

# Hidden iOS 12.1 iPhone shortcuts and tricks you need to know

Here are a selection of the most useful iOS 12.1 shortcuts and tricks. Many use the 3D Touch feature, and this is present for all iPhones from the iPhone 6S to the latest iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max, but is not available on the iPhone XR.

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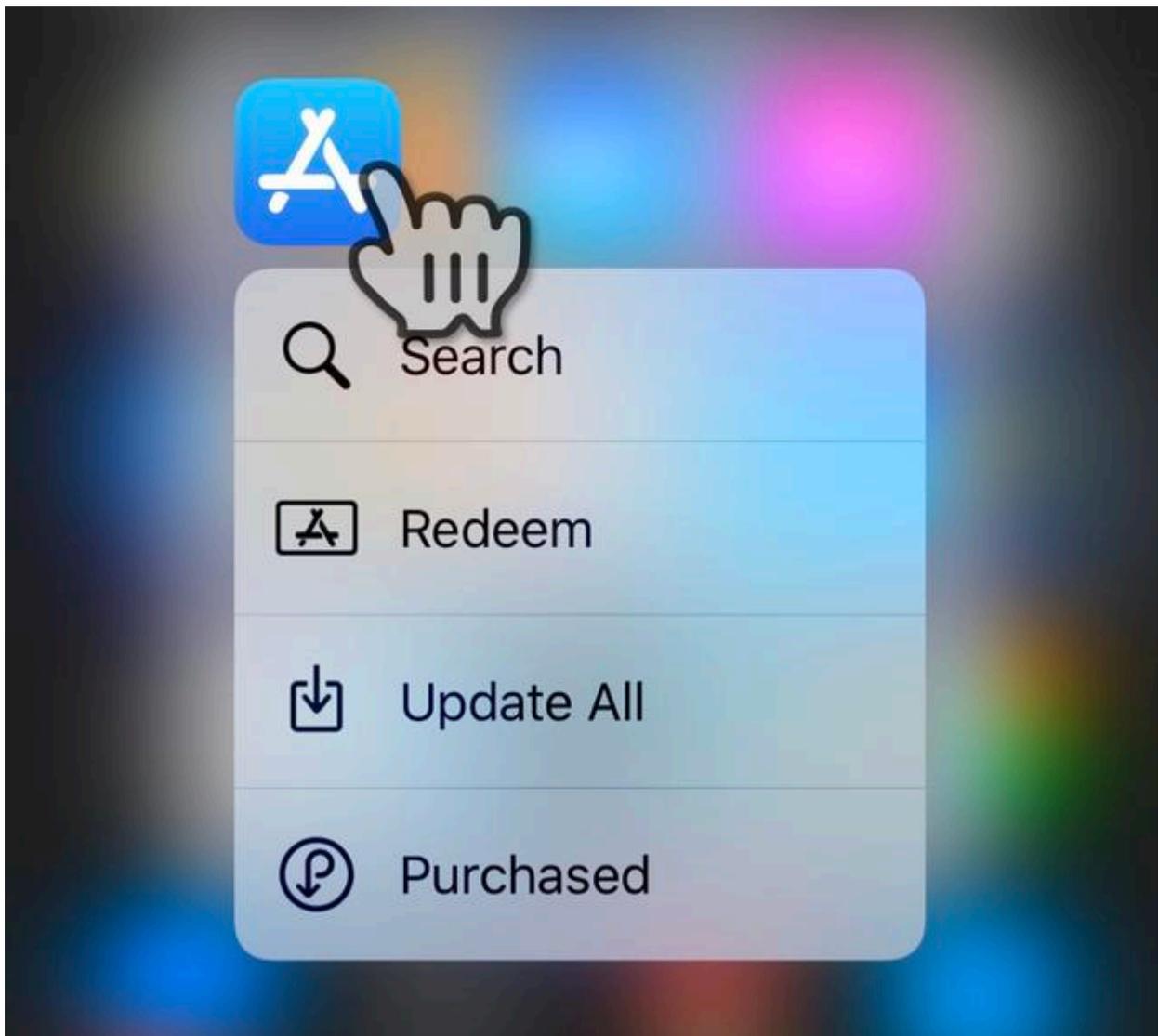
Caption by: Adrian Kingsley-Hughes - ZDNet



## Settings app: Quick access

3D Touch gives you a quick and easy way to access Battery, Cellular, Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth in the Settings app.

