



iPad Starter Guide for Student

For iPad (A16) and iPadOS 26

Introduction

iPad gives you all the tools you need for learning. In this guide, you'll learn about:

- Navigating and customizing your iPad
- Built-in features for productivity

If you already use iPhone, you'll see many of the same apps and controls on your iPad, so you can work seamlessly across all your Apple devices.

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Getting Started

To get started on your school network, check with your teacher or school IT team to enroll your iPad into your school's services to access your Wi-Fi network, email, and calendar.

Contact your teacher or school IT administrator if you have questions.



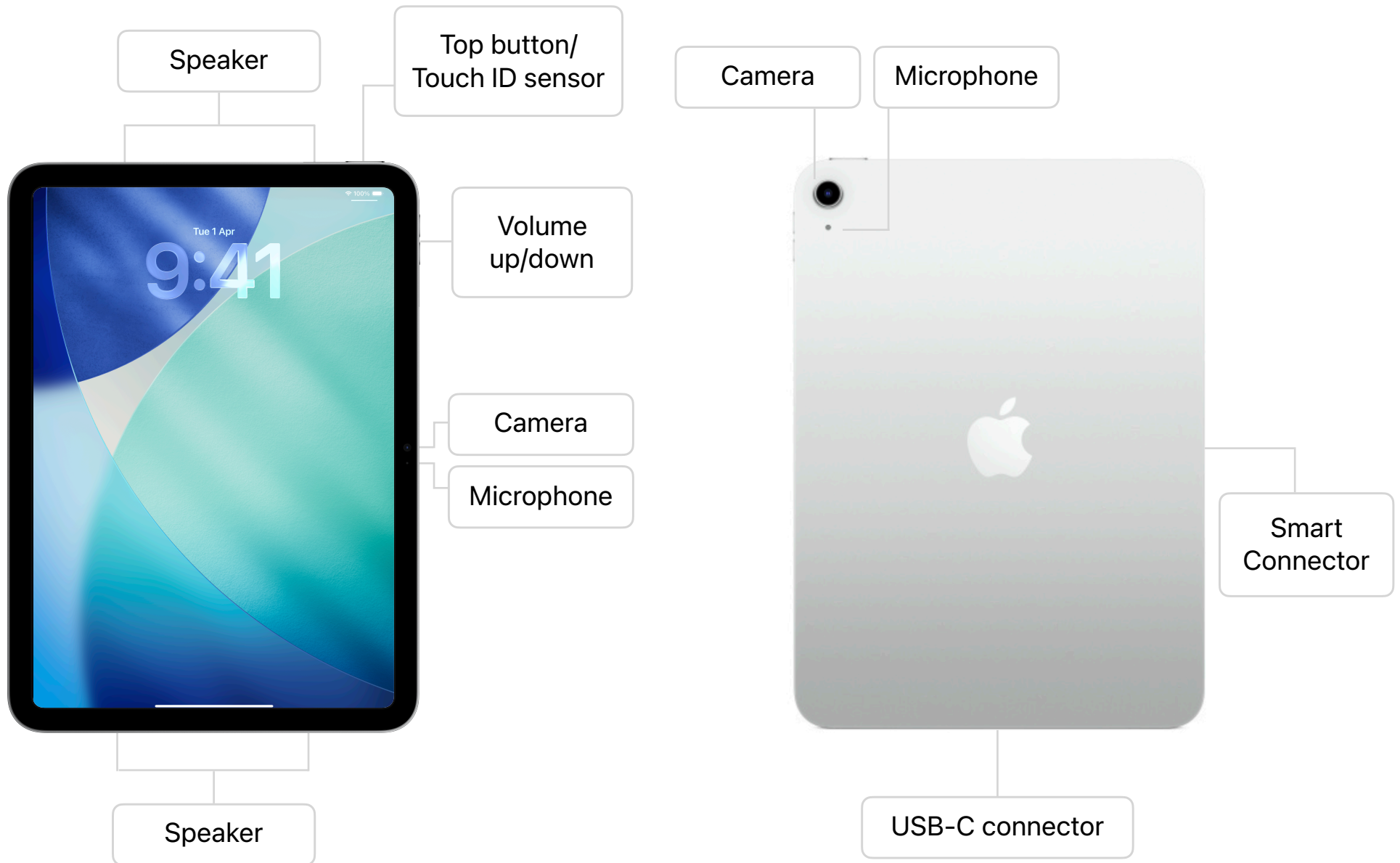
Hardware overview

Your iPad is ready to help you do amazing things right out of the box.

