ECTACO Partner® XL1500

English-Arabic-Chinese-Dutch-French-German-Greek-Hebrew-Italian-Japanese-Korean-Polish-Portuguese-Russian-Spanish

Talking Electronic Dictionary

&

Audio PhraseBook™

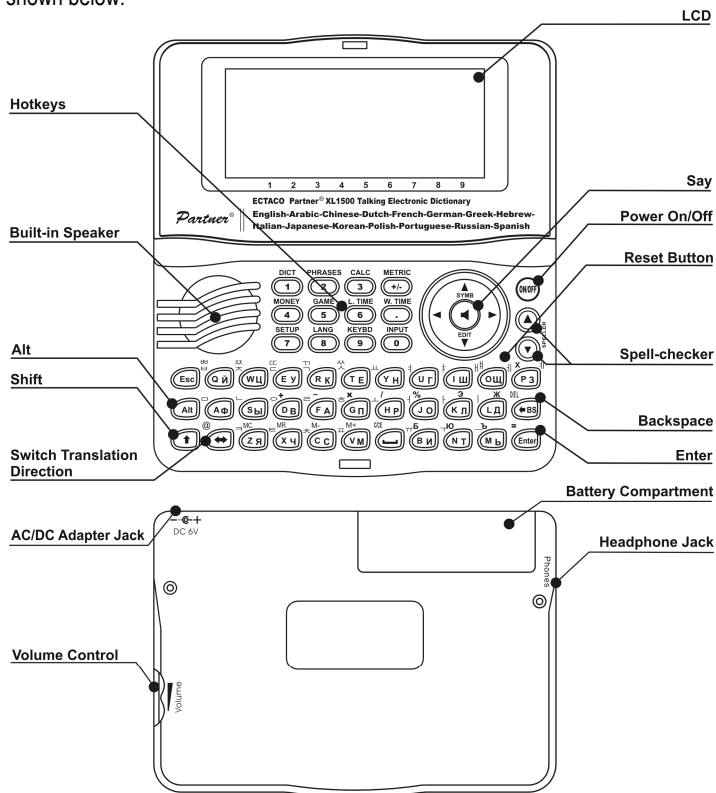# USER MANUAL

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on purchasing the ECTACO Partner® XL1500! This product is the result of the combined efforts of Ectaco's linguists, engineers, and programmers, and represents the last generation of the highest-performance integrated linguistic systems available.

The ECTACO Partner® XL1500 features:

❖ *English ⇔Arabic, English ⇔Chinese, English ⇔Dutch, English ⇔French, English ⇔German, English ⇔Greek, English ⇔Hebrew, English ⇔Italian, English ⇔Japanese (Kana and Kanji), English ⇔Korean, English ⇔Polish, English ⇔Portuguese, English ⇔Russian, English ⇔Spanish dictionaries with a total of over 3,367,000 words, including general words and idioms, medical, technical, legal, business terms, as well as slang and useful expressions*

❖ *14-topic English-Arabic-Chinese-Dutch-French-German-Greek-Hebrew-Italian-Japanese (Kana and Kanji)-Korean-Polish-Portuguese-Russian-Spanish Audio PhraseBook™ with a total of 31,000 phrases in 15 languages for daily communication designed exclusively for frequent travelers*

❖ *Unlimited voice function in English, Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish in the dictionary and phrasebook*

❖ *Reverse translation*

❖ *Multiple input methods for typing in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Russian entries*

❖ *Look-up function*

❖ *Award-winning Vector Ultima™ spell-checking system*

❖ *Phonetic transcription for English and Romanization for Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, and Korean*

❖ *Metric and currency converters*

❖ *World time clock*

❖ *Slang lock*

❖ *External power jack for AC operation*

❖ *Headphone jack*

✓ As continuous efforts are being made by the manufacturer to ensure the best quality and performance of the ECTACO Partner® products, some characteristics of the device you have purchased may slightly differ from their description in this manual.

General View

The general view and external features of the ECTACO Partner® XL1500 are shown below.

Power Supply

The ECTACO Partner® XL1500 is powered by two AAA (LR03) batteries.
When the batteries become weak, a warning message will be displayed.
In order to prevent excessively discharging the batteries and undergoing a resulting loss of data in RAM, the *Say* function will be disabled if battery power is low.

