

- » Discover what's new in iPhones and iOS 18
- » 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 18

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 18. It's helpful to understand which new features the latest models and iOS 18 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 16, 16 Plus, 16 Pro, and 16 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:

- » **A18 and A18 Pro chips:** The iPhone 16 and 16 Plus models include the A18 chip, while the 16 Pro and 16 Pro Max receive the latest and greatest, the A18 Pro. 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 A18 and A18 Pro are both more than stunningly capable.
- » **Camera Control:** This new hardware feature for iPhone allows instant access to and easy and intuitive control of your iPhone's built-in cameras. The sensor reacts to your touch to give you total command of your cameras and their features. As Apple continues to roll out their Apple Intelligence updates, Camera Control will become even more powerful.
- » **Emergency SOS via Satellite, Crash Detection, Roadside Assistance via Satellite, and Messages via Satellite:** Apple has incorporated these four critically important safety features into the iPhone 16 lineup. Emergency SOS via Satellite helps you reach emergency responders when you're outside traditional cell or Wi-Fi service. Crash Detection utilizes 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. Roadside Assistance via Satellite helps users connect with AAA, the nation's largest roadside assistance provider, should the need arise when they have no cellular or Wi-Fi coverage. Messages via Satellite allows you to

stay in contact using the Messages app, even when you're not connected to Wi-Fi or cellular data. All four features are something you never want to need but are thankful to have.



TIP

You might consider acquiring AppleCare+, which is Apple's extended warranty, currently priced at \$149 (iPhone 16), \$179 (16 Plus), or \$199 (iPhone 16 Pro and 16 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).



WARNING

Don't think your iPhone is unbreakable. Cases are still a good — no, make that 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. (MagSafe is Apple's version of wireless charging that uses magnets to keep your iPhone and the charger better connected, which translates to faster and more efficient charging. Qi is an industry-standard wireless charging technology used by Apple and most smartphone manufacturers.)

Any iPhone model from the iPhone SE second generation and newer (including all 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 models) can use most features of iOS 18 if you update the operating system (discussed in detail in Chapter 3). This book is based on iOS 18. This update to the operating system adds many features, including (but definitely not limited to) the following:

- » **Screen customizations:** The Home screen, lock screen, and Control Center all now allow you to make the most extensive customizations ever to icons, icon and widget placement, and more.
- » **Photos:** The Photos app gets a (mostly) new look. If you're a Photos fan, pay particular attention to the changes mentioned in Chapter 19. The new Unified View and Collections are worth checking out.

- » **Messages:** The Messages app gets several upgrades, including new emojis, Message via Satellite, and Send Later. A big one for iPhone users who communicate with folks unlucky enough to have Android devices is the newly supported Rich Communication Services (RCS) messaging. RCS allows for much more than just plain text messages, such as sharing large files and high-quality videos and photos.
- » **Accessibility features and improvements:** Apple is always enhancing accessibility features for its products, and it's on top of the game with new features like Eye Tracking, Vocal Shortcuts, and Music Haptics in this latest release of iOS.
- » **Apple Intelligence:** Apple Intelligence, which Apple describes as "AI for the rest of us," is coming to iOS 18, but only for iPhone 15 Pro, iPhone 15 Pro Max, and newer iPhone models. It will be the gem of iOS 18, but since it won't be introduced until later in 2024 or possibly 2025, there's not much I can say about it in this edition of the book. If you're interested (and you very much should be), find out more at www.apple.com/apple-intelligence.

These are but a few of the improvements made to the latest version of iOS. I suggest visiting www.apple.com/ios/ios-18 to find out more.



TIP

Don't need all the built-in apps? You can remove them from your Home screen. (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.

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 16 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 16 models vary:

- » iPhone 16 measures 2.82" by 5.81" (the screen measures 6.1" diagonally) with a depth of .31 inch (see **Figure 1-1**).
- » iPhone 16 Plus measures 3.06" by 6.33" (the screen measures 6.7" diagonally) with a depth of .31 inch.
- » iPhone 16 Pro measures 2.81" by 5.89" (the screen measures 6.3" diagonally) with a depth of .32 inch (see **Figure 1-2**).
- » iPhone 16 Pro Max measures 3.06" by 6.42" (the screen measures 6.9" diagonally) with a depth of .32 inch.



Image courtesy of Apple, Inc.

FIGURE 1-1



Image courtesy of Apple, Inc.

FIGURE 1-2

You can get iPhone 16 and 16 Plus in black, white, teal, ultramarine, and pink. iPhone 16 Pro and 16 Pro Max come in black titanium, white titanium, natural titanium, and desert titanium.

Not sure whether to get an iPhone 16 model? Here are a few more key differences:

- » **All iPhone 16 models include a great battery life.** You get up to 22 hours of video playback for iPhone 16, up to 27 hours for 16 Pro and 16 Plus, and a whopping 33 hours for 16 Pro Max.
- » **iPhone 16 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 16 Pro and 16 Pro Max have an advanced pro camera system that provides amazing optical zoom, portrait mode, 4K video recording in Dolby Vision, and other features. The 16 and 16 Plus have advanced 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 16 offers 2556 x 1179 resolution; 16 Plus provides 2796 x 1290 resolution; 16 Pro boasts 2622 x 1206; and 16 Pro Max provides a stunning 2868 x 1320.

Table 1-1 gives you a quick comparison of the iPhone SE (third generation), 14, 14 Plus, 15, 15 Plus, 16, 16 Plus, 16 Pro, and 16 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 18, which I cover in the remaining chapters of the book.

