

- » Discover what's new in iPads and iPadOS 18
- » Choose the right iPad for you
- » Understand what you need to use your iPad
- » Explore what's in the box
- » Take a look at the gadget

Chapter 1

Buying Your iPad

You've read about it. You've seen the lines at Apple Stores on the day a new version of the iPad is released. You're so intrigued that you've decided to get your own iPad. Perhaps you're not new to tablet computers but are ready to make the switch to the ultimate in such devices. With your iPad, 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 iPad redefines the tablet computing experience in an exciting way. It's also a perfect fit for seniors.

In this chapter, you learn about the advantages of the iPad, as well as where to buy this little gem and associated data plans from providers for iPads that support cellular data. 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 iPad has very few of them.

Discover the Newest iPads and iPadOS 18

Apple's iPad gets its features from a combination of hardware and its software operating system, which is called iPadOS (short for iPad operating system). The most current version of the operating system is iPadOS 18. It's helpful to understand which new features the latest iPad models and iPadOS 18 bring to the table (all of which are covered in more detail in this book).

The iPad is currently available in a variety of sizes and configurations, depending on the version of iPad:

- » **iPad:** The tenth-generation model takes the iPad up a notch with a touchscreen that measures 10.9 inches diagonally and boasts a fast 64-bit desktop-class A14 Bionic processor.
- » **iPad Air:** The sixth-generation iPad Air sports a powerful M2 processor and comes in two touchscreen sizes, one measuring 11 inches diagonally and the other at 13 inches diagonally.
- » **iPad mini:** The iPad mini 7's touchscreen measures 8.3 inches diagonally. This iPad uses an A17 Pro processor to do the behind-the-scenes work.
- » **iPad Pro:** The two seventh-generation iPad Pro models are the fastest of the bunch. One's touchscreen measures 11 inches diagonally, and the other's is 13 inches; they both come with blazing-fast M4 processors, which are the same processors used in many of Apple's newest Mac desktop and laptop computers.



TIP

Dimensions of devices are typically shown in the units of measurement commonly used in a region. This means, for example, that the basic tenth-generation iPad is shown on Apple's U.S. site as being 9.79 inches (248.6 mm) high and 7.07 inches (179.5 mm) wide. In metric-system countries, both dimensions are given, but the order is reversed. When it comes to screen sizes, however, the dimensions are given in inches.

In addition to the features of previous iPads, the latest iPad models offer the following:

- » **Ultra Retina XDR and Liquid Retina displays:** In addition to screen size, screen resolution has evolved so that Apple's Ultra Retina XDR and Liquid Retina displays, both of which support very high-resolution graphics, now appear across the line. The name derives from the concept that individual pixels on the screen are so small that they can't be distinguished at normal viewing distance.
- » **Apple Pencil:** Originally designed exclusively for use with iPad Pro models, the Apple Pencil now works with all the latest iPad models. (Be sure to check which version of Apple Pencil will work with your iPad by visiting www.apple.com/apple-pencil.) Apple Pencil lets you draw and write on the screen with a familiar pencil-style tool rather than with your finger. The Apple Pencil contains a battery and sophisticated processing powers that make the experience of using it very much like (and sometimes better than) a traditional pencil. Third-party pencils and drawing tools exist, but Apple's integration of Apple Pencil is remarkably smooth; the product has taken off quickly among graphic artists, illustrators, and designers. As other people have discovered its usability for marking up documents, it is becoming more and more common in business environments.
- » **Neural Engine:** The Neural Engine is a component of the processor in every iPad that focuses on handling specialized tasks related to artificial intelligence, image and speech processing, and more cool things.
- » **Touch ID:** This security feature is included on several iPad models. Sensors in the Home button (ninth-generation iPad) or top button (iPad Air, iPad mini, and tenth-generation iPad) allow you to train the iPad to recognize your fingerprint and grant you access with a finger press. Touch ID also allows you to use the Apple Pay feature to buy items without having to enter your payment information every time.
- » **Facial recognition:** Touch ID is replaced with Face ID on certain iPad models. Using Face ID and the front-facing camera, your iPad unlocks when it recognizes your face. It can be used also for purchases and other tasks.