To restore full functionality of the device, replace the complete set of batteries as soon as possible. Do not mix old and new batteries.

If you plug in the AC adapter, the ▭ indicator will disappear and full functionality of the device will be restored during 1 minute.

How to replace the batteries

- Ensure the power is off. Press *ON/OFF* to turn the device off.
- ✓ Never try to remove batteries from the device when the power is on. This can seriously damage the device. If you experience difficulty turning the device off, press the *RESET* button on the right-hand side of the keyboard (over the O key) and reset the system.
- Remove the battery compartment cover by sliding it away from the device.
- Remove the used batteries and replace them with new ones.
- ✓ When replacing the batteries, you have about 30 seconds to place new ones in the device without risk of losing user-defined settings stored in RAM. Neither the manufacturer nor the dealer may be held responsible for loss of user data.
- Make sure to place the batteries according to the polarity marks (+ -) inside the compartment.
- ✓ Replace the battery compartment cover by sliding it toward the device. Make sure the cover sits in place properly.
- ✓ The ECTACO Partner® XL1500 is equipped with a jack for external power supply.
- ✓ **Use of an inappropriate external power supply may cause failure of the device and may void the warranty.** The AC/DC adapter should provide 6V and min 300mA DC.

Initialization

The initialization routine is started:

- ▫ when ECTACO Partner® XL1500 is turned on for the first time;
- ▫ when you remove the batteries (e.g. during replacement);
- ▫ after the system has been reset with the *RESET* button.
- ✓ The *RESET* button is located on the right-hand side of the keyboard (over the O key). It can be accessed with any thin object like a paper clip. Never use a needle or pin for this purpose since it can damage the device.
- If you see the *Initialize system? (y/n)* message, press the *N* key to abort initialization and customization.
- ✓ The *System initialized!* message indicates that system initialization has been completed and the factory defined default settings have been restored.

Keyboard

The standard American QWERTY keyboard is combined with Arabic, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish layouts.

- Enter the desired symbol from the keyboard by pressing the corresponding key.
- To enter an accented letter, type the corresponding non-accented letter and then press the ALT key several times – until the desired character appears.
- To enter such letters in caps, press SHIFT+key+ALT[1].

For Arabic, Greek and Hebrew, the ECTACO Partner® XL1500 offers you an on-screen key mapping table which shows the positions of the Arabic, Greek and Hebrew characters on the device's keyboard.

- To invoke the key mapping table in the *Dictionary* and *Hangman*, press SHIFT+KEYBD.
- For Arabic and Hebrew, press SHIFT+KEYBD twice to access additional letters. Alternatively, type the corresponding non-additional letter and then press the ALT key.
- To enter an accented letter in Greek, type the corresponding non-accented letter and then press the ALT key several times – until the desired character appears.

The ECTACO Partner® XL1500 has standard and phonetic modes of entering Russian letters. *Russian standard mode* allows you to enter Russian letters corresponding to the keyboard marks. *Russian phonetic mode* allows you to enter Russian letters by their phonetic consonance with English letters, e.g. you can press the *F* key to enter the Russian letter "Ф".

The table below shows the Russian and English layouts in the Russian phonetic mode[2].

q	w	e	r	t	y	u	i	o	p
я	ш/щ	е/э	р	т	ы	у/ю	и	о	п
a	s	d	f	g	h	j	k	l	
а	с	д	ф	г/ж	х	й	к	л	
	z	x	c	v		b	n	m	
	з	ь/ъ	ц/ч	в		б	н	м	

---

[1] Key1+Key2 here and further on signifies the combination of keys to use – first press and release Key1, then press and release Key2.

[2] Press ALT to enter letters shown after the slash (/) in the table.

✓ Unlike PC keyboards, there is no need to keep a key (such as SHIFT) down while pressing another one. It is enough to press it only once and release.

The available set of national characters is dependent on which language input mode is selected in the *Dictionary*.

- Use ⇔ to switch the translation direction.
- Use SHIFT+LANG to change the language pair.

Function shortcut keys

ON/OFF	Turn the device on or off
RESET	Re-initialize system
SPELLER (SHIFT+ ▼ or ▲)	Launch spell-checker
◀	Pronounce headword or a highlighted item
SHIFT+◀	Pronounce translation

Other shortcut keys open sections corresponding to the marks over the buttons (press SHIFT+ shortcut key; for example, SHIFT+DICT).

