iPad Starter Guide for Education

For iPad (10th generation) and iPadOS 17

Introduction

iPad gives you all the tools you need for teaching and 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, you or your IT team will need to enroll your iPad into your school's services to access your Wi-Fi network, email, and calendar.

Learn more about configuration profiles ↗

Contact your IT administrator if you have questions.

Tip

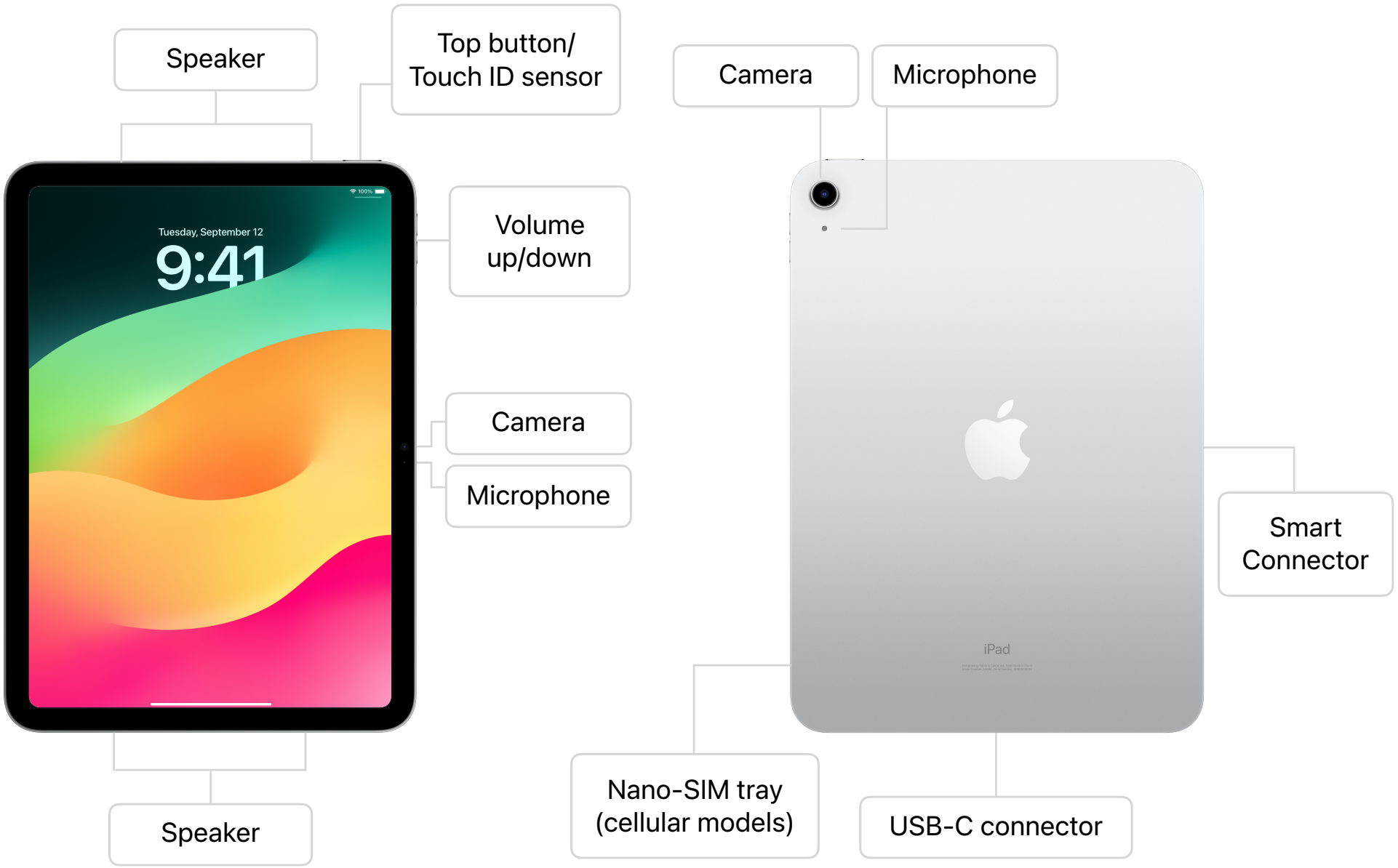
View and manage profiles. Tap Settings > General > VPN & Device Management.