[Learn about iPad setup basics ↗](#)



iPad (A16)





Software overview

iPadOS 26 transforms what you can do with iPad with a new design, an entirely new powerful and intuitive windowing system, major enhancements to working with files, audio, and video; and more.

The first thing you see when you turn on your iPad is the Home Screen.

[Turn on and set up iPad ↗](#)

[Wake, unlock, and lock iPad ↗](#)

[Connect to the internet ↗](#)





Use gestures with iPad

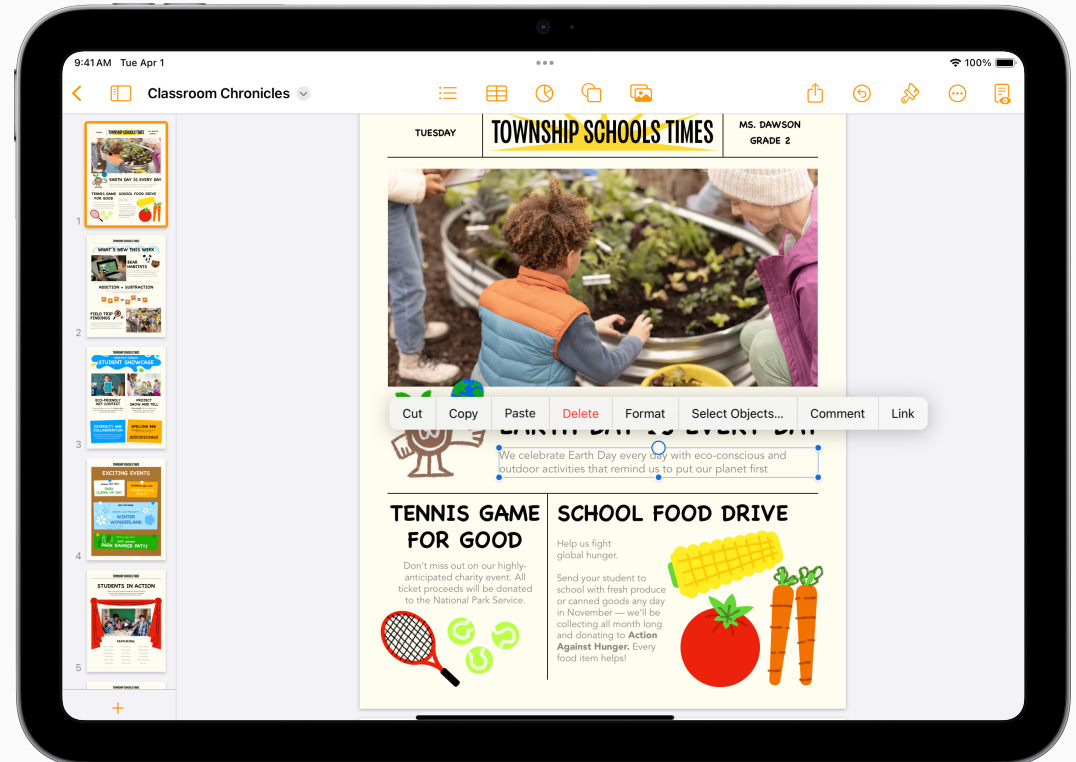
Control iPad and its apps using a few simple gestures — tap, touch and hold, swipe, scroll, and zoom.

[Learn basic gestures ↗](#)

[Learn advanced gestures ↗](#)

[Move and copy items ↗](#)

[Select, cut, copy, and paste text ↗](#)





Find and organize apps

You can arrange apps on your iPad in a variety of ways. Customize your Home Screen to access and open apps you use frequently.

[Open apps on your iPad](#)

[Find your apps in App Library](#)

[Quit and reopen an app](#)

[Organize your apps in folders](#)





Multitask across apps

The new windowing system lets you resize app windows, place them exactly where you want, and open even more windows at once, so you can control, organise, and switch between app windows seamlessly.

[Work with multiple windows at once](#)

[Switch between apps](#)

[Change the layout of open windows](#)

[Open and view multiple windows of a single app](#)

[Use the menu bar](#)



Tip

Move and copy items with drag and drop. With drag and drop, you can use a finger to move text and items within an app and copy items from one app to another. [Learn more](#)



Browse and manage files

Use the Files app to view, organize, and modify your documents, images, and other files.