Control and edit keys

←, →	Move cursor / highlight / switch *Main Menu*
↓, ↑	Highlight / scroll lines / switch *Main Menu* / change values. Use ↑ to switch between the *Insert* and *Overtype* modes.
▼ , ▲	Scroll pages
ENTER	Execute
␣	Enter space
ESC	Close active window / cancel / return to the previous page
ALT	Enter accented characters
SHIFT	Type in uppercase
←BS	Delete character to the left of the cursor
⇔	Switch translation direction
SHIFT+⇔	Enter "@"
SHIFT+↑	Enter additional symbols[3]

---

[3] Press ▼ , ▲ to move between lines of symbols, if available. Press the corresponding numeric key to enter the desired symbol.

Chinese, Japanese, Korean Input Methods

The ECTACO Partner® XL1500 provides multiple input methods for typing in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean entries.

- Set the *Chinese*, *Japanese* or *Korean* to *English* translation direction in the *Dictionary*.
- Press SHIFT+INPUT. The *Set input method* window will appear.
- Use ↓, ↑ to select the desired input method and press ENTER. The corresponding icon will be shown at the upper left of the display.

Chinese Input Methods

The ECTACO Partner® XL1500 features two Chinese text input methods: *PinYin* and *5 Strokes*.

PinYin

This method provides the input of characters by their Mandarin pronunciation.

- Enter a syllable using Roman letters.
- To narrow your search, use the numeric keys (from 1 to 5) to designate tone.
- Use ←, →, ↓, ↑ to select the desired character in the list which will appear either automatically or after you press ENTER or SPACE[4].
- Press ENTER.

5 Strokes

This method provides the input of characters based on their structure.

- Enter the combination of Roman letters corresponding to the desired Chinese character.
- If prompted, use ←, →, ↓, ↑ to select the desired character in the list which will appear either automatically or after you press ENTER or SPACE.
- Press ENTER.

Japanese Input Methods

The device provides five methods to type in Japanese entries: *Hiragana, Katakana, Kanji, Strokes,* and *Radical*.

✓ *Hiragana* and *Katakana* are available in the *Kana⇨English* dictionary. *Hiragana, Katakana, Kanji, Strokes* and *Radical* are available in the *Kanji⇨English* dictionary.

Hiragana and Katakana

---

[4] You can also select a character by pressing the number button corresponding to the character's position shown by numbers below the display.

These two methods allow you to input Hiragana and Katakana syllabary characters by their Roman transcriptions.
- Start typing from the keyboard.
- As you type, the sequence of Roman letters automatically converts to Hiragana or Katakana.

Kanji

This method provides the input of the Chinese characters (Kanji), which are used in the Japanese language, by their Hiragana pronunciation.
- Type a syllable (or a vowel) from the keyboard.

As you type, the sequence of Roman letters automatically converts to Hiragana.
- Press ENTER to see the corresponding Kanji characters.
- Use ←, →,↓, ↑ to select the desired character.

Strokes

This method allows you to enter a Kanji character based on its total number of strokes.
- Enter the number of strokes forming the desired character from the numeric pad. Press ENTER or SPACE.
- Use ←, →,↓, ↑ to select the desired character.
- ✓ Note that in some instances you will need to choose the character from variants displayed at the bottom line of the list. There may be more than one row available.

Radical

This method allows you to enter Kanji characters based on their radical parts.
- Enter the number of strokes forming the radical of the desired character from the numeric pad. Press ENTER or SPACE.
- Select the desired radical by using ←, →,↓, ↑. Press ENTER.
- Enter the number of additional strokes to accomplish the character. Press ENTER.
- Select the desired character by using ←, →,↓, ↑.

Korean Input Methods

The ECTACO Partner® XL1500 provides two methods to input Korean characters: *Hangul* and *Romanization*.

Hangul

This method allows inputting Korean characters based on their component parts.
- Type up to 5 characters (parts) from the keyboard.
- ✓ Use the SHIFT key to enter additional Korean characters marked in black over the keys.
- Press ENTER or SPACE when you have entered all the necessary parts.

Romanization

This method provides the input of characters by their pronunciation.

