

Tech Made Friendly



Siri Tips and Tricks
for iPhone & iPad



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Hello! Bill here...



Tech challenged? You're in the right place!

My name is Bill Sklodowski. I run the Tech Made Friendly Newsletter, along with the partner YouTube channel, Bill's iPhone Tips.

I've been a teacher and tech-support guy for much of my working life. My goal is to bring that experience and patience to a helpful newsletter, videos and other training resources for tech users everywhere.

I was on the front lines of training and customer support for Apple and Sony (yes, they used to make computers!).

As a teacher, I've lead adult-education classes for organizations such as the Sarasota (Florida) ACE Program, and the Renaissance Academy of Florida Gulf Coast University. Helping adults "get it" with tech is kinda my thing...

I hope you'll find this guide helpful. If you have an iPhone or iPad, SIRI comes built-in, ready to assist. Sometimes, we just need to give her a little guidance in providing that help.

Bill Sklodowski



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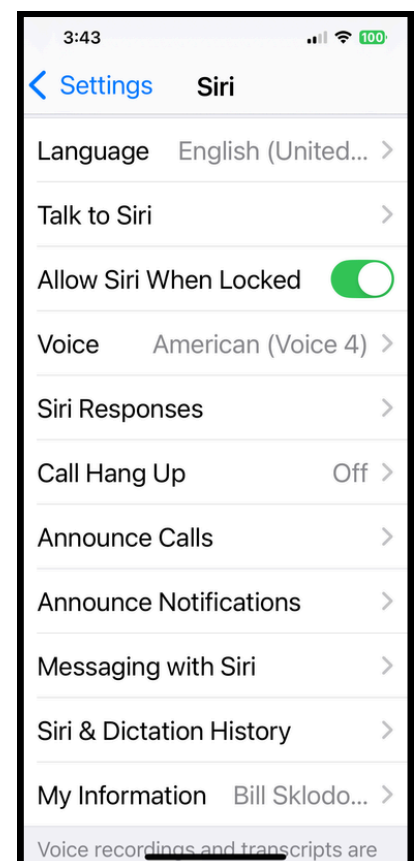
Siri Setup and Options

Do tech-gadgets have a gender? Through this guide, I'll be referring to Siri as "she." I know it's just a clever bit of software, and can - if you like - be set to use a male or female voice, with several different accents. However, I'll always think of Siri as having that original female voice, so I hope you'll be OK with me using the female pronoun on what is basically just a bunch of ones and zeros. Now, on to the setup.

Siri can do a lot of helpful things, but only if she knows you're looking for that help! Let's make sure it's set up and ready to help.

On your iPhone or iPad (it works exactly the same with either), hit the Settings button - the one that looks like a silver gear. Find the "Siri and Search" listing and tap on that. There are a bunch of settings here you can use to customize Siri to work the way you want. We won't cover them all (maybe that's for a full-on video), but let's cover some of the important basics you'll want to configure for yourself.

Important: Everything you see in this guide works equally well (and in exactly the same way) no matter if you are using an iPhone or iPad. The way it looks may be slightly different, because of the iPad's bigger screen.



NOTE: This is the main SIRI page in iPhone Settings. Items may have more selections inside (shown by the arrow >)



Siri Setup and Options

Listen for “Siri” or “Hey Siri”

Siri continues to get better with age. You no longer have to say “Hey Siri” as you did on earlier iPhones and iPads. This option lets you choose to get Siri’s attention with one word or two, or turn it off completely. You can always use the button on the side of the phone to activate Siri.

Press Side Button for Siri does exactly that. It’s the next item down the page. Toggle it on or off. Again, your choice.

Allow Siri When Locked does just what it says. If your phone is locked (dark screen), you can still access Siri and everything she can do for you by toggling this function on. There may be some security-related concerns if you do, however.

Language is exactly what it says. Currently, Siri can speak a few dozen languages, if that’s your preference.

Siri Voice is a lot more fun. You can have Siri speak as a man or woman, with several different accents for each. I like the female / Australian combo.

You can choose to have Siri **announce** (by voice) the name of someone calling you, and also have Siri tell you - out loud - when you have a new notification, like a text message or some other app that wants your attention.

The **My Information** selection is where you allow Siri to know who you are, along with other details. You do this by creating an entry for yourself on the iPhone’s Contacts app, and then connecting it with Siri. That way, she’ll know important information (like home phone number, address, etc.) so you won’t have to spell it out every time you tell Siri to “call home.”

There are other settings that can be tweaked here, but these are the important ones that make using Siri easy and effective. If you need help on a specific Siri setting or option, get in touch and I’ll try to help.

