

LEARNING MADE EASY



2025 Edition

# iPhone<sup>®</sup>

for  
**dummies**<sup>®</sup>  
A Wiley Brand



Set up your iPhone  
and sync your data

Take high-quality photos  
and videos

Master Apple Intelligence

**Guy Hart-Davis**

Author of *macOS For Dummies*





# iPhone<sup>®</sup>

2025 Edition

**by Guy Hart-Davis**

for  
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A Wiley Brand

## iPhone® For Dummies®, 2025 Edition

Published by: **John Wiley & Sons, Inc.**, 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774, [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com)

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Library of Congress Control Number is available from the publisher.

ISBN 978-1-394-29154-0 (pbk); ISBN 978-1-394-29156-4 (ebk); ISBN 978-1-394-29155-7 (ebk)

# Contents at a Glance

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|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>Introduction</b> .....                                     | 1   |
| <b>Part 1: Up and Running with Your iPhone</b> .....          | 5   |
| CHAPTER 1: Setting Up and Navigating Your iPhone .....        | 7   |
| CHAPTER 2: Mastering Essential Moves .....                    | 25  |
| CHAPTER 3: Getting in Sync .....                              | 47  |
| CHAPTER 4: Using Control Center and Siri .....                | 65  |
| CHAPTER 5: Setting Your iPhone Straight .....                 | 79  |
| CHAPTER 6: Finding and Managing Apps .....                    | 113 |
| <b>Part 2: Communicating and Organizing</b> .....             | 125 |
| CHAPTER 7: Making Phone and FaceTime Calls .....              | 127 |
| CHAPTER 8: Going on a Mobile Safari .....                     | 147 |
| CHAPTER 9: Texting 1, 2, 3: Messages and Notes .....          | 167 |
| CHAPTER 10: The Email Must Get Through .....                  | 183 |
| CHAPTER 11: Managing Your Calendar and Commitments .....      | 211 |
| CHAPTER 12: Using Maps, Stocks, Voice Memos, and Health ..... | 225 |
| <b>Part 3: Creating and Consuming Multimedia</b> .....        | 247 |
| CHAPTER 13: Enjoying Music and Podcasts .....                 | 249 |
| CHAPTER 14: Shooting, Editing, and Sharing Photos .....       | 267 |
| CHAPTER 15: Shooting and Watching Videos .....                | 295 |
| <b>Part 4: The Part of Tens</b> .....                         | 309 |
| CHAPTER 16: Ten+ Essential iPhone Apps and Features .....     | 311 |
| CHAPTER 17: Ten Helpful Hints, Tips, and Shortcuts .....      | 323 |
| <b>Index</b> .....  | 335 |



# Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....                                      | 1  |
| About This Book .....  | 1  |
| Foolish Assumptions .....                                      | 2  |
| Icons Used in This Book .....                                  | 3  |
| Beyond the Book .....  | 3  |
| Where to Go from Here .....                                    | 4  |
| <br>   |    |
| <b>PART 1: UP AND RUNNING WITH YOUR IPHONE</b> .....           | 5  |
| <br>   |    |
| <b>CHAPTER 1: Setting Up and Navigating Your iPhone</b> .....  | 7  |
| Meeting Your iPhone's Hardware .....                           | 8  |
| On the front .....   | 8  |
| On the back .....  | 9  |
| On the sides .....   | 10 |
| On the bottom .....  | 11 |
| Setting Up and Activating Your iPhone .....                    | 12 |
| Turning on your iPhone .....                                   | 12 |
| Choosing the language, country or region, and appearance ..... | 13 |
| Using Quick Start or continuing setup .....                    | 13 |
| Setting up your iPhone without another device .....            | 14 |
| Starting to Use Your iPhone .....                              | 16 |
| Meeting the Home screen .....                                  | 16 |
| Identifying the status bar icons .....                         | 18 |
| App Library and Home screen widgets .....                      | 20 |
| Locking and Unlocking Your iPhone .....                        | 21 |
| Powering Down Your iPhone .....                                | 21 |
| Coming to Grips with Apple Intelligence .....                  | 22 |
| <br>   |    |
| <b>CHAPTER 2: Mastering Essential Moves</b> .....              | 25 |
| Tapping, Swiping, Dragging, and More .....                     | 25 |
| Getting the Hang of the Onscreen Keyboards .....               | 27 |
| Understanding the special-use keys .....                       | 28 |
| One-handed keyboard .....                                      | 29 |
| Anticipating what comes next .....                             | 30 |
| Correcting mistakes .....                                      | 32 |
| Positioning the insertion point .....                          | 32 |
| Choosing an alternative keyboard .....                         | 33 |
| Cutting, copying, pasting, and replacing .....                 | 33 |
| Multitasking and Switching Apps .....                          | 35 |
| Navigating beyond the First Home Screen Page .....             | 36 |
| Organizing Home Screen Icons into Folders .....                | 38 |