- Type the character's transcription using Roman letters.
- Press ENTER or SPACE to input the corresponding Korean character.

Display

ECTACO Partner® XL1500 features a high-resolution screen (160x64 pixels).
The indicator line is at the top of the display and shows the following indicators:

EDIT	Text input available
SHIFT	SHIFT key pressed
INS	*Insert* mode selected
▼▲	Vertical scrolling or paging enabled (more text available)
◀▶	Horizontal scrolling enabled
▭	Batteries low

Main Menu

The ECTACO Partner® XL1500 *Main Menu* consists of 8 functional icons, which visually organize access to the dictionary's sections.

To display the *Main Menu*, turn the device on, or close a current section.

- Move between icons using ↓,↑, or←,→.
- To open a section which icon is highlighted, press ENTER.

The icons shown in the *Main Menu* represent the following sections:

📖	Dictionary	$¥	Currency Conversion
🤝	Phrasebook	😎	Hangman Word Game
🖩	Calculator	🏢🕐	Local Time / World Time
🎰	Metric Conversion	🔧	Setup

DICTIONARY

The *Dictionary* section includes *English ⇔Arabic, English ⇔Chinese, English ⇔Dutch, English ⇔French, English ⇔German, English ⇔Greek, English ⇔Hebrew, English ⇔Italian, English ⇔Japanese Kana (JKan), English ⇔Japanese Kanji (JKnj), English ⇔Korean, English ⇔Polish, English ⇔Portuguese, English ⇔Russian, English ⇔Spanish* bidirectional dictionaries containing over 3,367,000 words in total.

- Enter the *Dictionary* section.
- Use ⇔ to switch the translation direction.

- Use SHIFT+LANG to change the language pair.

    Viewing entries

- To view a translation of a word, enter it from the keyboard.

```
        English⇒Spanish
jo|


job
```

- If the *Advanced Search* mode is turned ON, the headword closest in spelling
  to the portion you have entered so far will be displayed under the input line.
  When the desired word is displayed, press ENTER to see its translation(s).

```
dictionary
['dɪkʃə,nerɪ]
[N]
vocabolario [M], dizionario
[M], lessico [M]
```

Use:

- ↓,↑ to scroll through the translations;
- ▲, ▼ to switch between adjacent entries.
- Press ESC or any letter key (if applicable) to return to the input line, and
  translate another word in the same dictionary.

    Parts of Speech and Gender Labels

Translations of a headword are listed in alphabetical order by part of speech.

A – adjective	ID – idiom	PHR – phrase
ABBR – abbreviation	INTRJ – interjection	PREF – prefix
ADV – adverb	N – noun	PREP – preposition
ART – article	NPR – proper noun	PRON – pronoun
AUX – auxiliary	NUM – numeral	SUFF – suffix
CONJ – conjunction	PART – particle	V – verb

French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, and Russian nouns are
marked with gender and number labels.

F – feminine	MN – masculine or neuter
FN – feminine or neuter	MPL – masculine plural
FPL – feminine plural	N – neuter
M – masculine	NPL – neuter plural
MF – masculine or feminine	PL – plural
MFPL – masculine or feminine plural	

11

Certain words and expressions in the dictionary may be marked with the specific abbreviations.

Reverse Translation

For your convenience, the ECTACO Partner® XL1500 provides a *Reverse Translation* for all words and expressions in the *Dictionary*.
To obtain a reverse translation within the selected language pair:

- press ←, → to select a word or expression for the reverse translation;

```
explanation
[,eksplə'neɪʃən]
[N]
objaśnienie [N],
wytłumaczenie [N],
```

- press ENTER to obtain its reverse translation.

To translate a word into other languages:

- in the displayed translation, highlight the desired English entry, or make sure it is in the headword position;
- press SHIFT+LANG and select the target language;
- press ENTER.

You can make up to nine reverse translations in succession (without closing windows). The message *Last translation* is displayed when the limit is reached. Use:

- ESC to close the *Reverse Translation* windows.[5]
- ESC or any letter button (if applicable) to return to the input line.

Vector Ultima™ Spell-checker[6]

When you are unsure of the spelling of a word, the multilingual spell-checker will help you.