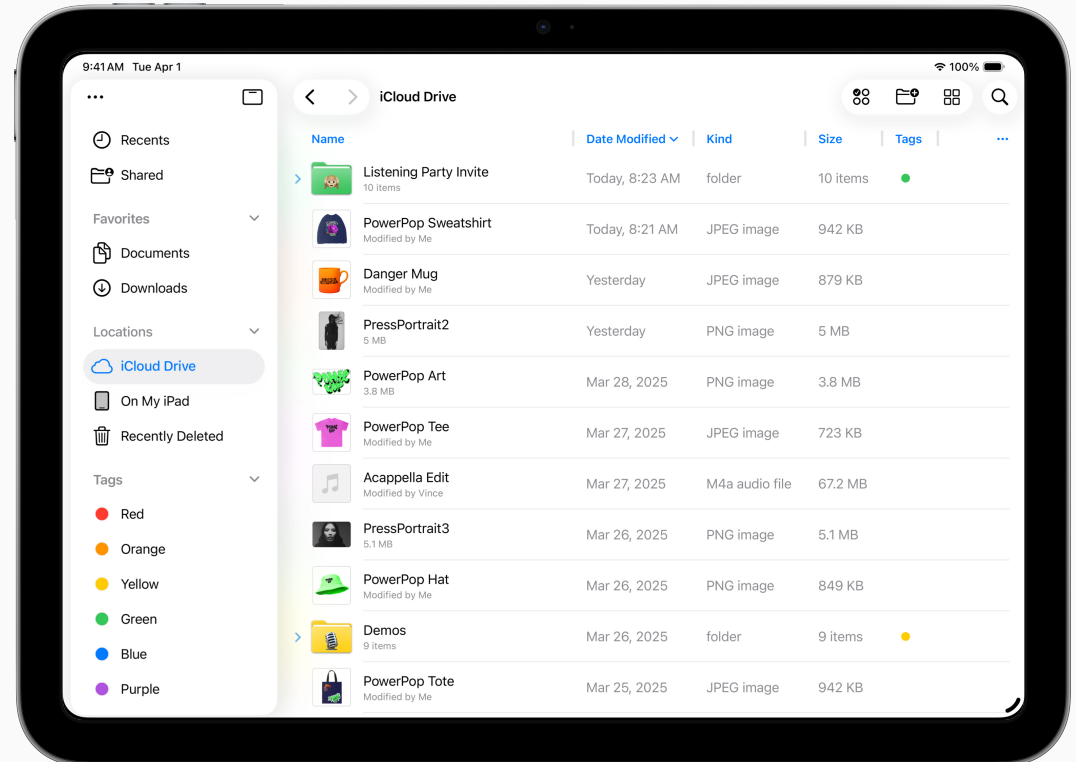
For quicker access, you can now drag any folder from the Files app right into the Dock.

[Modify files and folders ↗](#)

[Organize files and folders ↗](#)

[Find and view files and folders ↗](#)

[Send files from the Files app ↗](#)





Work with PDFs and images easily

The Preview app comes to iPadOS. It has all the tools you need to edit, annotate, mark up, and export your PDFs and images, built in.

[Get started with Preview ↗](#)

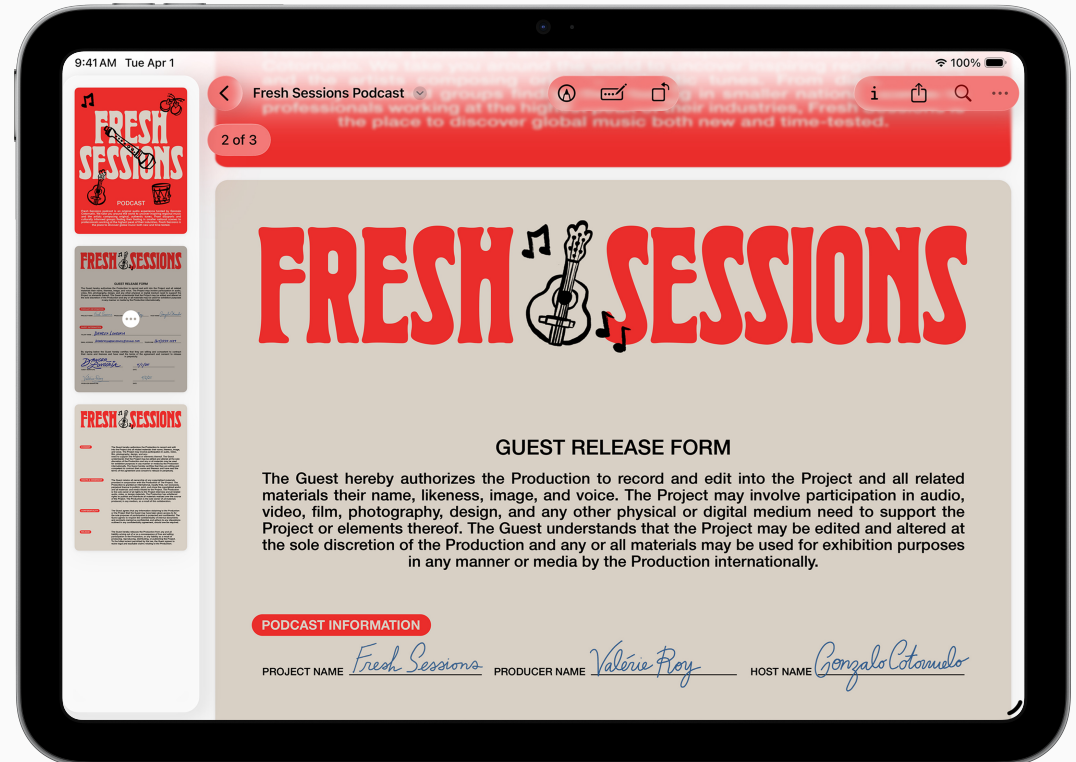
[Open and view PDFs and images ↗](#)

