BILL'S HOME TECH
Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

BILL'S COMPLETE MANUALS

Apple Intelligence & Siri

The new Siri, writing help, photo Clean Up and more — what works on your iPhone, and how to use it safely

A calm, plain-English guide to Apple's new helpers

Take your time — you can't break it

Written for you by Bill — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com

For iPhone with iOS 27 (plus iPad, Mac & Apple Watch) · facts current November 2026

What's Inside

This is your plain-English guide to Apple Intelligence and the new Siri, called Siri AI. Read it in any order and at your own pace — there's no test, and you can't fall behind. It starts with the question everyone asks first (will it work on my iPhone?), then shows you how to talk with the new Siri, get help with writing and photos, translate a conversation, and keep your information private and safe. It's written for iPhones running iOS 27; if a screen looks a little different on yours, the idea is still the same.

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PART 1

What Apple Intelligence Really Is

Plain answers first: what these new helpers are, whether your iPhone can use them, and how to switch on the new Siri. No experience needed.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. If you've updated your iPhone lately and noticed Siri looks and sounds different, or you've seen the words **Apple Intelligence** pop up in your Settings, you're in exactly the right place. You are not behind. Almost everyone is meeting these features for the first time right now, because Apple only released the newest version in September 2026.

I'm Bill. For more than 30 years I've helped folks feel at home with their technology, and I wrote this manual the way I'd explain it sitting right beside you at the kitchen table: slowly, in plain English, one step at a time. When a new word comes along, I'll stop and explain it on the spot.

What this manual covers

Apple Intelligence is Apple's name for a set of smart helpers built into newer iPhones, iPads and Macs. They can tidy up your writing, sum up a long email, remove a stranger from the background of a photo, tell you what you're looking at through the camera, and translate a phone call. The biggest piece is an entirely new version of Siri that Apple calls **Siri AI**. It understands everyday speech much better than the old Siri, it can hold a real back-and-forth conversation, and it can find things in your own messages, email and calendar when you ask.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this manual does for you

By the end you'll know whether your iPhone can use these features, how to turn on the new Siri, how to ask it for help in your own words, and how to use the handiest tools for writing, photos and translation. Just as important, you'll know what stays private, how to spot the scams that use AI as bait, and how to switch off anything you'd rather not use.

The big promise: you can't break it

Here's the most important thing to know. **Trying these features can't harm your iPhone.** A rewritten note can be put back the way it was. A photo you've cleaned up can be reset to the original. And if you decide you don't like the new Siri, there's a switch to go back to the classic one. So relax and explore. Curiosity is how everyone learns.

GOOD TO KNOW

One honest word up front

These helpers are clever, but they're not perfect. A summary can miss a detail, and Siri can occasionally get an answer wrong. Apple itself labels Siri AI a **beta**, which means "still being polished." Throughout this manual I'll show you when to double-check, especially for anything involving money, medicine or appointments.

And you're never stuck alone. If you'd like a hand, call me at **(330) 200-8042** and we'll sort it out together, with no judgment. There's no such thing as a silly question.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

Apple Intelligence and Siri AI in Plain Words

Two names come up again and again, and it helps to keep them straight. Think of them as a toolbox and the friendliest tool in it.

The name	What it means
Apple Intelligence	The whole family of smart features built into the iPhone, iPad, Mac and Apple Watch software. Writing help, summaries, photo Clean Up, Genmoji, Live Translation and more all live under this name.
Siri AI	The brand-new Siri, rebuilt on Apple Intelligence. It answers almost any question in detail, keeps a conversation going, can look at what's on your screen, and can find things in your own apps. Apple calls it a beta for now.
Siri Classic	The older Siri many people already know. If you'd rather keep it, you can. Chapter 10 shows the switch.
Private Cloud Compute	Apple's name for its own secure computers that handle requests too big for your iPhone to do alone. More on what that means for your privacy in Chapter 21.

What the new Siri can do

Apple describes Siri AI with a handful of abilities. In everyday terms:

- **Answer questions about almost anything.** Ask about the weather this weekend, how long to roast a turkey, or what a word means, and get a full answer instead of a list of web links.
- **Keep the conversation going.** Ask a follow-up ("What about a smaller one?") and Siri remembers what you were talking about.
- **Find your own things.** Siri can look through your messages, email, calendar, notes and photos to answer something like "When is my granddaughter's recital?"
- **Understand your screen.** Ask about the web page or photo in front of you.
- **Do things in apps for you.** Send a message, add a calendar event, edit a note.
- **Help you write.** Draft a note from scratch, or fix up something you've written.

Who makes it, and is Google involved?

Apple makes Apple Intelligence. You may have read that Google is involved, and that's true in a specific way: Apple says its newest models were "custom-built in collaboration with Google and its Gemini models." That doesn't mean you're using a Google app or handing your information to Google. Apple says these models run on your device and on Apple's

Private Cloud Compute, where your personal data is not stored or made available to Apple or anyone else.

What does it cost?

Apple Intelligence comes with the free iOS software update on iPhones that support it. There's no separate app to buy and no sign-up fee. Apple does say some features that use its online computers, including Siri AI, photo editing tools and Image Playground, have **daily usage limits**, and that "expanded access to such features will be available for a fee in the future." For everyday use, most people won't notice the limits. If Apple starts charging for extra use, it will be optional.

HEADS UP

Nobody needs to "activate" it for you

Because Apple Intelligence arrives with the normal software update, there is nothing to buy and no "activation code." If a caller, pop-up or text offers to upgrade or unlock Siri AI for a fee, it's a scam. Chapter 22 covers this in detail.

CHAPTER 3

Will It Work on My iPhone?

This is the question I hear most, so let's settle it first. Apple Intelligence needs a fairly recent iPhone, because the work is done by a powerful chip inside the phone. Older iPhones can still get the iOS 27 update and all its other improvements; they just won't get these particular features.

iPhones that can use Apple Intelligence and Siri AI

- **iPhone 15 Pro** and **iPhone 15 Pro Max**
- **Every iPhone 16** model and later (iPhone 16, 16 Plus, 16 Pro, 16 Pro Max, 16e, and all iPhone 17 and newer models)
- **iPhone Air**
- **iPhone Duo**

> GOOD TO KNOW
> **The plain iPhone 15 is left out**
> This catches people by surprise: the regular **iPhone 15** and **iPhone 15 Plus** can't use Apple Intelligence. Only the 15 *Pro* models can. The same goes for the iPhone 14 and older.

