








































































































































































GLEN'S GOODIES: IOS26

October 2025

November 2025



WHO CAN RUN IOS 26?

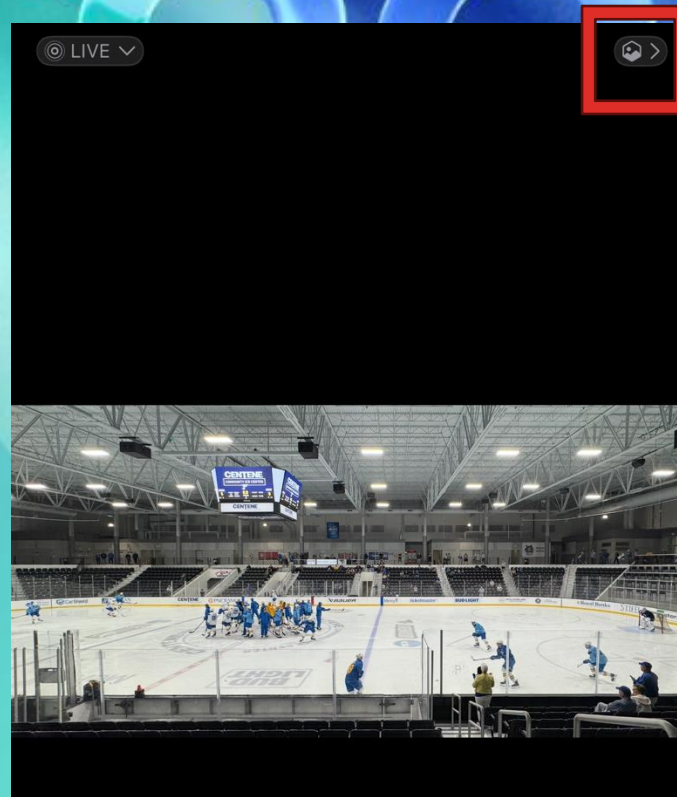
Macworld																			
iPhone 2007																			
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1. SPATIAL SCENES IN IOS 26

If you have an iPhone 12 or newer, iOS 26 has a cool new feature called Spatial Scenes. This will give your old photos **new life** and they will gain depth and motion.

It works by creating a parallax **effect**. Your photo's subject will appear closer, while the background shifts when you **tilt your iPhone**. Here's how to do this:

1. Open Photos on your iPhone running iOS 26.
2. Pick an image with a clear subject and make sure there is room around the the photo as the subject will get zoomed in on.
3. Look for the hexagon icon in the top-right corner.

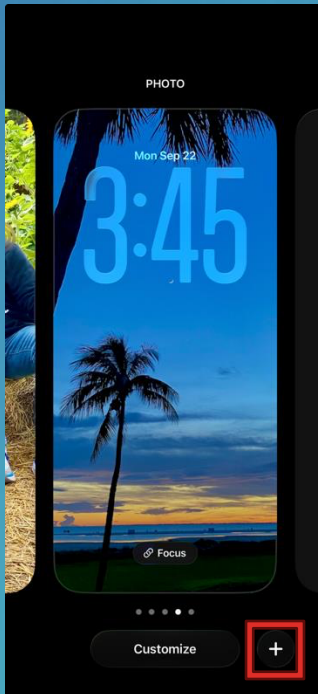


To get rid of the effect, just tap on the hexagon again.

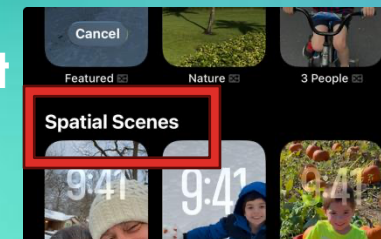
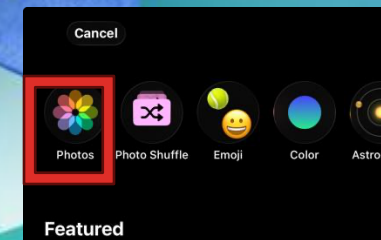
2. SPATIAL SCENES FOR YOUR LOCK SCREEN

You can take the Spatial Scene one step further and use it for your lock screen. Here's how:

1. While your screen is locked, Long-press your Lock Screen to enter customization.
2. Tap the “+” to add a new wallpaper.



3. After you press the “+”, iOS 26 will suggest compatible photos from your library. Either scroll down and select “Spatial Scenes” or select the Photos icon at the left of the screen to select your own photo.



4. If you choose your own photo, you will be taken to a preview effect screen. You have to click on the hexagon again to get the effect. Then click done.



