

Amazon Alexa, Echo & Fire TV | Medium | 2 min read

Alexa Guard, Brief Mode and Follow-up Mode: what they do

Please note: independent guidance. Vision Tech is not affiliated with the maker. Menus differ between models and software versions, so check the manual or on-screen help.

These are three extra features you may meet in Alexa settings. This guide explains what they are in plain words. Availability and the exact menu names depend on your device, region and the app version, so check what you see in your own app.

Brief Mode

Brief Mode makes Alexa answer with a short chime or light instead of speaking a full confirmation. For example, when you say "Alexa, turn on the lamp", it may just chime. It is useful if the spoken confirmations annoy you. The setting is in the Alexa app's settings for Alexa responses, but the exact menu path varies, so look through the **More** and **Settings** menus.

Follow-up Mode

Follow-up Mode lets you ask a second question without saying "Alexa" again. After the first answer, the ring may briefly stay lit, ready to listen. A teal bar means that Alexa is ready for you to speak without the wake word. If Alexa keeps listening when you do not want it to, you can switch Follow-up Mode off in the device settings.

Alexa Guard

Alexa Guard is an optional feature designed to keep an ear on the home while you are out. It may listen for sounds such as smoke alarms or glass breaking, and can notify you. It may need a compatible Echo, and some of its features may need a paid plan or specific devices. The exact features vary by device and change over time, so look at what the Alexa app offers for your Echo.

It should not replace a proper smoke alarm.

Turning things on or off

In the Alexa app, look through **Devices**, your Echo, and its settings, as well as **More** and **Settings**. Menu names in the Alexa app change from time to time, so if yours looks slightly different, look for the closest wording rather than worrying.

If you do not want a feature, you can switch it off at any time. Think about privacy before turning on listening features.

When to get more help

If you want Alexa to help with home safety, speak to Vision Tech about the right kit. Please do not rely on a smart speaker as your only alarm.

Still stuck? Email admin@visiontech336.com and tell us what you can see on the screen. Menus and button names can differ slightly between versions and makes. If something does not match, stop and ask rather than guess. Please never send passwords or card details.