[Fill out and sign PDF forms ↗](#)

[Annotate a PDF or image ↗](#)

[Add, delete, rotate, move, or crop PDF pages ↗](#)

[Scan text and documents ↗](#)





Search for anything on your iPad

Quickly find and open apps, contacts, and photos. Search from anywhere on iPad.

[Search with Spotlight ↗](#)



Tip

Find an app quickly. You can use Siri to open an app. Say something like "Hey Siri! Open Calendar!" Or swipe down from the middle of the Home Screen or the Lock Screen, enter an app name in the search field, then tap it. [Learn more ↗](#)



Keep track of your day

Control Center on iPad gives you instant access to useful controls — including Airplane Mode, Do Not Disturb, Focus, volume, screen brightness, and more.

[Use and customize Control Center ↗](#)

[Set up a Focus ↗](#)

[Turn a Focus on or off ↗](#)





Customize your iPad

Setting the brightness and appearance of your iPad can help improve your productivity. For example, Dark Mode gives the entire iPad experience a dark color scheme that's perfect for low-light environments.

[Adjust your screen brightness ↗](#)

[Move apps and widgets on your iPad Home Screen ↗](#)

[Rotate your iPad screen ↗](#)

[Customize your text size ↗](#)

[Change your wallpaper ↗](#)





Reflect and write with Journal

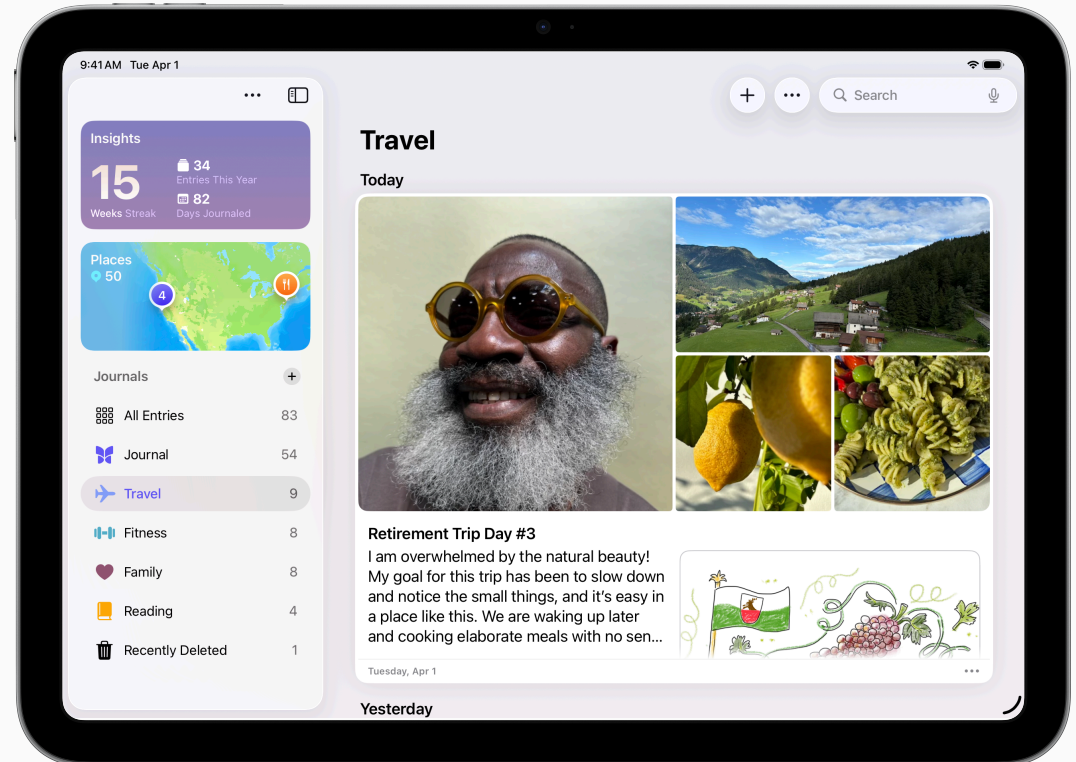
Journal comes to iPad with support for Apple Pencil. Turn your iPad into a creative canvas for journaling – jot down your thoughts, illustrate, and create entries in your own handwriting.