- » **Barometric sensor:** On all iPad models, this sensor makes it possible for your iPad to sense air pressure around you. This feature is especially cool when you're hiking a mountain, where the weather may change as you climb. Perhaps more to the point, the changes in barometric pressure can be sensed on a smaller scale so that elevation can be measured as you move normally.
- » **Smart Connector for Smart Keyboard:** In addition to the onscreen keyboard, you can use a Smart Connector to hook up a Smart Keyboard, an external keyboard that makes getting complex work done much easier. Smart Connector is supported for all iPad models, with the exception of iPad mini.
- » **Live photos:** Using the 3D Touch feature, you can press a photo on the screen to make it play like a short video. The Camera app captures 1.5 seconds on either side of the moment when you capture the photo, so anything moving in the image you photographed, such as water flowing in a stream, seems to move when you press and hold the still photo.

The iPadOS 18 update to the operating system adds many features, including (but definitely not limited to) the following:

- » **Apple Intelligence:** Apple Intelligence is Apple's spin on generative artificial intelligence. This gamechanger includes a greater understanding of personal context for Siri, which will be able to better understand and interact intelligently when you ask something like, "When is my granddaughter's plane landing?" Apple Intelligence can assist with writing just about anything and includes built-in access to the latest incarnation of ChatGPT (a ChatGPT account is not required!). Information you request will never leave the comfort of your iPad and Apple's servers without your explicit permission. Some Apple Intelligence features are available now but more will be released in future updates of iPadOS. Apple Intelligence is available only for iPad mini (A17 Pro), iPad Pro 11-inch (3rd and 4th generations) and 12.9-inch (5th and 6th generations), iPad Air (5th generation), or newer. For much more information than I can squeeze in here, please visit www.apple.com/apple-intelligence.

- » **Notes:** This gem of an app is getting better all the time, with new features such as live audio transcription and Smart Script. With live audio transcription, you can record audio in a note and have Notes generate a transcription on the fly! Smart Script re-creates your own handwriting style from your notes when you jot them down using an Apple Pencil (or even your finger), smoothing and straightening the text.
- » **Customization:** You can customize your iPad more than ever before. Move apps and widgets anywhere you want on the Home screen pages. Lock and hide apps such as financial or medical apps to prevent other people from accessing them. Use custom colors for your app icons and text. Even Control Center has been given a big upgrade.
- » **Photos:** The Photos app has been heavily redesigned, making it easier for you to find photos based on a range of topics. A carousel helps you browse your photos and videos with ease.
- » **Built-in apps have been updated:** iPadOS 18 provides performance enhancements and interface upgrades for all the apps that come preinstalled with it, bringing many into the realm of their desktop computer counterparts.



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 iPad's storage space.) When you remove a built-in app from your Home screen, you aren't deleting it — you're hiding it. 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.

These are but a very few of the improvements made to the latest version of iPadOS. I highly suggest visiting www.apple.com/ipados to find out more.

Choose the Right iPad for You

The most obvious differences among iPad models (the current 11-inch and 13-inch iPad Air models are shown in **Figure 1-1**) are their size and weight, with the Pro being biggest, followed by iPad Air, then iPad, and finally the smallest, iPad mini. All models come in a variety of colors to suit everyone's taste.



Photo courtesy of Apple Inc.

FIGURE 1-1

All models come either with Wi-Fi only, so you access a Wi-Fi network for internet access, or with Wi-Fi + Cellular for connecting to the internet through Wi-Fi or a cellular network (as your cellphone does). The iPad models also differ in available memory and price based on that memory (prices are accurate as of this writing and are subject to change):

» **iPad Pro 11-inch:** Wi-Fi models come in 256GB for \$999, 512GB for \$1,199, 1TB for \$1,599, and 2TB for \$1,999; Wi-Fi + Cellular

models of each memory configuration cost \$200 more than their Wi-Fi-only counterparts.