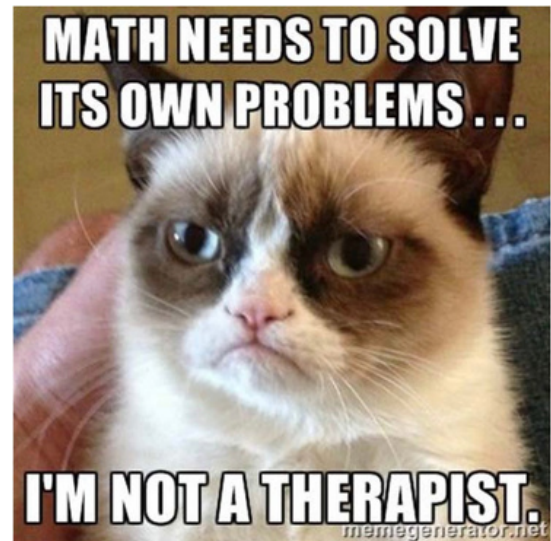


Siri Tips, Tricks and Skills

Math: Figure out a tip, do conversions and more.

“Talk out” any math problem or tip amount. “How much is 18 percent of \$46.74?” “How much is 200 dollars in euros?”

Siri convert speeds, weights, fluids, temperatures, cooking measures, distance, area, time, decimals, and fractions. Also great in the kitchen. Ask how many cups in a quart, teaspoons in a tablespoon, etc. (You can also use Siri for a kitchen timer, but that’s another skill entirely.)

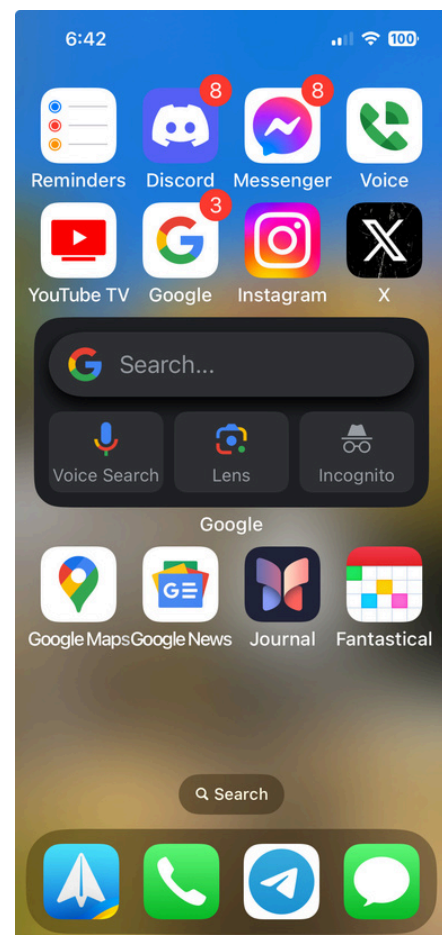


Siri can start any app on your device (and lots more).

Use Siri to find and launch (start) any app on your iPhone. Can’t remember where you put a certain app? If it’s on the phone (or iPad), Siri will find it for you. Just say “Open” or “Launch” followed by the name of the app. Easy! (Remember to say “Siri” first, of course.)

In addition, Siri can open all the many different settings pages in the Settings app. Just say something like “Siri, open display and brightness” to go directly to that page in settings.

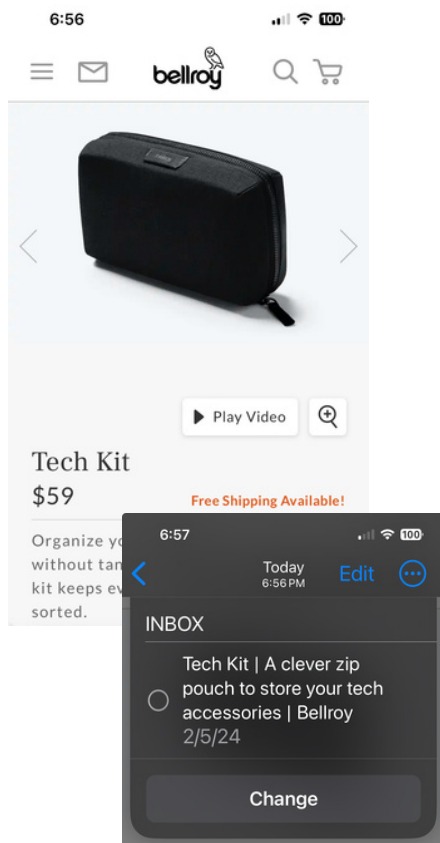
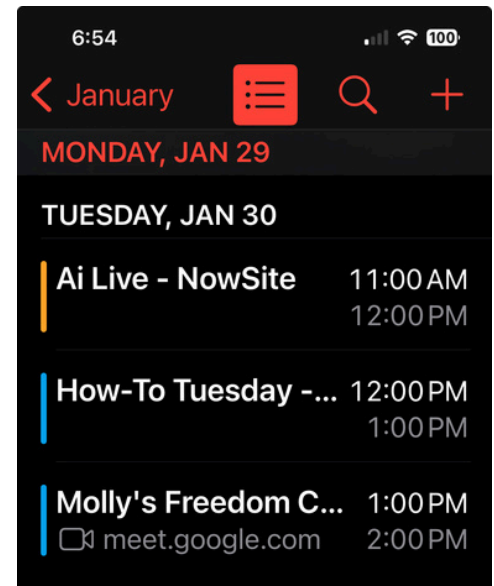
Don’t Forget! For all of the commands and actions listed in this guide, you always have to start things off by saying “Siri” or “Hey Siri” to get the app’s attention.





