



# How to: use an Amazon Echo

to listen to your personalised playlist



# Using an Amazon Echo Dot

This guidance is based on setting up and using an Amazon Echo Dot 3rd generation. Advice may vary for other Amazon Smart speakers or for smart speakers of other brands.

## What you need to set up an Amazon Echo

- ✓ Wi-Fi connection
- ✓ Amazon account
- ✓ Smart phone/ tablet/laptop or computer

Before you can start using your smart speaker, you will need to set it up and connect it to your Wi-Fi. The simplest way to set up your device is by using the Amazon Alexa app, which you can access through the app store on your smart phone. If you do not have a smart phone you can set up your device using the **Alexa web app** on your laptop.

You will need an Amazon account to sign into this app. You can use an existing account or create a new one.

The app will talk you through the steps of setting up your device.



## How to use the smart speaker once it is set up

You can communicate with the smart speaker solely by using your voice. You can ask for the time, the weather and more. For the device to understand you, you must say the word 'Alexa' before every command.

### Try asking:

**Alexa, what time is it?**

You can use the Alexa app to set preferences to help you access more up to date information based on your location and interests.



## What you need to listen to music through a smart speaker

You will need a subscription to a music streaming subscription such as Amazon Music Unlimited, Spotify or Apple Music etc. You must link one of these services to your device to listen to music and access your playlist. You can create a playlist on these apps using your phone or computer and then ask Alexa to play the playlist through the device.

You can also create playlists or add to existing playlists by asking Alexa directly.

Depending on which service you are using, you can use the Alexa app to make that service the default for playing music.

You can then ask Alexa to play your playlist.

**Try saying:**

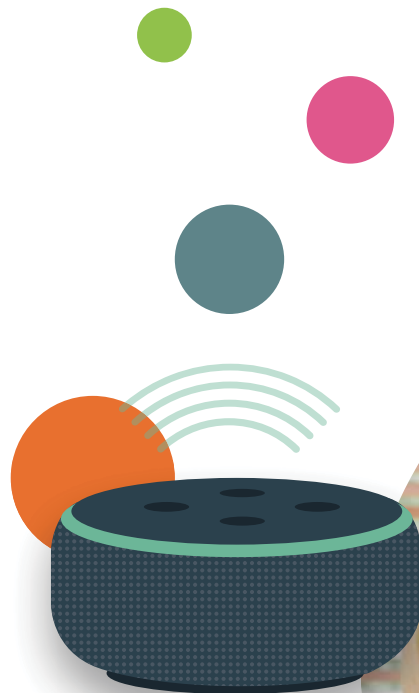
**Alexa, play my playlist**

If you have more than one playlist, you will have to specify the playlist you want to hear:

**Try saying:**

**Alexa, play my morning playlist**

It is important to remember that the device may not always understand your requests and will therefore not complete your request or do something different to what you expected. This can be frustrating, but the first thing to do is to ask again more clearly. You can find further help and guidance on setting up and using the device through the Alexa App or [Amazon's support pages](#).



# Other ways to use the Alexa to listen to music

## 1 Discover new music

Your playlist is always growing. You might discover a new song that you love, or think of an old tune that brings back a memory. Alexa can help you listen to these songs and also help discover new ones.

### Finding a specific tune

You can ask Alexa to play a specific song.

**You can say:**

**Alexa, play 'Dancing Queen' by Abba**

If you cannot remember the title of the song, try saying some of the lyrics.

**You can say:**

**Alexa, play the song that goes 'young and sweet only seventeen'**

Alexa should recognise this as Abba's 'Dancing Queen' and play the song.

### Finding new songs

#### By genre

If you do not have a particular song in mind, try asking for a genre or style.

**You can say:**

**Alexa, play some country and western**

#### From your Memory Bump

Your Memory Bump is the time between the ages of 10 and 30. You make more memories at this time of your life than any other period. Music from this time can have very strong memories attached. Try asking Alexa to play music from your Memory Bump.

**You can say:**

**Alexa, play music from the 60s**

#### From important places

The music from places that are important to us also has strong memories attached. Why not ask Alexa to play some music from a particular city or country. **You can say:**

**Alexa, play music from Scotland**



## 2 Add songs to your playlist

Once you have found a song you love, or that brings back a memory, you can add it to your playlist.

**You can say:**

**Alexa, add this song to my playlist**

**Alexa replies:**

**Which playlist?**

**You can say:**

**My playlist**

(If this doesn't work, try saying "[Your name]'s playlist")

Alexa should then add the song to the end of your playlist, and it will be there the next time you listen.

If you have created more than one playlist, then you should say the name of the playlist you want the song to be added to.

## 3 Create a new playlist

Music affects our emotions. Some songs perk us up, while other relax us. A playlist can help reduce anxiety and improve your mood.

You might want to create a few different playlists to reflect your moods or different musical tastes.

For example, try creating a relaxing playlist.

**You can say:**

**Alexa, create a new playlist**

**Alexa replies:**

**Ok, what is the new playlist's name?**

**You can say:**

**Relaxing Music**

Once you tell Alexa the name of the new playlist, she will create it for you.

You can then add songs to this playlist following the instructions in 'Section 2: Add songs to your playlist'.

You can create as many different playlists as you like. Here are some ideas:

- ✓ Family playlist (including songs that remind you of loved ones)
- ✓ Favourite songs playlist
- ✓ Happy tunes playlist
- ✓ Exercise playlist



Find more technology advice and free resources at [www.playlistforlife.org.uk](http://www.playlistforlife.org.uk)