How to tell which iPhone you have

1. Open **Settings** (the gray gear icon).
2. Tap **General**.
3. Tap **About**.
4. Look at the line called **Model Name**. It will say something like "iPhone 16" or "iPhone 15 Pro."

Other Apple devices

Device	Which ones qualify
iPad	iPad mini with the A17 Pro or A20 Pro chip, and any iPad with an M1 chip or later.
Mac	Any Mac with an M1 chip or later, and the MacBook Neo.
Apple Watch	Series 9 or later, Ultra 2 or later, and SE 3, when paired with an iPhone that has Apple Intelligence. Some features need the iPhone nearby.

Device	Which ones qualify
Apple Vision Pro	All models.

Three other things it needs

- **The latest software.** The newest features need iOS 27 (iPadOS 27 on iPad, macOS 27 Golden Gate on Mac). Chapter 4 shows how to update.
- **Room to store it.** Apple says the features need up to 8 GB of space on most models, and up to 14 GB on the newest, most powerful ones (such as the iPhone 17 Pro, iPhone Air and iPhone Duo).
- **Matching languages.** Your iPhone's language and Siri's language must be set to the same supported language. English is supported, along with many others.

TIP

Short on space?

If your iPhone is nearly full, Apple Intelligence may not download. Go to **Settings > General > iPhone Storage** to see what's taking room. Old videos and apps you never open are the usual culprits. I'm happy to help you clear space safely, without losing your photos.

Where you live matters a little

Apple Intelligence works in most of the world, including everywhere in the United States. Siri AI started in English and has since added French, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish. Apple says Siri AI isn't offered yet on iPhone, iPad or Apple Watch in the European Union, and Apple Intelligence doesn't currently work in mainland China. If you travel, the features keep working once they're set up. Siri AI isn't available to anyone under 13.

CHAPTER 4

Updating to iOS 27 and Turning On the New Siri

If your iPhone qualifies, there are two short jobs: make sure it has the latest software, then switch on Siri AI. Plug your iPhone into its charger and connect to your home Wi-Fi before you start; updates are large and can take a while.

Step 1: Update your iPhone

1. Open **Settings**.
2. Tap **General**, then tap **Software Update**.
3. If an update to iOS 27 (or a newer iOS 27 version) is offered, tap **Update Now** or **Install Now**.
4. Enter your passcode if asked, and agree to the terms.
5. Leave the iPhone plugged in. It will restart by itself when it's done. A big update can take half an hour or more, so start it when you won't need the phone for a while.

> TIP
> **Already up to date?**
> If the screen says "iOS is up to date" and shows iOS 27, you're set. Move on to Step 2.

Step 2: Turn on Siri AI

Apple's own steps are short:

1. Open **Settings** and tap **Siri**.
2. If Siri is off, tap **Turn On Siri** first.
3. Tap **Try Siri AI (Beta)**.
4. Follow the screens: pick a voice you like, say a few phrases so Siri learns your voice, and review the privacy choices.
5. Siri AI begins downloading on its own. You can keep using your iPhone while it does.

GOOD TO KNOW

You might be put on a short waitlist

Apple says that when lots of people are signing up at once, you may be added to a waitlist first, and wait times vary. You don't need to do anything; your iPhone lets you know when Siri AI is ready.

What about the rest of Apple Intelligence?

Apple says the next generation of Apple Intelligence is automatically available on eligible devices once you update to iOS 27 in a supported language. In other words, the writing tools, photo Clean Up and summaries are simply there after the update. A few features ask for permission the first time you use them, and some have their own switches that I'll point out as we go.

FROM BILL

Take your time with the setup screens

The setup asks a few questions about privacy and voice. There are no wrong answers, and every choice can be changed later in Settings. If you'd like someone beside you for the first go, that's exactly the kind of visit I enjoy.

PART 2

Talking with the New Siri

How to call Siri, how to ask in your own words, and the new things it can do: find your own information, understand your screen, take care of small jobs, and remember your conversations.

CHAPTER 5

Four Ways to Call Siri

You can reach Siri several ways. Use whichever feels natural; they all lead to the same helper.

1. Just say its name

Say **"Siri"** or **"Hey Siri"** followed by your question, such as "Siri, what time is it in Phoenix?" This works when the listening option is turned on. You'll find it in **Settings > Siri**, where you can choose whether Siri listens for "Siri," "Hey Siri," or neither.

2. Press and hold the side button

On iPhones with Face ID (no round Home button), press and hold the **side button** on the right edge until Siri appears, then speak. Let go when you're done. This is the most reliable way, and it works even in a noisy room. If it doesn't, check that **Press Side Button for Siri** is turned on under **Settings > Siri > Requests**.

3. Swipe down from the top

With Siri AI, Apple added a new way: **swipe down from the Dynamic Island** (the small black pill shape at the top center of the screen) to start a conversation. A box appears where you can speak or type.

4. Type instead of talking

Sometimes you'd rather not speak out loud, say in a doctor's waiting room. With Siri AI, typing to Siri is always available: when the Siri box opens, tap the **keyboard** button and type your question, then send it. In the Siri app (Chapter 9) you can type a request and tap **Ask Siri**.

TIP

Talking is easier than you think

You don't need special words. Speak the way you'd ask a helpful neighbor: "Siri, remind me to call my sister when I get home." If Siri mishears you, simply say it again, or tap the words on screen and fix them.

When Siri answers silently

If your iPhone is in Silent mode and you start Siri with the button, Siri usually shows its answer on screen instead of speaking. If you'd like it to talk every time, look in **Settings > Siri** for the options about spoken responses.

CHAPTER 6

Asking Good Questions and Following Up

The new Siri is built to understand ordinary speech. You can pause, say "um," change your mind mid-sentence, or ask a long question, and it will usually follow along. Here's how to get the best answers.