2. SPATIAL SCENES FOR YOUR LOCK SCREEN

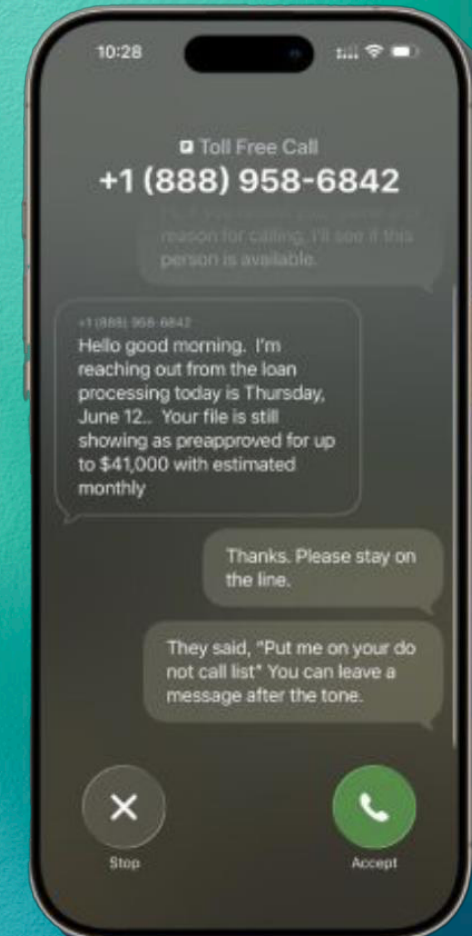
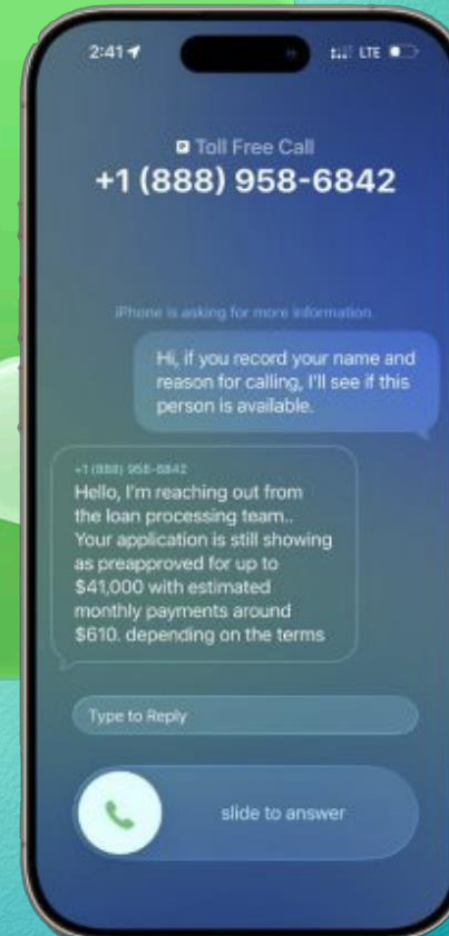
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIZXwp6lsG4>

