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10 Things Your iPhone Can Do That Nobody Shows You

Ten genuinely useful tricks hiding in the phone you already own

Plain-English tech help from:
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Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

Your iPhone already does far more than you think, and the best tricks are just hidden. Make all text bigger under Display & Brightness. Copy words out of any photo by pressing and holding them.

Have the phone read to you with Speak Screen. Turn the back into a shortcut button with Back Tap. Use the built-in Magnifier for fine print, scan paper to a PDF in the Notes app, and silence spam calls under Phone settings.

All free, all already there — pick the ones that help and ignore the rest.

1 The Short Version

This guide is a tour of ten small features that are already on your iPhone and that most people never discover. Each one solves a real, everyday annoyance — text too small, a password you cannot remember, a photo full of text you wish you could copy. You do not need to do them in order, and you do not need to do all ten. Pick the ones that sound useful and ignore the rest.

- Everything here is free and already installed — nothing to buy, nothing to download.
- Each trick is a few taps; none of them can harm the phone or lose your photos.
- Try one, use it for a day, then come back for the next. There is no rush.
- If a menu looks a little different on your phone, the feature is still there — just look for the same words.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> The single most useful setting for most people is making text bigger. It is trick number one below, it takes fifteen seconds, and it makes everything else on the phone easier to read.

2 A Word About Versions

Apple updates the iPhone's software every year, and the current version in late 2026 is iOS 27. When a new version arrives, menus occasionally move or get renamed. Everything in this guide works across recent versions, but if a setting is not exactly where described, do not worry — use the search box at the top of Settings and type the feature's name, and the phone will take you straight to it.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> The fastest way to find ANY setting is the search bar. Open Settings, swipe down slightly to reveal the search box at the top, and type a word like "text size" or "back tap." This works no matter which version you are on, so it is the one trick that never goes out of date.

3 1. Make All the Text Bigger

If you find yourself holding the phone at arm's length, this is the fix. iPhone can enlarge the text in nearly every app at once, and you can make it bolder too so the letters stand out.

1. Open Settings, then tap Display & Brightness.
2. Tap Text Size, and drag the slider to the right until the sample text is comfortable.
3. Go back and turn on Bold Text if you would like the letters heavier and clearer.
4. For even larger text, go to Settings, then Accessibility, then Display & Text Size, and turn on Larger Text for a bigger range.

> **TIP**
> You can set the text size for just one app, too. Add the Text Size control to your Control Center, and while an app is open you can nudge its text bigger without changing everything else.

4 2. Copy Text Out of a Photo

Point your camera at a receipt, a business card, or a page of a book, and your iPhone can grab the words so you can paste them into a message, a note, or a search. This is called Live Text, and it feels like magic the first time.

1. Open a photo that has writing in it, or point the Camera at the writing.
2. Press and hold your finger on the text until it highlights.
3. Drag the little handles to select the part you want, then tap Copy.
4. Go to Messages, Notes, or wherever you like, press and hold, and tap Paste.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Live Text also recognizes phone numbers, addresses, and web links inside photos. Tap a phone number in a photo of a flyer and the phone offers to call it — no retyping required.

5 3. Let the Phone Read to You

Your iPhone can read articles, emails, and web pages out loud in a natural voice. It is wonderful for resting your eyes, or for following along while you do something else.

1. Open Settings, then Accessibility, then Spoken Content.
2. Turn on Speak Screen.
3. Now, in any app, swipe DOWN with two fingers from the very top of the screen.
4. A small control bar appears with play, pause, and speed buttons so you can slow it down or speed it up.

> **TIP**
>
> If two fingers are awkward, turn on "Speak Selection" in the same menu instead. Then you can highlight just a paragraph, and a Speak button appears right above it.

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6 4. Turn the Back Into a Button

Hidden deep in the settings is Back Tap, which turns a double- or triple-tap on the BACK of your phone into a shortcut. You can make it take a screenshot, turn up the volume, or open the magnifier — whatever you reach for most.

1. Open Settings, then Accessibility, then Touch.
2. Scroll to the bottom and tap Back Tap.
3. Choose Double Tap or Triple Tap.
4. Pick an action from the list — Screenshot and Magnifier are popular first choices.

GOOD TO KNOW

Back Tap works even through a case, so you do not have to take the phone out of its cover. If it feels too sensitive, use Triple Tap instead of Double Tap.

7 5. Find the Magnifier

Your iPhone has a built-in magnifying glass that uses the camera to blow up fine print — a medicine label, a menu in a dim restaurant, the serial number on the back of a gadget. It even has a light.

1. Swipe down from the top-right corner to open Control Center, and look for the Magnifier icon; if it is not there, add it in Settings under Control Center.
2. Or simply ask Siri to "open Magnifier."
3. Point the camera at the fine print and drag the zoom slider to enlarge it.
4. Tap the flashlight icon to light it up, and tap the freeze button to hold a still image steady.

TIP

Set Back Tap (trick four) to open the Magnifier, and you have an instant reading glass any time with two taps on the back of the phone.

8 6. Scan a Document to a PDF

You do not need a scanner or an app to turn a paper document into a clean PDF you can email. The free Notes app does it with the camera, straightening the page and trimming the edges automatically.

1. Open the Notes app and start a new note.
2. Tap the camera icon, then choose Scan Documents.
3. Hold the phone over the page — it captures automatically when the page is in view.
4. Tap Save, then use the Share button to email it as a PDF.

GOOD TO KNOW

Scanned pages come out far cleaner than a plain photo because the phone flattens and sharpens them. It is perfect for sending a signed form or a bill to someone who asked for "a copy."

9 7. Ask Siri the Useful Things

Most people only use Siri for timers, but it is genuinely handy for the little things that interrupt your day. You do not have to phrase anything perfectly — just ask in plain words.