Ask the way you'd ask a person

Instead of this	Try this
"Weather"	"Will I need an umbrella in Kent tomorrow afternoon?"
"Turkey cooking"	"How long should I roast a 14-pound turkey, and at what temperature?"
"Pill"	"Remind me every morning at 8 to take my blood pressure pill."
"Recipe"	"Give me a simple chicken soup recipe for two people, with no onions."

Follow up without starting over

One of the nicest changes is that Siri remembers what you were just talking about. After it answers, keep going:

- "What about Sunday?"
- "Make that a smaller turkey, about 10 pounds."
- "Can you say that more simply?"
- "Write that down as a note."

Apple says you can extend almost any answer from Siri into a conversation and ask follow-up questions. When you're finished, just stop talking or swipe the Siri box away.

Up-to-date answers from the web

For things that change, like a game score, store hours or the news, Siri AI looks across the web and puts together an answer. It often shows where the information came from, so you can tap through and read more.

HEADS UP

Double-check the things that matter

Siri can still get facts wrong. For medicine doses, legal or money questions, and anything you'll act on, use Siri's answer as a starting point, then confirm with your pharmacist, doctor, bank or the official source. A good habit: ask "Where did you find that?"

Handy everyday requests

For	Say something like
Timers and alarms	"Set a timer for 20 minutes." "Wake me at 6:30 tomorrow."
Reminders	"Remind me to take the trash out Thursday night."
Calls and texts	"Call my son." "Text Mary I'm running ten minutes late."
Directions	"How do I get to the nearest pharmacy?"
Quick facts	"How many ounces in a cup?" "Spell rhododendron."
Your phone	"Turn on the flashlight." "Make the screen brighter."

CHAPTER 7

Siri Can Find Your Own Information

This is the feature Apple talks about most. Apple calls it **personal context understanding**. In plain words: the new Siri can look through the information already on your iPhone, like your messages, email, calendar, notes, reminders and photos, to answer a question about *your* life.

What that looks like

- "When is Emma's recital? I think her mom texted me."
- "What's the confirmation number for my hotel next week?"
- "Show me the photos from the lake last summer."
- "What did the dentist's office say about my appointment?"

Apple gives an example of Siri searching your messages to find an activity a relative suggested, pulling up a recipe from an email they sent, and adding the ingredients to your grocery list in Reminders, all from one request.

Is it reading my mail?

This is a fair question. Apple says Siri AI uses tools on your iPhone, like its built-in search index, that "work entirely on device to keep users in control of their data." When a request needs Apple's bigger online computers, Apple says your personal data isn't stored there or made available to Apple or anyone else. Chapter 21 explains this in more detail and shows what you can switch off.

TIP

Give Siri a hint

If Siri doesn't find something, add a clue: who sent it, roughly when, or which app it's in. "Find the email from Dr. Patel about my test results from October" works better than "find my results."

STAY SAFE

Keep your iPhone locked with a passcode

Because Siri can find personal information, a passcode matters more than ever. Make sure your iPhone locks itself and needs your passcode, Face ID or Touch ID to open. Then a stranger who picks up your phone can't ask it about your private life.

CHAPTER 8

Siri Can See Your Screen and Get Things Done

Ask about what's on your screen

Apple calls this **onscreen awareness**. While you're looking at a web page, a photo, an email or a text, call Siri and ask about it, or ask it to act on it. For example:

- On a church or club web page: "Add the next three events to my calendar."
- Looking at a text with an address: "Give me directions there."
- Reading a long article: "What's the main point of this?"
- On a recipe: "Add these ingredients to my grocery list."

Let Siri do the small jobs in your apps

Siri AI can take actions across apps, like sending messages, creating calendar events and editing notes. It also works with many apps from other companies; Apple mentions texting a friend in WhatsApp or playing a book on Audible.

App	Try saying
Messages	"Tell Linda I'll bring the pie Saturday."
Calendar	"Move my hair appointment to 3 o'clock."
Notes	"Add milk and eggs to my shopping note."
Photos	"Send the best photo from Sunday's dinner to my daughter."
Mail	"Write an email to the HOA asking when the pool opens."

GOOD TO KNOW

Read it before it goes

When Siri drafts a message or email for you, take a moment to read what's on the screen before you let it go out, just as you would if you'd typed it yourself. If something's off, say what to change, or tap the draft and fix it by hand.

TIP

Not every app works yet

Apple says support for more apps is still arriving. If Siri says it can't do something in a particular app, open the app and do it by hand. Nothing is wrong with your iPhone.

CHAPTER 9

The Siri App and Your Conversation History

The new Siri comes with its own app, simply called **Siri**. It keeps your past conversations so you can pick up where you left off, the way you'd scroll back through a text conversation.

Opening the Siri app

1. Find the **Siri** app on your Home Screen, or swipe down in the middle of the Home Screen and type **Siri** to find it.
2. Tap a past conversation to read it and keep going, or start a new one.
3. Type your request and tap **Ask Siri**, or tap the microphone and speak.

Your conversations follow you

Apple says the Siri app uses iCloud to privately sync your conversation history, so you can start a conversation on your iPhone and continue it on your iPad, Mac, Apple Watch or Apple Vision Pro, as long as they use the same Apple Account.

Deleting conversations

You can remove a conversation any time:

1. Open the **Siri** app.
2. Touch and hold the conversation you want to remove.
3. Tap **Delete**, then tap **Delete** again to confirm.

To clear several at once:

1. In the Siri app, tap the **Options** button at the top right, then tap **Select**.
2. Tap each conversation you want to remove.
3. Tap the **Trash** button, then tap **Delete**.

Have old conversations cleared automatically

1. Open **Settings** and tap **Siri**.
2. Tap **Keep Conversations**.
3. Choose how long to keep them. If you pick **30 days** or **1 year**, older conversations are permanently deleted for you.

FROM BILL

A tidy habit

If you share an iPad with a spouse or grandchild, remember the Siri app may show your conversations on any device signed in to your Apple Account. Setting conversations to clear after 30 days keeps things tidy without any effort.