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3. CALL SCREENING

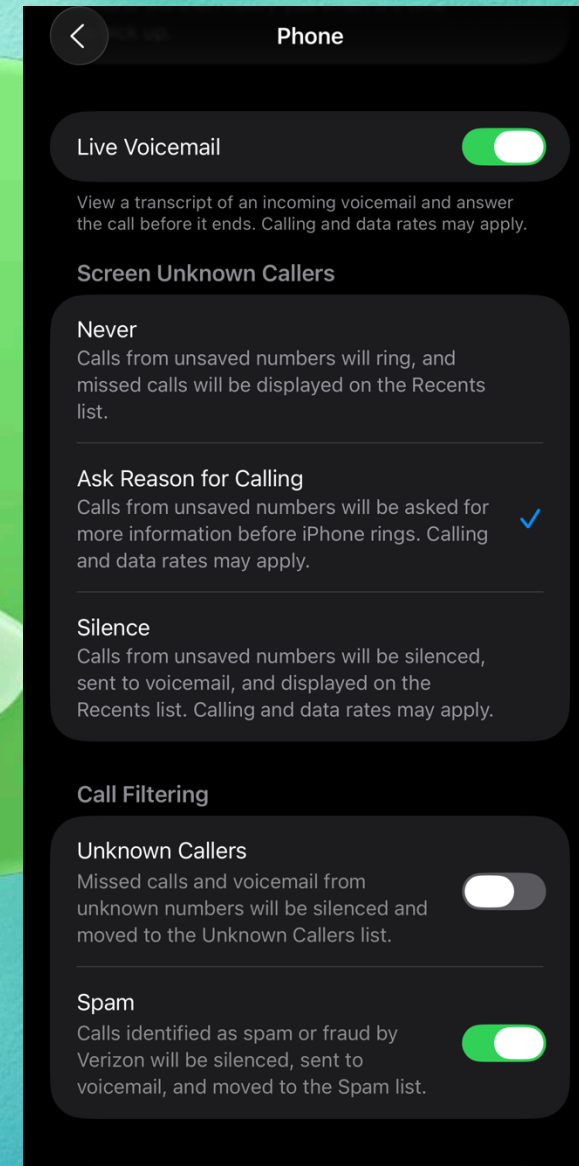
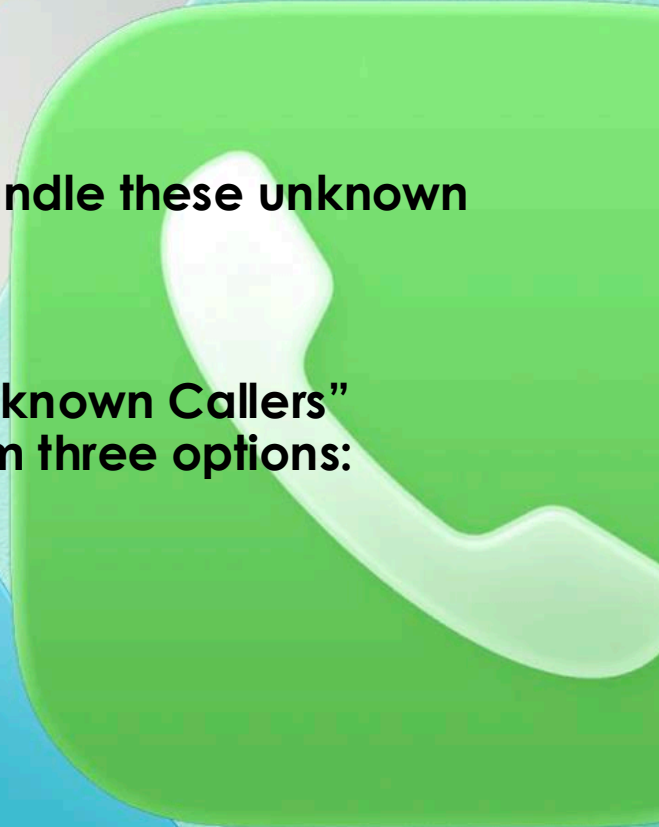
- iOS 26 allows your iPhone to handle unknown callers for you.
- When an unknown number that isn't in your contacts list or hasn't been used by you before, comes in to your phone, the call screening feature takes over. It asks callers for their name and why they're calling before your phone rings on your end.
- Then it shows you their response so you can decide whether you want to answer the call.
- What's actually happening? When an unknown number calls your phone, your iPhone will answer silently in the background and will ask for the caller's name and reason they are calling. Then it transcribes this information, and rings you with that info on your screen.
- At this point, You can choose to answer by swiping or you can send a text response in the chat bar, or ignore it.



3. CALL SCREENING

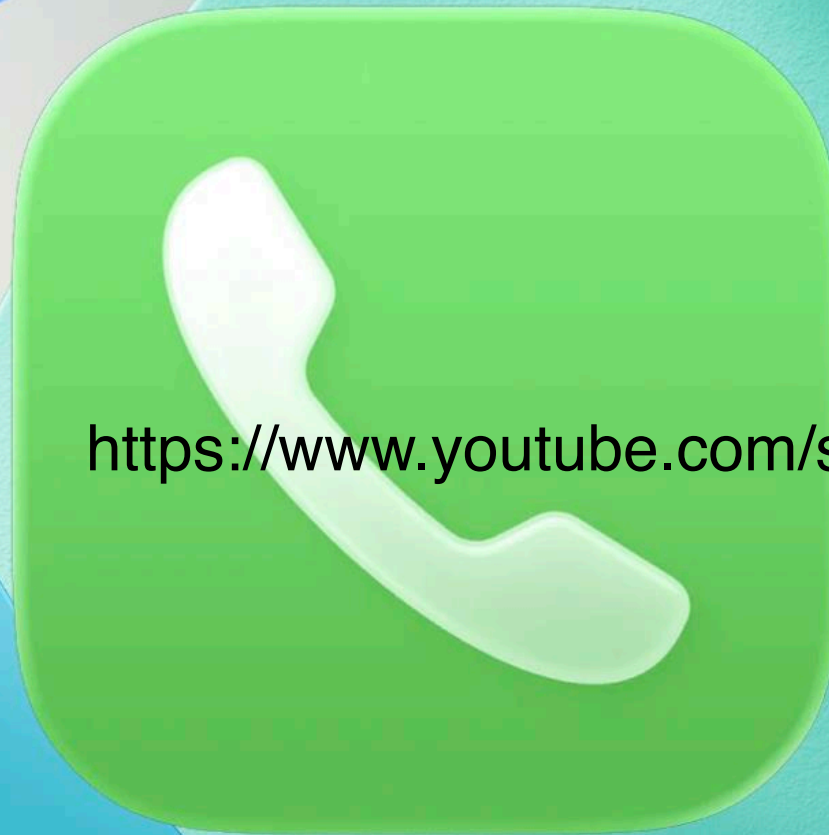
You can choose how you want to handle these unknown incoming calls.