- » **iPad Pro 13-inch:** Wi-Fi models come in 256GB for \$1,299, 512GB for \$1,499, 1TB for \$1,899, and 2TB for \$2,299; Wi-Fi + Cellular models of each memory configuration cost \$200 more than their Wi-Fi-only counterparts.
- » **iPad Air 11-inch:** Wi-Fi models come in 128GB for \$599, 256GB for \$699, 512GB for \$899, and 1TB for \$1,099; Wi-Fi + Cellular models of each memory configuration cost \$150 more than their Wi-Fi-only counterparts.
- » **iPad Air 13-inch:** Wi-Fi models come in 128GB for \$799, 256GB for \$899, 512GB for \$1,099, and 1TB for \$1,299; Wi-Fi + Cellular models of each memory configuration cost \$150 more than their Wi-Fi-only counterparts.
- » **iPad (tenth generation):** Wi-Fi models come in 64GB for \$349 and 256GB for \$499; Wi-Fi + Cellular models of each memory configuration cost \$150 more than their Wi-Fi-only counterparts.
- » **iPad mini:** The Wi-Fi model comes in 128GB for \$499, 256GB for \$599, and 512GB for \$799; Wi-Fi + Cellular models of each memory configuration cost \$150 more than their Wi-Fi-only counterparts.

iPad models vary in screen quality and resolution, camera quality, and so on. Logically, the bigger the iPad, the bigger the price and (usually) the higher the quality.

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 iPad'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 iPad. You can enjoy a lot of material online without ever downloading its full content to your iPad — and given that some iPad models have relatively small amounts of storage, streaming is a good idea. See Chapters 11, 13, and 15 for more about getting your music and movies online.

Your storage options with the various iPad models range from 64 gigabytes (GB) to 2 terabytes (TB), which is equivalent to 2,000GB. You must choose the right amount of storage because you can't open the unit and add more as you typically can with a desktop computer. However, Apple has thoughtfully provided iCloud, a service you can use to store content on the internet. (You can read more about iCloud in Chapter 3.)

How much storage is enough for your iPad? Here's a guideline:

- » If you regularly work with large media files, such as movies or TV shows, you might need 512GB or higher. For example, if you shoot 4K video at 60 frames per second, that will take roughly 1GB of storage space for every two-and-a-half minutes of footage. In light of this fact, at least 1TB of storage may be more appealing if you shoot a lot of video.
- » If you like lots of media, such as movies or TV shows, you may need at least 256GB or 512GB.
- » For most people who manage a reasonable number of photos, download some music, and watch heavy-duty media (such as movies) online, 128GB or 256GB is probably sufficient.
- » If you simply want to check email, browse the web, and write short notes to yourself, 64GB is likely plenty.



TIP

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 iPads, so that number makes sense. The iPad, 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. As mentioned earlier, some iPad models are offering *terabytes* (TB) of storage; 1TB is equal to 1,000GB.

Know What Else You May Need: Internet and Computer

Although you can use your iPad on its own without any internet or Wi-Fi access and without a computer to pair it with, it's easier if you have internet access and a computer that you can (occasionally) use with your iPad.

Use basic internet access for your iPad

You need to be able to connect to the internet to take advantage of most iPad features. If you have an Apple Account, you can have an iCloud account, Apple's online storage service, to store and share content online, and you can use a computer to download photos, music, or applications from non-Apple online sources (such as stores, sharing sites, or your local library) and transfer them to your iPad through a process called syncing, which you learn about in Chapter 3. You can also use a computer or iCloud to register your iPad the first time you start it, although you can have the folks at the Apple Store handle registration for you if you have an Apple Store nearby. If you don't have a store nearby, visit www.apple.com/shop/help for assistance.