|                   |   |           |
|-------------------|---|-----------|
|                   | Visiting App Library . . . . .  | 39        |
|                   | Working with Widgets . . . . .  | 40        |
|                   | Searching Your iPhone . . . . .   | 41        |
|                   | Using Notifications . . . . .   | 42        |
|                   | Using Today View . . . . .  | 43        |
|                   | Customizing the Lock Screen . . . . .   | 43        |
|                   | Using StandBy . . . . .   | 45        |
| <b>CHAPTER 3:</b> | <b>Getting in Sync . . . . .</b>  | <b>47</b> |
|                   | Syncing via iCloud . . . . .  | 48        |
|                   | Syncing with Your Mac or Windows PC . . . . .   | 51        |
|                   | What you need to know about iPhone backups . . . . .                                  | 51        |
|                   | Getting ready to sync . . . . .   | 53        |
|                   | Syncing Contacts and Calendars . . . . .  | 58        |
|                   | Syncing Your Media . . . . .  | 58        |
|                   | Music, movies, TV shows, and podcasts . . . . .                                       | 59        |
|                   | Photos . . . . .  | 61        |
|                   | Syncing Items Manually . . . . .  | 62        |
| <b>CHAPTER 4:</b> | <b>Using Control Center and Siri . . . . .</b>  | <b>65</b> |
|                   | Controlling Control Center . . . . .  | 65        |
|                   | Favorites page in Control Center . . . . .  | 67        |
|                   | Now Playing page in Control Center . . . . .  | 69        |
|                   | Home App page in Control Center . . . . .   | 70        |
|                   | Connectivity page in Control Center . . . . .   | 70        |
|                   | Customizing Control Center to work your way . . . . .                                 | 71        |
|                   | Summoning Siri . . . . .  | 73        |
|                   | What can you say to Siri? . . . . .   | 74        |
|                   | Siri shortcuts . . . . .  | 75        |
|                   | Using dictation . . . . .   | 76        |
|                   | Correcting mistakes . . . . .   | 76        |
|                   | Making Siri smarter . . . . .   | 77        |
|                   | Typing to Siri . . . . .  | 77        |
| <b>CHAPTER 5:</b> | <b>Setting Your iPhone Straight . . . . .</b>   | <b>79</b> |
|                   | Meeting the Settings Screen . . . . .   | 79        |
|                   | Apple Account and iCloud Settings . . . . .   | 80        |
|                   | Airplane Mode, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Cellular, Personal Hotspot,<br>and Battery . . . . . | 82        |
|                   | Airplane mode . . . . .   | 82        |
|                   | Wi-Fi . . . . .   | 82        |
|                   | Bluetooth . . . . .   | 83        |
|                   | Cellular . . . . .  | 85        |
|                   | Personal Hotspot . . . . .  | 86        |



