

# iPad Gestures You Should Know

If you've got an iPad with iOS 11, you're probably getting used to the new gestures involved in navigating. From the always-on Dock to the new multitasking options, you'll need to figure out how to move your fingers around that screen if you ever want to ditch that laptop for good and go tablet-only.

## Your Dock is Everywhere

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Your Dock will follow you wherever you go, in any iPad app. Just swipe up about an inch from the bottom of the screen to bring up your Dock and its list of applications, along with the three most recent apps used. You can add up to 13 apps to your Dock so you have the most important ones at your fingertips, apps you can drag and drop to use for multitasking.

## Switch Apps Fast

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Want to go back to that app you were just using? Just swipe left or right with four of your fingers to go back and forth between apps. If you're hooked up to a keyboard, you could also use Cmd-Tab to switch between recently opened apps.

## Your Recent Apps and Control Center

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You don't have to double-click the home button to see your recent apps in iOS 11 anymore. Your recent apps are now grouped alongside your [Control Center](#), with both being accessible when you swipe all the way up from the very bottom of your screen. To get rid of those recent apps, swipe them up and away. If you've grouped two apps together, swiping the grouped app away will close both apps and reset them to their natural, fullscreen state.

## Multitasking Swipes Let You Work Two Apps at Once

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The iPad supports multitasking, and lets you use two apps side-by-side in various ways. You'll need to open an app before you can start sliding them around, and not every app supports every form of multitasking. You can drag photos from your Google Drive and drop them in an email or image editing app, share links from Safari to Messages, and emails from Gmail into your calendar app.

**Slide Over:** In the Dock, select an hold an app, and drag it onto the side of the screen you'd like it to appear. You'll see a small black bar at the top of the Slide Over app. Pull that down to turn that Slide Over window into a Split View window, or swipe it off the screen to get rid of it. Even if you

have two apps open in Split View, you can open one more Slide Over app by selecting it from the Dock and dragging it onto the black bar dividing the two Split View apps.

**Split View:** In the Dock, select and hold an app, and drag it to the left or right edge of the display. That enables Split View mode, which lets you resize two windows on the same screen, and drag and drop content between the apps. Move the black bar to resize or dismiss apps by swiping them off the screen.

**Picture-in-Picture:** Watching a Netflix stream while you send emails to your relatives? If you're watching a video or having a FaceTime call with someone, you can shrink that video down and still get some work done by using the Picture-in-Picture icon.

## Organizing Apps and Folders

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You can organize and delete apps on your iPad the same way you do on your iPhone. Hold your finger on an app until it starts to wiggle and display an X icon. The last three apps on the right of the Dock are your most recently used apps, and can be removed from the Dock without deleting them (you'll see a minus sign instead of an X on the icon).

Take advantage of folders by putting them in your Dock. You can group your apps that way and always have access to sets of apps instead of clogging your Dock with them.

## Search Through Your iPad (and The Web)

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Swiping from the middle of your iPad screen will bring up the search feature, letting you scour your contacts, music, apps, and the web to find what you're looking for. You can edit which apps you're including in your search by opening Settings > Siri & Search and toggling apps on and off.

## 6 more iPad gestures you should know

While every iPhone gesture will work on an iPad, not every iPad gesture will work on an iPhone—and some of the lesser-known but most interesting iOS gestures happen to be iPad only.

### Swipe up with four (or five) fingers

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Any iPhone or iPad user knows the shortcut to the iOS multitasking screen—that is, the screen that lets you swipe back and forth between all your running apps. Double-tap the Home button, and you'll see all your background apps displayed as a series of swipeable cards.

Here's an easy way to get to the iPad's multitasking screen: swipe up with four or five fingers.

All well and good, but there's another (and arguably easier) way to the multitasking screen for iPad users: just swipe up with four or five fingers.

When you do so, you'll zip directly to iOS's multitasking view; tap a card to switch apps, or swipe down again with four (or five) fingers to return to the app you were just using.

Note: Is the four-finger swipe not working for you? If not, make sure you have the iPad's Multitasking Gestures setting enabled. Launch Settings, then toggle on the Multitasking Gestures switch.

