Voice Commands for the Model Y L

Your Model Y L can do a lot just by asking. This guide shows you how to start a voice command, the best things to say, and how Grok works. Tick each box after you try it.

CREATED BY

Tesla Model YL (USA) - Owners & Enthusiasts

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✓ Every command on one page

PART 1 · START

Get started

Learn how to start a voice command, a few tips to help the car understand you, and the two kinds of voice help in your car.

1 Start a voice command 2 Know your two voice helpers

1 Start a voice command

Voice commands let you control the car while your hands stay on the wheel. You do not need a special wake word. Just press a button and talk the way you normally would.

How to do it:

- [ ] 1. Press and let go of the **microphone button** on the right side of the steering wheel (the right scroll wheel). You can also tap the **microphone icon** on the screen.
- [ ] 2. Wait for the chime.
- [ ] 3. Say what you want in plain words, like "Make it warmer."
- [ ] 4. Watch the screen. It shows what the car heard and what it did.

Tips that help:

- [ ] **Talk normally.** You do not have to say the exact words in this guide. Close matches work too.
- [ ] **Opposites work too.** Tesla says that if "I'm cold" works, "I'm hot" works as well, even when only one is listed.
- [ ] **Give two clues for music.** Say the song and the artist, like "Play Firework by Katy Perry."
- [ ] **Set home and work first.** Then "Navigate home" and "Take me to work" will work right away.
- [ ] **Some commands need Park.** Tesla says things like Sentry Mode and Pet Mode only turn on by voice when the car is in Park.
- [ ] **Not for driving.** You cannot use your voice to shift gears or change how the car drives.

NOTE
To change the language the car listens for, tap **Controls > Display > Voice Recognition Language**. Not every language is supported.

INTERNET AND PRIVACY
Voice commands use the internet. Tesla says they need at least **Standard Connectivity** (Tesla's basic data plan). Tesla saves the written words of your commands to make them better, but not a recording of your voice. These are not linked to you or your car, and commands with personal info, like addresses or calls, are not saved.

- [ ] **You're done when** you have said one command and seen the car do it.

2 Know your two voice helpers

Your car has two ways to help you by voice. The first is the regular **voice commands** that come with every Tesla. The second is **Grok**, a newer assistant that can chat, answer questions and handle some car tasks. They work side by side, and each one is good at different things.

The difference:

- [ ] **Regular voice commands:** short orders like "Open the glovebox" or "Set fan speed to 3." They control almost every setting in the car.
- [ ] **Grok:** talk to it like a person. It is great for finding places, planning stops and answering questions. Since the 2026 Summer Update, it can also make calls, play music, change the climate and open the glovebox.

What Grok needs:

- [ ] **The newer car computer** (an AMD chip). New Model Y L cars have it. To check, tap **Controls > Software > Additional Vehicle Info** and look at the infotainment processor. If you buy a used Tesla, do not guess from the year. Check the screen.
- [ ] **An internet connection.** Grok needs Premium Connectivity or a strong Wi-Fi signal. No signal means no Grok.
- [ ] **Recent software.** Grok needs software version 2025.26 or newer. Finding places needs 2025.44.25 or newer. The car commands, like calls and climate, came in the 2026.26 Summer Update. You can see your version under **Controls > Software**.

Talk to Grok:

- [ ] 1. Say **"Hey Grok"**, or press and hold the voice button on the steering wheel.
- [ ] 2. Ask your question or give your request.
- [ ] 3. Say **"Goodbye"** when you are done.

> **NOTE**
> Grok is free and still marked as Beta. If Grok cannot do something, use a regular voice command instead. Many settings, like the trunk and the volume, still work best that way.

- [ ] **You're done when** you know whether your car has Grok and how to wake it up.

PART 2 · CLIMATE

Stay comfortable

Change the heat, fan, seat warmers and wipers with your voice. These are some of the most useful commands, because you can use them while you drive.

