

Android

An Introduction to PI



This document has been designed to introduce you to using the AI Chatbot app called PI on an Android Smartphone.

Assumptions Made in the Creation of this Document

Certain assumptions have been made in the creation of this document. They are as follows:

- The latest version of PI has been downloaded and installed onto your Android Smartphone. At the time of writing (15 April 2025), the latest version is Build 1.8 (43).
- Your Smartphone is running Android version 14 or later.
- Your Smartphone is connected to the internet.

Note: The instructions given in this document have been created using a Samsung Galaxy S21 Smartphone, running Android 14. If you are using a later version of Android, you may find some minor differences. However, it isn't anticipated that you will!

What is PI?

PI, which stands for Personal Intelligence, is a Chatbot app, designed for Smartphones. It has been designed to be a personalised AI that can assist you with all sorts of things and provide a unique experience tailored to you, just like a personal assistant, but with a digital twist! PI displays emotion, just like a human does when answering questions and describing things!

PI uses natural sounding language. It can help with a wide range of things, such as:

- Answering Questions - whether you are curious about history, science, current events or need a recipe suggestion, PI can help with all of these things!
- Providing Recommendations - from movies and TV shows to books, restaurants and travel destinations, PI can offer suggestions tailored to your preferences.
- Playing Games - if you are in the mood for some fun, PI can play word games, trivia games and more!
- Offering Support - PI can even act as a close friend. It can offer support if you are down in the dumps and will listen to your problems, providing reassurance where applicable!

Opening PI

To open PI, first locate its icon on the Home Screen and then activate it. Alternatively, invoke the Google Assistant/Gemini and say "open PI".

The PI Main Screen

At the upper left corner of the PI main screen, you will find the "Profile" button. Activating this button results in a popup menu being displayed, consisting of a number of options, including Account, Manage History, Give Feedback, Connect with Us and About. To close this menu and return to the PI main screen, activate the "Back" button, situated at the upper left corner of the screen.

Situated at the upper right corner of the PI main screen, you will find two buttons. The left-most of these, is the "Voice Mode" button. This, when activated, toggles the voice that PI uses on/off. The right-most button is the "Voice Selection Settings" button. This button, when activated, displays a screen which allows you to choose a different voice and slow down or speed up the voice PI uses. To close this screen, activate the Android "Back" button.

Situated at the bottom of the PI main screen, you will find the "Talk with PI" Text Field. To the right of the Text Field, you will find the "Call PI" button. If text is entered into the Text Field, this button changes to become the "Send Message" button.

When you activate the Text Field, a Virtual keyboard is displayed and you are able to type a question. When the Call PI button is activated, a new screen is displayed and a sound is played. This sound indicates that you can start your conversation with PI. To close the Call PI screen, activate the "End Call" button, situated at the upper left corner of the screen. Conversations will be discussed shortly in this document.

Asking PI a Question

PI is great at answering questions! You can ask just about anything you can think of and PI will try to answer it. To ask a question, first activate the "Talk with PI" Text Field at the bottom of the screen. Upon doing this, the Text Field will be repositioned to be directly above the Virtual keyboard. Then, using the Virtual keyboard, type your question, for example "How tall is the Blackpool Tower?". Alternatively, activate the "Use Voice Typing" button, situated above the number 0 on the top line of the Virtual keyboard and dictate it instead. When done, activate the "Stop Voice Typing" button, which replaces the Use Voice Typing button when dictation mode is turned on.

When you have entered your question, activate the "Send Message" button, situated to the right of the Text Field and just above the Voice Typing button. A few seconds later, PI will display the answer to your question on screen. It will also read aloud the information. In this case, the height of the Blackpool Tower. Sometimes, PI will provide you with additional information at the same time!

If you want to ask PI a follow-up question, activate the Text Field again and type/dictate your question. For example, "when was it built". Next, activate the Send Message button. A few seconds later, PI will inform you of the answer.

You can continue asking questions related to the Blackpool Tower and PI will answer them for you. Alternatively, you can ask questions about a new topic, by entering your question into the Talk with PI Text Field and activating the Send Message button.

Chatting with PI

Another way of using PI, is to chat with it. In this way, you won't have to keep typing your question into the Text Field. You can chat verbally, just like you would with your partner, colleague or friend.

To chat with Pi, first activate the Call PI button, situated to the right of the Text Field. Upon doing this, a new screen will be displayed and the microphone will be engaged.

At this stage, you may be prompted to create an account, or sign-in to speak with PI. You will have a variety of options, one of which will be the "continue with Google" button. Activate this button. A few seconds later, you will receive a message which states your conversations will be saved. You are now all set!

You should hear a sound. This indicates that the microphone has been engaged! After the sound, ask your question and pause when done. This will allow PI to know you have finished. A few seconds later, PI will answer your question. This time, there will be no text on screen. To ask a follow up question, simply ask it, as if you were talking to a real life person. There is no need to activate any buttons in order to do this, as the microphone is still active! PI will again answer your question a few seconds later.

Continue chatting with PI until you have found out what you need to know. When you have finished with your conversation, activate the "End Call" button, situated at the upper left corner of the screen. Upon doing this, you will be returned to the PI main screen. Here you will find the text from your conversation with PI, along with the text from your previous questions and answers.

Changing PI's Voice

If you don't like the voice PI uses, you can change it! PI can use a variety of male and female voices. Choosing the right voice, can make your experience of using PI even more enjoyable.

To choose an alternative voice, follow these steps:

1. Activate the Profile button, situated at the upper left corner of the screen. Upon doing this, a popup menu will be displayed.
2. From the menu, activate the Voice Settings button. Upon doing this, a list of available voices will be displayed.
3. In total, there are 8 different voices, four male and 4 female. Activate the button for each voice to find out how it sounds. The last button you activate, will become the voice PI uses.

You can also adjust the speech at which PI speaks. At the top of the screen, below the Playback Speed heading, you will find a number of options. These are 0.5x, 0.75x, 1x, 1.25x and 1.5x. Use the associated Slider Bar to adjust the speed.

4. When you have chosen your preferred voice and playback speed, activate the Android Back button. Upon doing this, you will return to the Profile menu screen.
5. Finally, activate the "Back" button, situated at the upper left corner of the screen. Upon doing this, you will be back in the PI main screen.

Now, ask PI a question and see what the new voice sounds like. Hopefully, it will meet your requirements! If it doesn't, follow the steps outlined above to choose a different voice.

Conclusion

PI is a fun app. It is a little like using Amazon's Alexa, or Google's Gemini service. However, where it is different, is in its ability to use emotion and to hold conversations in a natural way. It provides much more information in its answers to your questions compared to Alexa or Gemini.

Be aware that artificial intelligence can often get things wrong, so don't take everything that PI informs you as being 100% accurate.

Sometimes, you will need to double-check information using an alternative method to ensure that the information PI has provided is correct. Having said this, PI is no different to any other AI Chatbot app as far as accuracy is concerned. It's definitely one of the best AI Chatbots on the market today!

As time goes by, PI will undoubtedly evolve into a really useful AI tool, and one which you will probably use quite a lot.

This is the end of the introduction to using PI on an Android Smartphone. To find out more about PI, contact the author, Gary Eady, using the following email address:

technology@sightforsurrey.org.uk