### Swipe one way or another with four or five fingers

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If you want to switch apps without dealing with iOS's multitasking screen, try this: Using four or five fingers, swipe from left to right or right to left.

Swipe with four or five fingers to switch directly between apps, no multitasking screen required.

When you do, you'll start cycling through all your open apps, one after another—no need to tap the Home button.

### Pinch the screen with five fingers

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Here's yet another inventive way for iPad users to avoid touching the Home key. To get back to the home screen at any time, just "pinch" with all five fingers. (If you can't quite picture how a five-finger pinch works, try this: open your hand about halfway, touch all five fingers on the screen, then slowly pull your fingertips together.)

With the iPad's five-finger pinch gesture, you can get to the home screen without pressing the Home button.

When you do, the app you're using will shrink and disappear, revealing the home screen.

## Swipe from left to right within an open Mail message

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While viewing the iPad's Mail app in "landscape" orientation (that is, with your iPad in a lengthwise position), you'll see your inbox in a pane on the left side of the screen, with your open messages filling the rest of the display.

Swipe from left to right within an open Mail message

You can reveal your Mail inbox with a quick swipe within a mail message.

If you turn your iPad so it's in "portrait" orientation, however, the inbox pane will disappear, leaving only your currently open message. To see the inbox again, you'll have to tap the inbox arrow in the top-left corner of the page...

...or, just do this: Make a short swipe gesture from left to right within the body of a message.

When you do, the inbox pane will quickly slide into view.

Once you're ready to hide the inbox pane again, just swipe again in the body of the open message, this time from right to left.

## Pull the keypad apart with your fingertips

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If you've ever tried typing on the iPad's virtual keypad using your thumbs, you'll know that it's an exercise in futility... or at least, it is for those of us who lack Mr. Fantastic's super-elastic limbs.

Trouble typing on your iPad? Splitting the keyboard might do the trick.

That said, if you're really determined to go all-thumbs on your iPad's keyboard, here's a trick: Hold the keypad with a fingertip on each side, then pull the keyboard apart.

When you do, the keypad will split into two separate halves, making typing with your thumbs a whole lot easier.

If you can't manage to split the keypad with your fingers, tap *Settings > General > Keyboards*, then toggle on the Split Keyboard setting.

## Tap, hold, and swipe your Safari tabs

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Unlike on the smaller iPhone screen, Safari for iPad boasts actual desktop-like tabs along the top browser toolbar, perfect for quickly switching between tabs or closing a tab.

You can rearrange Safari tabs on your iPad the same as you can on Safari for Mac.

Also, just like browser tabs on the desktop version of Safari (or just about any browser, for that matter), your Safari for iPad tabs can easily be rearranged any way you like.

Just tap and hold a tab, then drag it one way or the other. As you do, your other Safari tabs will scoot out of the way.

## **Bonus: Drag more icons into the home-screen dock**

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On both the iPhone and iPad, you can drag and drop any apps you want in and out of the home-screen dock (the little gray stripe sitting at the bottom of the screen). Indeed, you can even drag all four apps out of the dock if you want, leaving the bottom of your iPhone or iPad home screen empty.

You can drag a fifth or even sixth icon into the iPad's home screen dock.

Unlike the iPhone, though, the iPad doesn't restrict you to just four apps in the home-screen dock. Go ahead and tap, hold, and drag a fifth app into the dock—or a sixth, if you're feeling particularly daring.

## **Bonus: Flick the side switch to lock the screen**

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No, flipping the switch on the side of your iOS device to mute the volume isn't a gesture that's unique to the iPad—that is, unless you count a special, secondary side-switch feature that only the iPad can do.

The iPad's side switch can do more than just mute the volume.

First, tap *Settings* > *General*, find the "Use Slide Switch to" heading, then tap Lock Rotation.

Now, go ahead and flick the iPad's side switch—and when you do, you'll lock the screen's orientation in place.

It's the same feature as you'll find in the swipe up Control Center (swipe up from the bottom of the screen, then tap the button with the padlock), just minus the extra swipes and taps.