

A Few More Super-Handy iOS 12 Tips That Even Some Experts Don't Know About

Cove Apple Club — November 28, 2018

1. Enable Reachability for one-handed app launching

On iPhones with larger screens (iPhone 8 and newer), you can swipe down from the bottom of the any home screen page, making it possible to reach the top of the screen with one hand. This is great when you are walking or jogging and want to launch an app using one hand.

Enable Reachability in Settings → General → Accessibility → Reachability → On

2. Check which apps are using the most battery power

If you're seeing your battery usage getting hammered, you can see which apps are using the most battery power. The offending apps might not even be apps you use regularly, or at all — so you should consider deleting them.

Settings → Battery → Scroll down to show usage by app

3. Add and use Siri shortcuts to streamline your day

Starting with iOS 12.1, Siri can integrate with 3rd-party apps and help you get answers to spoken queries about data in those apps. For example, a Siri shortcut can locate your parked car, tell you your next travel plan, or tell you what's on your calendar for tomorrow.

Settings → Siri & Search

4. Create your own Shortcuts to streamline common tasks

Shortcuts is new to iOS 12 and is a turbo-charged, easier-to-use version of the Apple Design Award-winning 3rd-party app Workflow, which Apple bought last year. Shortcuts lets you automate common tasks on your iPhone or iPad. Apple provides dozens of sample Shortcuts in the Gallery of the Shortcuts app, and you can create your own as well.

Apple has a great online tutorial about Shortcuts at:

<https://support.apple.com/guide/shortcuts/welcome/ios>

To get started, Shortcuts app → Gallery / Or Shortcuts app → Library → Create Shortcut

5. Use the new Downtime feature to fine-tune “Do Not Disturb”

iOS already had a “Do not Disturb” mode, but in iOS 12 there's a more in-depth “Downtime” option that's part of Screen Time. It's great for bedtime, so that only certain apps can send you notifications and only certain people can reach you.

Settings → Screen Time → Downtime → On, then choose which apps will have notification access during Downtime by choosing them in Settings → Screen Time —Always Allowed