



Tips for Tech Savvy Seniors

An Introduction to Tablets: iPadOS

Tablets are a way of accessing the internet, playing games and communicating. An iPad tablet can do a lot of the things your computer can do, and can be used or carried pretty much anywhere.

Types of tablet

Tablets come in a variety of different sizes and shapes from all different manufacturers. They are differentiated by screen size, and by operating system:

- **iPadOS:** This is exclusive to Apple's iPad range of tablets and is similar to the iPhone's system, which is called iOS.
- **Android:** Created by Google but implemented on a range of tablets from different manufacturers in slightly different ways. The same as Android on a smartphone.
- **Windows:** Tablets that run Windows are just ultra-slim laptop computers, with the same software as a conventional PC.

The hardware of an iPad

A tablet has a large **touchscreen display**, a **charging port**, and usually **volume** and **power switches** on the side. Some iPads have an extra switch you can program, and a physical **Home** button. On the display, the **Status bar** at the top shows the time and battery status, and is where notifications from apps appear.

If your iPad has 4G, there's also a slot for a **SIM** card, just like a smartphone.

Turning on an iPad

Unlike a computer, you don't need to turn your iPad on and off each time you use it. When you turn it on the first time, it will take a few moments to start up. After that, you can push the **Power button** to blank the screen, then put it aside or connect it to the charger. When you press the power button again, the screen will light up, but the tablet will be **locked**. **Unlock** it, either just by **swiping up**, by entering a **Passcode**, or by using the **TouchID sensor**.

Touchscreen gestures

Simply **tap** an icon to open an app, tap a **button** to activate it, or tap a **text field** to bring up a virtual keyboard to enter text. As well as tapping, there are some other useful gestures.

- **Swipe:** Slide your finger up and down to scroll the screen. Swiping from the very bottom of the screen is how you navigate Home on iPads without a physical Home button.
- **Pinch-to-zoom:** Place two fingers on the display and move them apart or pinch them together. This will zoom whatever the screen is showing in and out.
- **Double tap:** Some functions require you to tap the screen twice, in quick succession.

All about apps

Your iPad runs **apps**, just like a smartphone. Launch an app by tapping its icon on the **Home** screen. To see every app in one place, swipe right on the Home screen to show the **App Library**. You might have to do this a couple of times if you have more than one Home screen page.

When you launch an app it fills the iPad's screen. To go back to the **Home** screen, either press the **Home button**, or **swipe up** from the very bottom of the screen. A line at the bottom lets you know where you have to put your finger.

The Settings app

Look for the **Settings app** in the **App Library**. This lets you access a wide range of options for your tablet, including

- **Security:** You can turn on a Lock screen, choose a **Passcode** to secure your tablet, or enable **TouchID** (fingerprint) and **FaceID** (face recognition). Not all iPads have FaceID.
- **Display:** Lets you make the default text size bigger, to make reading easier.

Browsing the web on an iPad

Your iPad is especially good for browsing the internet, and has a built-in **web browser**. You can also download different browsers from the **App Store**.

The default browser on iPadOS is called **Safari**. Tap its icon to open it. When you tap the **address bar** at the top of the screen, the **virtual keyboard** will appear and you can enter a web address you know, or some words to search for. When you tap **Enter**, the keyboard will disappear so you can read the web page. Tap any link to follow it.

Use the **Back** button at the top left of the screen to go back one page. On newer tablets, swipe all the way from the left side of the screen to go back.

Other things to do on your tablet

The **App Store** lets you download apps, music, movies, and more. You might have to pay for some items with a credit card, but there's plenty of free content.

The **Calendar app** is handy because you can set it up to sync with the cloud and your iPhone if you have one. Make an appointment on your tablet, and you'll get a reminder on your phone.

The **Camera** on an iPad is similar to one on an iPhone, and you might enjoy experimenting with it. The front camera combined with the built-in **FaceTime** app, makes an iPad ideal for **video calls**.