3 Heat, cooling and fan

4 Seat and steering wheel heat

5 Wipers and clear windows

6 Climate when you leave the car

3 Heat, cooling and fan

Climate commands are the ones most owners use every day. Instead of tapping through the screen, just say how you feel or what you want. The car changes the setting and shows it on the screen.

Try these:

- [ ] "**Turn on the climate**" or "**Turn off the climate**" turns the heat and air on or off. Use it when you first get in, or when you want fresh air from an open window instead.
- [ ] "**Turn on the air conditioning**" turns on the A/C to cool the car down fast on a hot day.
- [ ] "**Set the temperature to 70**" sets the inside of the car to an exact number. Say any number you like, such as 68 or 72.
- [ ] "**Make it warmer**" or "**Make it cooler**" moves the temperature up or down a little. This is handy when you are not sure what number you want.
- [ ] "**I'm cold**" or "**I'm hot**" does the same thing in plain words. The car warms up or cools down a bit for you.
- [ ] "**Cool down the passenger**" cools only the passenger side. Your side stays the same, so you can each be comfy.
- [ ] "**Sync climate**" sets every seat to the same temperature as the driver. Use it when everyone wants the same setting.
- [ ] "**Direct airflow to my face**" points the air vents up toward you. It feels great on a hot day.
- [ ] "**Set fan speed to 3**" sets how hard the fan blows. Low numbers are quiet, and high numbers blow harder.
- [ ] "**Increase fan speed**" or "**Decrease fan speed**" turns the fan up or down one step at a time.
- [ ] "**Turn on recirculate**" stops outside air from coming in and reuses the air inside. It helps when you drive behind a smelly truck or through smoke.

- [ ] **You're done when** you have changed the temperature or fan without touching the screen.

4 Seat and steering wheel heat

Warm seats feel great on a cold morning. With three rows, finding the right seat on the screen can take a few taps. Your voice gets you there faster, even for the people sitting behind you.

Try these:

- [ ] "**Turn on the driver's seat heater**" warms your seat. It is a fast way to get cozy on a cold morning.
- [ ] "**Set the passenger seat heater to 2**" picks a heat level for the front passenger. Use 1 for low, 2 for medium and 3 for high.
- [ ] "**Turn on the rear seat heaters**" warms the seats behind you. Your passengers in back can stay warm without asking you to tap the screen.
- [ ] "**Turn off all seat heaters**" turns every seat heater off at once. It is handy when the car has warmed up.
- [ ] "**Turn on the steering wheel heater**" warms the wheel, so your hands stay warm while you drive.
- [ ] "**My butt is cold**" is a fun one that really works. It turns the driver's seat heater on high.

> *i* **MODEL Y L TIP**
> Some Model Y L seats can cool as well as heat. We could not confirm a voice command for seat cooling, so use the seat icon on the screen for that.

- [ ] **You're done when** you can warm any seat in the car by voice.

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5 Wipers and clear windows

Rain and fog can show up fast. Voice commands let you clear your view without looking down at the screen. That keeps your eyes on the road when you need them there most.

Try these:

- [ ] "**Turn on the wipers**" or "**Turn off the wipers**" starts or stops the front wipers right away.
- [ ] "**Set wipers to auto**" lets the car watch for rain and pick the wiper speed for you. This is a good everyday setting.
- [ ] "**Speed up the wipers**" or "**Decrease wiper speed**" makes the wipers go faster or slower, one step at a time. Use it when the rain gets heavier or lighter.
- [ ] "**Turn on the rear defroster**" heats the back window to clear fog, frost or ice so you can see out the back.
- [ ] "**Turn on the defogger**" blows air on the windshield to clear fog. Use it when the glass fogs up on a cold or rainy day.

- [ ] **You're done when** you have turned the wipers or defroster on by voice.

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6 Climate when you leave the car

Sometimes you need the car to stay warm or cool after you step out. These modes keep the climate running while you are gone. They are great for pets, naps and camping.

