Chapter **1**

Setting Up and Navigating Your iPhone

Congratulations on getting an iPhone! You've made a great choice.

In addition to being a first-rate cellular telephone, the iPhone is an excellent music player, a gorgeous widescreen video player, and a fantastic camera and camcorder system, not to mention a powerful internet communications device.

This chapter starts by making sure you know your way around your iPhone's hardware. It then shows you how to activate the iPhone and set it up either manually or by picking up settings from your current iPhone or your iPad. You then learn to navigate the iPhone's Home screen pages and dock, lock the iPhone when you're not using it, and power it down for those rare occasions you don't need to keep it running.

At the end of this chapter, you learn about Apple Intelligence, Apple's new strategic direction that incorporates artificial intelligence (AI) into its products, and where to turn in the book for coverage of Apple Intelligence on your iPhone.

Meeting Your iPhone's Hardware

On the outside, the iPhone's hardware is sleek and simple. This section explains what you find on the front, the back, the sides, and the bottom.

On the front

On the front of your iPhone, you find the following (labeled in Figure 1-1):

TIP

>> **Camera:** The camera on the front of the iPhone is tuned for selfies and FaceTime video calling, so it has just the right field of view and focal length to focus on your face at arm's length, which presents you in the best possible light.

>> **Receiver/front microphone:** The iPhone uses the receiver (speaker) and front mic for telephone calls. The receiver naturally sits close to your ear when you hold your iPhone in the "talking on the phone" position; the mic is used for noise canceling and FaceTime calls.

   If you require privacy during phone calls, use a compatible Apple or third-party headset — wired or wireless.

>> **Status bar:** The status bar displays important information, as you discover later in this chapter.

>> **Touchscreen:** The touchscreen dominates the front of the iPhone, enabling you to control the iPhone by gesturing with your fingers and thumbs.

>> **Home button and Touch ID sensor (Touch ID models only):** No matter what you're doing, you can press the Home button at any time to display the Home screen, which is the screen shown in Figure 1-1. The iPhone's Touch ID sensor uses your fingerprint to unlock the phone and to authenticate you (see Chapter 2).

>> **App icons:** Each icon on the Home screen launches an app, such as the Weather app or the Files app.

>> **Widgets:** A widget is a sort of mini-app that displays information or enables you to access features. For example, the Music widget in Figure 1-1 shows you current and upcoming songs.
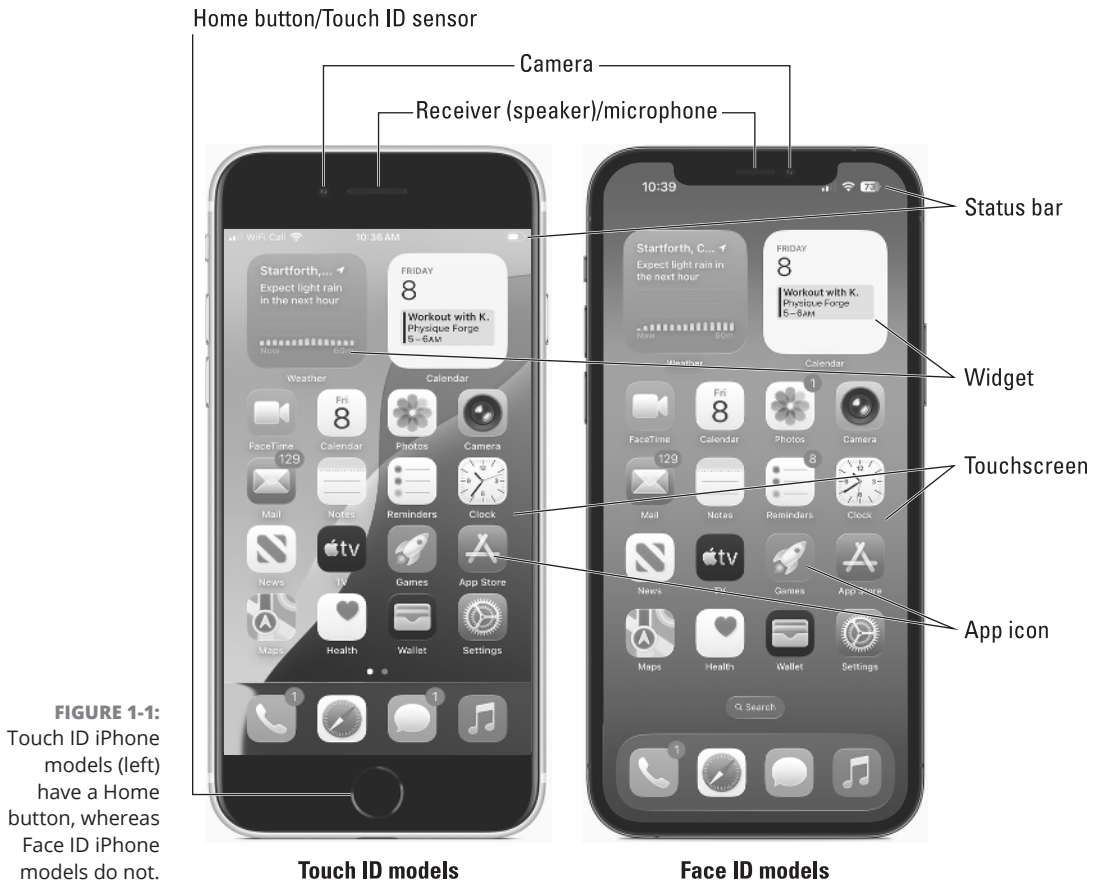
Home button/Touch ID sensor