You can set up your iPad without an internet connection and without going to an Apple Store: The best way to find out more information is to contact <https://support.apple.com/> through an internet connection on another device or at a public library or internet cafe.

Can you use your iPad without owning a computer and just use public Wi-Fi hotspots to go online (or a cellular connection, if you have such a model)? Yes. To go online using a Wi-Fi-only iPad and to use many

of its built-in features at home, however, you need to have a home Wi-Fi network available.

Pair your iPad with a computer

For syncing with a computer, Apple's iPad User Guide recommends that you have

- » A Mac or PC with a USB 2.0 or 3.0 port and one of these operating systems:
 - macOS version 10.13 (High Sierra) or newer
 - Windows 10 or newer
- » iTunes 12.9 or newer on a Mac running macOS El Capitan (10.11.6) through macOS Mojave (10.14.6), Finder on Macs running macOS Catalina (10.15) and newer, and iTunes 12.12.10 or newer on a PC, available at www.apple.com/itunes/download or via the Microsoft Store
- » Internet access
- » An Apple Account

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

There are a lot of tech terms to absorb here (iCloud, iTunes, syncing, and so on). Don't worry: Chapters 2 and 3 cover these in more detail.

Choose Wi-Fi Only or Wi-Fi + Cellular

You use Wi-Fi to connect to a wireless network at home or at locations such as an internet cafe, a library, a grocery store, or any public transportation that offers Wi-Fi. This type of network uses short-range radio to connect to the internet; its range is reasonably limited, so if you leave home or walk out of the coffee shop, you can't use it

anymore. (These limitations may change, however, as towns install community-wide Wi-Fi networks.)

The cellular technologies allow an iPad to connect to the internet via a widespread cellular network. You use it in much the same way that you make calls from just about anywhere with your cellphone. A Wi-Fi + Cellular iPad costs more than the basic Wi-Fi-only model, but it also includes GPS (Global Positioning System) service, which pinpoints your location so that you can get more accurate location information and driving directions.

Also, to use your cellular network in the United States, you must pay a monthly fee. The good news is that no carrier requires a long-term contract, which you probably had to have when you bought your cellphone and its service plan. You can pay for a connection during the month you visit your grandkids or friends, for example, and get rid of it when you arrive home. Features, data allowance (which relates to accessing email or downloading items from the internet, for example), and prices vary by carrier and could change at any time, so visit each carrier's website to see what it offers. Note that if you intend to stream videos (watch them on your iPad from the internet), you can eat through your data plan allowance quickly.

How do you choose? If you want to wander around the woods or town — or take long drives with your iPad continually connected to the internet to get step-by-step navigation info from the Maps app — get Wi-Fi + Cellular and pay the additional costs. Don't bother with cellular if you'll use your iPad mainly at home or via a Wi-Fi hotspot (a location where Wi-Fi access to the internet is available, such as a local coffee shop or bookstore). You can find lots of hotspots at libraries, restaurants, hotels, airports, and other locations.

If you have a Wi-Fi-only iPad, you can use the hotspot feature on a smartphone, which allows the iPad to use your phone's cellular connection to go online if you have a data-use plan that supports hotspot use with your phone service carrier. Check out the features of your phone to turn on the hotspot feature.

Consider iPad Accessories

At present, Apple and many other companies offer some accessories that you may want to check out when you purchase your iPad, including the following:

- » **iPad cases and covers:** Your iPad isn't cheap, and unlike a laptop computer, it has a constantly exposed screen that can be damaged if you drop or scratch it. Investing in a good iPad case or cover is a good idea if you intend to take your iPad out of your house.
- » **Printers:** Various HP, Brother, Canon, and Epson printers support the wireless AirPrint feature. At this writing, prices range from \$129 to \$399, and discounts are often available. Be sure to check whether your current printer will work before going out to purchase a new one.
- » **Smart Keyboards:** You can buy an attachable keyboard for certain iPad models, which will make working with productivity apps much easier. These keyboards connect to your iPad to provide power and transmit data between the devices. Also, the Magic Keyboard from Apple for iPad Pro includes a trackpad for easy navigation without using your finger on the screen.
- » **Apple Pencil:** For \$79 (Apple Pencil) or \$129 (Apple Pencil Pro), you can buy the highly sophisticated stylus for use with the iPad. The Apple Pencil makes it easy to draw on your iPad screen or manage complex interactions more precisely.
- » **Apple Digital AV Adapter:** To connect devices to output high-definition media, you can buy this adapter for about \$40 and use it with an HDMI cable. More and more devices are using this technology, such as projectors and TVs. But remember that wireless connections such as Bluetooth and Wi-Fi are less expensive and can eliminate all those cables and cords. In some circumstances, a wired connection is faster and more reliable than wireless.

Explore What's in the Box

After you fork over your hard-earned money for your iPad, you'll be holding one box. Besides your iPad and a small documentation package, here's a rundown of what you'll find when you take off the shrink wrap and open the box:

- » **iPad:** Your iPad is covered in a thick plastic sleeve-film that you can take off and toss (unless you think there's a chance that you'll return the device, in which case you may want to keep all packaging for 14 days — Apple's standard return period).
- » **Documentation:** Under the iPad itself is a small, white envelope about the size of a half-dozen index cards. Open it and you'll find the iconic Apple stickers and some very brief instructions on how to use your iPad. Apple feels that using an iPad should be so intuitive that you don't really need instructions. But folks are buying this book (thanks!), so Apple may not be right about that.
- » **A USB-C cable:** Use this cable to connect the iPad to your computer or use it with the last item in the box, which is the USB-C power adapter.
- » **USB-C power adapter:** The power adapter attaches to the cable so that you can plug it into the wall and charge the battery.

That's all you'll find in the box, a study in Zen-like simplicity.

Take a First Look at the Gadget

The little card contained in the documentation that comes with your iPad gives you a picture of the iPad with callouts to the buttons you'll find on it. In this section, I give you a bit more information about those buttons and other physical features of the iPad. **Figure 1-2** shows you the layout for the tenth-generation iPad, and **Figure 1-3** gives you the rundown for features pertaining to the iPad Air. **Figure 1-4** lays out the iPad mini, and the iPad Pro models are mapped out in **Figure 1-5**.