- Go to Settings > Apps > Phone
- Then scroll down to the “Screen Unknown Callers” section. Here you can choose from three options:
 - Never
 - Ask Reason for Calling
 - Silence





3. CALL SCREENING



<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/vBjdfzQgjz0>

4. HOLD ASSIST

There is nothing worse than sitting on hold for endless minutes and either listening to bad music or endless looping messages. iOS 26 has added a great new feature called Hold Assist. This feature will listen for you when you're placed on hold and then alert you when a live person comes back on the line.

How does Hold Assist work?

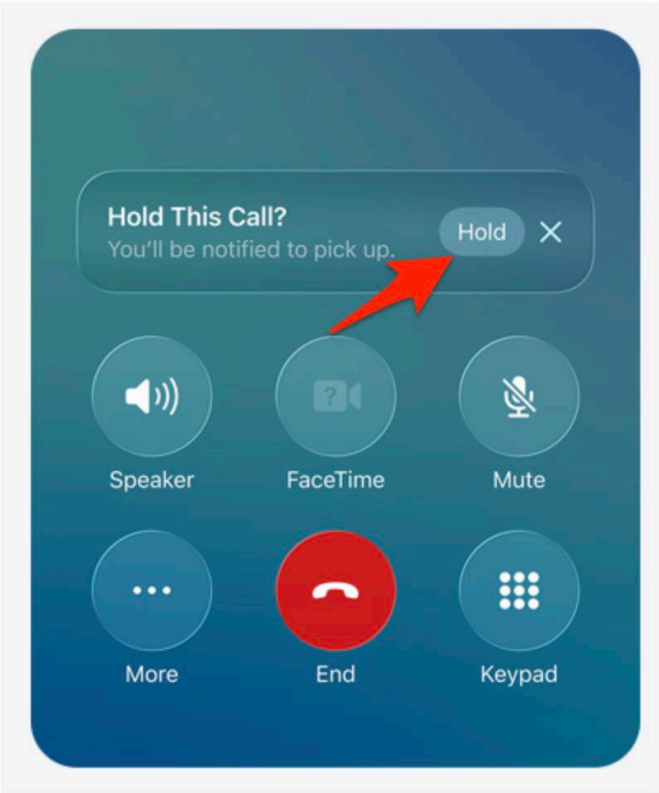
- The phone will “magically” sense you’ve been put on hold. How it knows this I don’t know, but I think it’s a mix of alchemy, white magic, and divination.
- Then you’ll get a prompt asking if you’d like to use Hold Assist
- When you say yes and activate Hold Assist, you can then leave the call screen and use your iPhone as normal. Or just put it down and go about your business.
- When a real person picks up, your iPhone notifies you immediately so you can answer the person

1. **Get placed on hold**

After a few seconds, you'll see a notification pop up: "Hold this Call?"

2. **Tap Hold**

If you accept, your iPhone will monitor the line while you go back to the Home Screen or another app. A live activity (green bubble or Dynamic Island indicator) confirms the call is still active.



3. **Wait for the alert**

When the system detects that a live agent is back, you'll get a notification to rejoin. Tap it, and you're instantly back on the call.

4. **Enable it manually (if needed)**

If you dismissed the first prompt, you can still activate it: tap **More** → **Hold Assist** from the in-call menu.

