LEARNING MADE EASY

Samsung Galaxy® S20

for dummies®

A Wiley Brand

Explore all the new features of the Galaxy S20

Watch movies, take videos and photos, and use maps

Have fun with games, useful apps, and social media

Bill Hughes

Author of all editions of *Samsung Galaxy S For Dummies*

Samsung Galaxy® S20

by Bill Hughes

for dummies®
A Wiley Brand

Samsung Galaxy® S20 For Dummies®

Published by: **John Wiley & Sons, Inc.,** 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774, www.wiley.com

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Published simultaneously in Canada

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2020936409

ISBN 978-1-119-68049-9 (pbk); ISBN 978-1-119-68050-5 (ebk); ISBN 978-1-119-68055-0 (ebk)

Samsung Galaxy® S20 For Dummies®

To view this book's Cheat Sheet, simply go to www.dummies.com and search for “Samsung Galaxy S20 For Dummies Cheat Sheet” in the Search box.

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Introduction

The Samsung Galaxy S20 5G, S20+ 5G, and S20 Ultra 5G are powerful smartphones, among the most powerful mobile phones ever sold. As of the publication of this book, the Galaxy S20s are the standard against which all other Android-based phones are measured.

Each cellular carrier offers a slightly customized version of the Galaxy S20 line-up. Some phones from cellular carriers come out of the box with preloaded applications, games, or files. Most come with accessories, such as a corded headset; others don't. This book doesn't dwell on these kinds of differences.

The name for each network is different, these phones are largely the same. (At least one marketing person at each cellular carrier is cringing as you read this.) This similarity allows me to write this book in a way that covers the common capabilities.

At a more core level, these phones are built for high-speed wireless communications, in particular the 5G networks you're seeing in ads. The cellular carriers have spent kajillions upgrading their networks to offer more coverage and better data speeds than their competition. Again, this book doesn't dwell on these differences in network technology because they don't really make much difference in ways that you can see in a book. (Again, at least one engineering person at each cellular carrier is cringing as you read this.)

Similarly, most of the capabilities among the different Galaxy S20 models are similar. The S20+ has a bigger screen, a bigger battery, and more camera lenses than the S20. Similarly, the S20 Ultra has a bigger screen, a bigger battery, and more camera capabilities than its

little brothers. Actually, that's putting it mildly. The S20 Ultra has oh-my-goodness-you-cannot-be-serious kind of camera capabilities compared to every other mobile phone in the known universe. Otherwise, the three versions of the Galaxy S20 are practically identical. When there is an important distinction between the S20 5G, the S20+ 5G, and the S20 Ultra 5G, I mention it. Otherwise, I just call the phone the Galaxy S20 or just S20.

I assume that you already have a Galaxy S20, and I just hope that you have good coverage where you spend more of your time with your phone. If so, you'll be fine. If not, you need to switch to another network; otherwise, the experience with your phone will be frustrating. I would advise you to return your phone to that carrier and buy your Galaxy S20 at another cellular carrier. As long as you have good cellular data coverage, owning a Samsung Galaxy S20 will be an exciting experience!

First, in much the same way that different brands of PCs are all based on the Microsoft Windows operating system, all Galaxy S phones use the Google Android platform. The good news is that the Android platform has proven to be widely popular, even more successful than Google originally expected when it first announced Android in November 2007. More people are using Android-based phones, and more third parties are writing applications. This is good news because it offers you more options for applications (more on this in Chapter 8 on the Play Store, where you buy applications).

In addition, all Galaxy S20 phones use a powerful graphics processor, employ Samsung's Super AMOLED touchscreen, and are covered in Corning's Gorilla Glass. The superior screen differentiates this product line from

other Android phones. Because of these enhanced capabilities, you can navigate around the screen with multi-touch screen gestures with ease. Plus, the videos look stunning from many angles.

Smartphones are getting smarter all the time, and the Galaxy S20 is one of the smartest. However, just because you've used a smartphone in the past doesn't mean you should expect to use your new Galaxy S20 without a bit of guidance.