Try these (in Park):

- [ ] "**Keep climate on**" keeps the heat or air running after you get out. It is great for a quick stop, like running into a store.
- [ ] "**Turn on Pet Mode**" keeps your pet at a safe, comfy temperature. It also shows the cabin temperature on the big screen, so people walking by know your pet is OK.
- [ ] "**Turn on Camp Mode**" keeps the air, music and lights on. You can rest, nap or even sleep in the car.

> ⚠ **CAUTION**
> These modes use battery power. Check your charge before you leave the car for a long time, and never leave a pet if the car is low on charge.

- [ ] **You're done when** you know how to keep the car comfy after you step out.

PART 3 · ROAD

Drive and get around

Find places, plan stops and control the car's doors, mirrors and safety features with your voice.

7 Find places and navigate

8 Doors, mirrors and charging

9 Sentry Mode and safety

7 Find places and navigate

Typing an address while you drive is not safe. With your voice, you can find a place, start a route and add a stop in seconds. This is one of the best ways to use voice commands on a road trip.

Try these:

- [ ] "**Navigate to Costco**" or "**Drive to 123 Main Street**" finds the place and starts directions. You can say a store name or a full address.
- [ ] "**Navigate home**" or "**Take me to work**" starts directions to the home or work address you saved. Set these places in the map first.
- [ ] "**Take me to the airport**" or "**Take me to the park**" finds the closest one and starts directions.
- [ ] "**Where is the nearest coffee shop?**" shows coffee shops near you on the map. Try other places too, like a pharmacy or a park.
- [ ] "**Show nearby Superchargers**" shows Tesla fast chargers close to you. Say "**Display Destination Chargers**" to see slower chargers at hotels and stores.
- [ ] "**I'm feeling hungry**" shows places to eat near you. Pick one on the screen to get directions.
- [ ] "**I'm feeling lucky**" picks a fun place nearby for you to try. It is a fun game when you are not sure where to go.
- [ ] "**Zoom in**" or "**Zoom out**" makes the map bigger or smaller.
- [ ] "**Turn on satellite mode**" shows a real photo view of the map. Say "**Turn on traffic**" to see busy roads in red and yellow.
- [ ] "**Stop navigation**" ends your directions when you no longer need them.
- [ ] "**Mute voice guidance**" turns off the spoken directions, but the map still shows your turns. Say "**Unmute voice guidance**" to hear them again.

- [ ] **You're done when** you have started a route using only your voice.

8 Doors, mirrors and charging

Many car controls are buried in menus. Voice commands bring them up in one step. Some of them only work in Park, so the car does not do anything unsafe while you drive.

Try these:

- [ ] "**Lock the doors**" or "**Unlock the doors**" locks or unlocks every door. Use it to let someone in without reaching for the screen.
- [ ] "**Open the glovebox**" pops the glovebox open. Your passenger does not have to find the button on the screen.
- [ ] "**Fold the mirrors**" or "**Unfold the mirrors**" tucks the side mirrors in or puts them back out. Fold them in a tight garage or a narrow parking spot.
- [ ] "**Open the charge port**" or "**Close the charge port**" opens or closes the little charging door on the back left side of the car.
- [ ] "**Start charging**" or "**Stop charging**" starts or stops charging while the car is plugged in.
- [ ] "**Open the trunk**" or "**Close the trunk**" opens or closes the power rear door when your hands are full. This one comes from owners, so it may not work on every software version.

- [ ] **You're done when** you have opened the glovebox or charge port by voice.

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9 Sentry Mode and safety

Sentry Mode uses the car's cameras to watch over the car while you are away. Turning it on by voice is quick, so you are more likely to remember. The car must be in Park.