CHAPTER 10

Making Siri Comfortable (or Going Back to Siri Classic)

Settings worth a look

Open **Settings > Siri** to adjust how Siri works. Options you may find there include the voice Siri uses, whether it listens for its name, whether the side button calls Siri, whether it speaks its answers out loud, and how long it keeps your conversations.

Choosing Siri's voice and speed

During setup you pick a voice, and you can change it later in Siri's settings. On Apple's newest models, Siri AI also offers **expressive voices**: Apple says you can customize the pace and expressiveness of Siri's voice. That needs Apple's most advanced on-device model, which Apple lists for the iPhone 17 Pro and Pro Max, iPhone 18 Pro and Pro Max, iPhone Air and iPhone Duo, and it's English only for now.

> TIP
>
> **Easier to hear, easier to see**
>
> If Siri talks too fast or too softly for you, look in **Settings > Accessibility > Siri** for options that help. And you can always ask Siri to "say that again" or "say that more slowly."

Going back to Siri Classic

If you try Siri AI and decide you prefer the old Siri, you can switch back. Apple's steps are:

1. Open **Settings** and tap **Siri**.
2. Scroll down and tap **Turn Off Siri**, then tap **Turn Off Siri** again to confirm.
3. Tap **Turn On Siri**.
4. Choose **Use Siri Classic**.

Changed your mind again? Go back to **Settings > Siri** and tap **Try Siri AI (Beta)**.

Turning Siri off completely

If you don't want Siri at all, follow the first two steps above and stop there. Your iPhone works fine without it. You can turn Siri back on whenever you like.

PART 3

Help with Writing and Reading

A patient proofreader, a helper for the blank page, and short summaries of long emails, busy group texts and voicemails.

CHAPTER 11

Write with Siri: Drafts, Fixes and Proofreading

Writing a thank-you note, a letter to the insurance company or a message to the pastor can feel like a chore. Apple Intelligence can help you get started, smooth out what you've written, and catch typos. With Siri AI, Apple calls this **Write with Siri**, and it works virtually anywhere you type: Mail, Messages, Notes, and many other apps.

Fix up something you've already written

1. Type your message as you normally would.
2. Select the text you want help with. (Touch and hold a word, then drag the little handles to cover everything, or tap **Select All**.)
3. Tap the **Siri AI** button that appears with the selection.
4. Either describe what you want in your own words ("make this warmer" or "make it shorter"), or pick an option such as **Proofread** or **Rewrite**.
5. After a rewrite, tap **Compare** to see your original next to the new version.
6. Keep the version you like. If you don't like any of it, undo, and your original words come back.

Start from a blank page

Call Siri and describe what you need: "Write a short thank-you note to my neighbor for shoveling my driveway." Siri writes a draft. Ask for changes until it sounds like you: "Make it less formal," "Mention the snowstorm on Tuesday." Apple says you can swipe down on Siri's answer to keep refining the work.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

It learns how you write to each person

Apple says that in Mail and Messages, Siri can reflect how you usually write to each person, including your typical punctuation and tone. A note to your grandson won't sound like a letter to your bank.

Automatic proofreading as you type

With iOS 27, Apple Intelligence also proofreads for you as you type across the system, including in most apps from other companies. Suggested fixes are underlined; tap one to accept it.

If you don't have Siri AI: Writing Tools

If you're using Siri Classic, the same kind of help is still there under the name **Writing Tools**:

1. Select the text you want help with.
2. Tap the **Writing Tools** button.
3. Choose **Proofread** to fix spelling and grammar, or **Rewrite** to reword it.
4. Changes are underlined so you can see them. Keep them, or undo to go back.

FROM BILL

Your voice is still your voice

These tools make suggestions; you're always the author. I'd use them for tidying up and for getting past a blank page, then add your own personal touch. People can tell when a note comes from the heart.

STAY SAFE

Read it before you send it

A rewrite can change your meaning by accident, for example turning "I can't make it Tuesday" into something vaguer. Always read the final version before you tap Send, especially in notes about money, medicine or appointments.

CHAPTER 12

Summaries: Long Emails, Busy Texts and Voicemails

Apple Intelligence can boil down long things into a few lines: an email thread with fifteen replies, a family group chat that's been busy all morning, a stack of notifications, or a rambling voicemail.

Summarize an email

1. Open the **Mail** app and open the email.
2. Tap **Summarize** near the top of the message.
3. A short summary appears at the top. It works for long back-and-forth threads too.

You may also see short summaries under emails in your inbox list instead of the first line of the message. If you'd rather see the first lines as before, you can turn that off in **Settings > Apps > Mail**.

Catch up on a busy text conversation

In the Messages list, conversations with several unread texts can show a short summary underneath. Glance at it to see whether it needs your attention now. To turn this off, go to **Settings > Apps > Messages** and turn off **Summarize Messages**.

Notification summaries

When several notifications pile up from the same app, Apple Intelligence can sum them up on your Lock Screen. To choose which apps are summarized, or to turn it off:

1. Open **Settings** and tap **Notifications**.
2. Tap **Summarize Notifications**.
3. Turn **Summarize Notifications** on or off.
4. To pick specific apps, tap **Choose Notifications to Summarize**.

Voicemail summaries

1. Open the **Phone** app.
2. Go to your calls, tap the **filter** button and choose **Voicemail**.
3. A short summary of each unread voicemail appears in the list. Tap a voicemail to hear the whole thing.

HEADS UP

Summaries can get things wrong

A summary is a shortcut, not the real thing. It can miss a detail or misread a joke as serious. If a summary sounds alarming, important or strange ("Package held, pay fee"), open the full message and read it yourself before you act.

CHAPTER 13

Smart Replies, Calendar and Reminders in Plain Words

Smart Reply in Mail and Messages

When you reply to an email or text, your iPhone may offer a few short suggested replies, such as "Sounds good, see you then." With iOS 27, Apple says Smart Reply can draw on your own writing style. Tap a suggestion to use it, then change anything you like before sending. Apple lists personalized Smart Reply in Messages as English only for now.

Add calendar events by describing them

Apple says that in Calendar you can now add or change events with a simple description, like typing "Lunch with Carol next Thursday at noon at the diner." You can also simply ask Siri: "Add lunch with Carol next Thursday at noon." Then open Calendar to make sure the day and time are right.