You may not be familiar with using a multi-touch screen, and your new phone offers a lot of capabilities that you may or may not be familiar with. There used to be a physical button on the front to bring you back to the Home screen. It's no longer a physical button; instead, it's now software based. It would be unfortunate to find out from a kid in the neighborhood that the phone you've been carrying around for several months could solve a problem you've been having because you were never told that the solution was in your pocket the whole time.

In fact, Samsung is proud of the usability of its entire Galaxy lineup — and proud that the user's manual is really just a quick start guide. You can find lots of instructions on the web. However, you have to know what you don't know to get what you want unless you plan to view every tutorial.

That's where this book comes in. This book is a hands-on guide to getting the most out of your Galaxy S20.

About This Book

This book is a reference — you don't have to read it from beginning to end to get all you need out of it. The information is clearly organized and easy to access. You don't need thick glasses to understand this book. This

book helps you figure out what you want to do — and then tells you how to do it in plain English.

Within this book, you may note that some web addresses break across two lines of text. If you're reading this book in print and want to visit one of these web pages, simply key in the web address exactly as it's noted in the text, pretending as though the line break doesn't exist. If you're reading this as an e-book, you've got it easy — just click the web address to be taken directly to the web page.

Foolish Assumptions

You know what they say about assuming, so I don't do much of it in this book. But I do make a few assumptions about you:

- **You have a Galaxy S20 phone.** You may be thinking about buying a Galaxy S20 phone, but my money's on your already owning one. After all, getting your hands on the phone is the best part!
- **You're not totally new to mobile phones.** You know that your Galaxy S20 phone is capable of doing more than the average phone, and you're eager to find out what your phone can do.
- **You've used a computer.** You don't have to be a computer expert, but you at least know how to check your email and surf the web.

Icons Used in This Book

Throughout this book, I used *icons* (little pictures in the margin) to draw your attention to various types of information. Here's a key to what those icons mean:

TIP This whole book is like one big series of tips. When I share especially useful tips and tricks, I mark them with the Tip icon.

REMEMBER This book is a reference, which means you don't have to commit it to memory — there is no test at the end. But once in a while, I do tell you things that are so important that I think you should remember them, and when I do, I mark them with the Remember icon.

WARNING Whenever you may do something that could cause a major headache, I warn you with the, er, Warning icon.

TECHNICAL STUFF These sections provide a little more information than is necessary to use your phone. The hope is that these sections convey extra knowledge to help you understand what is going on when things go wrong, or at least differently than you might have expected.

Beyond the Book

In addition to what you're reading right now, this product also comes with a free access-anywhere Cheat Sheet. To get to this Cheat Sheet, simply go to www.dummies.com and type **Samsung Galaxy S20 For Dummies Cheat Sheet** in the Search box.

Where to Go from Here

You don’t have to read this book from cover to cover. You can skip around as you like. For example, if you need the basics on calling, texting, and emailing, turn to Part 2. To discover more about photos, games, and apps, go to Part 4.

Many readers are already somewhat familiar with smartphones and won’t need the basic information found in Parts 1 and 2. A reasonably astute mobile phone user can figure out how to use the phone, text, and data capabilities. Parts 1, 2, and 3 are not for those readers. For them, I recommend skipping ahead to the chapters in Parts 4 through 6.

Former iPhone users, on the other hand, are a special case. (First, welcome to the world of Android!) The reality is that the iPhone and Galaxy S series have very similar capabilities, but these functions are just done in slightly different ways and emphasize different approaches to the similar problems. iPhone users, don’t worry if you find that this book spends a fair amount of time explaining capabilities with which you’re familiar. You can read through those chapters quickly, focus on the *how* instead of the description of *what,* and bypass potential frustration.