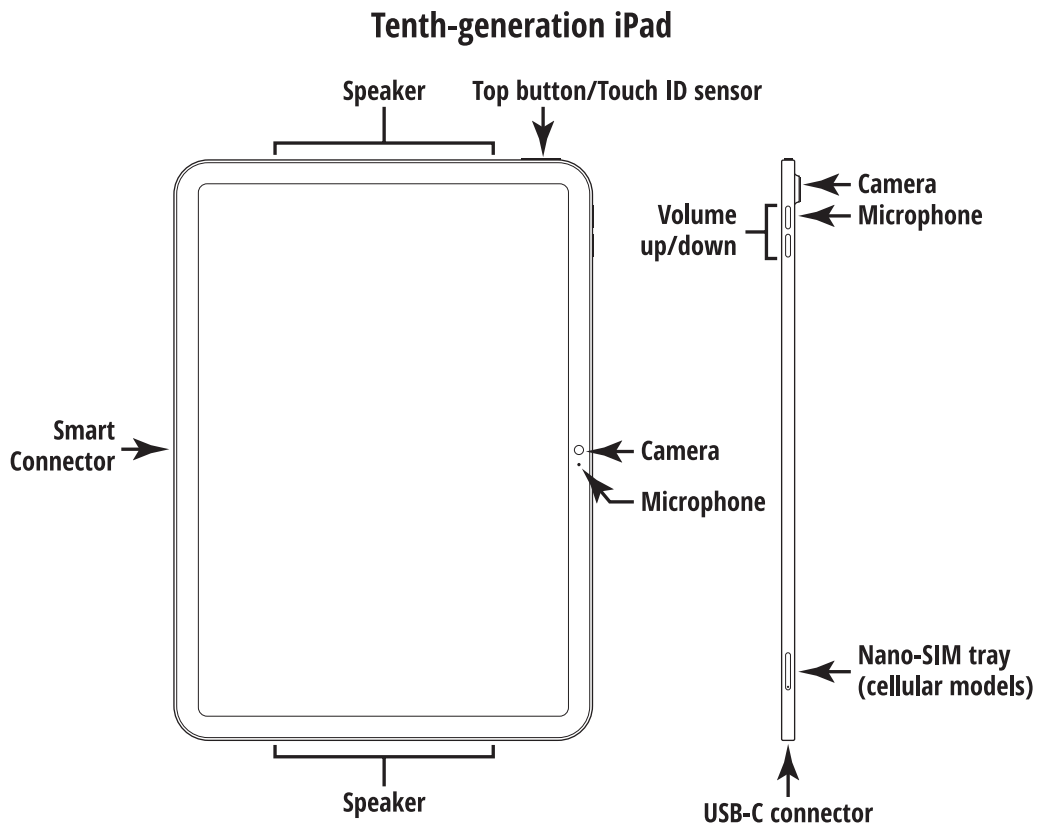


FIGURE 1-2

Here's the rundown on what the various hardware features are and what they do:

- » **Top button:** You can use this button (whose functionality I cover in more detail in Chapter 2) to power up your iPad, put it in sleep mode, wake it up, or power it down. The top button also includes a Touch ID sensor on the tenth-generation iPad, iPad Air, and iPad mini.
- » **Lightning/USB-C Connector slot:** Plug the Lightning or USB-C connector into this port on the iPad, and plug the other end of the cable into the power adapter to charge your battery or use it without the power adapter to sync your iPad with your computer (which you find out more about in Chapter 3).

