

- » Discover what's new in iPhones and iOS 16
- » Choose the right iPhone for you and find where to buy it
- » Understand what you need to use your iPhone
- » Explore what's in the box
- » Take a look at the gadget

Chapter 1

Buying Your iPhone

You'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 16

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 16. It's helpful to understand which new features the latest models and iOS 16 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 14, 14 Plus, 14 Pro, and 14 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:

- » **A15 and A16 Bionic chips:** The iPhone 14 and 14 Plus models include the A15 chip, while the 14 Pro and 14 Pro Max receive the latest and greatest, the A16. The truly innovative tech in these models demands processors that can handle some heavy lifting while still being able to answer calls and retrieve email, and the A15 and A16 are both more than capable.
- » **Dynamic Island (14 Pro and Pro Max models only):** No, this isn't the latest reality show craze, but rather a long-awaited innovation. iPhone models of late have sported a notch at the top of their screens where sensors, cameras, and other hardware reside. Dynamic Island is a seamless pairing of hardware and software that effectively makes that area come alive with information for you, making it an upgraded notch with a twist, if you will. The notch appears to expand or contract, depending on the notifications, alerts, and other activities it's currently tasked with. I hope this great update will find its way into other iPhone models moving forward.
- » **Emergency SOS via Satellite and Crash Detection:** Apple has incorporated these two critically important new safety features into the iPhone 14 lineup. Emergency SOS via Satellite helps you reach emergency responders when you're outside traditional cell or Wi-Fi service. Crash Detection utilizes new gyroscope and accelerometer tech in the latest models to detect when you've

been in an automobile crash and will cause your iPhone to alert emergency services automatically. Both features are something you never want to need but are thankful to have.

- » **Splash, water, and dust resistance:** Your new iPhone 14, 14 Plus, 14 Pro, or 14 Pro Max is resistant to damage caused by water splashing onto it or from dust collecting in it. Now, you don't want to take your iPhone 14 model deep-sea diving, but it's likely to survive submersion in about six meters of water for up to 30 minutes. In other words, if your iPhone 14 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.



TIP

You might consider acquiring AppleCare+, which is Apple's extended warranty, currently priced at \$149 (iPhone 14), \$179 (14 Plus), or \$199 (iPhone 14 Pro and 14 Pro Max) per year. Monthly plans are also available. AppleCare+ covers unlimited incidents of accidental damage (but you will be charged minimal fees, based on the nature of the repair), which could more than cover the cost of repairing your iPhone without it. You can also get AppleCare+ with theft and loss coverage for an additional \$70 (all four models).

- » **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 8 and newer (including the SE second generation, and all 11, 12, 13, and 14 models) can use most features of iOS 16 if you update the operating system (discussed in detail in Chapter 3). This book is based on iOS 16. This update to the

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

- » **All-new lock screen:** Apple's taken a fresh approach to the lock screen, allowing you to customize it to your heart's content. You can create lock screens for every occasion, switch between them in a snap, and include items like widgets, live activities, weather, and more.
- » **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. iOS 16 introduces new features like focus schedules, focus filters (imagine one for work and one for personal), and allow and silence lists for apps and contacts.
- » **Photos:** Photos in iOS 16 includes the new iCloud Shared Photo Library feature, which allows you to create a library of photos that you can share with others via iCloud. Other participants may also collaborate by adding their own photos to the library, providing a more complete memory experience for all. Everyone can also edit, delete, caption, and mark as a favorite any photo in the library.
- » **Messages:** The latest iteration of Messages finally allows you to select multiple messages at once (for example, if you want to delete several at one time), mark read messages as unread, edit messages you've already sent (up to 15 minutes after), and more. This is a nice upgrade, IMO.
- » **Safari:** Tab groups, a welcome new feature in iOS 15, allow you to group your open web pages any way you like. iOS 16 takes the feature a step further by allowing you to share tab groups and create pinned tabs in tab groups. It also introduces Passkeys, a new and more secure way to authenticate yourself on websites that require a password.
- » **Maps:** Maps now allows you to add multiple stops along your route. The new Transit Fares feature helps you calculate fares and other fees so you can better prepare for trip costs.

» **Health app:** You can now use Health to track your medications, discover potential interaction issues, add medications by scanning the label on bottles, get reminders when it's time to take medications, and more.

These are but a few of the improvements made to the latest version of iOS. I suggest visiting www.apple.com/ios/ios-16 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 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, or by retrieving them from the App Library. How you recover them depends on the app; some allow you to hide them while others only let you relegate them to the App Library.

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 14 series. If you'd like to explore others, Apple has a great tool for making comparisons at www.apple.com/iphone/compare.

The sizes of the latest iPhone 14 models vary:

- » iPhone 14 measures 2.82" by 5.78" (6.1" diagonally) with a depth of .31 inch (see **Figure 1-1**).
- » iPhone 14 Plus measures 3.07" by 6.33" (6.7" diagonally) with a depth of .31 inch (also shown in Figure 1-1).
- » iPhone 14 Pro measures 2.81" by 5.81" (6.1" diagonally) with a depth of .31 inch (see **Figure 1-2**).
- » iPhone 14 Pro Max measures 3.05" by 6.33" (6.7" diagonally) with a depth of .31 inch (also shown in Figure 1-2).



Image courtesy of Apple, Inc.

FIGURE 1-1



Image courtesy of Apple, Inc.