Current Samsung Galaxy S9 and S10 users are also a special case. The Samsung Galaxy S20 is very similar to the earlier Galaxy S phones in many ways. Galaxy S20 operates mostly like the S9 and S10, but has improvements in usability, power consumption, and performance. Plus, the camera has even more capabilities (if you can believe it!). If you’re comfortable with the Galaxy S9 or S10 and now have a Galaxy S20, Chapters 15 and beyond will be of interest to you.

The majority of readers of this book are actually very astute and get the fact that this book covers the basics of using the Samsung Galaxy S20. A subset of readers complain in Internet reviews that a *For Dummies* book is too basic. If you do this, people will know that you did not read the title. Be sure to read the title and avoid public embarrassment.

Part 1

Getting Started with the Samsung Galaxy S20

IN THIS PART ...

Review the capabilities of cellphones and what sets smartphones apart.

Turn off your phone and manage sleep mode.

Chapter 1

Exploring What You Can Do with Your Phone

IN THIS CHAPTER

- **» Reviewing the basic capabilities of just about any mobile phone**
- **» Understanding what sets smartphones apart**
- **» Mapping out what makes Samsung Galaxy S20 phones so cool**
- **» Getting you prepared to enjoy your phone**

Whether you want just the basics from a mobile phone (make and take phone calls, customize your ringtone, take some pictures, maybe use a Bluetooth headset) or you want your phone to be always by your side (a tool for multiple uses throughout your day), you can make that happen. In this chapter, I outline all the things your Samsung Galaxy S20 can do — from the basics to what makes Galaxy S20 phones different from the rest.

Discovering the Basics of Your Phone

All mobile phones on the market today include basic functions, and even some entry-level phones are a little more sophisticated. Of course, Samsung includes all basic functions on the Galaxy S20 model. In addition to making and taking calls (see Chapter 3) and sending and

receiving texts (see Chapter 4), the Galaxy S20 sports the following basic features:

- **64MP digital camera:** This resolution is for the S20 and S20+. The S20 Ultra has a mind-boggling 108MP. The mere 64MP is far more than is needed for posting good-quality images on the Internet. It is about right for making 24-x-36 posters that are photo quality. There is also a front-facing camera with 10MP that is useful for videoconference calls and selfies along with some combination of specialty lenses, depending upon the model. Your phone has some amazing capabilities (see Chapter 9 for more information on cameras and photographs and Chapter 10 on videos).
- **Ringtones:** You can replace the standard ringtone with custom ringtones that you download to your phone. You also can specify different rings for different numbers.
- **Bluetooth:** The Galaxy S20 phone supports stereo and standard Bluetooth devices. (See Chapter 3 for more on Bluetooth.)
- **High-resolution screen:** The Galaxy S20, S20+, and S20 Ultra offer the highest-resolution touchscreens on the market (3,200 x 1,440 pixels).
- **Capacitive touchscreen:** The Galaxy S20 phone offers a very slick touchscreen that’s sensitive enough to allow you to interact with the screen accurately, but not so sensitive that it’s hard to manage. In addition, it has an optional setting that steps up the sensitivity for special circumstances, like when you want to use one hand!

Taking Your Phone to the Next Level: The Smartphone Features

In addition to the basic capabilities of any entry-level phone, the Galaxy S20, which is based on the popular Android platform for mobile devices, has capabilities associated with other smartphones, such as the Apple iPhone:

- **Internet access:** Access websites through a web browser on your phone.
- **Wireless email:** Send and receive email from your phone.
- **Multimedia:** Play music and videos on your phone.
- **Contact Manager:** The Galaxy S20 lets you take shortcuts that save you from having to enter someone's ten-digit number each time you want to call or text a friend. In fact, the Contact Manager can track all the numbers that an individual might have, store an email address and photo for the person, and synchronize with the program you use for managing contacts on both your personal and work PCs!
- **Digital camcorder:** The Galaxy S20 comes with a built-in digital camcorder that records live video at a resolution that you can set, including 4K/UHD (ultra-high definition, which is the resolution that is available on the newest televisions).
- **Mapping and directions:** The Galaxy S20 uses GPS (Global Positioning System) along with other complementary positioning systems to tell you where