Hardware overview

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

Learn about iPad setup basics ↗

iPad (10th generation)



Software overview

iPadOS 17 takes iPad even further. With new levels of personalization, beautiful and helpful custom Lock Screens, and features to help you get more done, iPad is more capable than ever.

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

Turn on and set up iPad ↗

Wake and unlock iPad ↗

Connect to the internet ↗

Browse and manage files

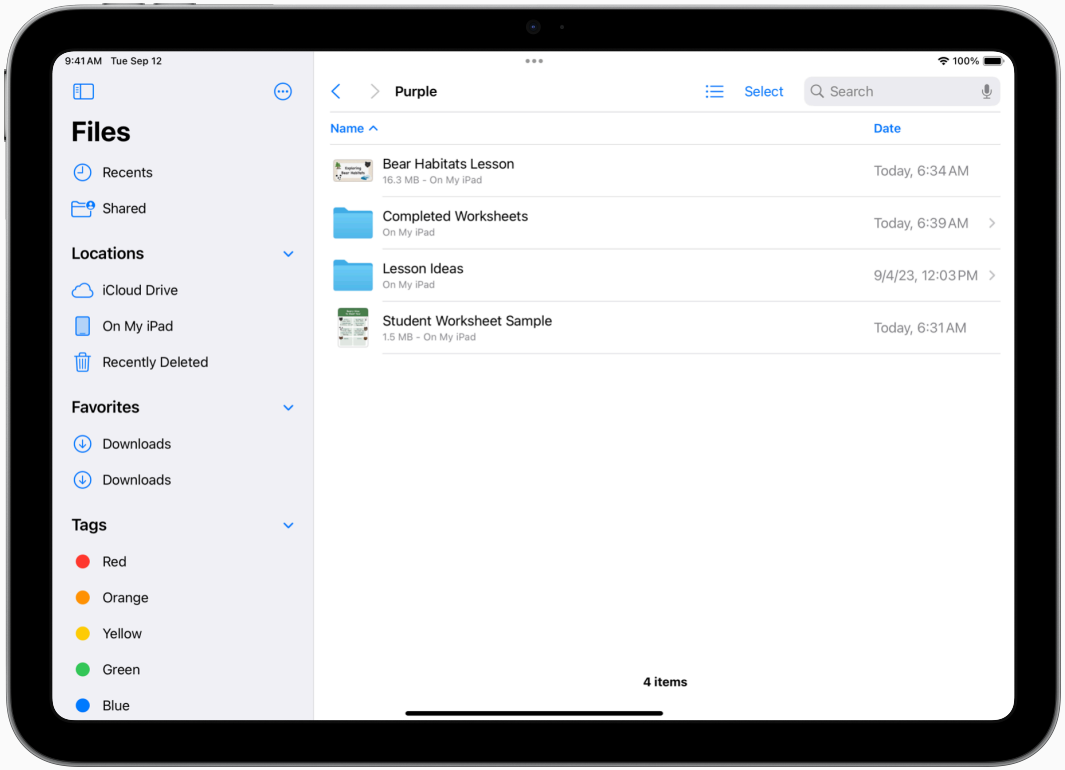
Use the Files app to view, organize, and modify your documents, images, and other files.

