

- » Discover what's new in iPhones and iOS 15
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- » Explore what's in the box
- » Take a look at the gadget

## Chapter 1

# Buying Your iPhone

**Y**ou've read about it. You've seen the lines at Apple Stores on the day a new version of the iPhone is released. You're so intrigued that you've decided to get your own iPhone so you can have a smartphone that can do much more than make and receive calls. Perhaps you're not new to smartphones but are ready to make the switch to the ultimate in such devices. With your iPhone, you can have fun with apps such as games and exercise trackers; explore the online world; read e-books, magazines, and other periodicals; take and organize photos and videos; listen to music and watch movies; and a lot more.

Trust me: You've made a good decision, because the iPhone redefines the mobile phone experience in an exciting way. It's also a perfect fit for seniors.

In this chapter, you learn about the advantages of the iPhone, as well as where to buy this little gem and associated data plans. After you have one in your hands, I help you explore what's in the box and get an overview of the little buttons and slots you'll encounter — luckily, the iPhone has very few of them.

# Discover the Newest iPhones and iOS 15

Apple's iPhone gets its features from a combination of hardware and its software operating system, which is called *iOS* (short for *iPhone operating system*). The most current version of the operating system is iOS 15. It's helpful to understand which new features the latest models and iOS 15 bring to the table (all of which are covered in more detail in this book).

Apple's latest additions to the iPhone family are the iPhone 13, 13 mini, 13 Pro, and 13 Pro Max. Like their predecessors, they're highly advanced smartphones that leave competitors in the dust. Here are some of the key features of the latest iPhone models:

- » **An A15 Bionic chip:** Each of the four new iPhone models includes the new A15 chip. The truly innovative tech in these models demands a processor that can handle some heavy lifting while still being able to answer calls and retrieve email.
- » **5G:** The latest iPhones support 5G, which is the latest — and by far the fastest — cellular wireless technology. 5G promises to expand the connectivity of not only our smartphones but just about any device that supports the technology, including computers, cars, and smart home devices. 5G has the potential to change global communication, providing ridiculously fast and reliable connectivity.
- » **Splash, water, and dust resistance:** Your new iPhone 13, 13 mini, 13 Pro, or 13 Pro Max is resistant to damage caused by water splashing onto it or from dust collecting in it.



TIP

You might consider acquiring AppleCare+, which is Apple's extended warranty, currently priced at \$149 for iPhone 13 and 13 mini, or \$199 for iPhone 13 Pro and 13 Pro Max. AppleCare+ covers two incidents of accidental damage, which could more

than cover the cost of repairing your iPhone without it. You can also get AppleCare+ with theft and loss coverage for all four models for \$70 more.

Now, you don't want to take your iPhone 13 model deep-sea diving, but it's likely to survive submersion in about six meters of water for up to 30 minutes. Mind you, these numbers have been tested in labs and aren't based on real-world conditions. In other words, if your iPhone 13 model gets wet, it's much more likely to survive the ordeal than older iPhone iterations, but it still isn't something you'd like to see happen to your expensive investment.

- » **MagSafe charging:** iPhone 13 models include MagSafe charging, which uses Apple's MagSafe technology to charge your iPhone with a magnetic connector that snaps onto the back of the device. Apple also has a series of MagSafe-compatible accessories, such as cases and wallets, so you can charge your iPhone even if those accessories are attached.
- » **Ceramic Shield:** The toughness and durability of Apple's screens just keeps getting better. Ceramic Shield was developed by Apple and Corning, and according to them, it's the toughest screen ever for a smartphone, making it four times more likely than other smartphones to survive a drop unscathed.



WARNING

Don't think your iPhone is unbreakable. Cases are still a good — no, make that a great — idea. As mentioned, Apple has a line of cases that not only protect your iPhone but also allow for wireless MagSafe and Qi charging. (Qi is an industry-standard wireless charging technology used by Apple and most smartphone manufacturers.)

Any iPhone model from the iPhone SE (first generation) forward can use most features of iOS 15 if you update the operating system (discussed in detail in Chapter 3). This book is based on iOS 15.