[Get started with Journal](#)

[Add formatting, photos, and more](#)

[Journal for your wellbeing](#)

[Build a habit with Journal](#)





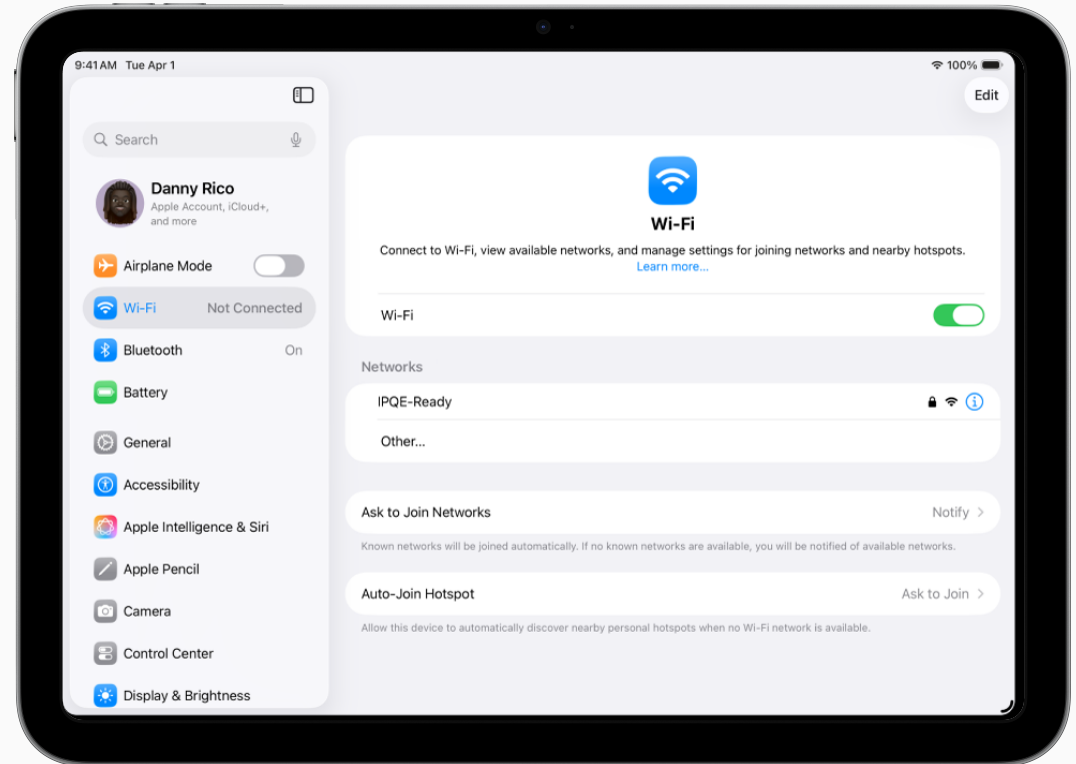
Configure your settings

Manage your accounts, set up Wi-Fi, update your password, and more in Settings. Some settings may already be configured by your school or district. Be sure to check with your teacher or school IT team to learn more.

[Connect to the internet ↗](#)

[Set or change your passcode ↗](#)

[Control what you share ↗](#)



Tip

Learn about iPad status icons. The icons in the status bar at the top of the screen provide information about iPad. [Learn more ↗](#)



Use accessories with iPad

Take on any task with additional accessories for your iPad, including your Apple Pencil, Logitech Crayon, or keyboard.

