



## THE BEST HOME SPEAKER FOR SENIORS

### THE ECHO DOT VS, THE GOOGLE HOME MINI

#### POPULARITY BASED ON MARKET SHARE JANUARY 2018

- Amazon's Echo product line is the most popular with **70%** market share
- Google Home products come in second with **25%** market share

#### BEST PHONE CALLING CAPABILITIES, THE # 1 PRIORITY FOR MOST SENIORS

**The Echo Dot** with Alexa is the obvious winner if...

- You have a compatible SmartPhone to manage the Alexa app, and
- You live in the United States.

*Neither speaker calls 911. But, Alexa will call 911 in the U.S. when you add an Echo Connect to your home phone line. See page 2 for detail.*

#### SUMMARY COMPARISON: KEY FEATURES FOR AGING WITH INDEPENDENCE



##### THE ECHO DOT WITH ALEXA

- ✓ Handsfree calling to Family & Friends

- ✓ **Call 911 in the USA** by adding **Echo Connect** to home phone



Alexa calling only works with compatible SmartPhones.

- ✗ Voice recognition is improving; needs more structured requests
- ✗ Cannot name alarms; a problem for future or recurring reminders
- ✓ Good visual light indicator; best for those with hearing loss
- ✓ Better online voice purchasing for home delivery; integrated with Amazon Prime (Canada & U.S.)
- ✗ Lists: Must add one item at a time to Shopping List; To-Do List easy to use; Print lists from computer
- ✓ Lists: Can add multiple items to Shopping List in one command; To-Do lists more complex; No print



##### GOOGLE HOME MINI

- ✓ Handsfree calling to Family & Friends

- ✗ No options for **911** calling in either country

- ✓ Google calling works with compatible SmartPhones or Tablets.

- ✓ Best voice recognition & search; better with natural language
- ✓ Names alarms; best for future or recurring reminders
- ✗ Poor visual light indicator; four small lights on top of speaker
- ✗ Online purchasing options are less mature, potentially higher costs **(not available in Canada)**.
- ✓ Lists: Can add multiple items to Shopping List in one command; To-Do lists more complex; No print

## PRODUCT AND FEATURE DETAILS

**#1 911 Calling Limitations.** Echo and Google Home Speakers cannot call 911 because the call must come from your home phone or mobile phone. But, if you live in the United States, you can buy an Echo Connect for \$35us and turn your Echo into a handsfree speaker for your home phone line. Then, when you tell Alexa to call 911, she will use your home phone and 911 will accept the call. *The Echo Connect is not available in Canada.*



 *Please remember these speakers are not designed to be emergency services and there may be times when you cannot make a call.*

**#2 Alexa-to-Alexa Calling.** I worry about my mother when I can't reach her by phone or email. I often get a busy tone because the phone is off-hook, or she ignores call waiting when she's on the phone (so it just keeps ringing with no answer). With Alexa-to-Alexa calling, I can get her attention through the Echo to ensure sure she's OK.

**#3 Voice Recognition & Search Skills.** Google has the best voice recognition and she tends to be more accurate in responding to naturally worded requests. Alexa is pretty good but you need to be more careful with the language you use. They're both still learning (and will tell you so) but Alexa has more to learn.

**#4 Visual Light Indicators. These make a difference for everyone – not just people with hearing loss!** The Echo has a bright blue ring that's easy to see; Google Home has 4 small lights on top that are hard to see. Lights give you visual notification of timers, alarms, or reminders. When she's taking a few seconds to process a request, the lights also let you know she heard you the first time. You don't have to get close to see if she's responding and you don't mess things up by repeating your request!



**#5 Shopping & To-Do Lists.** Pros and cons for both speakers. Alexa requires you add one item at a time to your shopping list so if you say "Put bread and milk on my Shopping List", she'll create a single item called "bread and milk". Google knows you're talking about multiple items and lists them separately.

Alexa lets you add to your To-Do List with a single command. Google does not have a *To-Do list* feature and recommends the *skill (app) "Todoist"*. I find *Todoist* more complex to set up and use; a simple "add to list" command turns into a conversation!

**#6 Alarms.** Google lets you name alarms so you know what you're being reminded to do. Alexa does not. Why care if you have named timers and reminder features?

**#1** Timers only work for same day, one-time alerts such as cooking timers. They cannot be used for recurring alerts. They must be set to occur within 24 hours.

**#2** Using the words "Remind me to..." creates a reminder that gives a short, easy to miss alert. Alarms sound for up to 10 minutes.

## **#7 Voice Purchasing for Home Delivery.**

Alexa integrates Voice Purchasing with Amazon Prime in the United States and Canada.

*Type of Products:* all items eligible for Amazon Prime in Canada and the U.S.; some fresh food and perishables delivered in the United States

*Cost:* Requires an Amazon Prime Membership Subscription (\$80cdn per year in Canada, \$99us per year in the United States)

Google Assistant offers online purchasing in the U.S. but **not in Canada.**

*Type of Products:* non-perishable items under 100 lbs. (~45 kilos)

*Cost:* Small order fees or delivery charges on orders under \$25-35us.

## WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

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You may find the ***Echo Dot with Alexa*** a better fit if you...

Live in the United States and want another way to call 911 and/or....

Have a hearing loss and need good visual cues, and/or...

Are housebound and want to integrate with Amazon Prime.

You may find the ***Google Home Mini*** a better fit if you...

Use a screen reader (or may soon need one) and care most about using interactive voice to go online and/or...

Do not want or cannot afford to buy a compatible SmartPhone to make calling features work and/or...

Care most about having hard-to-miss reminders (named alarms).

MORE RESOURCES AVAILABLE UNDER ON THE [Hub](#) AND THE [Blog](#).