View and modify files ↗

Organize files in folders ↗

Send files fom Files app ↗

Connect external devices ↗



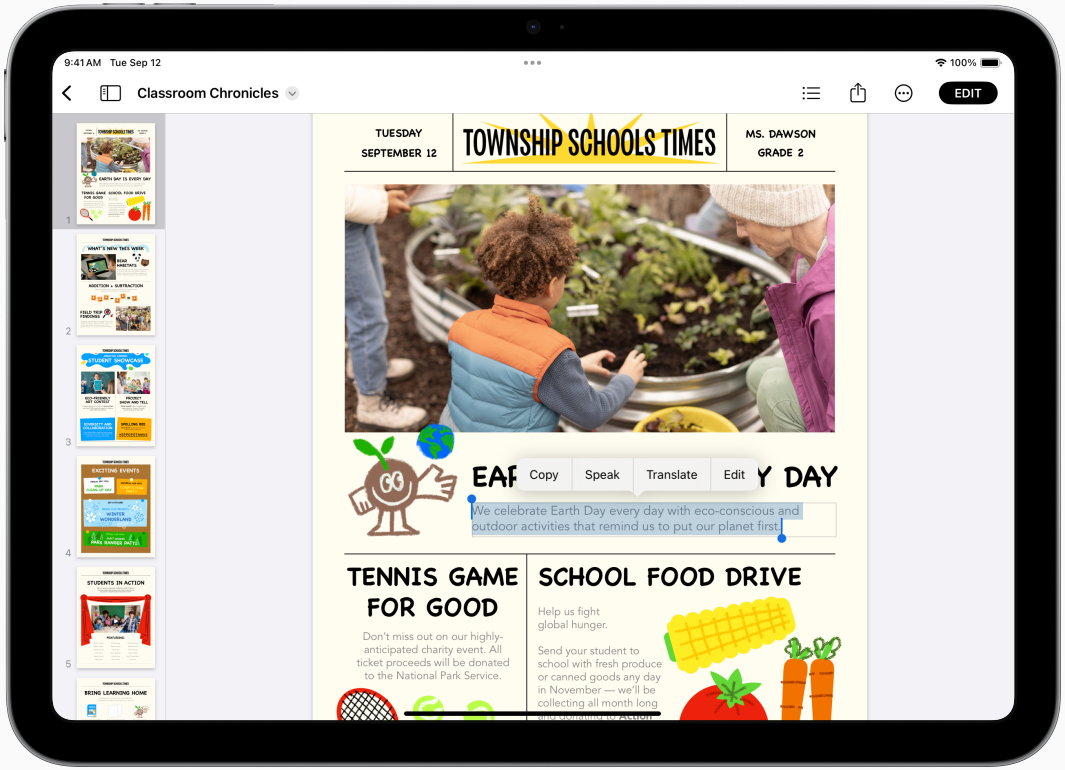
Use gestures with iPad

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

Learn basic gestures ↗

Move and copy items ↗

Select and edit 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 ↗

Switch between apps ↗

Quit and reopen an app ↗

Organize your apps in folders ↗

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 ↗

Navigate between app windows

You can use the Dock, the App Switcher, or a gesture to quickly switch from one app to another on your iPad. When you switch back, you can pick up right where you left off.

Switch beween apps ↗

Switch an app window to a Slide Over window on iPad ↗

Tip

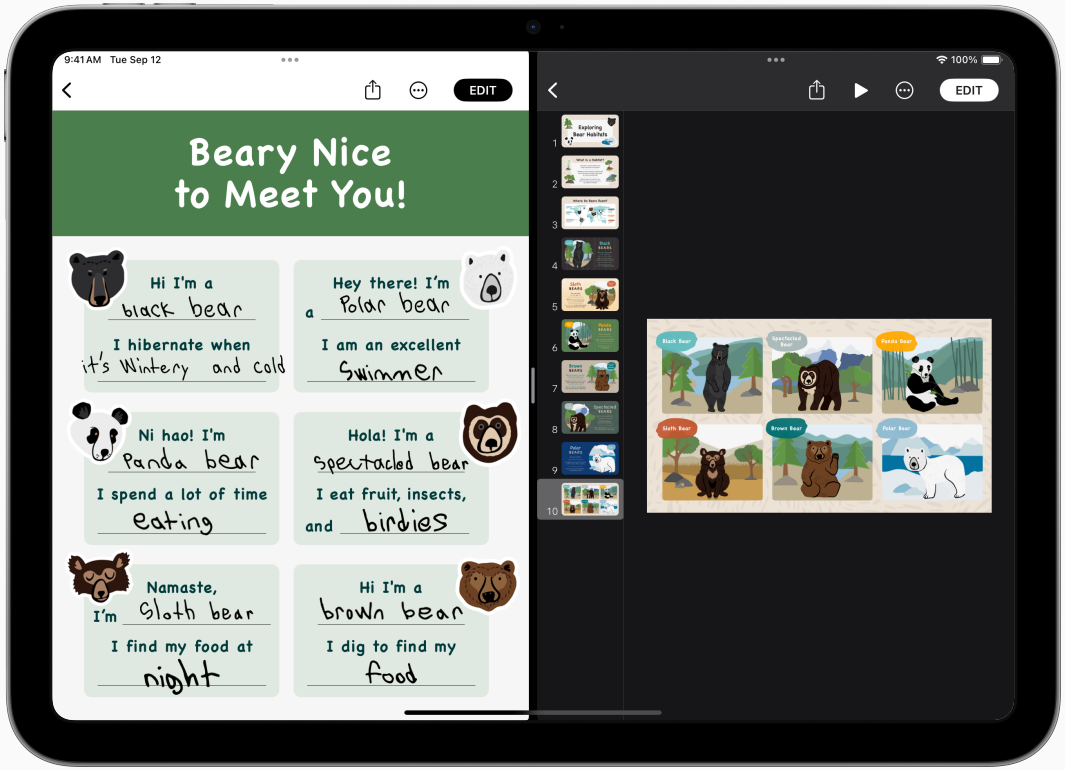
Quickly switch between apps. To switch between open apps, swipe left or right with one finger along the bottom edge of the screen or swipe left or right with four or five fingers.