Reminders that sort themselves

In the Reminders app, Apple Intelligence can automatically group items in a list (for example putting produce together on a grocery list) and offer suggestions. With iOS 27 you can also describe a reminder in plain words. Or ask Siri: "Remind me to refill my prescription on the 15th."

Priority email at the top

Mail can move time-sensitive messages, like a same-day appointment change, to the top of your inbox. Apple calls these **Priority messages**, and you switch them on from the menu in your Mail inbox. They show up when your inbox uses the Primary category or List View.

> **TIP**
>
> **Let Siri do the typing**
>
> If small keyboards frustrate you, these features are a gift. Say what you want, and let Siri fill in the details. Then glance at the result to make sure it heard you right.

PART 4

Photos, the Camera and Pictures

Erase a photobomber, find a picture by describing it, point the camera at something and ask, and make playful pictures and emoji of your own.

CHAPTER 14

Clean Up: Remove What You Don't Want in a Photo

We've all taken the perfect family photo, only to find a stranger walking by in the background or a trash can right next to Grandma. **Clean Up** lets you erase that distraction. Apple Intelligence fills in the spot so it looks as if it was never there.

Erase something from a photo

1. Open the **Photos** app and tap the photo you want to fix.
2. Tap **Edit**.
3. Tap **Tools**, then tap **Clean Up**.
4. Some distractions may be highlighted for you already. Tap one to remove it.
5. To remove something else, tap it, brush over it with your finger, or draw a circle around it.
6. To work on a small area, pinch with two fingers to zoom in, and drag with two fingers to move around.
7. Made a mistake? Tap **Undo**.
8. When you're happy, tap **Done**, then tap **Done** again to save.

Changed your mind later?

Your original photo is never lost. Open the photo, tap **Edit**, and tap **Reset** (or **Revert**) to go back to the picture exactly as you took it.

> TIP
> **Quality or speed**
>
> Apple's guide says you can choose how Photos does the Clean Up work: **Auto**, **Fast** or **High Quality**. High Quality uses Apple's online computers for the best result and counts toward the daily usage limits mentioned in Chapter 2. Auto is a fine choice.

Two newer tools: Extend and Spatial Reframing

Tool	What it does
Extend	Widens a photo that was framed too tightly, filling in more background around the edges so your subject has some breathing room.

Tool	What it does
Spatial Reframing	Adjusts the camera angle after the fact, to improve how a photo is composed.

You'll find them in the same place: open a photo, tap **Edit**, then **Tools**.

GOOD TO KNOW

Honest photos

These tools are wonderful for getting rid of a stray elbow, but remember that edited photos are no longer exactly what happened. Apple says it is adding support for a standard called SynthID, which marks most images that have been generated or edited with its AI tools so they can be identified later.

CHAPTER 15

Find Any Photo by Describing It, and Make a Memory Movie

If you have thousands of photos, scrolling to find one can take forever. With Apple Intelligence, you can search your photos by describing what you remember, in ordinary words.

Search in your own words

1. Open the **Photos** app.
2. Tap **Search** (the magnifying glass).
3. Type a description, such as "Dad in a red sweater at Christmas" or "the dog at the beach."
4. Tap a result to open it.

With Siri AI, you can also just ask: "Show me photos of the grandkids from the Fourth of July."

> **TIP**
>
> **Put names to faces**
>
> Search works even better when Photos knows who people are. In the Photos app, look at the **People** section and add names to the faces you see. Then searching for "Mary at the lake" finds Mary.

Make a memory movie

Photos can make a short movie, with music, out of your pictures. With Apple Intelligence you simply describe the story you want, like "our trip to the Smoky Mountains" or "Sam learning to ride his bike."

1. In the **Photos** app, find **Memories**.
2. Look for the option to create a new memory, and type a description of what you'd like. (The exact button name can vary a little between versions.)
3. Photos picks the photos and videos, builds a story and adds music. Tap Play to watch.
4. If you like it, you can save it or share it with family.

FROM BILL

A lovely gift

A memory movie of a birthday or a family trip makes a wonderful thing to share with relatives who live far away. Send it in a text, and they can watch it on their own phone.

CHAPTER 16

Visual Intelligence: Point Your Camera and Ask

Visual Intelligence lets your iPhone tell you about whatever the camera is pointed at: a plant in the garden, a dog breed, a sign in another language, a poster with event times, or a confusing bill. With Siri AI, Apple built it right into the Camera app as a new **Siri mode**.

Using Siri mode in the Camera (with Siri AI)

1. Open the **Camera** app.
2. Swipe through the camera modes and tap **Siri**.
3. Point the camera at the thing you're curious about.
4. Tap a suggested action if one appears. For example, Apple says pointing at a check can offer to split the bill.
5. Or tap the **Siri** button for a quick identification, or tap **Ask** and ask your own question about what's in view.
6. To look online for similar pictures, tap **Search**.
7. When you're done, swipe up to end the conversation and tap **Close**.

> TIP
> **A shortcut on newer iPhones**
> iPhone 16 models and later have a **Camera Control** button on the lower right edge. Click and hold it to jump straight into Siri's camera mode, even when your iPhone is locked.

Ask about something on your screen

Visual Intelligence also works with what's on your screen. Take a screenshot (press the side button and volume-up button together), and you can ask Siri about it or search for something you see.

Everyday ideas

- Point at a **menu in another language** and ask what a dish is.
- Point at a **flyer or poster** and ask Siri to add the event to your calendar.
- Point at a **plant** and ask whether it's safe for your cat.
- Point at the **small print** on a box and ask Siri to read it out.

HEADS UP

Don't rely on it for safety decisions

Visual Intelligence is great for curiosity, but it can be wrong. Never rely on it to tell you whether a mushroom or berry is safe to eat, what a pill is, or what dose to take. Ask a pharmacist or doctor.

GOOD TO KNOW

Without Siri AI

If you're using Siri Classic on a supported iPhone, Visual Intelligence still works. Apple's guide describes opening it from the Camera Control, the Action button, the Lock Screen or Control Center.