This update to the operating system adds many features, including (but definitely not limited to) the following:

- » **Focus:** Think of Focus as an extension of the Do Not Disturb feature. You can customize a focus to filter notifications based on what you're doing at the moment. The default focus modes are personal, work, and sleep, and notifications are filtered based on their settings.
- » **Safari:** iOS 15 gives Safari a whole new look and makes navigation easier. Tab groups are a welcome new feature that allow you to group your open web pages any way you like.
- » **Maps:** Like Safari, Maps got a nice interface overhaul. Three-dimensional items like mountain ranges, buildings, trees, and more get nice upgrades to render them more lifelike, making it easier to follow directions and recognize locations. A more detailed driving map is also a great enhancement.
- » **FaceTime:** You can now schedule calls using FaceTime (this one falls into the "it's about time" category . . .) and send links to participants. Also, the interface got a refresh and the enhancements to sound technologies make hearing call participants much easier.
- » **Weather:** Weather gets better graphics and more detailed forecasts, as well as precipitation notifications. This update (finally) brings the Weather app more in line with some of the better weather apps for iOS.
- » **Live text:** Live text lets you interact with text in images. For example, if the text is an address, you can tap it to open the address in Maps. Or you can select text from a photo and copy it into a document. Live text is a great addition to iOS 15.

These are but a few of the improvements made to the latest version of iOS. I suggest visiting [www.apple.com/ios/ios-15](http://www.apple.com/ios/ios-15) to find out more.



TIP

Don't need all the built-in apps? You can remove them from your Home screen. When you remove a built-in app from your Home screen, you aren't deleting it — you're hiding it. (Note that the built-in apps take up very little of your iPhone's storage space.) And if you change your mind, you can easily add them back to your Home screen by searching for them in the App Store and tapping the Get button.

## Choose the Right iPhone for You

A variety of iPhone models are on the market; it can be daunting when trying to decide which one you want to purchase. In this section, I focus on Apple's newest models, the iPhone 13 series. If you'd like to explore others, Apple has a great tool for making comparisons at [www.apple.com/iphone/compare](http://www.apple.com/iphone/compare).

The sizes of the latest iPhone 13 models vary:

- » iPhone 13 measures 2.82" by 5.78" (6.1" diagonally) with a depth of .30 inches (see **Figure 1-1**).
- » iPhone 13 mini measures 2.53" by 5.18" (5.4" diagonally) with a depth of .30 inches (also shown in Figure 1-1).
- » iPhone 13 Pro measures 2.82" by 5.78" (6.1" diagonally) with a depth of .30 inches (see **Figure 1-2**).
- » iPhone 13 Pro Max measures 3.07" by 6.33" (6.7" diagonally) with a depth of .30 inches (also shown in Figure 1-2).

You can get iPhone 13 and 13 mini in Starlight, Midnight, blue, pink, and a beautiful Product Red version. iPhone 13 Pro and 13 Pro Max come in gold, silver, graphite, and a great-looking Sierra Blue.



*Image courtesy of Apple, Inc.*

**FIGURE 1-1**

Other differences between iPhone models come primarily from the current operating system, iOS 15, which I cover in the remaining chapters of the book.



*Image courtesy of Apple, Inc.*

**FIGURE 1-2**

Not sure whether to get an iPhone 13 model? Here are a few more key differences:

- » The battery life of the iPhone 13 Pro Max is longer than the other models. For example, audio playback time on the 13 Pro Max is rated at 95 hours versus 75 hours on the 13 and 13 Pro, with the 13 mini maxing out at 55 hours.

- » iPhone 13 Pro and 13 Pro Max have triple rear-facing cameras, providing amazing optical zoom, portrait mode, and other features. The 13 and 13 mini have dual rear-facing cameras.
- » Screen resolution: The higher the resolution the better, especially for larger screens since you need to pack more pixels (the tiny dots of color that make up the images) into a larger space. The iPhone 13 and 13 Pro provide 2532 x 1170 resolution; 13 mini boasts 2340 x 1080; and 13 Pro Max provides a stunning 2778 x 1284.