|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Battery Settings . . . . .                                     | 86         |
| General Settings . . . . .                                     | 88         |
| Accessibility Settings . . . . .                               | 91         |
| Accessibility features in the Vision Box . . . . .             | 92         |
| Accessibility features in the Physical and Motor box . . . . . | 93         |
| Accessibility features in the Hearing box . . . . .            | 94         |
| Accessibility features in the Speech box . . . . .             | 95         |
| Accessibility features in the Accessories box . . . . .        | 95         |
| Accessibility features in the General box . . . . .            | 96         |
| Camera Settings . . . . .                                      | 97         |
| Control Center Settings . . . . .                              | 97         |
| Display & Brightness Settings . . . . .                        | 97         |
| Home Screen & App Library Settings . . . . .                   | 98         |
| Search, Siri, and StandBy Settings . . . . .                   | 99         |
| Search settings . . . . .                                      | 99         |
| Siri and Apple Intelligence settings . . . . .                 | 99         |
| StandBy settings . . . . .                                     | 99         |
| Wallpaper Settings . . . . .                                   | 100        |
| Notifications, Sounds & Haptics, Focus, and Screen             |            |
| Time Settings . . . . .  | 101        |
| Notifications . . . . .  | 101        |
| Sounds & Haptics . . . . .                                     | 102        |
| Focus . . . . .  | 103        |
| Screen Time . . . . .  | 104        |
| Face ID/Touch ID & Passcode . . . . .                          | 106        |
| Emergency SOS . . . . .  | 107        |
| Privacy & Security . . . . .                                   | 108        |
| Location Services . . . . .                                    | 108        |
| Tracking . . . . .   | 109        |
| Privacy settings for individual apps and features . . . . .    | 109        |
| Safety Check . . . . .   | 110        |
| Sensitive Content Warning . . . . .                            | 110        |
| Analytics & Improvements, Apple Advertising, and               |            |
| App Privacy Report . . . . .                                   | 110        |
| Lockdown Mode . . . . .  | 111        |
| <b>CHAPTER 6: Finding and Managing Apps . . . . .</b>          | <b>113</b> |
| Where and How Do You Get Apps? . . . . .                       | 113        |
| Finding, Installing, and Updating Apps . . . . .               | 114        |
| Browsing for apps . . . . .                                    | 115        |
| Checking out an app's details . . . . .                        | 115        |
| Downloading an app . . . . .                                   | 116        |
| Updating your apps . . . . .                                   | 116        |
| Deleting an App . . . . .                                      | 117        |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Organizing Your Apps . . . . .                                 | 118        |
| Organizing your apps across Home screen pages . . . . .        | 118        |
| Managing apps with App Library . . . . .                       | 119        |
| Locking and hiding apps . . . . .                              | 120        |
| Visiting Apple's Arcade . . . . .                              | 122        |
| Enjoying Books, Newspapers, and Magazines . . . . .            | 122        |
| Books app . . . . .  | 123        |
| Newspaper and magazine apps . . . . .                          | 123        |
| News app . . . . .   | 123        |
| <b>PART 2: COMMUNICATING AND ORGANIZING . . . . .</b>          | <b>125</b> |
| <b>CHAPTER 7: Making Phone and FaceTime Calls . . . . .</b>    | <b>127</b> |
| Making a Call . . . . .  | 127        |
| Making calls from the Contacts screen . . . . .                | 128        |
| Navigating the Contacts screen's lists . . . . .               | 128        |
| Creating contact posters . . . . .                             | 129        |
| Setting up favorites (and calling them) . . . . .              | 131        |
| Making calls from the Recents list . . . . .                   | 132        |
| Dialing with the keypad . . . . .                              | 133        |
| Accessing voicemail visually . . . . .                         | 133        |
| Receiving a Call . . . . .                                     | 134        |
| Accepting the call . . . . .                                   | 135        |
| Announcing the caller . . . . .                                | 135        |
| Rejecting the call . . . . .                                   | 135        |
| Replying with a text message . . . . .                         | 136        |
| Blocking callers . . . . .                                     | 137        |
| Silencing unknown callers . . . . .                            | 137        |
| Avoiding disturbances but permitting essential calls . . . . . | 137        |
| Choosing a ringtone . . . . .                                  | 138        |
| While on a Call . . . . .                                      | 139        |
| Recording, transcribing, and summarizing calls . . . . .       | 140        |
| Juggling calls . . . . .                                       | 140        |
| Making conference calls . . . . .                              | 141        |
| Handing off calls . . . . .                                    | 142        |
| Making and Taking FaceTime Audio and Video Calls . . . . .     | 143        |
| Making a FaceTime call . . . . .                               | 143        |
| Receiving a FaceTime call . . . . .                            | 144        |
| Making group FaceTime calls . . . . .                          | 146        |
| <b>CHAPTER 8: Going on a Mobile Safari . . . . .</b>           | <b>147</b> |
| Starting a Safari into Cyberspace . . . . .                    | 147        |
| Browsing the Smart Way . . . . .                               | 150        |
| Opening multiple web pages at a time . . . . .                 | 150        |
| Starting up the start page . . . . .                           | 150        |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Keeping tabs on tabs . . . . .  | 152        |
| Looking at links . . . . .  | 153        |
| Book(mark) 'em, Danno . . . . .   | 154        |