4. HOLD ASSIST

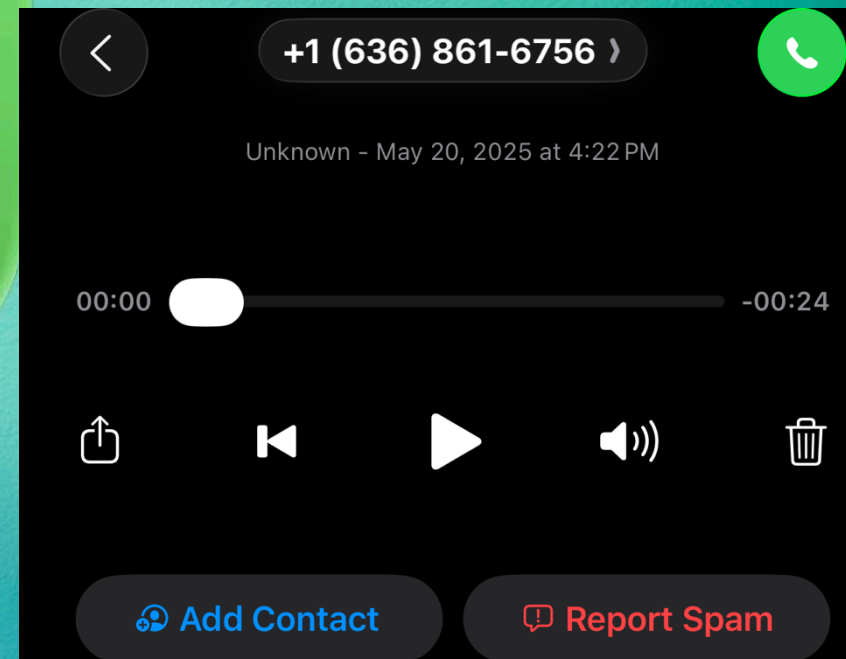
Here's how this is supposed to Specifically work:

- This feature will work on all iPhones that support iOS 26
- Depending on your iPhone model this might look different to let you know you are using this feature-iPhones with the Dynamic Island will show this activity there. Older iPhones will show a green call dot at the top
- If you want, You can exit Hold Assist at anytime and return to the hold.

5. ONE PRESS VOICEMAIL SPAM REPORTING

Spam! Ugh! The bane of our existence these days. In iOS 26, there is now an easy one-touch method of reporting a voicemail spam message. It doesn't mean that you won't get more spam voicemails, but it makes it easier to mark it as spam. Here's what you do.

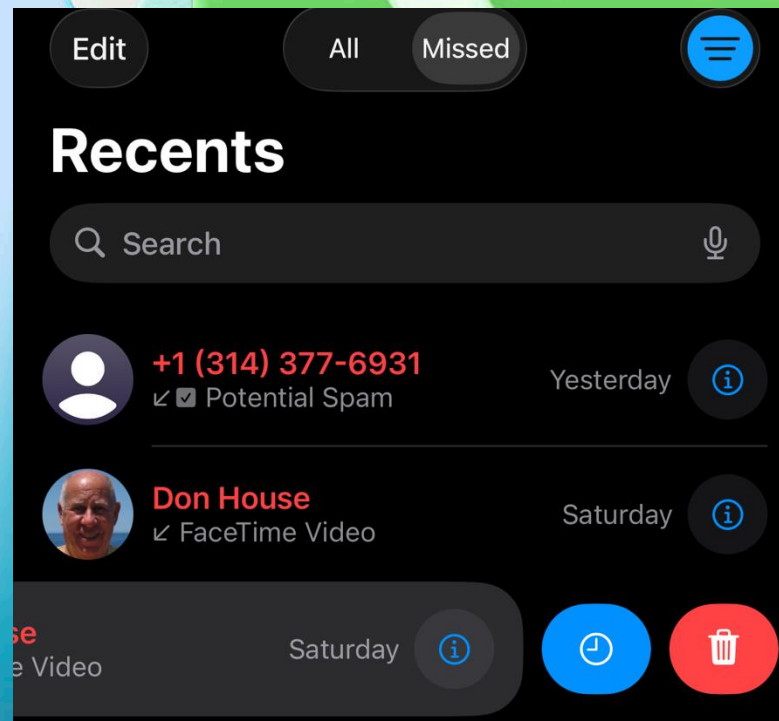
- When you get a voicemail and go to look at it and see its spam, simply tap the “Report Spam” button.
- Tapping on this option sends the voicemail to Apple, and you can either report the message as spam and keep it, or report it and delete it.
- I don't know what Apple does from there, but presumably, you won't get another voicemail from this number. You'll just get one from one of the other billion numbers spamming out there!