[Switch between keyboards ↗](#)

[Draw with Apple Pencil ↗](#)

[Pair and charge Apple Pencil \(1st generation\) with iPad ↗](#)

[Pair and charge Apple Pencil \(USB-C\) with iPad ↗](#)

[Wirelessly stream to Apple TV ↗](#)

[Print from iPad ↗](#)





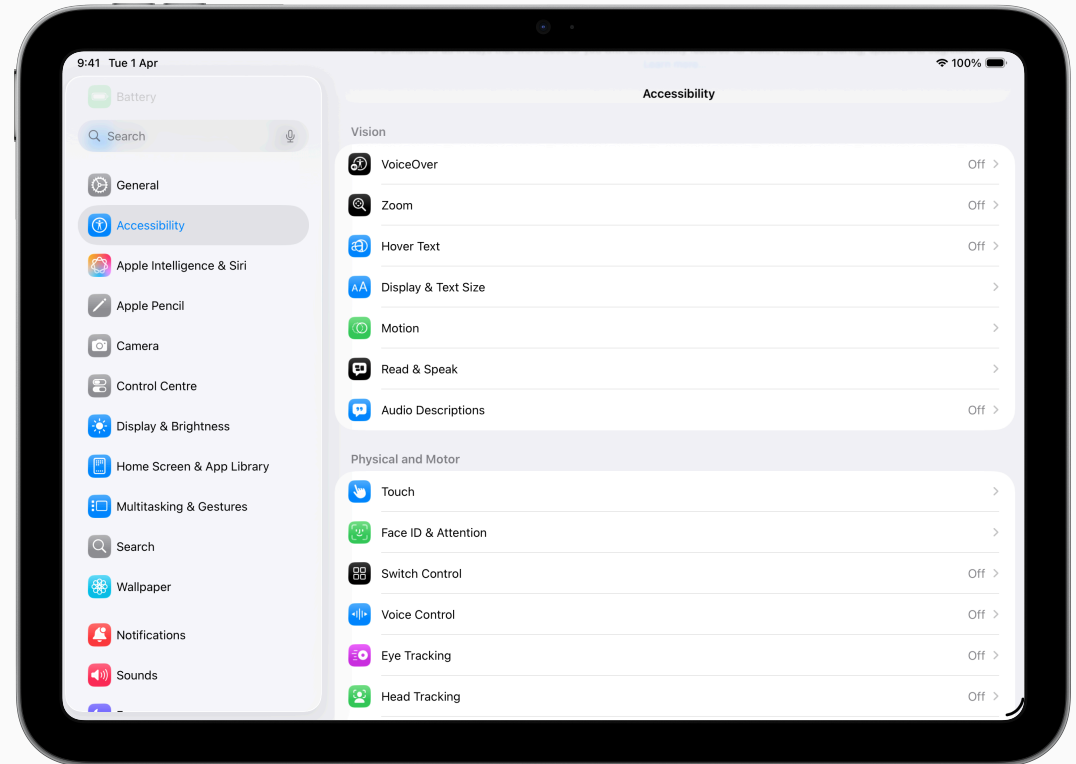
Personalize your iPad experience

Accessibility features are designed to support your vision, mobility, hearing, speech, and cognitive needs. You can make content larger on your screen, speak commands with Voice Control, and more.

[Set up accessibility features ↗](#)

[Customize visual accessibility settings ↗](#)

[Get accessibility support ↗](#)



Tip

Use accessibility features with Siri. Use Siri to enable accessibility features, make and receive phone calls, hear notifications, and more.

[Learn more ↗](#)

Making the Most of iPad

Apple has a robust set of resources to help you make the most of iPad for learning, including the following:

- From coding to drawing and more, here are some recommended app collections to support you in your learning needs.
 - Essential apps for secondary schoolers in studying [STEM](#) | [Arts and humanities](#) | [Languages](#)
 - Creative app for primary schoolers [Young creator](#) | [Play and Learn](#) | [Feel Their Feelings](#)
- Learn to code with Swift Playground
If you're new to app development, try Swift Playground, which includes everything you need to go from your first line of code to building your first app.
[Download Swift Playground for iPad](#)
- [Explore how to start a Swift Coding Club](#)
- [Today at Apple](#): Teachers and Students can explore new, creative ways to learn with iPad in sessions at Apple Store. Led by Apple Creatives and Creatives Pros, or special guests, session help build skills in coding, music, arts and more.
[Sign up for free sessions](#)



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