Table 1-1 gives you a quick comparison of iPhone SE (second generation), 11, 12, 12 mini, 13, 13 mini, 13 Pro, and 13 Pro Max (models currently sold by Apple). All costs are as of the time this book was written. (Some carriers may introduce non-contract terms.)

**TABLE 1-1      iPhone Model Comparison**

| Model                  | Storage                      | Cost (may vary by carrier) | Carriers                        |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| SE (second generation) | 64GB and 128GB               | From \$399                 | AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile |
| 11                     | 64GB and 128GB               | From \$499                 | AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile |
| 12                     | 64GB, 128GB, and 256GB       | From \$699                 | AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile |
| 12 mini                | 64GB, 128GB, and 256GB       | From \$599                 | AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile |
| 13                     | 128GB, 256GB, and 512GB      | From \$799                 | AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile |
| 13 mini                | 128GB, 256GB, and 512GB      | From \$699                 | AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile |
| 13 Pro                 | 128GB, 256GB, 512GB, and 1TB | From \$999                 | AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile |
| 13 Pro Max             | 128GB, 256GB, 512GB, and 1TB | From \$1,099               | AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile |



TIP

One exciting pricing option is the iPhone Upgrade Program. You choose your carrier, get an unlocked phone so you can change carriers, and receive Apple Care+ to cover you in case your phone has problems, all starting at a cost of \$35.33 a month (depending on the iPhone model you select). The price does not include data usage from your carrier. Check out [www.apple.com/shop/iphone/iphone-upgrade-program](http://www.apple.com/shop/iphone/iphone-upgrade-program) for more information.

## Decide How Much Storage Is Enough

*Storage* is a measure of how much information — for example, movies, photos, and software applications (apps) — you can store on a computing device. Storage can also affect your iPhone's performance when handling such tasks as streaming favorite TV shows from the web or downloading music.



TIP

*Streaming* refers to playing video or music content from the web (or from other devices) rather than playing a file stored on your iPhone. You can enjoy a lot of material online without ever downloading its full content to your phone — and given that the most storage-endowed iPhone model has a relatively small amount of storage, streaming is a good idea. See Chapters 18 and 20 for more about getting your music and movies online.

Your storage options with an iPhone 13 or 13 mini are 128, 256, and 512 gigabytes (GB), while 13 Pro and 13 Pro Max are 128GB, 256GB, 512GB, and 1TB (terabyte, which is 1000GB). You must choose the right amount of storage because you can't open the unit and add more, as you usually can with a desktop computer. However, Apple has thoughtfully provided iCloud, a service you can use to back up content to the internet. (You can read more about iCloud in Chapter 4.)

How much storage is enough for your iPhone? Here's are some guidelines:

» If you simply want to check email, browse the web, keep your calendar up to date, and write short notes to yourself, 128GB likely is plenty.

- » For most people who manage a reasonable number of photos, download some music, and watch heavy-duty media such as movies online, 256GB may be sufficient. But if you might take things up a notch regarding media consumption and creation in the future (such as the newest grandchild being on the way soon), you should seriously consider 512GB.
- » If you like lots of media, such as movies or TV shows, you might need 512GB or 1TB. For example, shooting 4K video at 60 frames per second will take roughly 1GB of storage space for every two and a half minutes of footage. If you shoot a lot of video, 1TB of storage might be more appealing.



Do you know how big a *gigabyte* (GB) is? Consider this: Just about any computer you buy today comes with a minimum of 256GB of storage. Computers have to tackle larger tasks than iPhones, so that number makes sense. The iPhone, which uses a technology called *flash storage* for storing data, is meant (to a great extent) to help you experience online media and email; it doesn't have to store much since it pulls lots of content from the internet. In the world of storage, 64GB for any kind of storage is puny if you keep lots of content (such as audio, video, and photos) on the device.