CHAPTER 17

Genmoji and Image Playground: Just for Fun

Not everything has to be practical. Apple Intelligence can make brand-new emoji and pictures from a description you type. Grandkids love these.

Make your own emoji (Genmoji)

1. In Messages (or anywhere you type), tap the text box.
2. Tap the **emoji** button on the keyboard (the smiley face).
3. Tap **Genmoji** at the top right of the keyboard.
4. Type a description, such as "a golden retriever wearing a party hat" or "a cup of coffee doing a happy dance."
5. Look through the choices, and tap **Done** when you see one you like.
6. It's added to your message, and saved with your stickers so you can use it again.

> **TIP**
> **Make one that looks like someone you know**
> Genmoji can be based on people in your photos, as long as you've named them in the Photos app's People section.

Make a picture with Image Playground

1. Open the **Image Playground** app.
2. Tap **New Image**.
3. Describe what you'd like to see, and choose a style.
4. Ask for changes in your own words until you like it.
5. Tap **Save** to keep it in your gallery.

Apple says the new Image Playground in iOS 27 can create images in virtually any style, now including **photorealistic** pictures, and you can simply describe the changes you want. You can also ask Siri to make an image for you in the Siri app.

STAY SAFE

Fake pictures look real now

Because AI can now make realistic photos, it's wise to be a little skeptical of shocking pictures you see online or that arrive in a text. Never make a realistic image of a real person doing something they didn't do, and don't believe one without checking. Chapter 22 talks more about this.

PART 5

Translation, ChatGPT and Your Other Devices

Talk with family in another language, decide whether you want the optional ChatGPT helper, and see what Apple Intelligence does on an iPad, Mac or Apple Watch.

CHAPTER 18

Live Translation: Calls, Texts and FaceTime

If you have a daughter-in-law who's more comfortable in Spanish, a neighbor who speaks Korean, or you're traveling, **Live Translation** can help. It translates as you go in three places: phone calls, text messages and FaceTime calls.

Translate a phone call

1. Start a call in the **Phone** app as you normally would.
2. During the call, tap **More**, then tap **Live Translation**.
3. If you're not already on speaker or headphones, your iPhone switches to speaker.
4. Choose the language the other person speaks, and the language you'd like to hear.
5. Tap **Start Translation**. The first time you choose a language it downloads, which can take a few minutes.
6. You'll hear the translation during the call. Stop it any time from the call screen.

Which languages work

Where	Languages Apple lists
Phone and FaceTime calls	English (US, UK), French (France), German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese (Brazil), Spanish (Spain), and Chinese (Mandarin, simplified and traditional).
Text messages	English, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Chinese (simplified and traditional), Turkish and Vietnamese.

Translation in your ears with AirPods

With certain AirPods, you can hear an in-person conversation translated right in your ears. Apple lists AirPods 4 with Active Noise Cancellation and later, AirPods Pro 2 and later, and AirPods Max 2, updated to the latest software and paired with an iPhone that has Apple Intelligence.

GOOD TO KNOW

Good, not perfect

Live Translation is a wonderful bridge for everyday conversation, but it can stumble on names, slang and medical words. For a doctor's visit or legal paperwork, ask whether a professional interpreter is available.

CHAPTER 19

ChatGPT Inside Siri: The Optional Extension

Apple lets you connect Siri and Writing Tools to **ChatGPT**, a popular AI assistant made by a different company called OpenAI. Apple calls this the **ChatGPT extension**. It's entirely optional. Many people never need it, especially now that Siri AI can answer so much on its own.

Turning it on

If you're using **Siri AI**:

1. Open **Settings** and tap **Siri**.
2. Tap **Set Up Extensions**, then tap **ChatGPT**.
3. Turn on **Use Extension**.

If you're using **Siri Classic**:

1. Open **Settings** and tap **Siri**.
2. Tap **ChatGPT**, then tap **Set Up**.
3. Follow the screens.

You stay in charge of what's shared

Apple says that with the ChatGPT extension, you choose what content is sent to ChatGPT. Your iPhone can ask for your OK before each request goes out; that's the **Confirm Requests** setting under ChatGPT in Siri's settings. I recommend leaving it on, so nothing goes to another company without you saying yes.

> GOOD TO KNOW
> **Signed in or not**
> You can connect a ChatGPT account if you have one. Apple says that if you're signed in, your requests follow your ChatGPT account settings and OpenAI's privacy policies, which are different from Apple's. ChatGPT is only offered in regions where OpenAI provides its service.

Turning it off

- **Siri AI:** Settings > Siri > Set Up Extensions > ChatGPT, then turn off **Use Extension**.
- **Siri Classic:** Settings > Siri > ChatGPT, then turn off **Use ChatGPT**.

FROM BILL

Do you need it?

For most people I help, Siri AI on its own is plenty. If you already use ChatGPT and like it, the extension is a convenient bridge. If you don't, there's no need to sign up for anything. My separate ChatGPT manual covers that app in detail.

CHAPTER 20

Apple Intelligence on iPad, Mac and Apple Watch

If you have other Apple devices, much of what's in this manual works there too, and your Siri conversations follow you from one to the next.

iPad

On iPads that qualify (see Chapter 3), Apple Intelligence and Siri AI work much as they do on iPhone, with iPadOS 27. Apple says Visual Intelligence on iPad is built into the screenshot experience: take a screenshot and ask about it. Siri AI is also built into Spotlight search on iPad.

Mac

- **Siri in Spotlight:** on a Mac with macOS 27 Golden Gate, Siri AI is part of Spotlight, so you can ask questions from the same place you search.
- **Ask about anything on screen:** Apple says you can Control-click images, files or text to ask Siri about them.
- **Visual Intelligence:** press **Shift-Command-Space bar**, select something on your screen, and type your question to Siri.
- **Turning it on:** as on iPhone, open System Settings, click Siri, then click **Try Siri AI (Beta)**.

Apple Watch

With watchOS 27, Siri AI works on Apple Watch Series 9 or later, Ultra 2 or later and SE 3, when your iPhone with Siri AI is nearby. Apple notes that typing to Siri isn't currently available with Siri AI on Apple Watch, so on the watch you speak to it. Apple has also announced new listening features for the newest watches, including **Live Rewind** (show the last 15 seconds of a conversation as text) and **Siri Recap** (a short summary of a conversation); Apple says these arrive in beta later this year, so you may not see them yet.