Press and hold until the pop-up appears and then choose where you want to jump to.



## App Store: Quick access

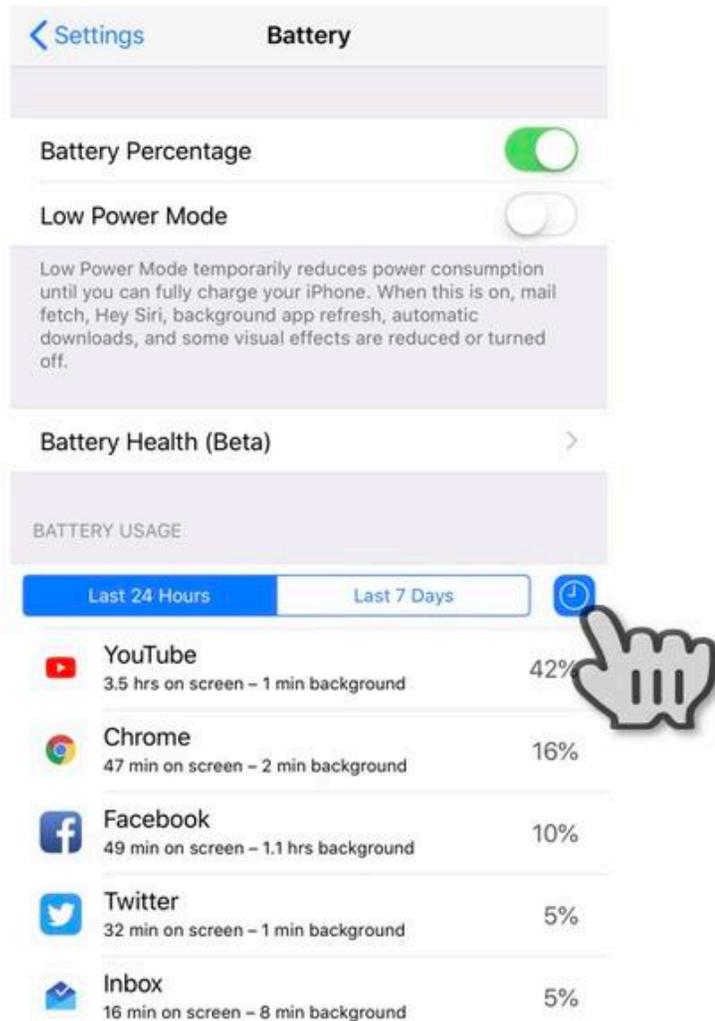
3D Touch gives you a quick and easy way to access Search, Redeem, Update All, and Purchased in the App Store app. Press and hold until the pop-up appears and then choose where you want to jump to.

I find this especially useful for quickly updating apps.



## Timer hack from Control Center

Here's another cool 3D Touch feature. If you have the Timer app added to the Control Center panel (I'll show you how to add items to the Control Center panel shortly!), press and hold to bring up a nifty way to set a quick timer.



## Find out what's eating your battery

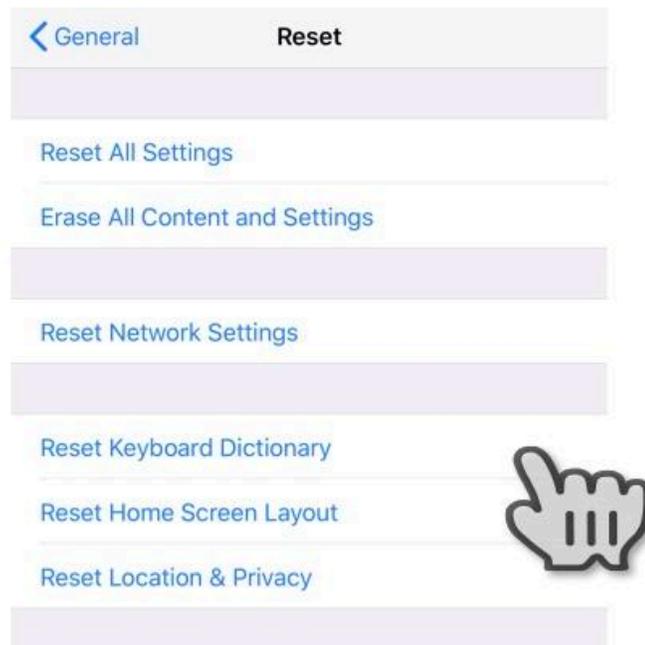
Finding your battery draining faster than usual? Chances are there's an app that's gone rogue and is running in the background.