| Altering bookmarks. . . . .   | 157        |
| Viewing pages open on your other devices. . . . .                               | 157        |
| Letting history repeat itself . . . . .   | 157        |
| Launching a mobile search mission . . . . .                                     | 158        |
| Saving pictures from the web . . . . .  | 159        |
| Reading clutter-free web pages. . . . .   | 159        |
| Translating web pages . . . . .   | 159        |
| Private Browsing . . . . .  | 160        |
| Using Sign In with Apple. . . . .   | 160        |
| Creating Multiple Profiles for Safari . . . . .                                 | 161        |
| Choosing Smart Safari Settings. . . . .   | 163        |
| <b>CHAPTER 9: Texting 1, 2, 3: Messages and Notes . . . . .</b>                 | <b>167</b> |
| Getting the iMessage . . . . .  | 167        |
| Sending text messages. . . . .  | 168        |
| Send a message later . . . . .  | 170        |
| Alert: You've got messages. . . . .   | 170        |
| Reading and replying to text messages . . . . .                                 | 171        |
| Sending multimedia messages . . . . .   | 173        |
| Massive multimedia effects . . . . .  | 174        |
| SharePlay via Messages . . . . .  | 177        |
| Group messaging has never been better . . . . .                                 | 177        |
| Send texts by emergency SOS via satellite . . . . .                             | 178        |
| Taking Note of Notes . . . . .  | 178        |
| <b>CHAPTER 10: The Email Must Get Through . . . . .</b>                         | <b>183</b> |
| Prep Work: Setting Up Your Accounts . . . . .                                   | 184        |
| Checking that your iCloud account is set up for Mail. . . . .                   | 184        |
| Adding other email accounts. . . . .  | 184        |
| Setting up an email account on iCloud, Gmail, Yahoo!, AOL, or Outlook . . . . . | 185        |
| Setting up an account with another provider . . . . .                           | 185        |
| Setting up corporate email. . . . .   | 186        |
| Reading and Wrangling Your Email. . . . .                                       | 188        |
| Reading messages. . . . .   | 188        |
| Filtering mail. . . . .   | 190        |
| Managing messages . . . . .   | 191        |
| Threading messages. . . . .   | 194        |
| Searching emails . . . . .  | 195        |
| Sending Email. . . . .  | 198        |
| Sending an email message. . . . .   | 198        |
| Proofreading and rewriting with Writing Tools. . . . .                          | 200        |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Sending a photo or video with an email . . . . .                         | 201        |
| Saving an email message as a draft . . . . .                             | 202        |
| Formatting text in an email . . . . .                                    | 203        |
| Using the formatting and attachments toolbar . . . . .                   | 204        |
| Adding Live Text. . . . .  | 204        |
| Adding attachments . . . . .   | 205        |
| Marking up attachments . . . . .   | 205        |
| Replying to or forwarding an email message . . . . .                     | 206        |
| Choosing settings for sending email . . . . .                            | 207        |
| Choosing settings for checking and viewing email. . . . .                | 208        |
| Suspending or deleting an email account . . . . .                        | 209        |
| <b>CHAPTER 11: Managing Your Calendar and Commitments. . . . .</b>       | <b>211</b> |
| Working with Calendar. . . . .   | 211        |
| Adding Calendar events . . . . .   | 214        |
| Choosing Calendar settings. . . . .                                      | 216        |
| Choosing which calendars to display . . . . .                            | 216        |
| Responding to event and calendar invitations . . . . .                   | 217        |
| Subscribing to calendars . . . . .                                       | 217        |
| Sharing a family calendar. . . . .                                       | 218        |
| Staying Organized with Reminders. . . . .                                | 218        |
| Creating a reminders list . . . . .                                      | 218        |
| Creating reminders. . . . .  | 219        |
| Working with your reminders . . . . .                                    | 220        |
| Making the Most of Clock. . . . .  | 221        |
| World clock. . . . .   | 221        |
| Alarm clock. . . . .   | 222        |
| Stopwatch. . . . .   | 222        |
| Timers . . . . .   | 222        |
| <b>CHAPTER 12: Using Maps, Stocks, Voice Memos, and Health. . . . .</b>  | <b>225</b> |
| Finding Yourself and Your Destination. . . . .                           | 225        |
| Finding your current location with Maps. . . . .                         | 226        |
| Finding a person, place, or thing. . . . .                               | 227        |
| Views, zooms, and pans . . . . .   | 228        |
| Timesaving map tools: Contacts, Recents, Guides,<br>and Library. . . . . | 229        |
| Smart map tricks . . . . .   | 232        |
| Creating and using offline maps . . . . .                                | 237        |
| Herding Your Stocks . . . . .  | 239        |
| Adding and deleting stocks, funds, and indexes. . . . .                  | 240        |
| Viewing the details for an item . . . . .                                | 240        |
| Charting a course . . . . .  | 241        |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Working with Voice Memos . . . . .  | 241 |
| Making a recording . . . . .  | 242 |
| Listening to recordings . . . . .   | 242 |
| Trimming a recording . . . . .  | 243 |
| Adding to a recording . . . . .   | 243 |
| Renaming a recording . . . . .  | 243 |
| Getting the transcript of a recording . . . . .                             | 243 |
| Sharing and syncing recordings . . . . .                                    | 244 |
| Deleting a recording . . . . .  | 244 |
| Choosing settings for recordings . . . . .                                  | 244 |
| Using the Health App . . . . .  | 245 |
| Completing the Health Checklist and setting up<br>your Medical ID . . . . . | 245 |
| Customizing pinned items on the Summary tab . . . . .                       | 246 |
| Setting up sharing on the Sharing tab . . . . .                             | 246 |
| Exploring health data on the Browse tab . . . . .                           | 246 |