Camera

Receiver (speaker)/microphone

Status bar

Widget

Touchscreen

App icon

Touch ID models   **Face ID models**

FIGURE 1-1: Touch ID iPhone models (left) have a Home button, whereas Face ID iPhone models do not.

On the back

On the back of your iPhone are one to three camera lenses that look like little circles or ovals in the top-left corner. The iPhone also has one or more little LEDs next to the camera lens for use as a flash for still photos, as a floodlight for videos, and as a flashlight that you can turn on or off via Control Center. For more on using the camera and shooting videos, see Chapters 14 and 15, respectively; for more on the flashlight and Control Center, see Chapter 4.

On the sides

Here's what you'll find on the sides on your iPhone (see Figure 1–2):

>> **Side button:** This physical button on the right side of the iPhone enables you to take several actions, including powering on your iPhone; putting it to sleep and waking it; and summoning Siri, the virtual assistant.

>> **Camera control:** All iPhone 16 and iPhone 17 models and the iPhone Air include this physical control surface for opening the Camera app; taking a photo or starting video capture; and adjusting zoom, exposure, depth of field, and other settings.

>> **SIM card tray:** If your iPhone model uses a physical SIM card, open this tray, insert the card in it, and then replace the tray. iPhone 14, iPhone 15, iPhone 16, and iPhone 17 models sold in the US use an e-SIM (a virtual SIM) rather than a physical card. The iPhone Air uses an e-SIM in every market. The SIM card tray may be on either the right side or the left side, depending on the iPhone model.

TECHNICAL STUFF

A SIM (Subscriber Identity Module) card is a removable smart card used to identify mobile phones. When you switch phones, you can move the SIM card from your old phone to the new phone, provided the phones use the same SIM card size. Current iPhone models that use a SIM card use the nano-SIM format.

>> **Action button:** The iPhone 15 Pro, all iPhone 16, and all iPhone 17 models have the action button at the top of the left side, as does the iPhone Air. You can customize this button in the Settings app to take your preferred action, such as recording a voice memo or turning on the flashlight. The action button's default action is to toggle between ring mode and silent mode; long-press the action button until you feel haptic feedback confirming the mode change.
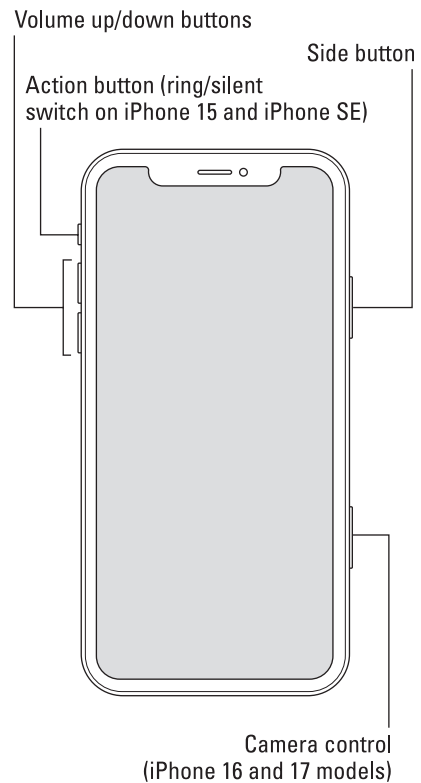
Volume up/down buttons

Side button

Action button (ring/silent switch on iPhone 15 and iPhone SE)

Camera control
(iPhone 16 and 17 models)

FIGURE 1-2:
Here's what you'll find on the sides of your iPhone.