TABLE 1-1 iPhone Model Comparison

Model	Storage	Cost (May Vary by Carrier)
SE (third generation)	64GB, 128GB, and 256GB	From \$429
14	128GB, 256GB, and 512GB	From \$599
14 Plus	128GB, 256GB, and 512GB	From \$699
15	128GB, 256GB, and 512GB	From \$699
15 Plus	128GB, 256GB, and 512GB	From \$799
16	128GB, 256GB, and 512GB	From \$799
16 Plus	128GB, 256GB, and 512GB	From \$899
16 Pro	128GB, 256GB, 512GB, and 1TB	From \$999
16 Pro Max	256GB, 512GB, and 1TB	From \$1,199

**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 AppleCare+ 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.

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 16 or 16 Plus are 128, 256, and 512 gigabytes (GB), while 16 Pro and 16 Pro Max have 128GB (16 Pro only), 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. Some iPhone models are now offering *terabytes* (TB) of storage; 1TB is equal to 1000GB.

What's the price for larger storage? For the iPhone 16, a 128GB unit costs \$799, 256GB is \$899, and 512GB will set you back \$1,099. iPhone 16 Plus with 128GB goes for \$899, 256GB at \$999, and 512GB for \$1,199. iPhone 16 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 16 Pro Max is the priciest: \$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 account on iCloud, 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/109526>.



TIP

Apple offers unlocked iPhones. Essentially, these phones aren't tied to a particular provider, so you can use them with any iPhone cellular service provider. 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 very loosely):** This typically includes a small pamphlet, a sheet of Apple logo stickers, and a few more bits of information. Thankfully, you have this book to guide you.

» **USB-C cable:** Use this cable to connect the iPhone to your computer (if your computer has a USB-C port; otherwise, you'll need a USB-C-to-USB-C adapter) 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 charger plugs 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 plug, 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 16 models.

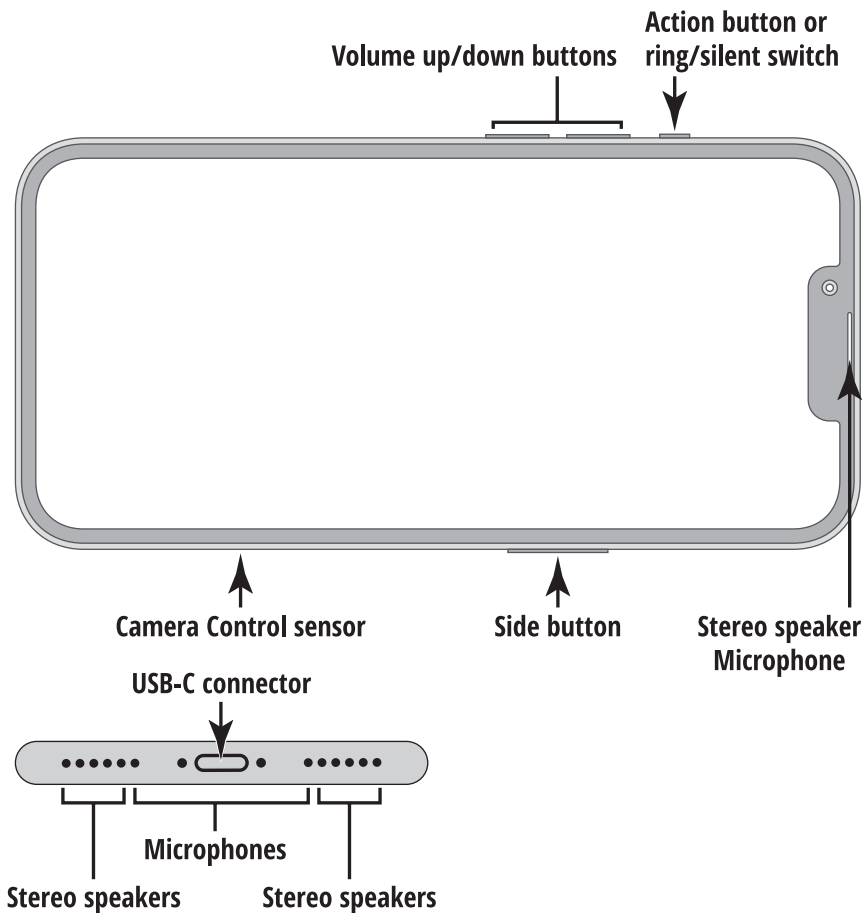


FIGURE 1-3

Here's the rundown on what the various hardware features for iPhones without Home buttons (including all iPhone 16 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 or USB-C connector:** Use the Lightning or USB-C connector to charge your battery, listen to audio with EarPods (not included), or sync your iPhone with your computer. (See Chapter 4 for more on syncing.)
- » **Ring/silent switch (all models except iPhone 15 Pro, 15 Pro Max, 16, 16 Plus, 16 Pro, and 16 Pro Max):** Slide this little switch to mute or unmute the sound on your iPhone.
- » **Action button (iPhone 15 Pro, 15 Pro Max, and all iPhone 16 models only):** This button can be customized to perform a host of features, including silent mode, Focus, Camera, Flashlight, Voice Memo, Recognize Music, Translate, Magnifier, Controls, Shortcut, and Accessibility.
- » **Camera Control (iPhone 16 models only):** This can perform its share of features, too, including Exposure, Depth, Zoom, Cameras, Styles, and Tone.
- » **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:** Press 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.