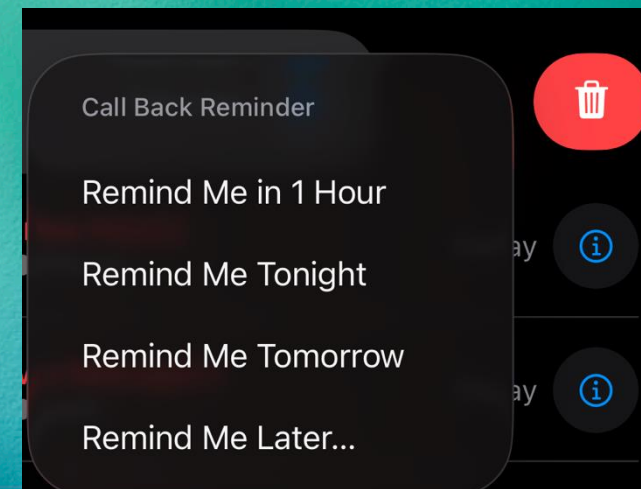
6. CALL BACK REMINDER FOR A MISSED CALL

Sometimes we just can't take a call from someone that we want to talk with and we worry we might forget to call them back later. No problem. Now you can get reminders to call someone back who's call you missed.

1. Go to your phone app and select "Missed" at the top to see the missed calls. When you find the call you want, swipe left on it.



2. Click on the blue clock icon to pull up options. Select the one you want. If you select the Later option, you'll be put into a screen to set a reminder.



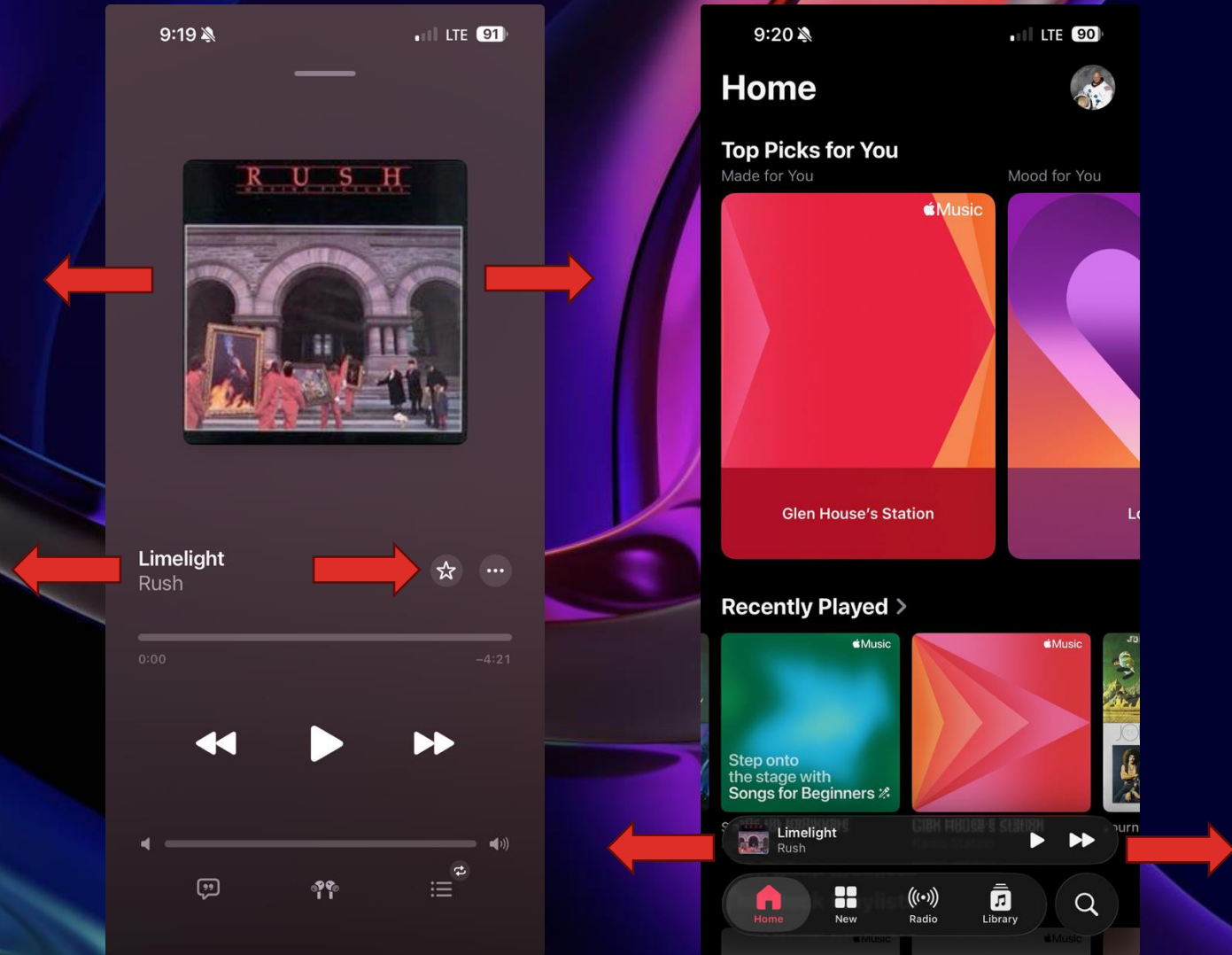
APPLE MUSIC



7. SWIPE TO CHANGE MUSIC TRACK

This really is a small thing, but if you are an Apple Music user, it's about time you are able to do this. **FINALLY**, Apple is going to allow you to swipe left or right to change the track you are listening to. This will become effective with iOS 26.1

When you are on the “Now Playing” screen, you can swipe left or right on the album art or on the track/artist info to change to the next or previous track.



