captions at the same time.

Important to the feature is the fact that it's integrated into the device, without the need for third-party apps, other tech, or traditional relay services.

Sam Sepah, accessibility research program manager and a member of the Deaf community himself, consulted on the research and worked with Google's design team to ensure the company's accessibility features are living up to the day-to-day needs of users who are deaf. "As an individual, as an adult, I want to have a life without relying on too many people or too many services," Sepah said, explaining his own needs. "I want to be able to make independent decisions about how I communicate with the world. Making personal phone calls is a hugely powerful experience."

For more information, please visit: <https://caniplaythat.com/2022/03/16/google-pixel-update-introduces-live-captions-and-text-to-speech-accessibility-for-calls/>