## **PART 3: CREATING AND CONSUMING MULTIMEDIA . . . . .** 247

### **CHAPTER 13: Enjoying Music and Podcasts . . . . .** 249

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Introducing Your iPhone’s Music App . . . . .         | 249 |
| It’s music, just not your music . . . . .             | 250 |
| My Music Is Your Music . . . . .                      | 253 |
| A library without library cards . . . . .             | 253 |
| Play it again, Liszt. . . . .                         | 254 |
| Share and share alike . . . . .                       | 256 |
| Taking Control of Your Tunes . . . . .                | 258 |
| Customizing Your Audio Experience . . . . .           | 261 |
| Play all songs at the same volume level . . . . .     | 261 |
| Setting a sleep timer . . . . .                       | 262 |
| Using your voice to control your music . . . . .      | 262 |
| Listening to Podcasts with the Podcasts App . . . . . | 263 |
| Shopping with the iTunes Store App . . . . .          | 265 |

### **CHAPTER 14: Shooting, Editing, and Sharing Photos . . . . .** 267

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Taking Photos with the Camera App . . . . .    | 267 |
| Opening the Camera app . . . . .               | 268 |
| Meeting the Camera app’s controls . . . . .    | 268 |
| Taking a photo and viewing it . . . . .        | 270 |
| Shooting and enjoying live photos . . . . .    | 271 |
| Using the camera controls bar . . . . .        | 272 |
| Shooting portraits . . . . .                   | 278 |
| Shooting bursts of photos . . . . .            | 280 |
| Shooting panoramas . . . . .                   | 280 |
| Choosing Settings for the Camera App . . . . . | 281 |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Viewing and Organizing Your Photos . . . . .                         | 284        |
| Opening the Photos app and navigating the interface . . . . .        | 284        |
| Viewing a photo . . . . .  | 286        |
| Creating an album . . . . .  | 288        |
| Editing Your Photos . . . . .  | 289        |
| Applying enhancements to a photo . . . . .                           | 289        |
| Applying filters to a photo . . . . .                                | 290        |
| Cropping, straightening, and rotating a photo . . . . .              | 290        |
| Removing unwanted items from a photo . . . . .                       | 291        |
| Copying and pasting your edits to a photo . . . . .                  | 291        |
| Saving your changes to the photo . . . . .                           | 292        |
| Sharing Your Photos . . . . .  | 292        |
| Creating a shared album . . . . .                                    | 293        |
| Creating your iCloud Shared Photo Library . . . . .                  | 293        |
| <b>CHAPTER 15: Shooting and Watching Videos . . . . .</b>            | <b>295</b> |
| Shooting Video . . . . .   | 295        |
| Choosing portrait or landscape orientation . . . . .                 | 296        |
| Meeting the video-camera controls . . . . .                          | 296        |
| Taking a video and playing it back . . . . .                         | 298        |
| Shooting quickly with QuickTake . . . . .                            | 300        |
| Shooting slow-motion video . . . . .                                 | 301        |
| Shooting time-lapse videos . . . . .                                 | 301        |
| Shooting cinematic video . . . . .                                   | 301        |
| Choosing settings for shooting video . . . . .                       | 302        |
| Editing your videos . . . . .  | 305        |
| Finding Videos to Watch . . . . .                                    | 306        |
| Playing Video . . . . .  | 306        |
| <b>PART 4: THE PART OF TENS . . . . .</b>                            | <b>309</b> |
| <b>CHAPTER 16: Ten+ Essential iPhone Apps and Features . . . . .</b> | <b>311</b> |
| Getting Your Bearings with Compass . . . . .                         | 312        |
| Weather Watching . . . . .   | 312        |
| Keeping Track of Documents with Files . . . . .                      | 314        |
| Using Calculator . . . . .   | 315        |
| Putting Your Wallet on Your iPhone . . . . .                         | 316        |
| Sharing via AirDrop and NameDrop . . . . .                           | 317        |
| Controlling Lights, Locks, and More . . . . .                        | 318        |
| Connecting Your iPhone to Your Car . . . . .                         | 319        |
| Unlocking Your Car . . . . .   | 319        |
| Measuring Things . . . . .   | 320        |
| Translating Text or Speech . . . . .                                 | 320        |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>CHAPTER 17: Ten Helpful Hints, Tips, and Shortcuts</b> ..... | 323 |
| Use QuickPath for Speed and Accuracy.....                       | 323 |
| Autocorrect Is Your Friend.....                                 | 324 |
| Connect a Hardware Keyboard.....                                | 325 |
| Assault on Batteries.....                                       | 326 |
| Tricks with Links and Phone Numbers.....                        | 327 |
| Share the Love . . . and the Links.....                         | 329 |
| Choose a Home Page for Safari.....                              | 329 |
| Keeping Track of Stuff with AirTags.....                        | 330 |
| Getting Apps Out of App Switcher.....                           | 332 |
| Taking a Snapshot of the Screen.....                            | 332 |
| <b>INDEX</b> .....  | 335 |





# Introduction

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Apple's iPhone models are among the best smartphones ever built. Each year, Apple introduces new iPhone models with faster, better, and usually sleeker hardware, together with a new version of the iOS operating system that gives the iPhones their amazing capabilities. Each new version of iOS brings new features, and the iPhone is now versatile enough to be your only computer.

So how do you get the most out of this amazing device? Well, you could muddle along with trial and error — or you could use this book and get up to speed faster and with less effort.

Given that you're reading this, it looks as though you made the right choice.

## About This Book

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Let's get one thing out of the way right from the get-go: I don't think you're a dummy. In fact, I think you're pretty darn smart for buying a *Dummies* book. That says to me that you have the confidence and intelligence to know what you don't know. The *Dummies* franchise is built around the core notion that most of us feel insecure about topics we're tackling for the first time, especially when those topics have to do with technology.

Apple makes the iPhone and iOS as easy to use as possible — but there's still plenty to learn. Let me give you a couple of examples.

First, every iPhone is beautifully designed and equipped with a bare minimum of controls — so those controls perform multiple duties. For example, on the right side of your iPhone is the side button, which you use to power your iPhone on and off; put it to sleep and wake it again; invoke Siri, your virtual assistant; capture screenshots; summon emergency assistance; and more. That range of actions is mighty impressive, but it means that using the iPhone isn't exactly intuitive. So this book tells you how to take all these actions — and more — clearly and concisely.

Second, and similarly, iOS has grown from a compact operating system with relatively few features into one of the most sophisticated operating systems around with more features than most people could confidently shake a large stick at — not to mention integration with Apple Intelligence, the artificial intelligence (AI) initiative from Apple. If you enjoy messing with technology, you can squander endless hours exploring iOS, its many dozen apps, and its many hundred settings. If you'd prefer to get things done quickly and easily, use this book instead. I've packed it chock-full with practical tips, time- and grief-saving advice, and fascinating nuggets to propel you to pro-level iPhone usage in next to no time.

What else will you find in this book? Well, *iPhone For Dummies* breaks down complex procedures into numbered step-by-step instructions so you can follow them without breaking a sweat; presents choices using easy-to-browse bullet lists rather than turgid paragraphs; and uses illustrations to show you just what you should be seeing. Where a website might be helpful, the book gives you links that look like this: [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com). If you're reading this in the e-book version, links are live so you can click or tap them.

Will you have to plow through a ton of technical information? Honestly, no. The book *does* contain some technical information — how could it not, when talking about the technological marvel that the iPhone is? — but any tech material not strictly vital is clearly marked with a Tech Stuff icon so that you can read it or skip it as you please.

## Foolish Assumptions

Although I know what happens when you assume, I've made a few assumptions anyway. I assume that you want to use iOS, that you want to understand your iPhone and its operating system without digesting an incomprehensible technical manual, and that you made the right choice by selecting this particular book.

So I do my best to explain each new concept fully and clearly. Perhaps that's foolish, but . . . ah, skip it.

Finally, I assume that you can read. If you can't, please ignore this paragraph.

# Icons Used in This Book

Little round pictures (icons) appear in the left margin throughout this book. Consider these icons miniature road signs, telling you something extra about the topic at hand or hammering a point home.

Here's what the five icons used in this book look like and what they mean.



TIP

This text contains the juicy morsels, shortcuts, and recommendations to make the task at hand faster or easier.