» **Ring/silent switch:** In place of the action button, the iPhone 15 (non-Pro models), iPhone SE, and earlier iPhone models have this switch at the top of the left side, which lets you quickly toggle between ring mode and silent mode. When the switch is set to ring mode — with the switch toward the iPhone's screen — your iPhone plays all sounds through the speaker on the bottom. When the switch is set to silent mode — with the switch toward the iPhone's back — your iPhone makes no sound when you receive a call or when an alert pops up on the screen.

Silent mode is overridden by alarms you set in the iPhone's Clock app; by music, audiobooks, and other audio you play; and by you auditioning sounds such as ringtones and alert sounds in the Settings app. Also, when you configure a focus, such as Do Not Disturb, you can permit specific apps to interrupt it.

If your phone is set to ring mode and you want to silence it quickly when it starts ringing, press the side button or either of the volume buttons.

» **Volume up/down buttons:** Two volume buttons are just below the action button or the ring/silent switch. The upper button increases the volume; the lower one decreases it. You use the volume buttons to raise or lower the loudness of the ringer, alerts, sound effects, songs, and movies. During phone calls, the buttons adjust the voice loudness of the person you're speaking with, regardless of whether you're listening through the receiver, the speaker-phone, or a headset.

The iPhone 14 Pro models and all iPhone 15, iPhone 16, and iPhone 17 models plus the iPhone Air have a feature called Dynamic Island, a display element that appears near the top of the screen to provide context-sensitive controls and information, such as playback controls for music, telephony controls for phone calls and FaceTime calls, or map directions for your current journey. Dynamic Island adjusts its size automatically to present information visually to you. Tap an icon in Dynamic Island to go straight to the app for the feature that icon represents.

These models also have a feature called Always-On Display that lets you show key information, such as notifications and upcoming events, on the Lock screen. On iPhone models without Always-On Display, locking the phone turns the screen off completely.

On the bottom

On the bottom of your iPhone, you find microphones, the USB–C port or Lightning port, and stereo speakers, as shown in Figure 1-3:

❯❯ **Microphones:** The built-in microphones let callers hear your voice when you're not using a headset.

The iPhone sports three or more microphones — the main ones are on the bottom — which work together to suppress unwanted and distracting background sounds on phone calls using dual-mic noise suppression plus beam-forming technology that makes the microphones listen in the right direction.

FIGURE 1-3:
On the bottom of your iPhone (some models differ slightly).

❯❯ **USB-C port or Lightning port:** The USB-C port or Lightning port has several purposes:

- *Recharge your iPhone's battery.* Connect one end of the included charge cable to the iPhone and the other end to a USB power adapter, a USB port on your computer, or a port on a powered USB hub.

- *Sync your iPhone.* Connect one end of the cable to the port on your iPhone and the other end to a USB port on your Mac or PC.

- *Connect your iPhone to other devices.* Connect a camera, a television, or an external drive easily. For an iPhone Air, iPhone 15, iPhone 16, or iPhone 17 model, use a USB-C cable. For an iPhone SE or an earlier iPhone model, use a Lightning adapter such as the camera connection kit or one of Apple's A/V adapter cables.

- *Connect EarPods or a headset.* If you have Apple EarPods with a USB-C connector, you can plug them straight into the USB-C port on an iPhone 15 or later; similarly, you can connect Apple EarPods with a Lightning connector directly to the Lightning port on a Lightning-port iPhone. To use another headset, you may need to get Apple's USB-C-to-3.5mm Headphone Jack Adapter, Lightning-to-3.5mm Headphone Jack Adapter, or a functional equivalent.

❯❯ **Stereo speakers:** The speakers are used by the iPhone's built-in speaker-phone and for playing audio — music or video soundtracks — when no headset is connected. They also play the ringtone you hear when you receive a call. All current iPhones have stereo speakers.

TECHNICAL STUFF

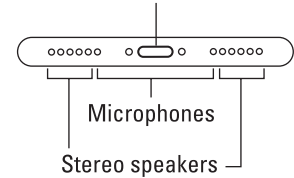# Setting Up and Activating Your iPhone

Before you can start using your iPhone, you need to set it up, configuring its operating system (iOS) — the software that makes the iPhone tick — to work the way you want it to. You may also need to activate the iPhone to connect it to Apple's services and to your cellular carrier's service.