Work with apps simultaneously

Split View lets you fill your iPad screen with two apps for things like grading assignments and taking notes at the same time.

Work in two apps side by side ↗

View an app's open windows and workspaces ↗



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 ↗

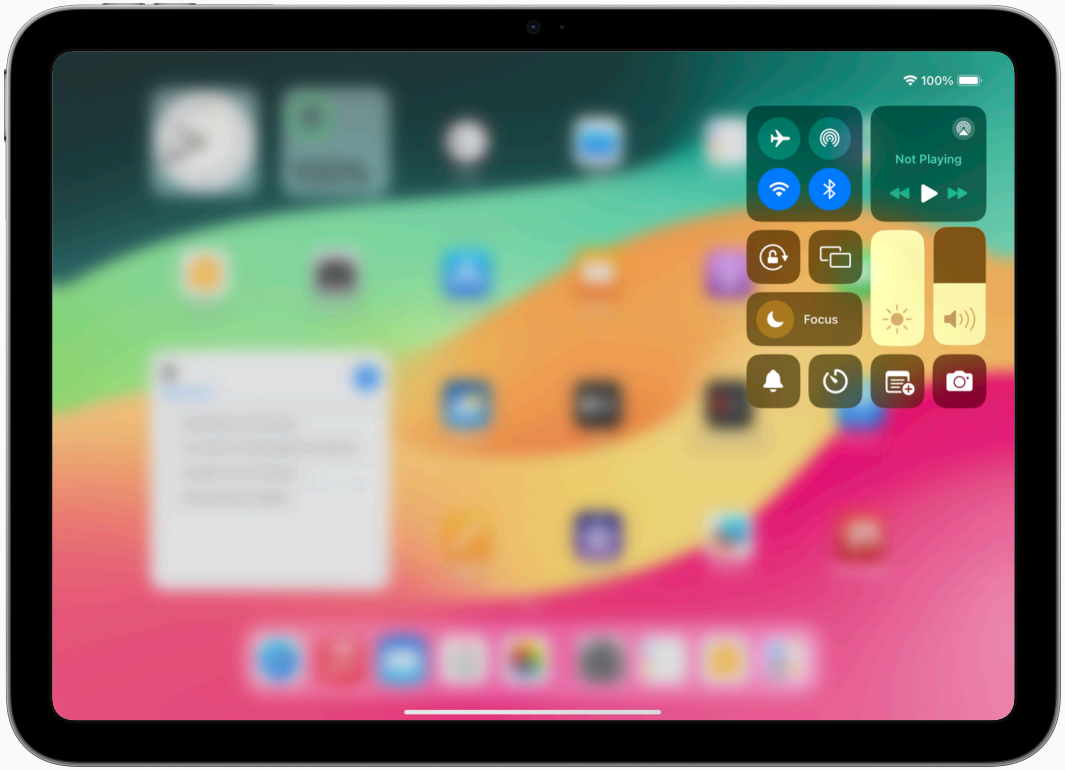
Keep track of your day

Control Center on iPad gives you instant access to useful controls — including airplane mode, Do Not Disturb, a flashlight, volume, screen brightness — and apps.

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.