REMEMBER

This icon emphasizes facts and moves you'll likely benefit from retaining. You might even jot down a note to yourself in the iPhone's Reminders app.



TECHNICAL  
STUFF

These geeky sections are few and far between. They contain material that's interesting and informative, so you might want to look through them. You can safely ignore them if you want, because they won't be on the test.



WARNING

You wouldn't intentionally run a stop sign, would you? In the same fashion, ignoring warnings may be hazardous to your iPhone and (by extension) your wallet. There, you now know how these warning icons work, for you have just received your very first warning!



NEW

This icon marks a feature that's new in iOS 18 or the latest and greatest iPhones — as of this writing, the iPhone 16 family.

## Beyond the Book

For details about significant updates or changes that occur between editions of this book, go to [www.dummies.com](http://www.dummies.com), search for *iPhone For Dummies*, and open the Download tab on this book's dedicated page.

Also, the cheat sheet for this book has tips for mastering multitouch; a list of things you can do during a phone call; info on managing contacts; information on troubleshooting if your iPhone is acting contrary, and more. To get to the cheat sheet, go to [www.dummies.com](http://www.dummies.com) and type *iPhone For Dummies cheat sheet* in the Search box.

# Where to Go from Here

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Where to turn to next? Why, straight to Chapter 1, of course (without passing Go or collecting \$200).

However, if you'd prefer to go straight to a particular topic, turn back a few pages to the table of contents and browse for the topic you want. Or if you want to look up something, head to the index at the end of the book to find which page you need to consult.

# 1 Up and Running with Your iPhone

## IN THIS PART . . .

Set up and activate your iPhone, and then learn to navigate its user interface.

Master essential moves for making your iPhone do your will.

Load media from your computer and sync iCloud data across your iPhone, iPad, and computer.

Change key settings quickly with Control Center and control Siri with your voice.

Explore the Settings app and take full control of your iPhone.

Find the apps you need, install them, and manage them.

## IN THIS CHAPTER

- » Meeting your iPhone's hardware
- » Setting up and activating your iPhone
- » Starting to use your iPhone
- » Locking and unlocking your iPhone
- » Powering down your iPhone
- » Getting to grips with Apple Intelligence

# Chapter **1**

# Setting Up and Navigating Your iPhone

**C**ongratulations on getting an iPhone! You've made a great choice.

In addition to being a first-rate cellular telephone, the iPhone is an excellent music player, a gorgeous widescreen video player, and a fantastic camera and camcorder system, not to mention a powerful internet communications device.

This chapter starts by making sure you know your way around your iPhone's hardware. It then shows you how to activate the iPhone and set it up either manually or by picking up settings from your current iPhone or your iPad. You then learn to navigate the iPhone's Home screen pages and dock, lock the iPhone when you're not using it, and power it down for those rare occasions you don't need to keep it running.

At the end of this chapter, you learn about Apple Intelligence, Apple's new strategic direction that incorporates artificial intelligence (AI) into its products, and where to turn in the book for coverage of Apple Intelligence on your iPhone.

# Meeting Your iPhone's Hardware

On the outside, the iPhone's hardware is sleek and simple. This section explains what you find on the front, the back, the sides, and the bottom.

## On the front

On the front of your iPhone, you find the following (labeled in Figure 1-1):



TIP

- » **Camera:** The camera on the front of the iPhone is tuned for selfies and FaceTime video calling, so it has just the right field of view and focal length to focus on your face at arm's length, which presents you in the best possible light.
- » **Receiver/front microphone:** The iPhone uses the receiver (speaker) and front mic for telephone calls. The receiver naturally sits close to your ear when you hold your iPhone in the "talking on the phone" position; the mic is used for noise cancelling and FaceTime calls.

If you require privacy during phone calls, use a compatible Apple or third-party headset — wired or wireless.

- » **Status bar:** The status bar displays important information, as you discover later in this chapter.
- » **Touchscreen:** The touchscreen dominates the front of the iPhone, enabling you to control the iPhone by gesturing with your fingers and thumbs.
- » **Home button and Touch ID sensor (Touch ID models only):** No matter what you're doing, you can press the Home button at any time to display the Home screen, which is the screen shown in Figure 1-1. The iPhone's Touch ID sensor uses your fingerprint to unlock the phone and to authenticate you (see Chapter 2).
- » **App icons:** Each icon on the Home screen launches an app, such as the Weather app or the Files app.
- » **Widgets:** A widget is a sort of mini-app that displays information or enables you to access features. For example, the Music widget in Figure 1-1 shows you current and upcoming songs.





**FIGURE 1-1:** Touch ID iPhone models (left) have a Home button, whereas Face ID iPhone models do not.

*Photo courtesy of Apple, Inc.*

## On the back

On the back of your iPhone are one to three camera lenses that look like little circles or ovals in the top-left corner. The iPhone also has one or more little LEDs next to the camera lens for use as a flash for still photos, as a floodlight for videos, and as a flashlight that you can turn on or off via Control Center. For more on using the camera and shooting videos, see Chapters 14 and 15, respectively; for more on the flashlight and Control Center, see Chapter 4.