Try these:

- [ ] "**Turn on Sentry Mode**" or "**Keep my car safe**" turns on Sentry Mode. The cameras watch the car and save a video if someone bumps or breaks into it.
- [ ] "**Turn off Sentry Mode**" turns it off, which saves battery when you park at home.
- [ ] "**Open service settings**" jumps right to the Service screen. That is where you find things like Car Wash Mode and tire info.

⚠ **CAUTION**
Sentry Mode uses some battery while it watches, so turn it off if your battery is low.

- [ ] **You're done when** you can turn Sentry Mode on with one sentence before you walk away.

PART 4 · EXTRAS

Music, calls and fun

Play music, make calls, open apps, and try a few hidden tricks that make kids laugh.

10 Music and sound
11 Calls and texts
12 Screen, apps and help
13 Fun hidden tricks

10 Music and sound

You can pick a song, skip a track or turn the music down without looking away. The car plays from whichever music app is open, or you can name the app you want.

Try these:

- [ ] "**Play Taylor Swift**" or "**Listen to Shake It Off**" plays an artist or a song from the music app that is open.
- [ ] "**Play jazz on Spotify**" plays from a certain app you are signed in to.
- [ ] "**Skip to next**" jumps to the next song when you do not like the one playing.
- [ ] "**Pause**" or "**Play**" stops the music or starts it again.
- [ ] "**Raise the volume**" or "**Lower the volume**" makes the sound louder or softer.
- [ ] "**Change the source to Bluetooth**" plays music or podcasts from your phone through the car speakers.
- [ ] "**Mute media**" quickly turns off the sound. It is handy when someone in the car is on a call.
- [ ] "**Open Netflix**" or "**Open YouTube**" opens a video app. Videos only play when the car is in Park.

- [ ] **You're done when** you have picked a song with your voice.

11 Calls and texts

Your phone stays in your pocket, and your hands stay on the wheel. Your phone must be paired with the car by Bluetooth for these to work.

Try these:

- [ ] "**Call Mom**" calls someone saved in your phone contacts. Say the name just like it is saved in your phone.
- [ ] "**Call 555-123-4567**" calls any phone number. Say the numbers clearly, one at a time.
- [ ] "**Text Dad**" starts a text message to someone in your contacts. Then say what you want the message to say.

WARNING
Keep your eyes on the road, and never read or type texts while you drive.

- [ ] **You're done when** you have made a call without touching your phone.

12 Screen, apps and help

Voice commands can also open apps and settings on the big screen. Some apps, like games and movies, only open when the car is in Park.

Try these:

- [ ] "**Open Toybox**" opens the fun extras, like light shows and silly sounds.
- [ ] "**Open Theater**" opens movie and TV apps, like Netflix and YouTube. It only works when the car is in Park.
- [ ] "**Open the browser**" opens the web browser so you can look things up on the big screen.
- [ ] "**Open the camera**" or "**Open the phone**" opens that app on the screen.
- [ ] "**Open lock settings**" jumps right to the screen with your lock settings.
- [ ] "**Search Google for the weather**" shows the answer on the big screen. "**Go to tesla.com**" opens any website.
- [ ] "**The screen is too bright**" dims the screen at night. Say "**Increase screen brightness**" on a sunny day.
- [ ] "**Show me the owner's manual**" opens Tesla's manual right on the screen. Use it when you want to learn how something works.
- [ ] "**Bug report**" sends a note to Tesla when something goes wrong. Right after you say it, tell the car what happened.

- [ ] **You're done when** you have opened an app or the owner's manual by voice.

13 Fun hidden tricks

Tesla hides a few jokes in the car. These are great for a laugh with kids at a charging stop. They do not change anything important.

Try these (in Park):

- [ ] "**Ho Ho Ho**" turns on Santa Mode. The car on the screen turns into a sleigh, and holiday music plays. Kids love this one.
- [ ] "**Open butthole**" is a silly way to open the charge port. Yes, Tesla really added this one, and it always gets a laugh.

- [ ] **You're done when** your family has had a good laugh.