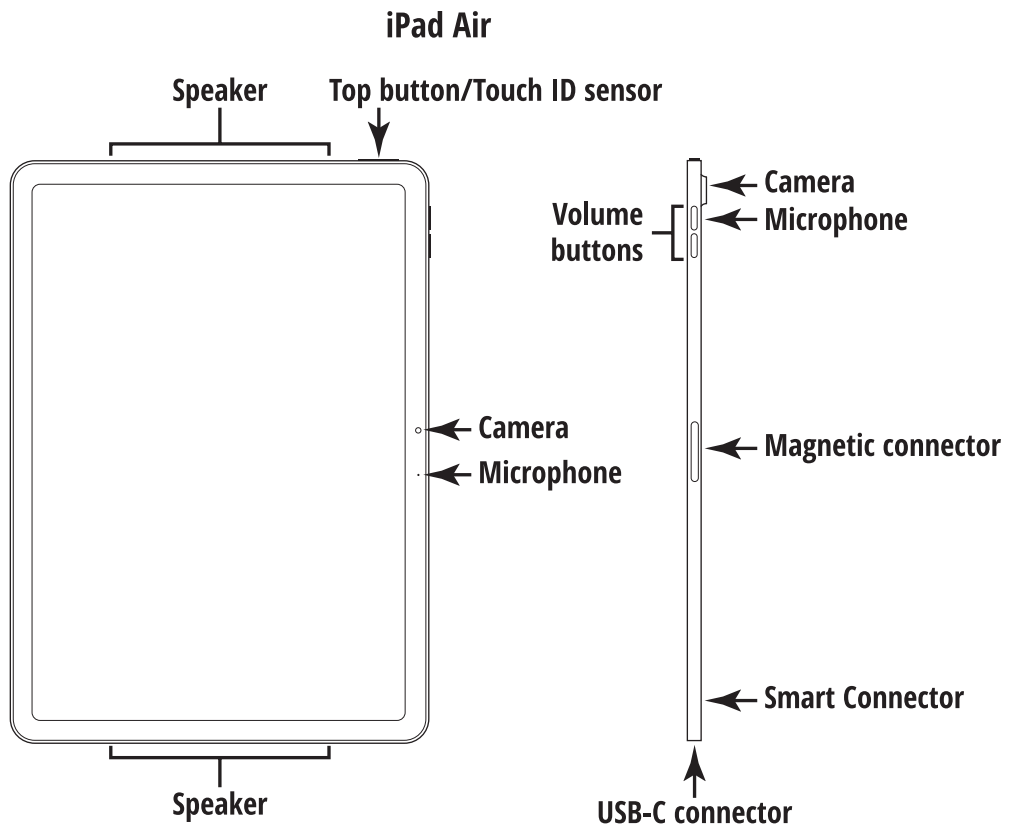


FIGURE 1-3

- » **Cameras:** iPads offer front- and rear-facing cameras, which you can use to shoot photos or video. Be careful not to put your thumb over the rear camera when taking shots. (I have several very nice photos of my fingers already.)
- » **Smart Connector:** iPad Pro, iPad Air, and iPad include this feature to support accessories such as the Smart Keyboard.
- » **SIM tray:** This tray comes only with Wi-Fi + Cellular models. The SIM is what allows your iPad to connect and authenticate to a cellular network.
- » **(Tiny, mighty) speakers:** One nice surprise when I first got my iPad was hearing what a great little stereo sound system it has — and how much sound can come from these tiny speakers.