8. PLAYLIST FOLDERS

It's been interesting and frustrating that the Music app has had different functionality on the Mac than on iPhone and iPad. This is partly because the Mac app grew out of iTunes and the iOS app didn't.

One big example of differing functions is playlist folder creation. You've always been able to organize your playlists into folders and then sync these folders to your other devices. However, you couldn't create or edit them in iOS or iPadOS.

Now in iOS and iPadOS 26 you can create and move folders on your iPhone or iPad.

What are Playlist Folders?

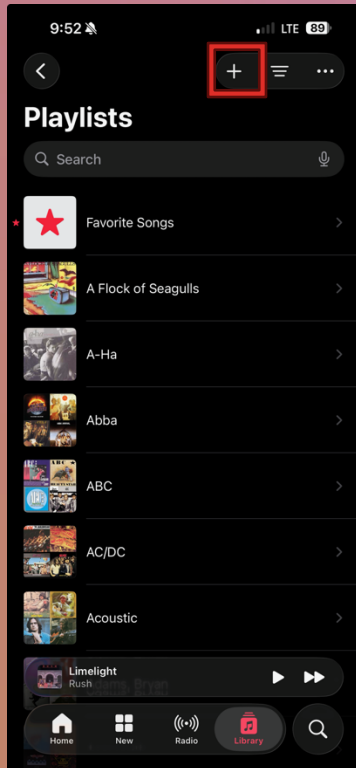
Playlist folders are organizational tools that allow you to group multiple playlists together for easier management. They help keep your music library tidy by categorizing playlists by themes, genres, or projects without affecting the actual songs in your library.

For example, I could create a folder of classic rock bands that originated in California. I might call the folder "California Rock." Then I could go through my library and include playlists of bands that meet this criteria.

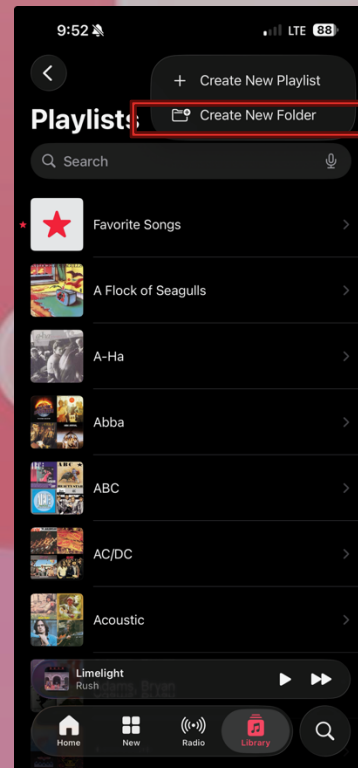
8. PLAYLIST FOLDERS

How do you create playlist folders?

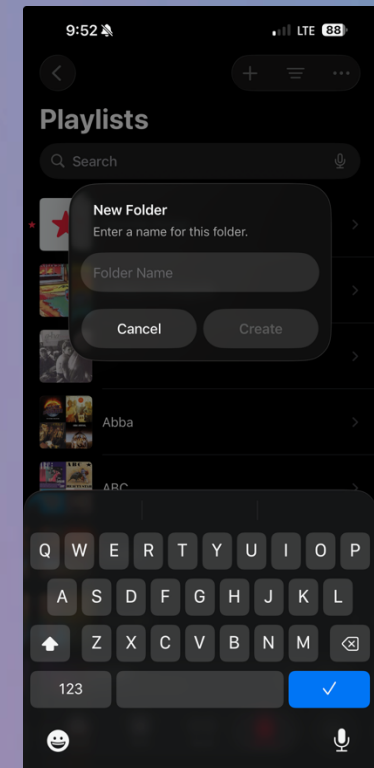
1. Go into Apple Music and select "Library" at the bottom of the screen. You will now be in the "Playlists" section