PART 5 · ASSISTANT

Talk to Grok

Grok understands everyday talk. Learn what it costs, how your privacy works, what you can ask it on the road, and what it cannot do yet.

14 Cost, setup and privacy

15 Things to ask Grok

16 What Grok cannot do yet

14 Cost, setup and privacy

Many owners wonder if Grok costs extra or what it does with their voice. The good news is that it is free to use in the car. Here are the facts Tesla shares, so you can decide how you want to use it.

What it costs:

- [ ] **Grok in the car is free.** Tesla says you do not need a Grok account or a paid plan to use it in your car.
- [ ] **You do need a connection.** Premium Connectivity or Wi-Fi gives Grok its internet. Premium Connectivity is Tesla's data plan, not a Grok plan. Check your Tesla account to see your plan and price.
- [ ] **Grok plans from xAI are not needed.** Those are for using Grok on your phone or computer, not in the car.

Settings that matter:

- [ ] **Keep the Assistant personality on.** Grok has more than one personality. Tesla says you need **Assistant** for Grok to help with directions.
- [ ] **You can use it as a guest.** No sign-in is needed. If you sign in, your chats can sync across your devices.

Privacy:

- [ ] **xAI handles your Grok chats.** xAI is the company that makes Grok, and its own privacy rules apply.
- [ ] **Tesla says your chats stay anonymous.** They are not linked to you or your car.

> *i* **NOTE**
> Grok is still in Beta, and Tesla's help pages do not always match the newest release notes. If a command does not work, check your car's release notes (tap the gift icon) to see what your software can do.

- [ ] **You're done when** you know Grok is free, it has a connection, and it is set to Assistant.

15 Things to ask Grok

With Grok, you do not need exact words. You can ask the way you would ask a friend, and it figures out what you mean. Start with "Hey Grok" each time.

Try these:

- [ ] "**Take me to the beach**" or "**Take me to Grandma's house**" starts directions. Grok can even find places you saved with a nickname.
- [ ] "**Add a stop at a Supercharger**" adds a stop to the trip you are on. You can also say "a coffee shop" or "a restroom."
- [ ] "**Find a Supercharger on my route**" finds a fast charger along your way and plans a charging stop.
- [ ] "**Find a good taco place nearby**" looks for food near you. You can be picky, like "a quiet place with outdoor seats."
- [ ] "**Remind me to buy milk when I'm near the store**" sets a reminder. It pops up when you get close to that place.
- [ ] "**Call Mom**" calls someone in your phone contacts.
- [ ] "**Play some relaxing music**" picks music that fits the mood you ask for. Try "happy songs" or "music for a road trip."
- [ ] "**Set the temperature to 70**" changes the temperature inside the car.
- [ ] "**Open the glovebox**" pops the glovebox open.
- [ ] "**How much range do I have left?**" tells you how many miles you can drive before you need to charge.
- [ ] "**Tell me about this town**" shares fun facts and history about where you are. It makes long drives more fun.

> **NOTE**
> Grok can also answer almost any question. Kids love asking it trivia at charging stops. In the Grok app, you can switch its personality. Keep it on **Assistant** if you want it to handle navigation.

- [ ] **You're done when** you have asked Grok to take you somewhere.

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16 What Grok cannot do yet

Grok is still new, and it keeps getting updates. For now, some jobs still belong to the regular voice commands. Knowing which is which saves you from repeating yourself.

Good to know:

- [ ] **No internet, no Grok.** In a dead zone, use regular voice commands instead.
- [ ] **Many settings are not ready yet.** For things like the trunk and volume, use a regular voice command.

- [ ] **It does not drive the car.** Grok is not Full Self-Driving. It cannot steer or change how the car drives.
- [ ] **Newer features arrive in stages.** A friend's car may get a feature before yours does.

> **NOTE**
> Tesla adds new voice commands with software updates. To see what is new, tap the gift icon at the top of the screen to read the release notes. This guide was checked in November 2026.