TIP

One Apple Account ties it together

Your Siri conversations and settings follow you between devices when they all use the same Apple Account. If something isn't showing up on your iPad or Mac, check that each one is signed in with the same Apple Account in Settings.

PART 6

Privacy, Safety and Staying in Control

What stays on your iPhone, how scammers use AI as bait, how to switch features off or limit them for a child, and what to do when something doesn't work.

CHAPTER 21

Your Privacy: What Stays on Your iPhone

It's natural to wonder where your questions go when Siri can read your messages and look at your photos. Here is what Apple says, in plain words, so you can decide for yourself.

Most of the work happens on your iPhone

Apple says Apple Intelligence uses **on-device processing** wherever it can, meaning the work happens on the chip inside your iPhone without your information leaving it. Siri AI's search of your own information uses tools like the Spotlight index that, Apple says, work entirely on device.

When it needs more help: Private Cloud Compute

Some requests are too big for a phone. For those, Apple uses **Private Cloud Compute**, its own secure servers. Apple's promises about them are:

- Your personal data is **not stored** there, and is not made accessible to Apple or anyone else.
- Your request is used only to answer that request.
- Outside experts can inspect the software to check that Apple keeps these promises.

What about the ChatGPT extension?

That's different. If you turn on the optional ChatGPT extension (Chapter 19), anything you choose to send goes to OpenAI, another company with its own privacy policy. That's why I suggest keeping **Confirm Requests** on.

See what's been sent to Apple's servers

Apple offers an **Apple Intelligence Report** that lists requests sent to Private Cloud Compute. Apple's guide places it under **Settings > Privacy & Security**. You can choose to record the last 15 minutes or the last 7 days, or turn it off. Most people never need it, but it's reassuring that it's there.

STAY SAFE

Three privacy habits that matter most

1. Use a passcode and Face ID so nobody else can ask Siri about your life. 2. Keep your iPhone updated, because updates fix security problems. 3. Don't tell any AI helper your Social Security number, bank passwords or credit card numbers. It doesn't need them.

CHAPTER 22

Scams and AI: Staying One Step Ahead

New technology always attracts scammers, and AI is no exception. The good news is that the old rules still protect you. Here are the tricks to watch for.

SCAM ALERT

"Pay to upgrade your Siri"

Apple Intelligence and Siri AI come with the free iOS update on iPhones that support them. Apple does not call, text or email people offering to activate, unlock or upgrade them for a fee. Anyone who does is a scammer. Hang up, delete the message, and never give a passcode or gift card number.

SCAM ALERT

A loved one's voice asking for money

The FTC warns that scammers can use AI to copy a relative's voice from a short clip online, then call in a panic asking for money: "Grandma, I'm in trouble, don't tell Mom." Hang up and call your relative back at the number you already have for them. Agree on a family password nobody else knows.

SCAM ALERT

Fake "Apple Support" calls and pop-ups

A pop-up or caller says your iPhone has a virus or your Apple Account is locked, and asks you to call a number or install something. Apple doesn't do this. Close the page, hang up, and if you're worried, contact Apple yourself through the Apple Support app or apple.com.

Let Apple Intelligence help you spot trouble

- **Summaries can flag odd messages:** if a summary says "Bank account frozen, verify now," that's a reason to be suspicious, not to tap. Open your bank's own app instead.
- **Ask Siri, carefully:** you can ask Siri, "Is this text likely a scam?" while it's on screen. Treat the answer as a second opinion, not the final word.
- **Don't trust a shocking photo or video at face value:** AI can now make realistic fakes. If a picture seems designed to upset you or rush you, check with family first.

The rules that never change

1. **Slow down.** Scammers rush you; real problems can wait ten minutes.
2. **Hang up and call back** using a number you already know is real.
3. **Never pay with gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency** because someone told you to.
4. **Never share a code** that was texted to you. Nobody legitimate asks for it.
5. **Tell someone.** A quick call to family, or to me, can stop a scam in its tracks.

> **FROM BILL**
>
> **When in doubt, call**
>
> If something feels off, it probably is. Call me at (330) 200-8042 before you click, pay or share anything. That's exactly what I'm here for.

CHAPTER 23

Turning Features Off, and Limits for Children

You're always in charge. If a feature annoys you or you'd rather not use it, you can switch it off without affecting the rest of your iPhone.

To turn off	Go here
Siri AI (go back to Siri Classic)	Settings > Siri > Turn Off Siri, then Turn On Siri > Use Siri Classic (Chapter 10)
Notification summaries	Settings > Notifications > Summarize Notifications
Summaries in Messages	Settings > Apps > Messages > Summarize Messages
The ChatGPT extension	Settings > Siri > Set Up Extensions > ChatGPT > Use Extension (Siri AI) or Settings > Siri > ChatGPT > Use ChatGPT (Siri Classic)
Call Context cards when calling a business	Settings > Apps > Phone > Apple Intelligence & Siri > Show When Calling
Old Siri conversations	Settings > Siri > Keep Conversations

Limits for a child or grandchild

If a grandchild uses an iPhone or iPad set up through Family Sharing, a parent can limit or block Apple Intelligence features using **Screen Time**. Apple has a guide called "Turn off and restrict access to Apple Intelligence features" that walks through it. Remember too that Apple says Siri AI isn't available to anyone under 13.

TIP

Turning things off doesn't delete anything

Switching off a summary or Siri AI doesn't erase your emails, messages or photos. It only changes how your iPhone shows them. You can switch features back on any time.

CHAPTER 24

When It Doesn't Work: Fixing Common Hiccups

"I don't see Apple Intelligence or Try Siri AI"

1. Check your model in **Settings > General > About**. It must be an iPhone 15 Pro, 15 Pro Max, iPhone 16 or later, iPhone Air or iPhone Duo (Chapter 3).
2. Check for updates in **Settings > General > Software Update**.
3. Make sure your iPhone's language and Siri's language are the same supported language.
4. Make sure you have enough free storage (up to 8 GB, or up to 14 GB on the newest models).