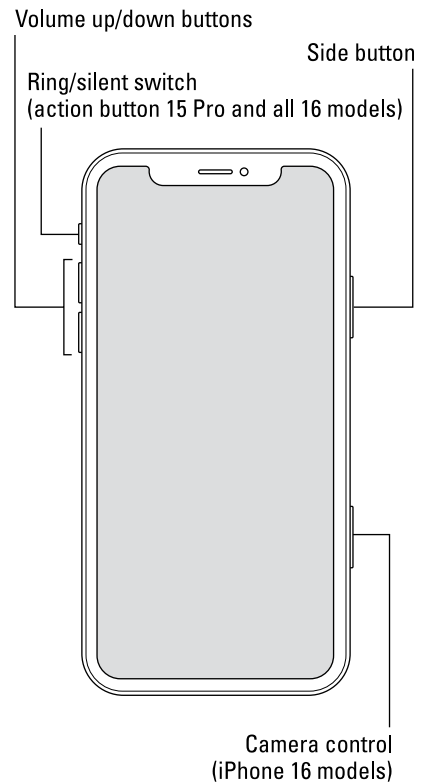
## On the sides

Here's what you'll find on the sides on your iPhone (see Figure 1-2):

- » **Side button:** This physical button on the right side of the iPhone enables you to take several actions, including powering on your iPhone; putting it to sleep and waking it; and summoning Siri, the virtual assistant.
- » **Camera control:** All iPhone 16 models include this new physical control surface for opening the Camera app; taking a photo or starting video capture; and adjusting zoom, exposure, depth of field, and other settings.
- » **SIM card tray:** If your iPhone model uses a physical SIM card, open this tray, insert the card in it, and then replace the tray. iPhone 14, iPhone 15, and iPhone 16 models sold in the US use an e-SIM (a virtual SIM) rather than a physical card. The SIM card tray may be on either the right side or the left side, depending on the iPhone model.

A SIM (Subscriber Identity Module) card is a removable smart card used to identify mobile phones. When you switch phones, you can move the SIM card from your old phone to the new phone, provided the phones use the same SIM card size. Current iPhone models that use a SIM card use the nano-SIM format.

- » **Ring/silent switch:** This switch on the left side of your iPhone lets you quickly toggle between ring mode and silent mode. When the switch is set to ring mode — the up position, with no orange showing on the switch — your iPhone plays all sounds through the speaker on the bottom. When the switch is set to silent mode — the down position, with orange visible on the switch — your iPhone makes no sound when you receive a call or when an alert pops up on the screen.
- » **Action button:** In place of the ring/silent switch, the iPhone 15 Pro and all iPhone 16 models have the action button, which you can customize in the Settings app to take your preferred action, such as recording a voice memo or turning on the flashlight. The action button's default action is to toggle



**FIGURE 1-2:** Here's what you'll find on the sides of your iPhone.



TECHNICAL  
STUFF



REMEMBER

between ring mode and silent mode; long-press the action button until you feel haptic feedback confirming the mode change.

Silent mode is overridden by alarms you set in the iPhone's Clock app; by music, audiobooks, and other audio you play; and by you auditioning sounds such as ringtones and alert sounds in the Settings app. Also, when you configure a focus, such as Do Not Disturb, you can permit specific apps to interrupt it.



TIP

If your phone is set to ring mode and you want to silence it quickly when it starts ringing, press the side button or either of the volume buttons.

» **Volume up/down buttons:** Two volume buttons are just below the ring/silent switch or the action button. The upper button increases the volume; the lower one decreases it. You use the volume buttons to raise or lower the loudness of the ringer, alerts, sound effects, songs, and movies. During phone calls, the buttons adjust the voice loudness of the person you're speaking with, regardless of whether you're listening through the receiver, the speaker-phone, or a headset.

The iPhone 14 Pro models and all iPhone 15 and iPhone 16 models have a feature called Dynamic Island, a resizable display element that appears near the top of the screen to provide context-sensitive controls and information, such as playback controls for music, telephony controls for phone calls and FaceTime calls, or map directions for your current journey. Tap an icon in Dynamic Island to go straight to the app for the feature that icon represents.

These models also have a feature called Always-On Display that shows key information, such as notifications and upcoming events, on the Lock screen. On iPhone models without Always-On Display, locking the phone turns the screen off completely.

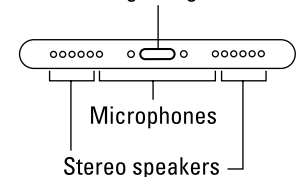
## On the bottom

On the bottom of your iPhone, you find microphones, the USB-C port or Lightning port, and stereo speakers, as shown in Figure 1-3:

» **Microphones:** The built-in microphones let callers hear your voice when you're not using a headset.

The iPhone sports three or more microphones — the main ones are on the bottom — which work together to suppress unwanted and distracting background sounds on phone calls using dual-mic

USB-C or Lightning connector



**FIGURE 1-3:** On the bottom of your iPhone (some models differ slightly).



TECHNICAL STUFF

noise suppression plus beam-forming technology that makes the microphones listen in the right direction.

» **USB-C port or Lightning port:** The USB-C port or Lightning port has several purposes:

- *Recharge your iPhone's battery.* Connect one end of the included charge cable to the iPhone and the other end to a USB power adapter, a USB port on your computer, or a port on a powered USB hub.
- *Sync your iPhone.* Connect one end of the cable to the port on your iPhone and the other end to a USB port on your Mac or PC.
- *Connect your iPhone to other devices.* Connect a camera, a television, or an external drive easily. For an iPhone 15 or iPhone 16 model, use a USB-C cable. For an earlier iPhone model, use a Lightning adapter such as the camera connection kit or one of Apple's A/V adapter cables.
- *Connect EarPods or a headset.* If you have Apple EarPods with a USB-C connector, you can plug them straight into the USB-C port on an iPhone 15 or later; similarly, you can connect Apple EarPods with a Lightning connector directly to the Lightning port on a Lightning-port iPhone. To use another headset, you may need to get Apple's USB-C-to-3.5mm Headphone Jack Adapter, Lightning-to-3.5mm Headphone Jack Adapter, or a functional equivalent.