If you've already set up and activated your iPhone, skip this section.

Turning on your iPhone

Start by turning on your iPhone. Press and hold the side button, the physical button on the iPhone's right side. When the Apple logo appears on the screen, release the side button and wait until the Hello screen appears. Then swipe up from the bottom of the screen on a Face ID iPhone or press the Home button on a Touch ID phone to begin the setup process.

Choosing the language, country or region, and appearance

A series of screens walks you through the first three steps of the setup process:

» **Language:** Choose the language you want your iPhone to use, such as English.

» **Country or Region:** Specify your country or region, such as United States.

» **Appearance:** Tap the Default radio button, the Medium radio button, or the Large radio button to choose the size of text and icons on the screen. Tap the Continue button.

At this point, the Quickly Set Up iPhone screen appears, enabling you to finish setup quickly by using your current iPhone or iPad. Read on.

Using Quickly Set Up iPhone or continuing setup

If you have an iPhone or iPad set up with your Apple Account, you can use that device to set up your new iPhone quickly. When the Quickly Set Up iPhone screen appears (see Figure 1-4), unlock your current device and bring it close to your new iPhone. Your new iPhone then displays a complex pattern on the screen, and the

Camera app opens on your other device, showing a target ring. Aim this ring at the pattern to establish the connection between the devices, and then authenticate yourself on your new iPhone by entering the current device's passcode. Follow the prompts to set up the new iPhone based on the current device. Skip ahead to the section "Starting to Use Your iPhone," later in this chapter.

If you don't have a current iPhone or iPad to use, or if you want to set up your new iPhone differently, tap the Set Up Without Another Device button, and then follow through the next subsection.

Setting up your iPhone without another device

If you chose to set up your iPhone without another device, work your way through the following screens:

FIGURE 1-4:
From the Quickly Set Up iPhone screen, you can swiftly set up your new iPhone using your current iPhone or iPad.

>> **Choose a Wi-Fi Network:** Tap the Wi-Fi network you want to use, type the password on the Enter Password screen, and then tap the Join button.

   If you need to use a Wi-Fi network that hides its network name, tap the Choose Another Network button. On the screen that appears, type the network name and the password, and then tap the Join button.

   If no Wi-Fi network is available, tap the Continue Without Wi-Fi button to use a cellular data connection.

>> **Activation:** Wait while iOS activates your iPhone over the Wi-Fi connection (or the cellular connection, if you tapped Continue Without Wi-Fi). Activation may take several minutes.

>> **Data & Privacy:** Read the information, and then tap the Continue button.

>> **Age Range:** Tap the Child (12 or Younger), Teen (13 to 17), or Adult (18 or Older) button to help iOS configure parental controls and safety features. The rest of this section assumes you've selected Adult; if you select Child or Teen, you'll need to take other setup actions.

>> **Face ID/Touch ID:** On a Face ID iPhone, follow the prompts to scan your face by aiming the recognition circle at your head, and then rotating your head to
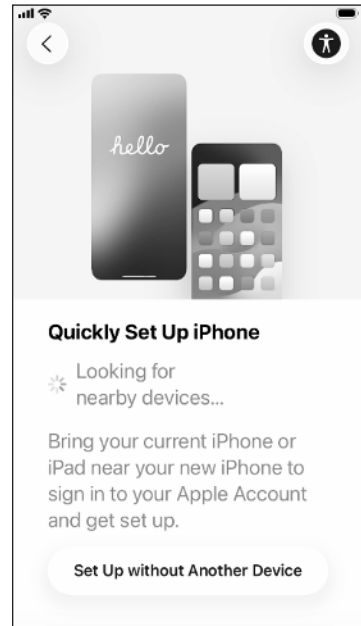
replace the white marks with green marks. On the Use Face ID with a Mask screen, choose whether to configure Face ID for use when you're wearing a protective mask.

On a Touch ID iPhone, follow the prompts to scan the print of the finger or thumb you want to use to unlock the iPhone. You can add up to four more fingers (or thumbs — max two, preferably) after you finish setup.

» **Create an iPhone Passcode:** Tap the six-digit passcode you want to use, and then confirm it on the second screen.

