

Getting to Know Your iPhone: A Beginner's Orientation

The modern iPhone is remarkably powerful, but that doesn't necessarily make it intuitive to someone using one for the first time. Unlike older phones and computers, today's iPhone has very few physical buttons. Most navigation is accomplished by tapping, swiping, and holding your finger on the screen.

If you're new to the iPhone—or you've owned one for years but never ventured much beyond calls, texts, email, and photographs—this orientation will introduce you to the basic controls and gestures used throughout iOS 18.

Start at the Lock Screen

Press the **Side button** or tap the screen to wake your iPhone. The first thing you'll see is the **Lock Screen**, which displays the time, date, notifications, and other information you have chosen to show there.

On an iPhone equipped with Face ID, simply look at the phone. When Face ID recognizes you, the lock symbol at the top of the screen opens. **Swipe up from the bottom of the screen** to reach the Home Screen.

The Lock Screen also provides shortcuts. **Swipe left** to quickly open the Camera. **Swipe right** to display the Today View, where widgets can show information such as weather, upcoming appointments, battery levels, and news.

Spend a little time practicing these gestures. Swiping is fundamental to almost everything else you'll do on an iPhone.

1. Start at the Lock Screen

Press the Side button or tap the screen to wake your iPhone.

On an iPhone with Face ID, look at the phone, then **swipe up** from the bottom to **unlock**.

Swipe left to open the Camera. **Swipe right** to open the **Today View** (widgets such as weather, calendar, battery, and more).



Meet the Home Screen

The **Home Screen** is the iPhone's main working area. Those little pictures are **app icons**, each representing a program or function. Tap an icon once to open its app.

If you have more apps than will fit on one screen, you'll have multiple Home Screen pages. **Swipe left or right** to move among them.

Several other gestures are worth learning. Swipe **down from the upper-right corner** to display Control Center. Swipe **up from the bottom and pause** to display the App Switcher. Swipe downward from around the middle of a Home Screen to open **Search**, one of the quickest ways to find an app you can't locate.

Keep swiping left through your Home Screen pages and you'll eventually reach the **App Library**, which contains all the apps installed on your iPhone.



Organize Your Apps

Your Home Screen doesn't have to remain the way Apple arranged it. You can organize it to suit yourself.

Touch and hold an empty area of the Home Screen until the app icons begin to move—or "jiggle." You can then drag an app to another position or onto another Home Screen page. Dragging one app onto another can create a **folder**, which is useful for grouping similar apps such as Travel, Banking, Games, or Work.

You can also find an app in the App Library, touch and hold it, and add it to your Home Screen.

Don't worry about getting everything perfectly organized. The iPhone's Search feature and App Library mean you can still find an app even if you've forgotten where you put it.

3. Organize Your Apps

Touch and hold an empty area until the apps jiggle. You can then drag apps to a new spot or onto another page. Drag one app onto another to create a folder.

To add an app from the App Library, touch and hold it, then drag it to your Home Screen.

Tap **Done** in the corner when you're finished.



1. Touch and hold (apps jiggle)



2. Drag apps to move or create folder



3. Drag from App Library to Home Screen



4. Tap Done to finish

Control Center: Your Shortcut Panel

Control Center provides quick access to frequently used features without making you hunt through Settings.

Swipe down from the **upper-right corner** of the screen. You'll find controls for such things as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, screen brightness, volume, airplane mode, Focus, the flashlight, and other commonly used functions.

Beginning with iOS 18, Control Center is more customizable than earlier versions. You can **touch and hold an empty area within Control Center** to enter editing mode. From there you can add, remove, resize, and rearrange many controls right on the Control Center screen.

It's worth customizing. Put the controls you use most often where they're easiest to reach.

4. Control Center: Your Shortcut Panel

Swipe down from the upper-right corner to open Control Center.

Touch and hold an empty area within Control Center to enter editing mode. From there you can add, remove, resize, and rearrange controls.



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Add controls



TIP

Put the controls you use most often where they're easiest to reach.

Switch Between Your Open Apps

You don't have to return to the Home Screen every time you want to move from one app to another.

Swipe up from the bottom of the screen and **pause briefly in the middle**. The **App Switcher** appears, displaying recently used apps as cards. Swipe left or right through them and tap one to return to it.

You can close an app by swiping its card upward and off the screen. However, you generally **don't need to routinely close apps**. iOS manages inactive apps automatically. Closing an app is most useful when it has stopped responding or isn't working correctly.

5. Switch Between Your Open Apps

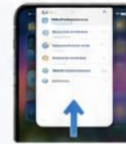
Swipe up from the bottom and pause to open the App Switcher.
Swipe left or right to view your apps.
Swipe up on an app preview to close it.
You don't need to routinely close apps—iOS manages them automatically.



1. Swipe up and pause



2. Swipe left or right to find an app



3. Swipe up to close an app

★ NOTE

Only close apps that aren't responding or are causing problems.

Find Out Which iPhone You Have

Sooner or later, someone helping you with your phone will ask, "Which iPhone do you have?" Fortunately, you don't have to remember.

Open **Settings**, tap **General**, and then select **About**. Here you'll find the iPhone's name, iOS version, model name, model number, serial number, storage information, and other details.

The **iOS Version** is particularly important. Instructions written for one version of iOS may not exactly match the menus and controls on another.

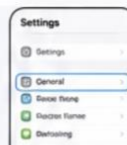
A word of caution: your serial number and other device identifiers are useful for legitimate support, but don't casually post them publicly.

6. Find Out Which iPhone You Have

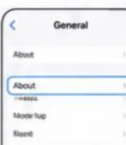
Open Settings, tap General, then tap About.
Here you'll find your device name, iOS version, model name, model number, serial number, storage information, and more.



1. Open Settings



2. Tap General



3. Tap About



4. View device information

Five Gestures Worth Remembering

You don't need to memorize dozens of gestures to become comfortable with an iPhone. Start with these:

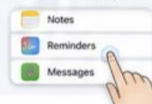
Tap to select something. **Touch and hold** for additional choices. **Swipe** to move between screens or through information. **Swipe up from the bottom** to return toward the Home Screen. **Swipe down from the upper-right corner** to open Control Center.

Practice them until they become automatic. Once you've mastered those few movements, you've learned much of the basic vocabulary of the iPhone.

7. Five Gestures Worth Remembering

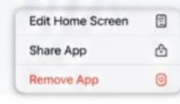
Tap

Tap once to select something.



Touch and Hold

Touch and hold for more options.



Swipe

Swipe to move between screens or through information.



Swipe Up

Swipe up from the bottom to return to the Home Screen.



Swipe Down

Swipe down from the upper-right corner to open Control Center.



Don't Be Afraid to Explore

One of the best ways to learn an iPhone is simply to use it. Open Settings and look around. Move between Home Screens. Open Control Center. Try Search. Explore the App Library. Rearrange a few icons.

You aren't going to damage your iPhone because you swiped in the wrong direction or opened the wrong app. If you get lost, **swipe up from the bottom of the screen to return to familiar territory—the Home Screen.**

Once these basic movements become second nature, the iPhone becomes much less mysterious. And that's when you can move beyond merely operating the phone and start discovering just how much this little computer in your pocket can actually do.