- Type the word as you hear it. For example, "foll" for "fall".
- Press SHIFT+SPELLER (SHIFT and either of the ▲, ▼ keys). You will see a list of suggested variants, if any.
- Select the desired word and press ENTER.

---

[5] The windows will be closed in the reverse order.

[6] Available for Arabic, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish.

✓ If the spell-checker is unable to suggest alternative words, the *No variants* message will appear.

Pronunciation of words and sentences

The Text-To-Speech technology provides pronunciation of words and phrases for all 15 languages in the *Dictionary*.

• Display an entry.

Use:

- ◀ to listen to the pronunciation of the headword.
- SHIFT+◀ to listen to the pronunciation of all translations currently displayed on the screen.

• You can also listen to the pronunciation of separate words or phrases listed in the entry. Simply make the selection by using ←, → and press the ◀ key.

✓ For English, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish, the device is able to generate pronunciation of any text, not limited to *Dictionary* entries. Simply type a word or phrase in the input line of the corresponding *Dictionary* and press the ◀ key to listen to its pronunciation.

PHRASEBOOK

The phrasebook contains over 31,000 phrases in 15 languages: English, Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese (Kana and Kanji), Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish. The phrases are divided into 14 conversational topics.

Basics	Bank	Sport / Leisure
Traveling	Communication means	Health / Drugstore
Hotel	In the restaurant	Beauty Care
Local transport	Shopping	Calling for police
Sightseeing	Repairs / Laundry	

Most of the topics contain a number of subtopics.

• Enter the *Phrasebook* section.

```
        Phrasebook
Basics
Traveling
Hotel
Local transport
```

• Select a topic. Press ENTER to see its subtopics.
• Select a subtopic. Press ENTER to see the phrases.

When viewing phrases, use:

- ▼ or ▲ to scroll through the phrases;
- LANG to set the source language;
- SHIFT+LANG to set the target language;
- ◀ to listen to the pronunciation of the phrase;
- SHIFT+◀ to listen to the pronunciation of the phrase translation.

When you exit *Phrasebook*, the source language will be reset to English, the target language will be reset to that specified in the *Setup* section.

CALCULATOR

• Enter the *Calculator* section.

When entering numbers and operations from the keyboard, there is no need to press the SHIFT key while in the *Calculator* mode. Use this application as an ordinary pocket calculator.

METRIC CONVERSION

With the ECTACO Partner® XL1500 you may easily convert measurements from the British-American system into the metric system commonly used in Europe and vice versa, as well as convert within each system.

- Enter the *Metric Conversion* section.
- Choose a subsection by pressing ↓,↑. Press ENTER.
- Input the value.
- ✓ There may be more than four units of measure in the subsection – if applicable, use ↓,↑ for scrolling.

CURRENCY CONVERSION

The *Currency Conversion* function allows you to instantly calculate conversion values between twelve pre-installed currencies and three user-defined currencies.

• Enter the *Currency Conversion* section.

Setting and Checking Rates

- Select the *Set rate* subsection to specify currency names and rates.
- Select a currency. Press ENTER.
- ✓ You can specify or change the names of any of the currencies listed. New currencies may be added in place of *???*.
- Change/specify the currency name. Press ENTER to open the next window.
- Specify an exchange rate relative to the basic currency (whose rate should equal 1).

14

✓ The default exchange rate for all currencies is 1.
• Press ENTER to save changes.

  Conversion

• Enter the *Calculation* subsection.
• Select a currency name and enter an amount.
While you are typing a new amount, the conversion is being performed.

HANGMAN WORD GAME

The ECTACO Partner® XL1500 features the learning game *Hangman*, which can improve your spelling skills and enhance your personal vocabulary.
Language pairs available: English⇔Arabic, English⇒Chinese, English⇔Dutch, English⇔French, English⇔German, English⇔Greek, English⇔Hebrew, English⇔Italian, English⇒Japanese (Kana and Kanji), English⇒Korean, English⇔Polish, English⇔Portuguese, English⇔Russian, English⇔Spanish.
• Enter the *Hangman* section.
• Press SHIFT+LANG.
• Select the target language for the game.
Once the language is chosen, a new game will begin.
• Try to guess letters in the word by entering them from the keyboard.
✓ Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish non-accented letters substitute for the accented ones.
If you guess a letter correctly, it will appear in place of an asterisk in the word.
The number displayed shows the number of tries remaining.
• When playing, press ENTER to display the translation of the hidden word (which will count as one try). To hide the translation, press ESC.
• Press the ◀ button to hear the hidden word (counts as one try).
• After the game ends, the hidden word and its translation(s) will be shown.
• Press ESC to return to a new game.