TIP

If a six-digit passcode doesn't suit you, tap the Passcode Options button on the Create an iPhone Passcode screen. On the iPhone SE, you may need to scroll down to see the Passcode Options button. In the dialog that opens, tap Custom Alphanumeric Code, Custom Numeric Code, or 4-Digit Numeric Code, as appropriate, and then enter the code twice on the following screens. A custom alphanumeric code of eight characters or more is the most secure, though it will take longer to type. A custom numeric code enables you to create a numeric code of the length you prefer. Four digits are the minimum. Each digit more than six digits makes the code that much more secure. A four-digit numeric code is not strong enough for serious security, but you might want to use such a short code on an iPhone you're using for a demonstration, such as at a trade show.

» **Transfer Your Apps & Data:** Choose whether (and if so, how) to transfer your apps and data to your new iPhone. You have five choices:

- *From iCloud Backup:* Tap this button if you have a backup of your current or previous iPhone and want to restore it to your new iPhone.

- *From Another iPhone:* Tap this button if you have a current iPhone and want to transfer its apps and data. Normally, you would use the Quick Start feature earlier in the setup process to transfer your data from your current phone, but this button provides an alternative means.

- *From Mac or PC:* Tap this button if you used your Mac or PC to back up your previous iPhone and you want to restore data from one of those backups.

- *From Android:* Tap this button if your current device is an Android phone or tablet. You won't be able to transfer apps available only on Android.

- *Don't Transfer Anything:* Tap this button to set the iPhone up from scratch.

For the first four choices, follow the prompts in the resulting screens. For example, when restoring from an iCloud backup, you need to sign in to iCloud using your Apple Account, and then select the backup to use.

» **Apple Account:** Sign in to your Apple Account by entering your email address and password.

- **»** **Terms and Conditions:** Read as much of the Terms and Conditions as you wish, and then tap the Agree button if you want to proceed.

- **»** **Make This Your New iPhone:** This screen appears after you set up the means of transferring apps and data using one of the methods mentioned previously. The screen displays buttons summarizing what can be transferred, such as Apps & Data, Settings, and Wallet. If one of these buttons has > at its right end, you can tap the button to reveal a list of details — for example, tapping the Wallet button reveals a list of the payment cards to be transferred with Wallet. Tap the button again to hide the details. Tap the Continue button to continue with this selection, or tap the Customize button if you want to choose what to transfer.

- **»** **Update Your iPhone Automatically:** Tap the Continue button if you want iOS to automatically download and install updates. Keeping iOS updated is wise from a security perspective, but it means you may occasionally find your iPhone updating when you want to use it. If you prefer to control when iOS installs updates, tap the Only Download Automatically button instead.

- **»** **Location Services:** Tap the Enable Location Services button to enable Location Services immediately. Normally, you'll want to enable Location Services because apps such as Maps depend on it. You can tap the Disable Location Services button if you don't want to use Location Services or if you plan to enable it later.

- **»** **Apple Pay:** Tap the Continue button (and then follow the prompts) if you want to set up Apple Pay now, adding one or more credit or debit cards. Tap the Set Up Later button if you prefer to set up Apple Pay later or not at all.

- **»** **Siri:** Tap the Continue button to set up the voice-driven virtual assistant now, or tap the Set Up Later in Settings button to set up Siri later (or never). If you enable Siri, the Improve Siri & Dictation screen appears, prompting you to share your Siri audio recordings anonymously to help Apple improve Siri; tap the Share Audio Recordings button or the Not Now button, as appropriate.

Starting to Use Your iPhone

Once you've completed the setup routine, the Lock screen appears. Unlock it using Face ID or Touch ID:

- **»** **Face ID:** Hold the iPhone pointing at your face.

- **»** **Touch ID:** Place your registered finger on the Home button and click it.

If you didn't set up Face ID or Touch ID during setup, you can set it up later in the Settings app. Tap the Face ID & Passcode button or the Touch ID & Passcode button, and then follow the prompts.

Meeting the Home screen

After you unlock your phone, the Home screen appears. It's divided into pages, with the first page appearing at first. If you haven't customized the Home screen yet, the first page should look more or less like Figure 1-5.

These are the items on the first Home screen page:

>> **Status bar:** This narrow horizontal strip appears across the top of each Home screen page; many apps also display it. The status bar displays icons that provide a variety of information about the current state of your iPhone. See the next section for details.

>> **Wallpaper:** The wallpaper is the background in front of which the app icons and widgets appear.

>> **Widgets and widget stacks:** A *widget* is a kind of mini-app that displays information on a single topic, such as the Weather widget showing the weather forecast and the Calendar widget showing the next calendar event in Figure 1-6. Widgets come in various sizes. You can arrange widgets of the same size into a *widget stack,* a virtual vertical stack in which you see only the topmost widget but can pull down on that widget to display the widget immediately below it.