First, go to **Settings** > **Battery** and look at the **Battery Usage** list. Tap anywhere on the list to change it from showing percentages to also showing you a breakdown of how much screen time and background time the running apps are taking.

Remember that while some apps -- the **Music** app for example -- are designed to work in the background, most apps are not and could be the cause of the problem.

If you notice an app with unexplained high background usage, then you may have solved your problem. Go into **Settings > General > Background App Refresh** and turn off background refresh for that specific app.

Also look to see if you have **No Cell Coverage** on the list. If this is responsible for high battery usage, then you've found your problem -- being out of cell coverage or in an area with poor coverage. If this figure is high, try putting the iPhone into **Airplane Mode** when cell coverage is poor (you can still turn on Wi-Fi and Bluetooth independently) to see if that helps.

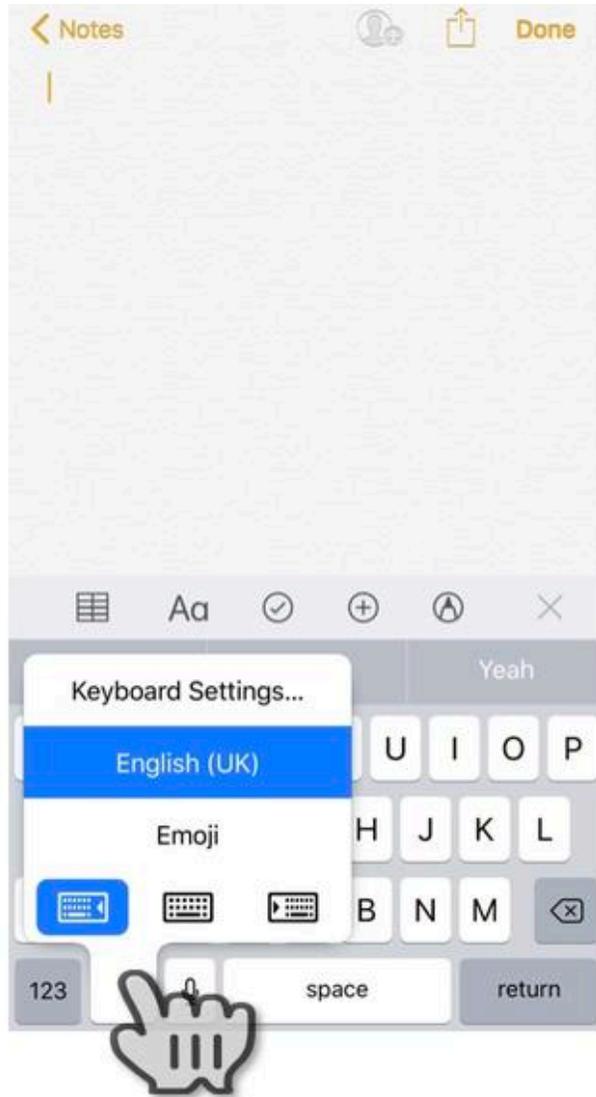


## Reset your dictionary suggestions

Are you getting odd words suggested to you when you type? Maybe you've been typing foreign words, or maybe you've allowed a mistake to creep in.

Unfortunately, Apple doesn't give you a way to edit the dictionary, so the only way to fix this is to reset the dictionary completely.

To do this go **Settings > General > Reset** and choose **Reset Keyboard Dictionary**.



## One-handed keyboard

Sometimes being able to type one-handed is a must.