FIGURE 1-2

You can get iPhone 14 and 14 Plus in starlight, midnight, blue, purple, and a beautiful product red version. iPhone 14 Pro and 14 Pro Max come in gold, silver, space black, and a great-looking deep purple.

Not sure whether to get an iPhone 14 model? Here are a few more key differences:

» **All iPhone 14 models include upgraded batteries.** You get up to 20 hours of video playback for iPhone 14, up to 23 hours for 14 Pro, 26 hours for 14 Plus, and a whopping 29 hours for 14 Pro Max.

- » **iPhone 14 models use eSIMs instead of physical SIMs.** A SIM stores important information about your phone and your cellular provider network. Physical SIMs can be moved from phone to phone, but eSIMs are permanently built-in.
- » **All models received camera upgrades.** iPhone 14 Pro and 14 Pro Max have triple rear-facing cameras, providing amazing optical zoom, portrait mode, and other features. The 14 and 14 Plus 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 14 offers 2532 x 1170 resolution; 14 Plus provides 2778 x 1284 resolution; 14 Pro boasts 2556 x 1179; and 14 Pro Max provides a stunning 2796 x 1290.

Table 1-1 gives you a quick comparison of the iPhone SE (third generation), 12, 13, 13 mini, 14, 14 Plus, 14 Pro, and 14 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.)

Other differences between iPhone models come primarily from the current operating system, iOS 16, which I cover in the remaining chapters of the book.



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 \$39.50 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 for more information.

TABLE 1-1 iPhone Model Comparison

Model	Storage	Cost (may vary by carrier)	Carriers
SE (third generation)	64GB, 128GB, and 256GB	From \$429	AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile
12	64GB, 128GB, and 256GB	From \$599	AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile
13	128GB, 256GB, and 512GB	From \$699	AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile
13 mini	128GB, 256GB, and 512GB	From \$599	AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile
14	128GB, 256GB, and 512GB	From \$799	AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile
14 Plus	128GB, 256GB, and 512GB	From \$899	AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile
14 Pro	128GB, 256GB, 512GB, and 1TB	From \$999	AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile
14 Pro Max	128GB, 256GB, 512GB, and 1TB	From \$1,099	AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile

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 14 or 14 Plus are 128, 256, and 512 gigabytes (GB), while 14 Pro and 14 Pro Max have 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 are some guidelines:

- » If you simply want to check email, browse the web, and keep your calendar up to date, and you enjoy communicating via voice, video, and instant messaging, 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.



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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 14, a 128GB unit costs \$799, 256GB is \$899, and 512GB will set you back \$1,099. iPhone 14 Plus with 128GB goes for \$899, 256GB at \$899, and 512GB for \$1,199. iPhone 14 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 14 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, but that box does include some magical goodies.

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 14, 14 Plus, 14 Pro, and 14 Pro Max.

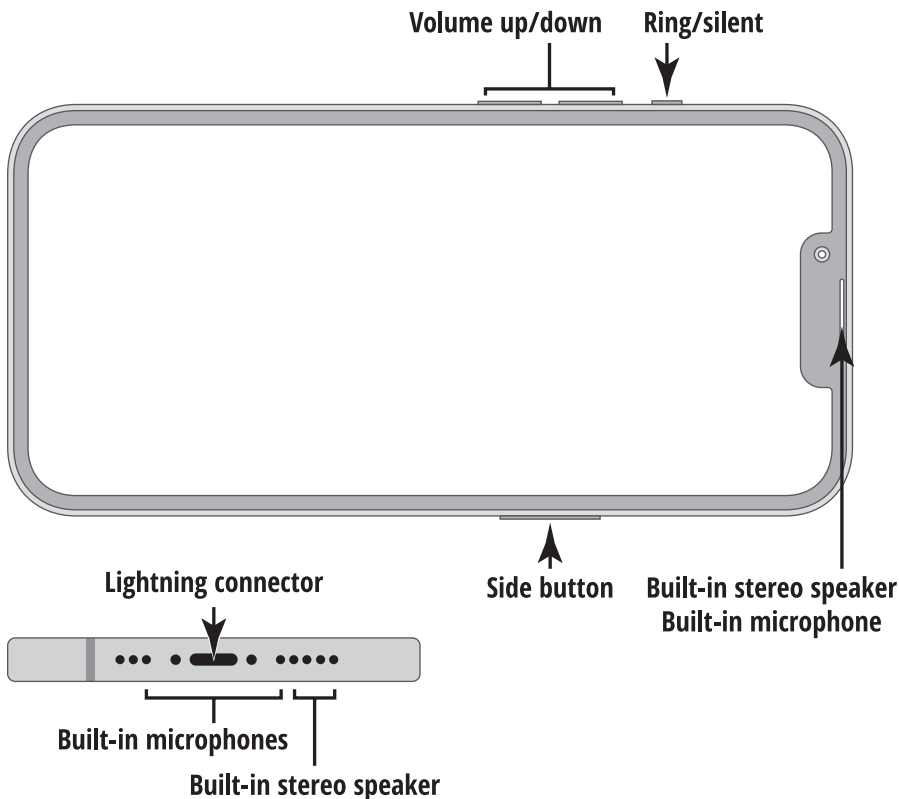


FIGURE 1-3

Here's the rundown on what the various hardware features for iPhones without Home buttons (including all iPhone 14 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.
- » **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.