» **Stereo speakers:** The speakers are used by the iPhone's built-in speakerphone and for playing audio — music or video soundtracks — when no headset is connected. They also play the ringtone you hear when you receive a call. All current iPhones have stereo speakers.

## Setting Up and Activating Your iPhone

Before you can start using your iPhone, you need to set it up, configuring its operating system (iOS) — the software that makes the iPhone tick — to work the way you want it to. You may also need to activate the iPhone to connect it to Apple's services and to your cellular carrier's service.

If you've already set up and activated your iPhone, skip this section.

### Turning on your iPhone

Start by turning on your iPhone. Press and hold the side button, the physical button on the iPhone's right side. When the Apple logo appears on the screen, release

the side button and wait until the Hello screen appears. Then swipe up from the bottom of the screen on a Face ID iPhone or press the Home button on a Touch ID phone to begin the setup process.

## Choosing the language, country or region, and appearance

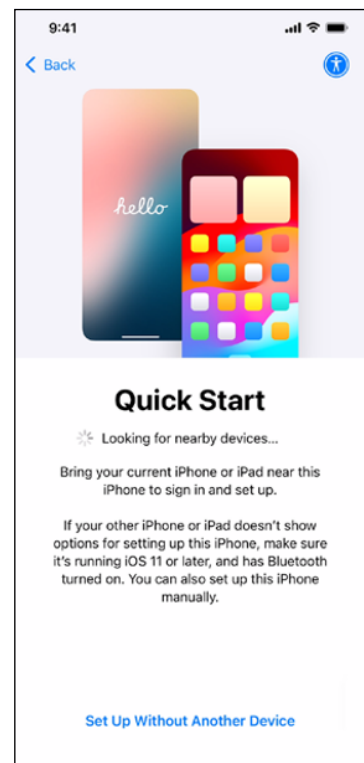
A series of screens walks you through the first three steps of the setup process:

- » **Language:** Choose the language you want your iPhone to use, such as English.
- » **Country or Region:** Specify your country or region, such as United States.
- » **Appearance:** Drag the slider along the Default–Medium–Large axis to choose the size of text and icons on the screen. Tap the Continue button.

At this point, the Quick Start screen appears, enabling you to finish setup quickly by using your current iPhone or iPad. Read on.

## Using Quick Start or continuing setup

If you have an iPhone or iPad set up with your Apple Account, you can use that device to set up your new iPhone quickly. When the Quick Start screen appears (see Figure 1-4), unlock your current device and bring it close to your new iPhone. Your new iPhone then displays a complex pattern on the screen, and the Camera app opens on your other device, showing a target ring. Aim this ring at the pattern to establish the connection between the devices, and then authenticate yourself on your new iPhone by entering the current device's passcode. Follow the prompts to set up the new iPhone based on the current device. Skip ahead to the section "Starting to Use Your iPhone," later in this chapter.



**FIGURE 1-4:** From the Quick Start screen, you can swiftly set up your new iPhone using your current iPhone or iPad.

If you don't have a current iPhone or iPad to use, or if you want to set up your new iPhone differently, tap the Set Up Without Another Device button, and then follow through the next subsection.

## Setting up your iPhone without another device

If you chose to set up your iPhone without another device, work your way through the following screens:

» **Choose a Wi-Fi Network:** Tap the Wi-Fi network you want to use, type the password on the Enter Password screen, and then tap the Join button.

If you need to use a Wi-Fi network that hides its network name, tap the Choose Another Network button. On the screen that appears, type the network name and the password, and then tap the Join button.

If no Wi-Fi network is available, tap the Continue Without Wi-Fi button to use a cellular data connection.

» **Activation:** Wait while iOS activates your iPhone over the Wi-Fi connection (or the cellular connection, if you tapped Continue Without Wi-Fi). Activation may take several minutes.

» **Data & Privacy:** Read the information, and then tap the Continue button.

» **Face ID/Touch ID:** On a Face ID iPhone, follow the prompts to scan your face by aiming the recognition circle at your head, and then rotating your head to replace the white marks with green marks. On the Use Face ID with a Mask screen, choose whether to configure Face ID for use when you're wearing a protective mask.

On a Touch ID iPhone, follow the prompts to scan the print of the finger or thumb you want to use to unlock the iPhone. You can add up to four more fingers (or thumbs — max two, preferably) after you finish setup.

» **Create an iPhone Passcode:** Tap the six-digit passcode you want to use, and then confirm it on the second screen.



TIP

If a six-digit passcode doesn't suit you, tap the Passcode Options button on the Create an iPhone Passcode screen. On the iPhone SE, you may need to scroll down to see the Passcode Options button. In the dialog that opens, tap Custom Alphanumeric Code, Custom Numeric Code, or 4-Digit Numeric Code, as appropriate, and then enter the code twice on the following screens. A custom alphanumeric code of eight characters or more is the most secure, though it will take longer to type. A custom numeric code enables you to