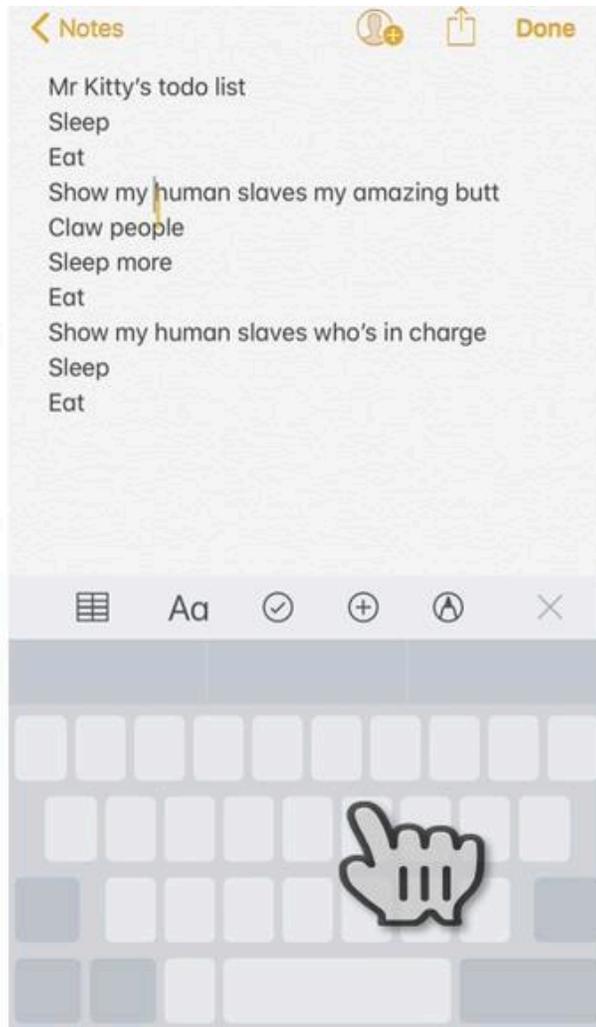
Press and hold on the Emoji button to bring up the options for a left or right-handed keyboard.



## Camera app: Quick access

3D Touch gives you a quick and easy way to access Take Selfie, Record Video, Record Slo-mo, and Take Portrait in the Camera app.

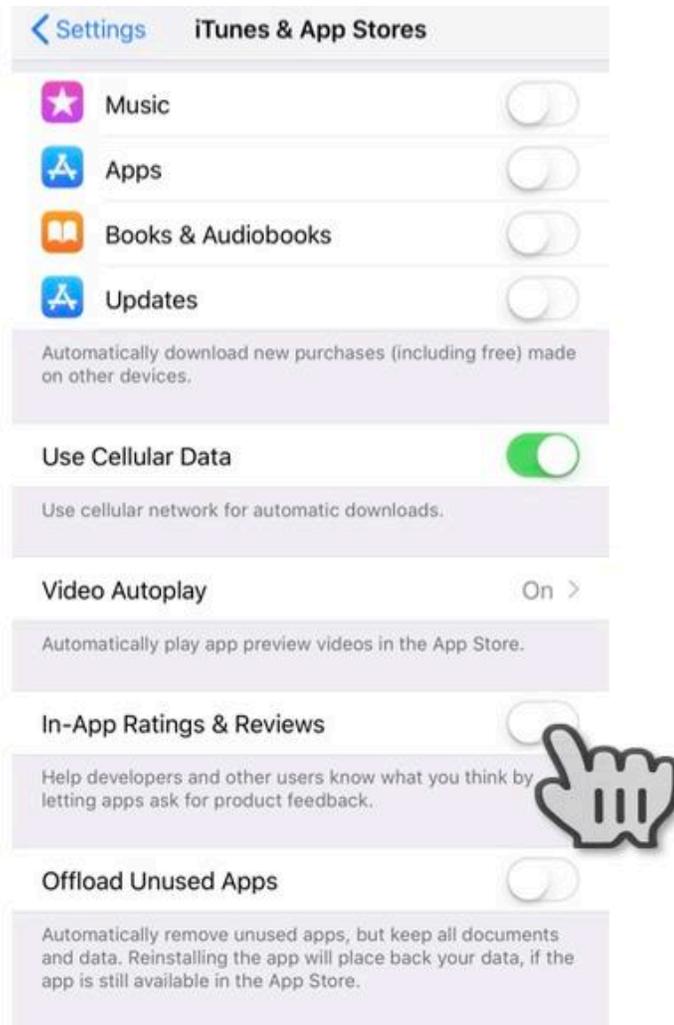
Press and hold until the pop-up appears and then choose where you want to jump to.