- [ ] **You're done when** you know when to use Grok and when to use a regular voice command.

CHEAT SHEET

Voice Commands at a Glance

Press the **microphone button** on the right side of the steering wheel, wait for the chime, then talk. Words in *gray* are examples, so swap in your own. For Grok, say **"Hey Grok"** or press and hold the voice button.

Heat and fan

- ☐ Turn on / off the climate
- ☐ Turn on the air conditioning
- ☐ Set the temperature to *70*
- ☐ Make it warmer / cooler
- ☐ I'm cold / I'm hot
- ☐ Cool down the passenger
- ☐ Sync climate
- ☐ Direct airflow to my face
- ☐ Set fan speed to *3*
- ☐ Increase / decrease fan speed
- ☐ Turn on recirculate

Seats and wheel

- ☐ Turn on the driver's seat heater
- ☐ Set the passenger seat heater to *2*
- ☐ Turn on the rear seat heaters
- ☐ Turn off all seat heaters
- ☐ Turn on the steering wheel heater
- ☐ My butt is cold

Wipers and windows

- ☐ Turn on / off the wipers
- ☐ Set wipers to auto
- ☐ Speed up the wipers
- ☐ Decrease wiper speed
- ☐ Turn on the rear defroster
- ☐ Turn on the defogger

When you leave (Park)

- ☐ Keep climate on
- ☐ Turn on Pet Mode
- ☐ Turn on Camp Mode

Navigation

- ☐ Navigate to *place or address*
- ☐ Navigate home / Take me to work
- ☐ Take me to the airport
- ☐ Where is the nearest *coffee shop*?
- ☐ Show nearby Superchargers
- ☐ Display Destination Chargers
- ☐ I'm feeling hungry / lucky
- ☐ Zoom in / Zoom out
- ☐ Turn on satellite mode / traffic
- ☐ Stop navigation
- ☐ Mute / Unmute voice guidance

Doors and charging

- ☐ Lock / Unlock the doors
- ☐ Open the glovebox
- ☐ Fold / Unfold the mirrors
- ☐ Open / Close the charge port
- ☐ Start / Stop charging
- ☐ Open / Close the trunk

Sentry and service (Park)

- ☐ Turn on Sentry Mode
- ☐ Keep my car safe
- ☐ Turn off Sentry Mode
- ☐ Open service settings

Music

- ☐ Play *artist or song*
- ☐ Play *music* on Spotify
- ☐ Skip to next
- ☐ Pause / Play
- ☐ Raise / Lower the volume
- ☐ Change the source to Bluetooth
- ☐ Mute media
- ☐ Open Netflix / YouTube (Park)

Calls and texts

- ☐ Call *name*
- ☐ Call *phone number*
- ☐ Text *name*

Screen and apps

- ☐ Open Toybox
- ☐ Open Theater (Park)
- ☐ Open the browser
- ☐ Open the camera / phone
- ☐ Open lock settings
- ☐ Search Google for *anything*
- ☐ Go to *website*
- ☐ The screen is too bright
- ☐ Increase screen brightness
- ☐ Show me the owner's manual
- ☐ Bug report

Just for fun (Park)

- ☐ Ho Ho Ho
- ☐ Open butthole

Grok: say "Hey Grok" first

- ☐ Take me to *Grandma's house*
- ☐ Add a stop at a Supercharger
- ☐ Find a Supercharger on my route
- ☐ Find a good *taco place* nearby
- ☐ Remind me to *buy milk* when I'm near *the store*
- ☐ Call *name*
- ☐ Play some *relaxing* music
- ☐ Set the temperature to *70*
- ☐ Open the glovebox
- ☐ How much range do I have left?
- ☐ Tell me about this town
- ☐ Goodbye (ends the chat)

Tip: you do not need the exact words. Close matches work, and opposites work too. Some commands only work in Park. Checked November 2026.