Widgets in a widget stack   Wallpaper
Status bar   App icons

Phone   Messages   Music   Dock
      Safari   Search button

FIGURE 1-5:
On the Home screen's first page, you see the status bar, the dock, widgets, and app icons.

>> **App icons:** More than a dozen app icons appear by default on the first Home screen. These icons are for frequently used apps, such as Camera, FaceTime, Mail, Calendar, and Clock.

>> **Search button:** The search button gives you instant access to the search feature.

>> **Dock:** This area appears at the bottom of each Home screen page, giving you access to four apps no matter which page is displayed. The default apps are Phone (for phone calls), Safari (for web browsing), Messages (for instant messaging), and Music (three guesses).

Swipe left across the main section of the first Home screen page (not across the status bar or the dock) to display the second Home screen page (see Figure 1-6). You can see that the status bar, the Search button, and the dock remain the same, but the selection of app icons changes. There is also a folder called Utilities, which contains several lesser but useful apps. To open the folder, tap it.

Identifying the status bar icons

The status bar regularly displays icons showing the current time, the status and strength of the iPhone's cellular connection and Wi-Fi connection, and the proportion of battery power left. Beyond such widely useful information, the status bar can display a wide range of icons, depending on your iPhone's status. The following list shows you the status icons and explains what they indicate:
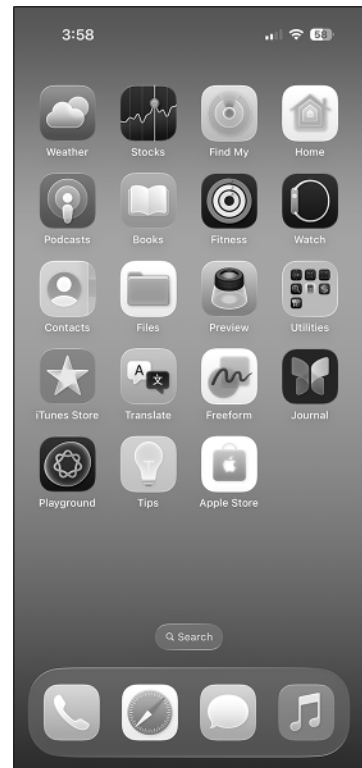

FIGURE 1-6:
The second Home screen page.

5Gᴇ

>> **5G/5G+/5GE/5G UW/5G UC:** Your wireless carrier's fifth-generation wireless network is available. (Full disclosure: 5GE — 5G Evolution — is actually an enhanced 4G network but still pretty fast.)

4G

>> **4G:** Your wireless carrier's high-speed UMTS network is available.

3G

>> **3G:** Your wireless carrier's 3G UMTS or EV-DO data network is available and your iPhone can connect to the internet via 3G.

>> **Airplane mode:** All wireless features of your iPhone — the cellular, 5G, 4G, 3G, GPRS (General Packet Radio Service), and EDGE networks, Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth — are turned off. However, you can turn on Wi-Fi and Bluetooth if you need them.

>> **Alarm:** You've set one or more alarms in the Clock app.

>> **Battery:** This battery icon displays the level of the battery's charge. The icon is completely filled with green or white when the battery is fully charged and then empties as the battery becomes depleted. If the icon is green, your iPhone is connected to a viable power source; if the icon is white or black, no power source is connected. A lightning bolt appears on the icon when your iPhone is recharging.

>> **Bluetooth battery:** A tiny battery icon next to the Bluetooth icon displays the battery level of some Bluetooth devices.

>> **Call forwarding:** Call forwarding is enabled on your iPhone, so it will forward incoming calls to the number you specified.

>> **Camera in use indicator:** An app is using your iPhone camera. If you're using the Camera app, this won't be news, but the indicator can be helpful when other apps are using the camera.

>> **CarPlay:** Your iPhone is connected to CarPlay, Apple's technology for making the iPhone work with the car's infotainment system.

>> **Cell signal:** The strength of the cellular signal. The cell signal icon tells you whether you're within range of your wireless telephone carrier's cellular network and therefore can make and receive calls. The more bars you see (four is the highest), the stronger the cellular signal. *No Service* appears when your iPhone is out of cellular range, while *Searching* appears when it's trying to find a signal.

>> **Do Not Disturb:** The Do Not Disturb feature (see Chapter 5) is enabled.

