# Quick guide to the Blind Foundation Skill for Amazon Alexa

## Start

Launch the skill by saying, “Alexa, start Blind Foundation.”

The first time you use the skill, you will be guided through a tutorial that teaches you the basics of talking to Alexa, and how to find and read a book in the Blind Foundation skill.

If you were in the middle of reading a title, you will be asked if you want to continue reading the same book or magazine. If you say, “No”, you will be taken to the main menu.

## Main menu

Alexa will ask whether you want to read audio books or magazines. Say “Books” or “Magazines” to continue.

## Book search

You can search for books by author and title, or just part of that information. Say, “Alexa, find [title] by [author]”, to get a list of books matching your request; for example, “Alexa, find *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood.”

If you don’t ask for an author, Alexa will confirm whether you would like to search for books with a similar title.

You can also search for all books by a particular author in the library, by saying, “Alexa, list books by [author]”; for example, “Alexa, list books by Margaret Atwood.”

### Book number search

You can also find books by book (or CD) number, by saying, “Alexa, find [book number]”. For example, “Alexa, find 1 0 2 5 1 8” will take you to the book *Deep Beyond the Reef* by Owen Scott. This can be useful if Alexa has trouble understanding you, or if you want to go straight to a book which is promoted in a Library newsletter.

### Surprise me

If you don’t know what you want to read next, you can ask Alexa to surprise you with a random book from our collection, by saying, “Alexa, surprise me.”

You can also browse our collection by subjects, by saying “Alexa, surprise me with [subject]”; for example, “Alexa, surprise me with romance.” Subject terms include fiction and literature (such as thrillers, romance, or fantasy) and non-fiction (such as biographies, history, or travel). If there are several subjects matching your request, you will get a numbered list to choose from.

### Book selection

If there is only one book matching your search, Alexa will take you straight to it, and get ready to start reading. If there are several books to choose from, you will hear a numbered list. You can either wait to hear all the choices, or interrupt by saying, “Alexa, [number]”; for example, “Alexa, two.”

### Reading a book

When you have selected a book title, Alexa will tell you a little about the audio version, and you have a choice of starting reading, hearing the synopsis or description of the book, or selecting a chapter from the table of contents. The table of contents is a numbered list, and you can start at a particular chapter by interrupting with the number matching your selection; for example, “Alexa, sixteen”. This list includes the introductory material as well as the book contents, so the numbers won’t be the same as the book chapter numbers.

To start reading the book, say, “Alexa, start.” To go back to the book search, say, “Alexa, cancel.”

While the book is playing, you can go between chapters by saying, “Alexa, forward”, or “Alexa, back.” You can also jump by time intervals, with the command, “Alexa, ask Blind Foundation to skip [forward/back] [time interval]”; for example, “Alexa ask Blind Foundation to skip forward ten minutes.”

You can pause the book while it is playing by saying, “Alexa, pause.” To continue reading, say “Alexa, resume.” To stop reading and choose another book, say, “Alexa, cancel.” Then say, “Alexa, books”, to return to the book search. You can also say, “Alexa, magazines”, to go to the magazine search.

### Sleep timer

You can tell Alexa to stop automatically after a certain period of time, which can be useful if you are reading before you go to sleep, and don’t want to lose your place in a book or magazine. While you are reading, say, “Alexa, set sleep timer for [time interval]”; for example, “Alexa, set sleep timer for one hour.”

## Magazine search

You can search for magazine titles in much the same way, after choosing “magazines” from the main menu, or saying, “Alexa, magazines” while you are in the book search. Select a magazine by saying, “Alexa, find [magazine title]”; for example, “Alexa, find New Zealand Gardener.” You can browse all available magazine titles by saying, “Alexa, list magazines.”

### Magazine selection

Alexa will either go straight to your requested magazine, or give you a list of similar titles to choose from. Select your magazine by number as you would from a list of books; for example, “Alexa, one.” Only the latest issue of each magazine is currently available for reading.

### Reading a magazine

You can read a magazine with Alexa the same way you would a book. Say, “Alexa, start”, to read the magazine from the beginning, or “Alexa, table of contents” to choose an article from a numbered list.

## Reading lists

Alexa can remember the books and magazines you have been reading recently. To review your recent titles, you can ask for these reading lists by saying, “Alexa, reading list.” You can then choose between recent books or magazines. Alexa will give you a numbered list of the last ten books or magazines you were reading to choose from.

## Closing the skill

You can use the pause and resume commands to stop reading without closing the skill, but when you are ready to do something else, say, “Alexa, stop.” This will close the Blind Foundation skill, and you can ask Alexa to do something else. The next time you start the skill, Alexa will ask whether you want to carry on reading where you left off.

# Blind Foundation Alexa skill List of Commands

How to start

* “Alexa, Start Blind Foundation” : start the skill

## Navigation Commands

* “Alexa, pause”: pauses where you are at
* “Alexa, continue”, “Resume”: starts where you left off
* “Alexa, repeat”: repeats the last thing Alexa said
* “Alexa, cancel”: takes you back one step in the skill
* “Alexa, stop”: takes you out of skill
* “Alexa, shortcuts”: provides a list of all shortcuts

## Audio Book or Magazine Commands

* “Alexa, books” : go to the book search menu
* “Alexa, magazines” : go to the magazine search menu
* “Alexa, tutorial” : restarts the introductory tutorial

## Main Menu Commands

* “Alexa, find [book title] by [author name]” : search for a book by title and author, if known
* “Alexa, find [magazine title]”: search for a magazine by title
* “Alexa, list books by [author name]” : provides a list of books by a particular author
* “Alexa, find [book number]” : request a book from the collection by book (or CD) number
* “Alexa, reading list” : review lists of the most recent 10 books or magazines read
* “Alexa, change skip level” : lets you adjust the skip level to move between DAISY levels 1-3
* “Alexa, list magazines”, “Alexa, what magazines do you have?” : list all available audio magazines
* “Alexa, surprise me” : selects a random book for reading
* “Alexa, surprise me with [genre]” : selects a random book from a genre for reading
* “Alexa, how many books do you have?” : returns the number of book titles currently available
* “Alexa, how many magazines do you have?” : returns the number of magazine titles currently available
* “Alexa, tutorial” : restarts the introductory tutorial

## Audio Reader Commands

* “Alexa, continue”, “Alexa, resume” : continues from where you left off
* “Alexa, start” : starts the book or magazine currently selected
* “Alexa, table of contents” : goes to the table of contents menu for the current book or magazine
* “Alexa, forward”, “Alexa, next”, “Alexa, skip”: skip forward one section (depends on current skip level)
* “Alexa, back”, “Alexa, previous” : skip back one section (depending on the current skip level)
* “Alexa, ask Blind Foundation to skip [forward/back] [time interval]” : skip forward or back by a specific interval of time
* “Alexa, set sleep timer for [time interval]” : set a sleep timer to turn off after a desired interval of time

The Blind Foundation Skill and Commands are also available in audio, once in the book menu just say

* “Alexa, find, 126430”

or

* “Alexa, find, Quick guide to the Blind Foundation Skill for Amazon Alexa”