LOCAL AND WORLD TIME

Using the *Local and world time* section, you may view the current time in cities around the globe.
• Enter the *Local and world time* section.

  Local Time

• Select the *Local time* subsection.

The *Local Time* screen shows the names of the selected city and country (default: New York, USA), day of the week, the date, and the current time for that city. You may specify these settings in the *Setup* section.

World Time

• Select the *World time* subsection.

```
           World time
New York
USA
Mon, 3 July, 2006
03:10:21 PM
```

The *World Time* screen shows the names of the selected city and country (default: New York, USA), day of the week, the date, and the current time for that city.

• To see information for another city, scroll through the alphabetic list by using ↓,↑.
• To see information for another city of the same country or switch to another country, scroll through the alphabetic list by pressing ▼, ▲.
• Also, you can quickly find a desired city by pressing the first letter of its name and scrolling through the list by using ↓,↑.
• When you find the desired city, press ENTER to save changes. The next time you enter this section, the city you have chosen will be displayed first.

SETUP

Personalize your ECTACO Partner® XL1500 and ensure good maintenance of your personal records by selecting options in the *Setup* section.
• Enter the *Setup* section.
Most of the *Setup* section options are very easy to adjust. Unless stated otherwise, enter a subsection and select the desired option with ↓,↑ and ←, →(if applicable). Then press ENTER to confirm your choice.

Set language
Use this subsection to set the target language for the *Dictionary* and *Phrasebook*.

Slang lock
In this subsection you can hide slang words or phrases contained in the dictionaries. For example, you may forbid your children to access slang. *Slang lock* is ON by default. To set *Slang lock* OFF, enter the **showslan** password and press ENTER.

Advanced search

If the *Advanced search* mode is turned ON, the headword closest in spelling to the portion you have entered so far will be displayed under the input line. Advanced search is ON by default.

Russian keyboard mode

In this subsection, you can choose one of the available Russian keyboard modes: *Standard* or *Phonetic*.

Russian standard mode allows you to enter Russian letters in accordance with the keyboard marks. *Russian phonetic mode* allows you to enter Russian letters by their phonetic consonance with English letters, e.g. you can press the *F* key to enter the Russian letter "Ф".
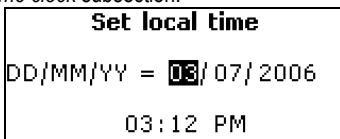
Key tone

This feature is designed to produce a short beep every time you press a key on the device's keyboard. The key tone is turned ON by default.

Real time clock

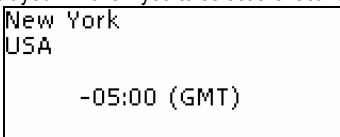In this subsection you can choose the city to display in the *Local time* section and adjust the current time.

• Enter the *Real time clock* subsection.

```
        Set local time

DD/MM/YY = 03/07/2006

        03:12 PM
```

• Specify the current date and time.
• Use the "A" and "P" keys to specify AM and PM respectively.
• Press ENTER to save changes.

The next section displayed will allow you to select the local city.

```
New York
USA

        -05:00 (GMT)
```

This display shows the city and country names and the city's GMT offset.
Refer to page 16 to learn how to find the desired country or city in the list.

• When you find the desired city, press ENTER to save changes.

Date format
The default Day-Month-Year date format can be changed to Month-Day-Year.

Time format
The default 24-hour time format can be changed to the American 12-hour format.

Set contrast
The default contrast setting can be changed in the *Set contrast* subsection.
• Change the contrast level by using ←, →.

Speech options
Suit your own pronunciation by adjusting the speed and frequency of the built-in speech synthesizer.
• Use ENTER to move between the *Speech frequency* and *Speech speed* bars, and ←, → to adjust the levels of each option.

Set sleep time
The automatic power off has a preset delay of 3 minutes. This feature saves battery life by shutting down the device after a specified period of inactivity. The adjustable range is from 1 to 5 minutes.