>> **Driving:** The driving focus (see Chapter 5) is enabled.

>> **Dual cell signal:** On iPhones with dual SIMs, the top row of bars indicates the signal strength of the line used for cellular data and the lower row of dots indicates the signal strength of your other line.

>> **EDGE:** Your wireless carrier's slower EDGE (Enhanced Datarate for GSM Evolution) network is available and you can use it to connect to the internet.

>> **GPRS/1xRTT:** Your wireless carrier's slower GPRS data network is available and your iPhone can use it to connect to the internet.

>> **Headphones connected:** Your iPhone is connected to Bluetooth headphones.

>> **Location Services:** An application is using Location Services (see Chapter 12).

>> **LTE:** Your wireless carrier's high-speed LTE network is available.

>> **Microphone in use indicator:** An app is using your iPhone's microphone.

>> **Network activity:** Some network activity is occurring, such as over-the-air synchronization, sending or receiving email, or loading a web page. Some third-party apps use this icon to indicate network or other activity.

>> **Personal:** The personal focus (see Chapter 5) is enabled.

>> **Personal hotspot:** This iPhone is connected to the internet via the personal hotspot connection of another device.

>> **Personal hotspot indicator:** This iPhone is providing a personal hotspot connection or screen mirroring to another device; or an app is actively using your location.

>> **Portrait orientation lock:** The iPhone screen is locked in portrait orientation. Open Control Center and then tap the portrait orientation lock icon to lock your screen in portrait orientation.

>> **Reading:** The reading focus (see Chapter 5) is enabled.

>> **Recording indicator:** Your iPhone is either recording sound or recording your screen.

>> **Syncing:** Your iPhone is syncing with Finder or iTunes.

>> **Sleep:** The sleep focus (see Chapter 5) is enabled.

>> **TTY:** Your iPhone is set up to work with a teletype (TTY) machine, which is used by those who are hearing or speech impaired. You need an optional Apple iPhone TTY adapter (suggested retail price $19) to connect your iPhone to a TTY machine.

>> **VPN:** Your iPhone is currently connected to a virtual private network (VPN).

>> **Wi-Fi:** Your iPhone is connected to the internet over a Wi-Fi network. The more arcs you see (up to three), the stronger the Wi-Fi signal. If your screen displays only one or two arcs of Wi-Fi strength, try moving around a bit. If you don't see the Wi-Fi icon in the status bar, internet access via Wi-Fi is not currently available.

>> Wi-Fi networks are usually even faster than cellular data networks. So iPhones connect to a Wi-Fi network if one is available, even when a cellular network is also available.

>> **Wi-Fi call:** Your iPhone is making a call over Wi-Fi.

>> **Work:** The work focus (see Chapter 5) is enabled.

REMEMBER

App Library and Home screen widgets

Two features that make finding what you need on your iPhone faster and easier are App Library and Home screen widgets; you learn all about both in Chapter 2.

Locking and Unlocking Your iPhone

When you're not using your iPhone, lock it and put it to sleep by pressing the side button once. Locking the iPhone like this turns the screen off, saving battery power, and prevents anyone else from using the iPhone without unlocking it. Locking the iPhone before you put it in your pocket or purse also helps ensure that the touchscreen doesn't register any bumps or touches that might change or delete something or even place an unwanted phone call.

TIP
Your iPhone automatically locks itself after a short period of inactivity, such as 30 seconds or a minute. To configure the length of time, choose Settings ➪ Display & Brightness; tap the Auto-Lock button; and then tap the length of time, such as 30 Seconds, 1 Minute, or 5 Minutes.

Here's how to wake the iPhone from its sleep and unlock it:

» **Face ID iPhones:** Press the side button. Point the iPhone at your face and swipe up from the bottom of the screen. Face ID recognizes your face and unlocks the iPhone.

» **Touch ID iPhones:** Press the Home button using the finger or thumb you registered with Touch ID. The iPhone wakes, and Touch ID recognizes your fingerprint and unlocks the iPhone.

If the Raise to Wake feature is enabled, you can wake the iPhone by picking it up. To enable Raise to Wake, choose Settings ➪ Display & Brightness, and then set the Raise to Wake switch on (green).

Powering Down Your iPhone

Normally, you don't need to power your iPhone down. Instead, you simply put it to sleep when you're not using it, and then wake it up when you need it again.

When you do need to power your iPhone down, do so in one of these ways:

>> From the Home screen, choose Settings ➪ General ➪ Shut Down. The Power Off screen appears. Slide the Slide to Power Off slider to the right.