What's the price for larger storage? For the iPhone 13, a 128GB unit costs \$799, 256GB is \$899, and 512GB will set you back \$1,099. iPhone 13 mini with 128GB goes for \$699, 256GB at \$799, and 512GB for \$999. iPhone 13 Pro with 128GB is \$999, 256GB is \$1,099, 512GB goes for \$1,299, and the model tops out at \$1,499 for 1TB. Not to be outdone, iPhone 13 Pro Max is the priciest: \$1,099 for 128GB, \$1,199 for 256GB, \$1,399 for 512GB, and \$1,599 for 1TB. Note that prices may vary by carrier and where you buy your phone.

## Understand What You Need to Use Your iPhone

Before you head off to buy your iPhone, you should know what other connections and accounts you'll need to work with it optimally.

At a minimum, to make standard cellular phone calls, you need to have a service plan with a cellular carrier (such as AT&T or Verizon), as well as a data plan that supports iPhone. The data plan allows you to exchange information (such as emails and text messages) over the internet and download content (such as movies and music) without need of a Wi-Fi connection. Before you sign up, try to verify the strength of cellular coverage in your area (ask your local cellular company representatives for more info), as well as how much data your plan provides each month.

You also need to be able to update the iPhone operating system (iOS). Without a phone carrier service plan, you can update iOS either wirelessly over a Wi-Fi network or by plugging your iPhone into your computer. You would also need to use a Wi-Fi network to go online and make calls using an internet service, such as FaceTime or Skype.



TIP

Given the cost and high-tech nature of the iPhone, having to jury-rig these basic functions doesn't make much sense. Trust me: Get an account and data plan with your phone service provider.

You should also open a free iCloud account, Apple's online storage and syncing service, to store and share content online among your Apple devices. For example, you can set up iCloud in such a way that photos you take on your iPhone will appear on your iPad. You can also use a computer to download photos, music, books, or videos and transfer them to your iPhone through a process called syncing.

Apple has set up its software and the iCloud service to give you two ways to manage content for your iPhone — including apps, music, or photos you've downloaded — and specify how to sync your calendar and contact information.

There are a lot of tech terms to absorb here (iCloud, syncing, and so on). Don't worry. Chapters 3 and 4 cover those settings in more detail.

# Where to Buy Your iPhone

You can't buy an iPhone from just any retail store. You can buy an iPhone at the brick-and-mortar or online Apple Store and from mobile phone providers, such as AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon. You can also find an iPhone at major retailers, such as Best Buy and Walmart, through which you have to buy a service contract for the phone carrier of your choice. You can also find iPhones at several online retailers (such as Amazon.com and Newegg.com) and through smaller, local service providers, which you can find by visiting <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT204039>.



TIP

Apple offers unlocked iPhones. Essentially, these phones aren't tied to a particular provider, so you can use them with any of the four iPhone cellular service providers. Although you may save a lot by avoiding a service commitment, purchasing an unlocked phone can be pricey up front.

## What's in the Box

When you fork over your hard-earned money for your iPhone, you'll be left holding one box about the size of a deck of tarot cards.

Here's what you'll find when you take off the shrink wrap and open the box:



TIP

» **iPhone:** Your iPhone is covered in a thick, plastic-sleeve thingy. Take it off and toss it back in the box.

Save all the packaging until you're certain you won't return the phone. Apple's standard return period is 14 days.

» **Documentation (and I use the term loosely):** This typically includes a small pamphlet, a sheet of Apple logo stickers, and a few more bits of information.

» **Lightning-to-USB-C cable:** Use this cable to connect the iPhone to your computer (if your computer has a USB-C port) or to a USB-C power adapter (not included).

The iPhone box is a study in Zen-like simplicity. Where's the charging plug? Apple now feels that just about everyone has several chargers laying around their home, so they think it's wasteful (not to mention a little more expensive) to include one with every new iPhone. If you need a charger, Apple will certainly sell you one, and many third-party options are available as well.



TIP

Search for iPhone accessories online. You'll find iPhone covers and cases (from leather to silicone), car chargers, and screen guards to protect your phone's screen.