Siri Tips, Tricks and Skills

Let Siri handle your calendar: Set and edit your calendar events. Creating an appointment via Siri is much faster than doing it manually. Simply say, "Schedule a haircut on Tuesday at 2pm" You can then edit that appointment by saying, "Change the time of my Tuesday appointment at 2 p.m." Siri will then ask the new time and date.



Create Reminders and Contextual Reminders:

Creating reminders with Siri is easy, but Siri also “knows” what you’ve been looking at and reading as well. For example, I was looking at this travel kit online. I simply told Siri to “remind me about this in a week,” and she added a reminder about it to my Reminders app.

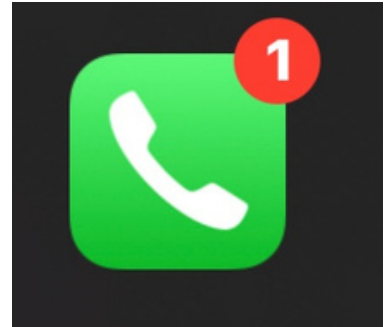
Very cool: In the Reminders app, there’s a built-in link to the same website I was looking at, so when the reminder comes up for me, I can simply tap on the website icon to go right back to the page I was looking at. Works great to be “reminded” of important email messages, etc.



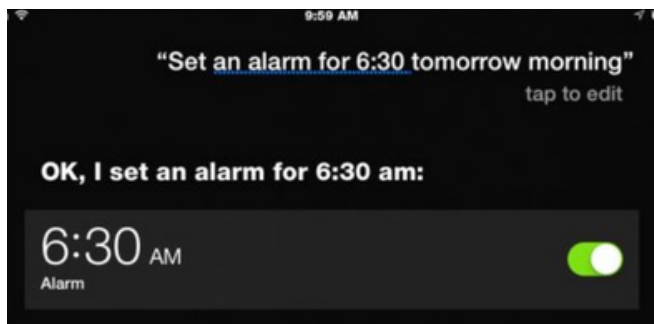
Siri Tips, Tricks and Skills

Simple, but often overlooked - Hands-Free Calling

Have Siri call someone using the speakerphone. Just say, "Hey Siri, call (name) using speakerphone." Simple! This same trick can be used to send a text message, too. Tell Siri "Text (a name in my contact list)," and Siri will ask what you want to say in the text, then ask if you're ready to send the message.



Set an Alarm or Timer: Use Siri to set an alarm by saying things such as "Wake me up tomorrow at 6:30 a.m." or, if you're taking a nap, "Wake me up in an hour." To change an alarm, you can say things such as, "Turn off my 6:30 alarm" or "Change my 6:30 alarm to 7:00." To set a timer, say, "Set the timer for a half hour."



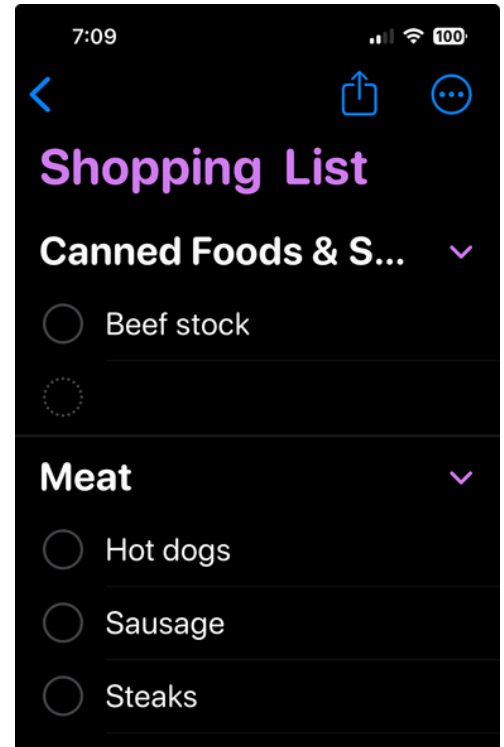
Special Note on Alarms and Timers: Once you have Siri set an alarm (or do it yourself), it is saved in the Alarm section of the iPhone clock app. This can lead to a long list of alarms that have been saved. You could clear them out "by hand," but how much better to say, "Siri, delete all alarms."