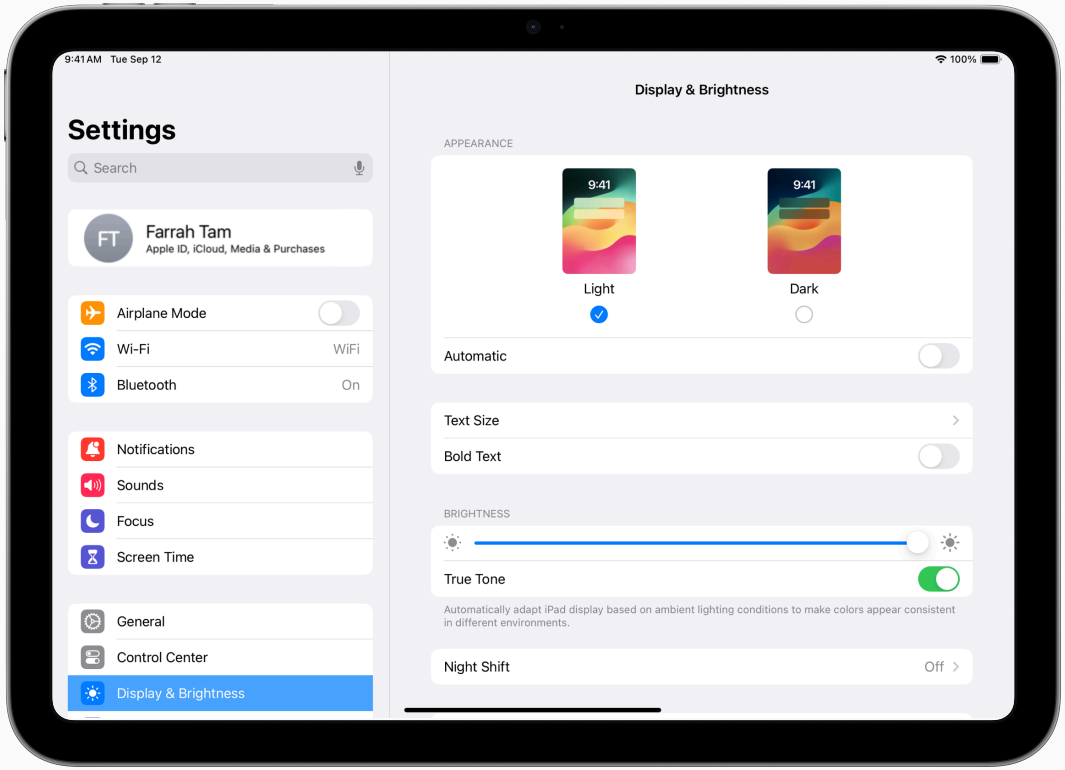
Adjust screen brightness and color ↗

Move apps and widgets on the Home Screen ↗

Change your screen orientation ↗

Magnify your screen ↗

Change your wallpaper ↗



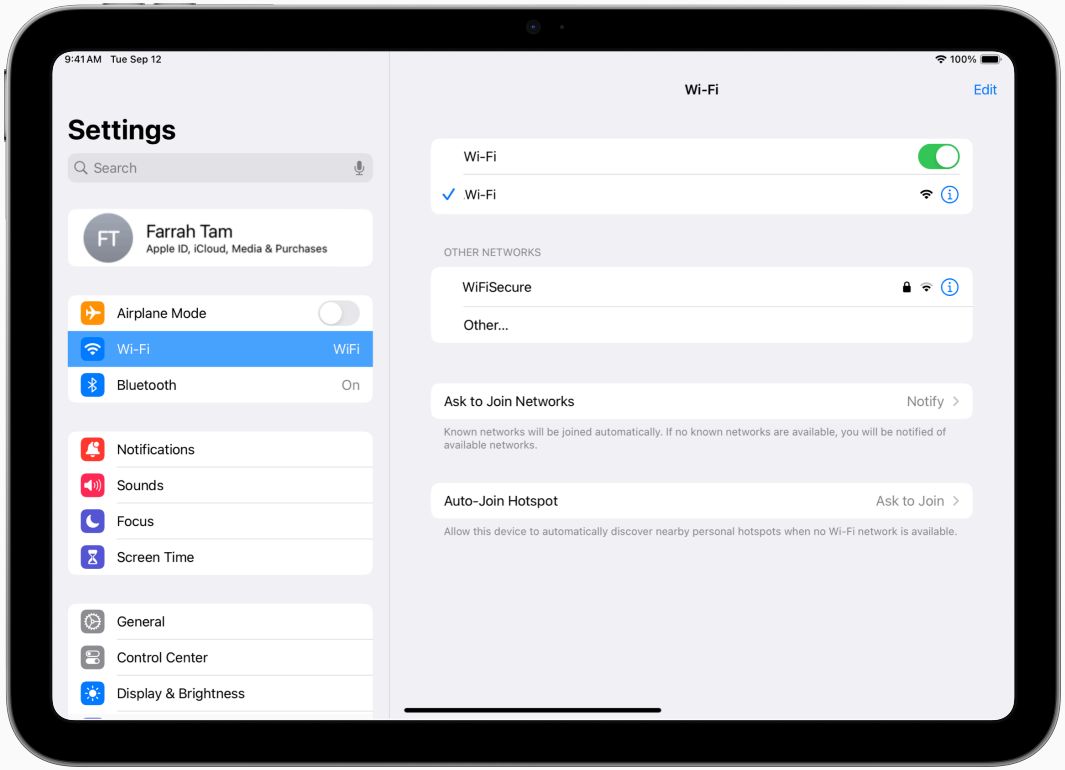
Configure your settings

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 IT team to learn more.

Connect to the internet ↗

Set or change your passcode ↗

Use built-in privacy and security protections ↗



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 Smart Keyboard or Apple Pencil.

Switch between keyboards ↗

Draw with Apple Pencil ↗

Pair and charge Apple Pencil ↗

Wirelessly stream to Apple TV ↗

Print from iPad ↗

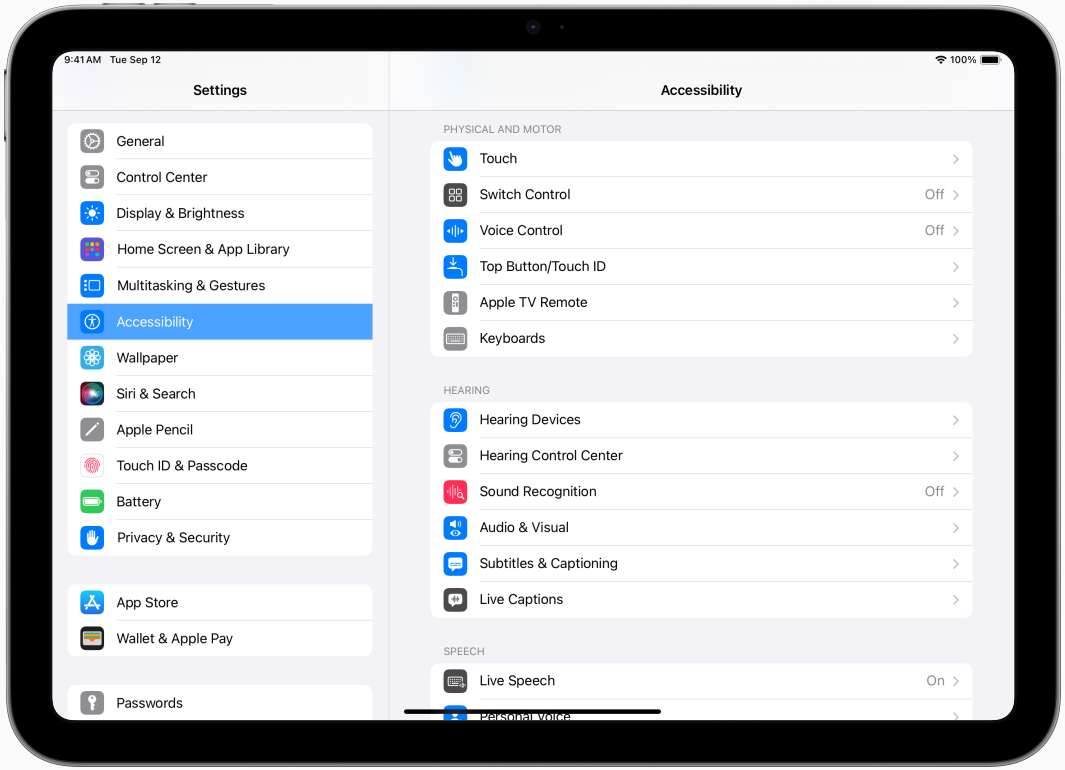
Personalize your iPad experience

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 accessibility settings for specific apps ↗

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 and your learning community make the most of iPad, including the following:

- Learning Center: Explore hundreds of resources for educators, including sample lessons and tutorials for iPad.
- Apple Teacher: Develop foundational skills for using Apple products for teaching and learning with this free self-paced program.
- Apple Learning Coach: Engage coaching educators with a free program to help teachers get more out of Apple technology.
- Apple Professional Learning Specialists: Get customized support and mentoring for educators, leaders, and IT — either in person or online.

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