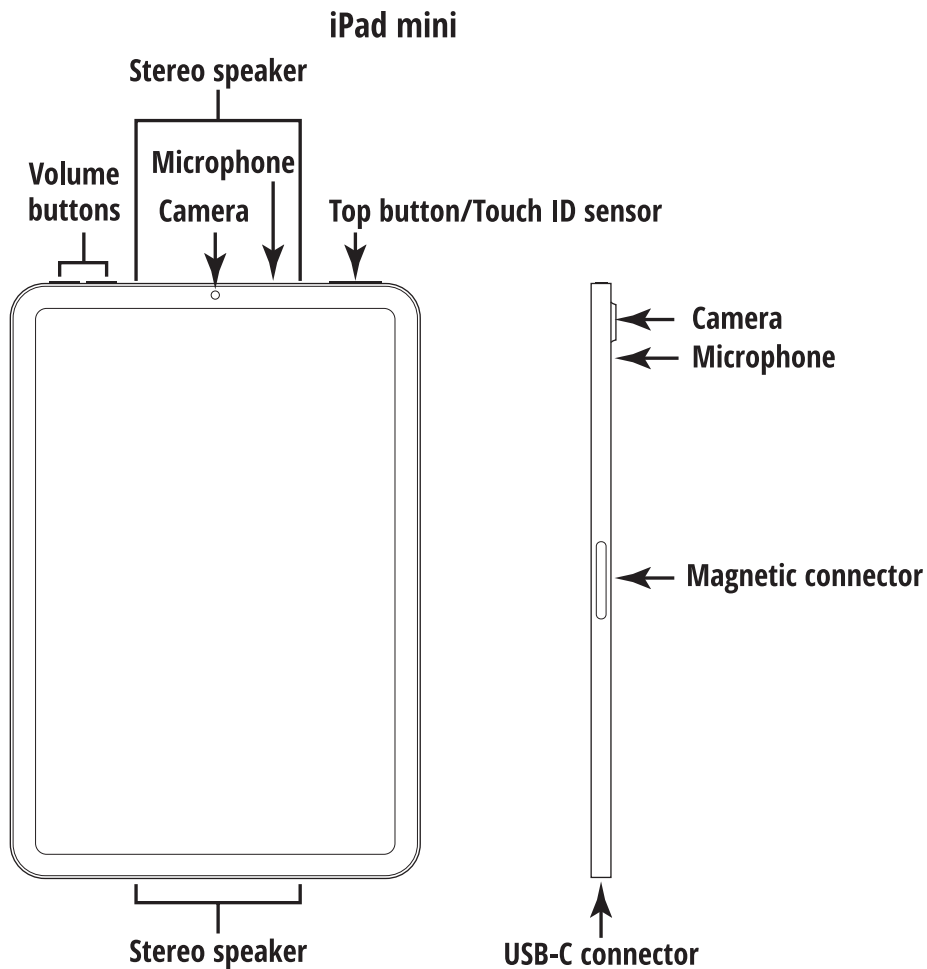


FIGURE 1-4



TIP

» **Volume:** Tap the volume switch, called a rocker, up for more volume and down for less.

You can use this rocker as a camera shutter button when the camera is activated.

» **Microphones:** Microphones make it possible to speak into your iPad to deliver commands or enter content using the Siri personal-assistant feature. Using Siri, you can do things such as make phone calls using the internet, use video-calling services, dictate your keyboard input, or work with other apps that accept audio input.

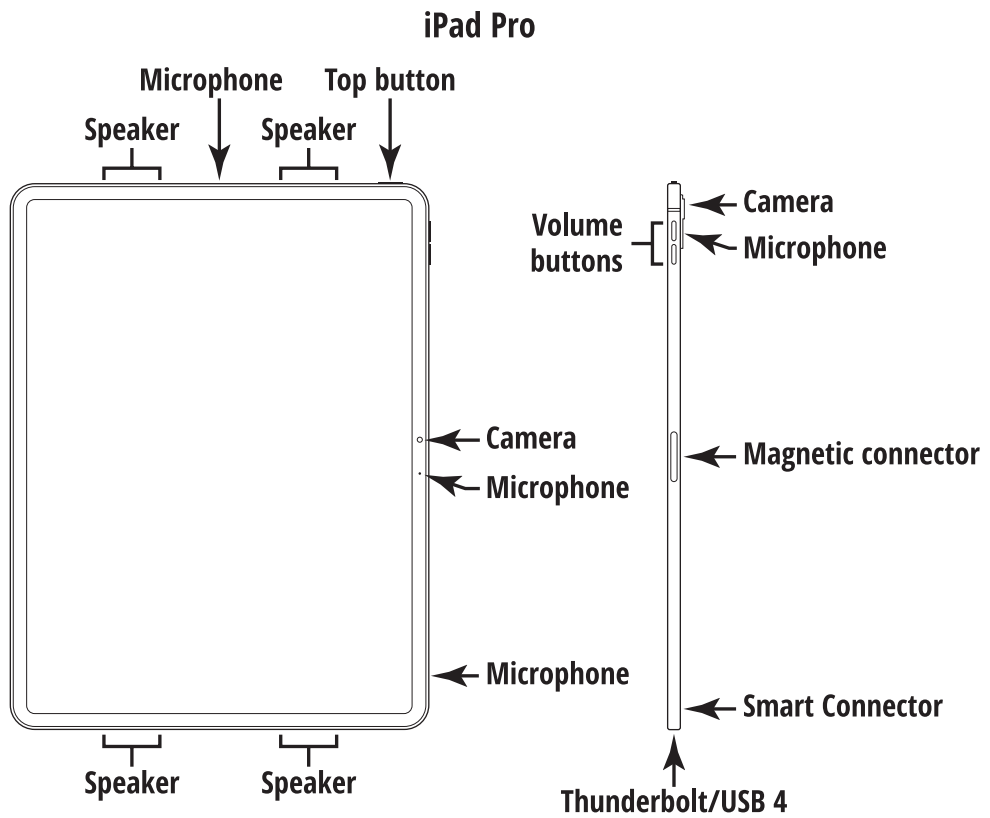


FIGURE 1-5