## Turn the iOS keyboard into a trackpad

Moving around a lot of text can be problematic, but once again 3D Touch comes to the rescue, this time allowing you to turn the keyboard into a trackpad to allow you to more easily move the cursor on the screen to navigate around documents.

All you do is press down firmly on the keyboard and when the keys turn blank you can slide your finger around the keyboard, moving the cursor at the same time.



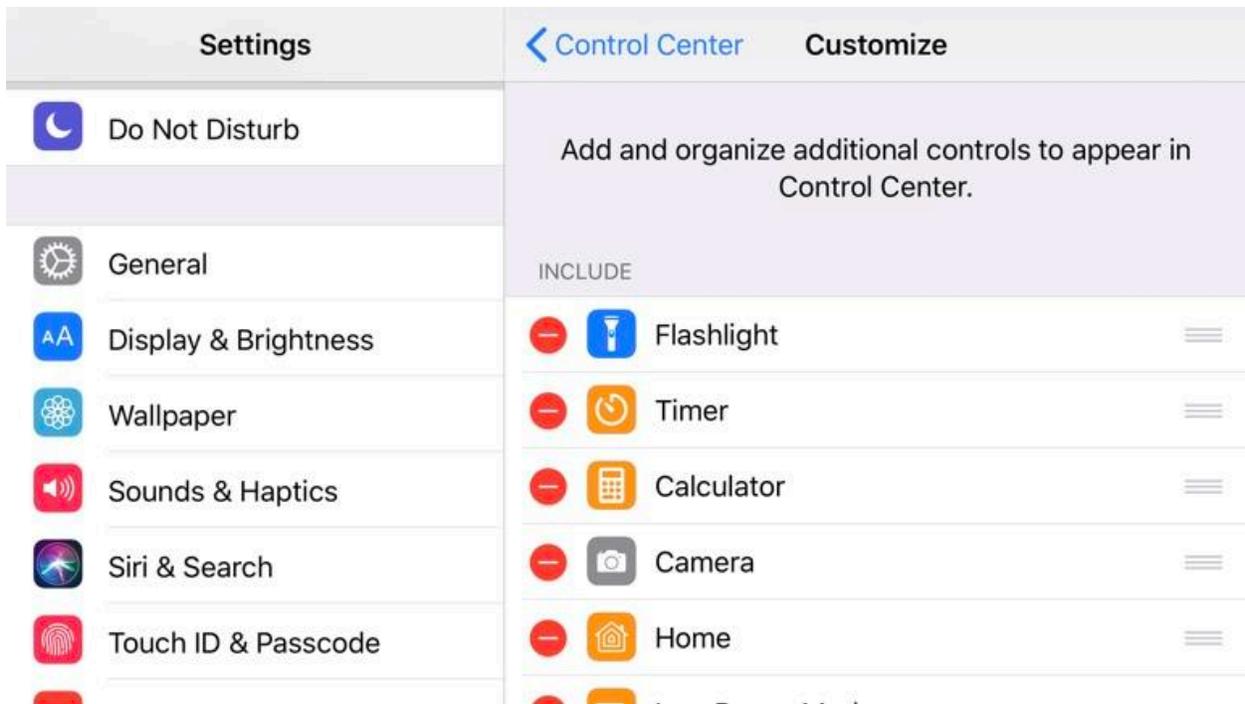
## Stop apps harassing you for feedback

I know that feedback is important to app developers, but sometimes it gets a bit overwhelming for users. This is probably one of the things in apps that annoys me the most.

Fortunately, Apple now offers users a way to put an end to it. Unfortunately, the setting is buried and unless you know where to look for it, you'll probably never come across it

Here's how to access it:

**Settings > iTunes & App Store** and then toggle **In-App Ratings & Reviews** to off.



## Customize Control Center

I promised earlier I'd show you how to customize the Control Center panel in iOS.

Go to **Settings > Control Center > Customize Controls** and add or remove the features you want available.



## Enhanced Do Not Disturb

Make it easier to get time away from your iPhone by getting better control over the Do Not Disturb feature. You can now set Do Not Disturb specifically for events such as meetings or while you're at a particular location.

Press and hold down the Do Not Disturb icon in Control Center (the one that looks like a crescent moon) to bring up this menu of options.

What's more, iOS 12 will turn it off automatically as soon as your event ends or you leave that location.