## Take a First Look at the Gadget

In this section, I give you a bit more information about the buttons and other physical features of the newest iPhone models. **Figure 1-3** shows you where each of these items is located on the iPhone 13, 13 mini, 13 Pro, and 13 Pro Max.

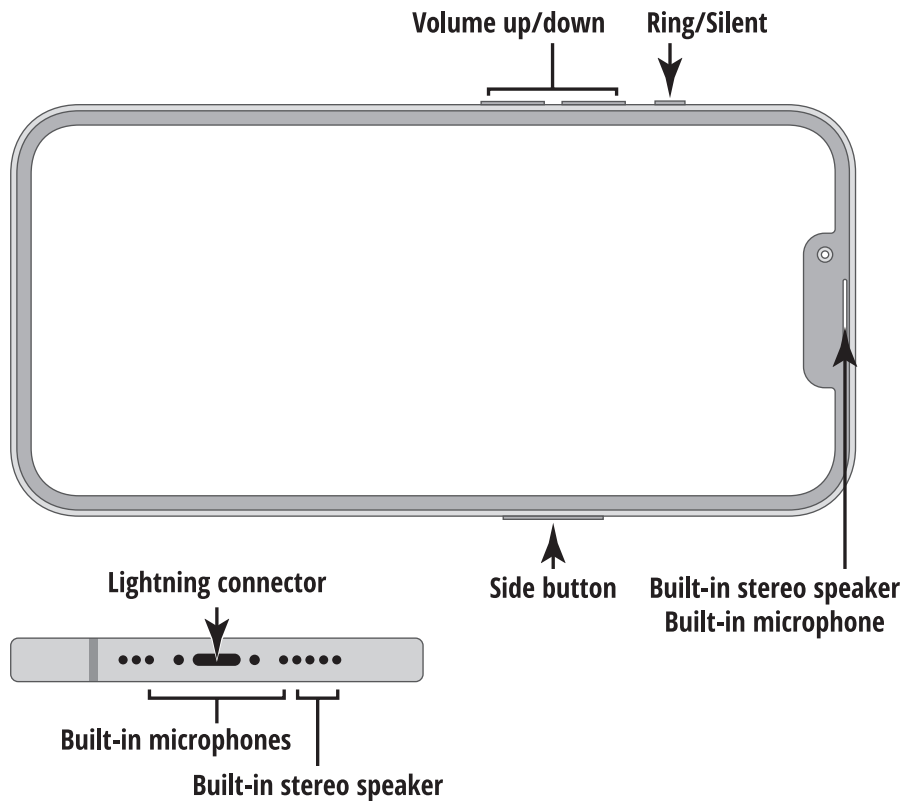
Here's the rundown on what the various hardware features for iPhones without Home buttons (including all iPhone 13 models) are and what they do.



TIP

If you have an iPhone model with a Home button, read your iPhone's documentation or visit <https://support.apple.com/iphone> to discover the hardware features specific to your device.

- » **Side button:** You can use this button to power up your iPhone, put it in sleep mode, wake it up, lock it, force a restart, power it down, and much more.
- » **Lightning connector:** Use the Lightning connector to charge your battery (with the Lightning-to-USB-C cable), listen to audio with EarPods (not included), or sync your iPhone with your computer. (See Chapter 4 for more on syncing.)
- » **Ring/silent switch:** Slide this little switch to mute or unmute the sound on your iPhone.



**FIGURE 1-3**

- » **Built-in stereo speakers:** The speakers in iPhones provide rich stereo sound and deeper bass than previous models, and are located on the bottom edge of the phone and at the top part near the earpiece.
- » **Volume up/down buttons:** Tap the volume up button for more volume and the volume down button for less. (You can use the volume up or volume down button as a camera shutter button when the camera is activated.)
- » **Built-in microphones:** Built-in microphones make it possible to speak into your iPhone to deliver commands or content. This feature allows you to make phone calls, use video calling services (such as Skype or Zoom), and work with other apps that accept audio input, such as the Siri built-in assistant.