>> From Control Center, long-press the power icon in the upper-right corner, and then slide the Slide to Power Off slider to the right.

>> On a Face ID iPhone, press the volume up button, press the volume down button, and then press and hold the side button for a couple of seconds. The Power Off screen appears. Slide the Slide to Power Off slider to the right.

>> On a Touch ID iPhone, press and hold the side button until the Power Off screen appears, and then slide the Slide to Power Off slider to the right.

Coming to Grips with Apple Intelligence

Apple Intelligence is a suite of artificial intelligence (AI) features that Apple has added to iOS, iPadOS (the iPad's operating system), and macOS (one guess). Apple Intelligence aims to use AI tools to make your iPhone, your other Apple devices, and their apps more useful to you while protecting your privacy.

Apple Intelligence includes a wide range of features that break down into five main categories, as explained in the following subsections.

WHERE DOES APPLE INTELLIGENCE RUN?

When you use Apple Intelligence features, the device you're using — your iPhone, iPad, or Mac — performs the processing if it can. When the Apple Intelligence feature needs more complex computation than your device can provide, Apple Intelligence transfers the data across the internet to Apple's servers, which crunch the numbers and return the result. For transferring data across the internet, Apple uses an approach called Private Cloud Compute, which uses various technologies, including anonymization and encryption, to keep your data secure and private.

When your Apple Intelligence tasks require input from ChatGPT or other tools provided by OpenAI, a market-leading AI company, Apple Intelligence notifies you of the planned data transfer and gets your approval before performing it.

Understanding and summarizing text and images

Apple Intelligence includes the following features that help you make sense of text, images, and other content:

» **Visual Intelligence:** Identifies objects, plants, products, landmarks, and so on from photos or from screenshots. Recognizes and interprets text in screenshots to display information, create tasks in Reminders, or create events in Calendar.

» **Summarize:** Condenses long notes, messages, or articles into key points. For example, the Mail app can display summary previews of your incoming messages (see Chapter 10).

» **Highlight-to-Search:** Explains or finds information related to text you've highlighted.

Translating and improving communication

Apple Intelligence features for translating content and improving communication include the following:

» **Live Translation:** You can turn on real-time translation of incoming text or speech in apps such as Messages, FaceTime, and Phone.

» **Rewrite and Proofread:** You can tell Apple Intelligence to rewrite or proofread selected text. For example, you might use the Writing Tools feature to check an email message you've written (see Chapter 10). You can go for a straightforward rewrite or specify the tone you want, such as professional or casual.

» **Genmoji:** You can create personalized emojis from descriptions or by selecting a combination of elements. You can use a genmoji as a live avatar in apps such as FaceTime.

Generating and editing visual content

Apple Intelligence also includes features that enable you to generate and edit visual content:

» **Image Playground:** This feature, which you access through the Playground app, enables you to create images by choosing a style (such as Illustration or

Sketch) and describing what you want. Alternatively, you can work from the suggestions that Playground displays.

>> **Image Wand:** This feature, which appears in the Notes app, lets you convert a rough doodle you've drawn into a finished illustration.

>> **Clean Up:** This feature in the Photos app allows you to remove unwanted objects, such as photobombers, from your photos. See Chapter 14.

>> **Memories:** The Memories feature in the Photos app creates *memories,* movies assembled from your photos and videos. Photos has created memories automatically since iOS 10 (2016) but without giving you much input on their contents. Now you can tell Photos to create a specific memory movie for you.

Boosting productivity and organization

To help you boost your productivity and improve your organization, Apple Intelligence includes features such as these:

>> **Reminders Suggestions:** iOS automatically suggests reminders (to-do items) you might want to create from information it detects in instant messages and email messages.

>> **Calendar Smart Adds:** In a similar way to Reminders Suggestions, iOS automatically suggests adding calendar events from information it detects.

>> **Smart Search:** In the Mail app, the Smart Search feature enables you to search using natural language instead of using just keywords.

>> **Shortcuts with AI Actions:** iOS 26 increases the power of the Shortcuts app by enabling you to include summarization, translation, and image generation in your workflows.

Enabling developers to leverage Apple Intelligence

Apple Intelligence also makes some of its features accessible to application developers so that they can include Apple Intelligence features in their apps. For example, developers can include capabilities from Writing Tools in their apps, and they can use the Private Cloud Compute feature to handle complex AI tasks securely in the cloud with strong encryption.