"It says I'm on a waitlist"

Apple says that during times of high demand, you may be added to a waitlist for Siri AI. Leave your iPhone on Wi-Fi and charging overnight, and check again the next day.

"I changed Siri's language and it stopped working"

Apple notes that if you change Siri's language, Apple Intelligence may be unavailable until the new language finishes downloading and matches your device language. Give it some time on Wi-Fi.

"It says I've reached a limit"

Some features that use Apple's online computers, such as Siri AI, the advanced photo tools and Image Playground, have daily usage limits. If you see a message about a limit, try again later or the next day.

"Siri didn't understand me"

- Hold the side button while you speak, so Siri doesn't stop listening too soon.
- Speak at a normal pace, close to the phone, away from a running TV.
- Type your question instead (Chapter 5).
- Rephrase: give a name, a date or the app it's in.

The two fixes that solve most problems

1. **Restart your iPhone.** Press and hold the side button and either volume button until the power-off slider appears, slide it, wait 30 seconds, then press and hold the side button until the Apple logo appears.
2. **Install any update** waiting in Settings > General > Software Update.

> **FROM BILL**
>
> **Still stuck?**
>
> Some problems, like a full iPhone or a mismatched language setting, are quick for me to spot. Call (330) 200-8042 and I'll take a look, remotely or in person.

PART 7

When to Call Bill & Your Cheat-Sheet

An honest word about when a hand is worth it, the new words in plain English, and a one-page summary to keep near your phone.

CHAPTER 25

When to Call Bill

I've written this manual so you can handle most of Apple Intelligence and Siri on your own. But part of being truly helpful is being honest about when a hand saves you time and worry, so here's my straight advice, with no pressure.

Times it's well worth a call

- **You're not sure your iPhone qualifies,** or you're deciding whether a newer one is worth it just for these features. I'll give you an honest answer, including when your current phone is fine.
- **The update or Siri AI won't install,** often because the iPhone is full. I can free up space safely without losing your photos.
- **Setting it up comfortably:** the voice, the side button, summaries on or off, and privacy choices tuned to the way you like to work.
- **You'd like a family member's devices set up the same way,** including Screen Time limits for a grandchild.
- **Something feels like a scam.** Call before you pay, click or share anything.
- **You'd simply like a patient person to show you the ropes.** Always a good enough reason.

What working with me is like

I work at your pace: no rushing, no talking down, and no leaving you with settings you don't understand. I explain what I'm doing in plain words, and I'll always tell you honestly when something isn't worth your money. That's been my way through 30+ years of professional experience, and I'm proud to serve folks here in Portage County, Ohio.

FROM BILL

How to reach me

Call or text **(330) 200-8042**, or book a time at **billshometech.com/book**. If I'm with another customer, Sophie, my AI receptionist, will answer and help you find a time. My help is **$49 remote · $99 in your home**. No question is too small.

Thank you for letting me help you get to know the new Siri. Take your time, try things without fear, and remember I'm only a phone call away.

— Bill

CHAPTER 26

The New Words in Plain English

Word	What it means
AI (artificial intelligence)	Computer programs that can understand ordinary language and pictures and respond helpfully.
Apple Intelligence	Apple's name for all the smart features built into newer iPhones, iPads, Macs and Apple Watches.
Siri AI	The new, more capable Siri built on Apple Intelligence. Currently labeled a beta.
Siri Classic	The older version of Siri, still available if you prefer it.
Beta	A version that works but is still being improved, so it may have rough edges.
Personal context	Siri's ability to find information in your own messages, email, calendar, notes and photos.
Onscreen awareness	Siri understanding what's on your screen right now.
On-device	Done on your iPhone itself, without sending your information anywhere.
Private Cloud Compute	Apple's secure servers for bigger requests. Apple says your data isn't stored there.
Write with Siri / Writing Tools	Help drafting, rewriting and proofreading text.
Clean Up	The Photos tool that erases distractions from a picture.
Visual Intelligence	Pointing your camera, or taking a screenshot, and asking about what you see.
Genmoji	Custom emoji you create by typing a description.
Image Playground	Apple's app for making pictures from a description.
Live Translation	Translating calls, texts and FaceTime as they happen.
ChatGPT extension	An optional connection from Siri to ChatGPT, made by the company OpenAI.
Usage limits	A daily cap on some features that use Apple's servers.

CHAPTER 27

Your Apple Intelligence & Siri Cheat-Sheet

Print just this page and keep it near your phone. The whole manual, boiled down.

The essentials

To do this	Do this
Does my iPhone qualify?	iPhone 15 Pro, 15 Pro Max, any iPhone 16 or later, iPhone Air, iPhone Duo. Check: Settings > General > About.
Turn on the new Siri	Settings > Siri > Try Siri AI (Beta).
Call Siri	Say "Siri," hold the side button, or swipe down from the Dynamic Island.
Type to Siri	Open Siri and tap the keyboard button, or use the Siri app.
Fix my writing	Select the text, tap the Siri AI button (or Writing Tools), pick Proofread or Rewrite.
Summarize an email	Open it in Mail, tap Summarize.
Erase something from a photo	Photos > Edit > Tools > Clean Up.
Ask about what I see	Camera > Siri mode, or hold the Camera Control.
Translate a call	During the call: More > Live Translation.
Go back to the old Siri	Settings > Siri > Turn Off Siri, then Turn On Siri > Use Siri Classic.

Safety in five lines

- Apple Intelligence is part of the free update. Nobody legitimate charges to "activate" it.
- A panicked call in a loved one's voice? Hang up and call them back at their usual number.
- Read anything Siri writes before you send it.
- Open the real message when a summary sounds urgent or alarming.
- Never share passwords, codes or card numbers with any AI helper.

Keep handy

Item	
My iPhone model	_____
My Apple Account email	_____

Item	
Family password for emergency calls	(keep it in your head, not on paper)
Bill's Home Tech	(330) 200-8042 · billshometech.com/book

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

You've got this

You now know how to turn on the new Siri, ask it for help in your own words, tidy up your writing and photos, translate a conversation, and keep your information private and safe. That's everything you need to make these helpers work for you.