- "Set a timer for 20 minutes" — for cooking, laundry, or medicine.
- "Remind me to take my pills at 8pm."
- "What's 30 percent off of 45 dollars?"
- "Find my glasses" — if you have a tracker tag on them.
- "Read my last text message" — and "reply" to answer hands-free.

GOOD TO KNOW

To use Siri hands-free, just say its wake word out loud. If it does not respond, turn it on in Settings under Apple Intelligence & Siri, or under Siri & Search on older versions.

10 8. Let the Phone Hold Your Passwords

Your iPhone has a built-in, secure place that remembers your website passwords and fills them in for you, so you never have to write them on a sticky note again. It will also warn you if a password has turned up in a known leak.

1. Open Settings and tap Passwords (you may be asked for your fingerprint, face, or passcode).
2. Here you can see every saved password and let the phone fill them in automatically next time.
3. When a website asks you to make a new password, let the phone suggest a strong one and save it for you.

WATCH OUT

Never type a password into a link from a text or email, even one that looks official. Open the app or type the website yourself. If you are ever unsure whether a login screen is real, that is a good moment to pause and ask me.

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11 9. Silence the Unknown Callers

If spam calls are wearing you down, your iPhone can send any number that is not in your contacts straight to voicemail, silently. Your real callers still ring through; the junk does not.

1. Open Settings and scroll to Phone (or Apps, then Phone, on newer versions).
2. Tap Silence Unknown Callers.
3. Turn it on.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Silenced calls still appear in your Recents list and leave a voicemail, so you never truly miss someone — you just are not interrupted by the robocalls. If you are expecting a call from a new doctor or repair person, turn it off for the day.

12 10. Set a Bedtime Quiet Mode

A Focus called Do Not Disturb can hush your phone at night so nothing wakes you, while still letting a chosen few — a spouse, an adult child — ring through in a real emergency.

1. Open Settings, then Focus, then Do Not Disturb.
2. Set a schedule, for example 10pm to 7am.
3. Under People, allow calls from your favorites or specific contacts so they always get through.
4. Turn on "Allow Repeated Calls" so a second call within three minutes rings — a simple safety net.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Swipe down from the top-right corner and tap the moon or Focus button to turn quiet mode on any time, not just on schedule — handy during a nap or a meal.

13 Bonus: Type by Talking

If typing on the little keyboard is slow or fiddly, you can talk instead and let the phone write it down. It works in texts, emails, notes, and the search box — anywhere you can type.

1. Tap where you would normally type, so the keyboard appears.
2. Tap the small microphone button on the keyboard (usually near the space bar or bottom corner).
3. Speak naturally, including punctuation if you like — say "comma" or "period" where you want them.
4. Tap the microphone again or just start typing when you are done.

> **TIP**
>
> Dictation is often more accurate than thumb-typing for longer messages, and it keeps punctuating and correcting as you go. If a word comes out wrong, just tap it and fix that one word.

14 Bonus: A Bigger, Simpler Home Screen

You can make the icons and clock on your home screen larger and clearer, and tuck away the apps you never use so the screen is not so crowded. A calmer home screen is easier to find your way around.

1. Press and hold on an empty part of the home screen until the icons jiggle.
2. Drag apps you rarely use into a folder, or remove them from the home screen (this does not delete them — they stay in the App Library).
3. Tap Done when the screen looks tidy.
4. To enlarge everything on screen, go to Settings, then Display & Brightness, then Display Zoom, and choose the larger option.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Removing an app from the home screen only hides it; it is still on the phone in the App Library, which you reach by swiping left past your last page. Nothing is lost, and the screen is far less busy.

15 Keeping These Working After an Update

When your iPhone installs a yearly update, almost everything you set up stays exactly as it was — your bigger text, your Back Tap, your quiet hours all carry over. Very occasionally a menu is renamed or a feature moves, which can make a trick seem to vanish when it has only shifted.

If a trick stops working after an update, do not assume it is gone. Open Settings, use the search box at the top, and type the feature's name. Nine times out of ten it is right there under a slightly different heading, and you can tap it to jump straight to it.

- Your settings and tricks carry over through updates — you do not have to set them up again.
- If something seems missing, search for it by name in Settings before worrying.
- Updates are worth installing — they fix security holes that scammers rely on.

16 When to Call Bill

None of this is a test, and there is no prize for struggling. Most of these tricks take a minute once you know where to look, and this guide gets you there. But if a setting hides somewhere new on your version, or you would simply rather have someone set it up with you and show you once, that is exactly the kind of visit I make.

I come to you here in Portage County, sit down beside you, and set these up on your own phone or tablet so they work the way you want. I will show you each one slowly, write down the few steps that matter, and make sure you can do it yourself afterward. No rush, no jargon, and no question is too small.

- A feature here is not where this guide describes it, because your phone is on a different version.
- You want Back Tap, the Magnifier, or quiet hours set up exactly to your liking.
- You would like a short, patient lesson on the three or four tricks that matter most to you.
- You would simply rather have it set up correctly the first time, with someone showing you how.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this by your chair. Each row is one trick — try one at a time.

I want to…	Do this…
Make text bigger	Settings Display & Brightness Text Size (or Accessibility for larger)
Copy words from a photo	Press and hold the text in the photo Copy
Have it read to me	Settings Accessibility Spoken Content Speak Screen; swipe down with two fingers
Use the back as a button	Settings Accessibility Touch Back Tap
Magnify fine print	Control Center Magnifier (or ask Siri to open it)
Scan paper to a PDF	Notes camera icon Scan Documents Share
Stop spam calls	Settings Phone Silence Unknown Callers
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

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KEY SPECS

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GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

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