Siri Tips, Tricks and Skills

Add Items to Lists:

If you use your Reminders app to create a shopping list (and you really should!), you have can Siri add things to that list, or any other, simply by saying the thing to be added to the list, and the list to add it to. "Siri, add pizza sauce to my shopping list."



Getting Directions / Navigating:

One of our favorites! Rather than typing an address into the iPhone Maps app, you can simply tell Siri to "Get directions to..." or "Navigate to..." and then speak the address you want to go to. Also, you can ask for directions to find a location when you don't know exactly where you're going. For example, you can tell Siri "Get directions to the nearest Starbucks" (or anywhere else, for that matter).

Extra Trick: In an unfamiliar town? You can ask Siri to find anything using the "near me" question. "Siri, donut shop near me." Yum!



Siri Tips, Tricks and Skills

Define Your Relationships: Siri understands the names of your contacts by default, but with a little help it can get relationships too. Tell Siri "Donna Smith is my mom" or "Tom Johnson is my husband" and you'll then be able to refer to them simply by that moniker, saying "text my mom" or "call my husband." Just be careful when you change boyfriend / girlfriends!



Important Meeting? At the Opera? Just tell Siri, **"Hold my calls,"** and she'll turn on the Do Not Disturb mode. Just remember to turn it off when you're available again!

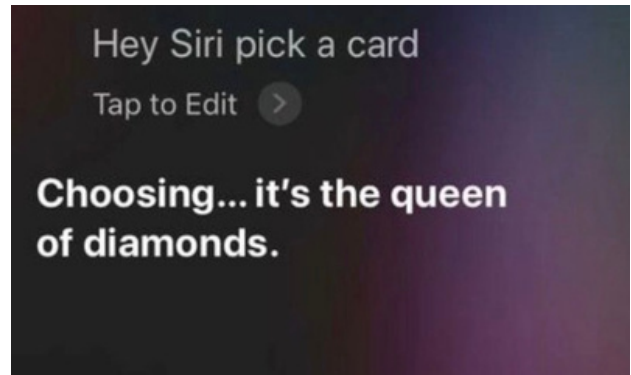
Get the Weather for ANYWHERE: Traveling? Know in advance."Hey Siri, what's the weather in (city, ZIP code, etc.). You can also add modifiers like "What's the weather for tomorrow, or what's the weather for the next few days."





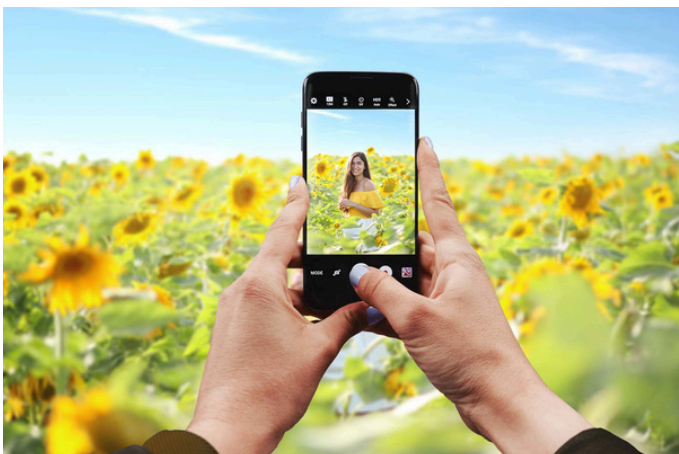
Siri Tips, Tricks and Skills (Fun Stuff)

Game Night: Flip a Coin, Pick a Card, Roll the Dice. Need something random? Ask Siri for a card, number or dice roll. Game night will never be the same!



Sports Scores and More:

Any team. Anywhere. Any time. Who won the Dolphins game last weekend? Who do the Yankees play next? What's the Vegas line on the Super Bowl?



Siri is Super-Smart with Pics

Take a lot of pictures? Yeah, me too. You can ask Siri to show you pictures of any particular person, place or thing in your pictures collection on your device. The phone uses some very smart software to put names to faces, as well as place names and activities. "Siri, show pictures of my dog." Amazing!



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Looking forward to seeing you there.

Bill