2. A drop down menu will appear. Select, "Create New Folder."



3. Name your folder

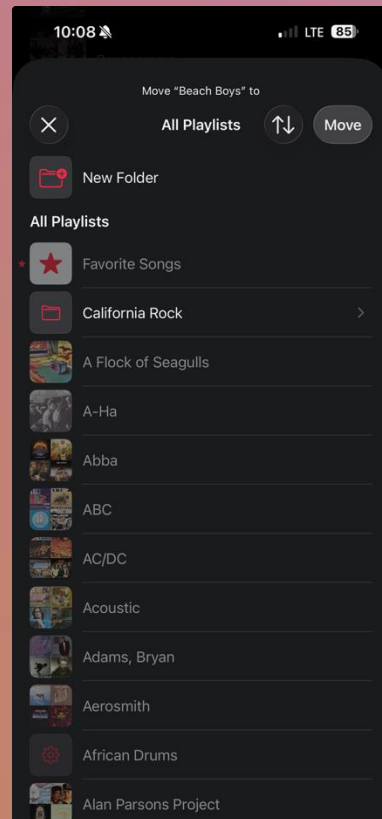


Tap the "+" icon at the top of the screen.

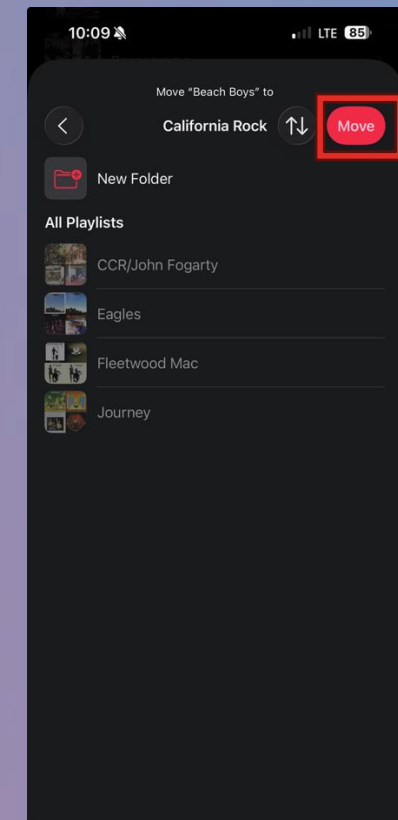
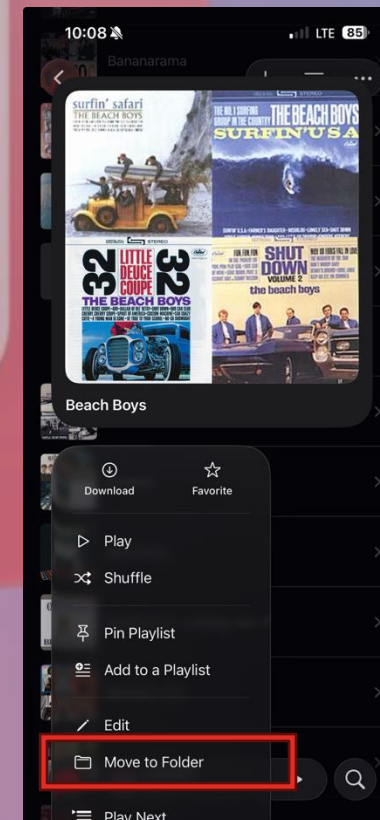
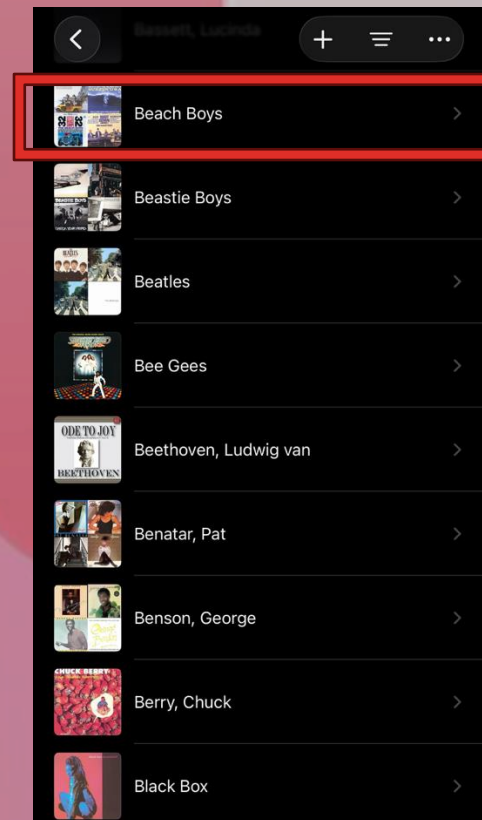
8. PLAYLIST FOLDERS

How do you create playlist folders?

4. Now that you've created your folder you need to populate it with playlists. Choose a playlist to move.



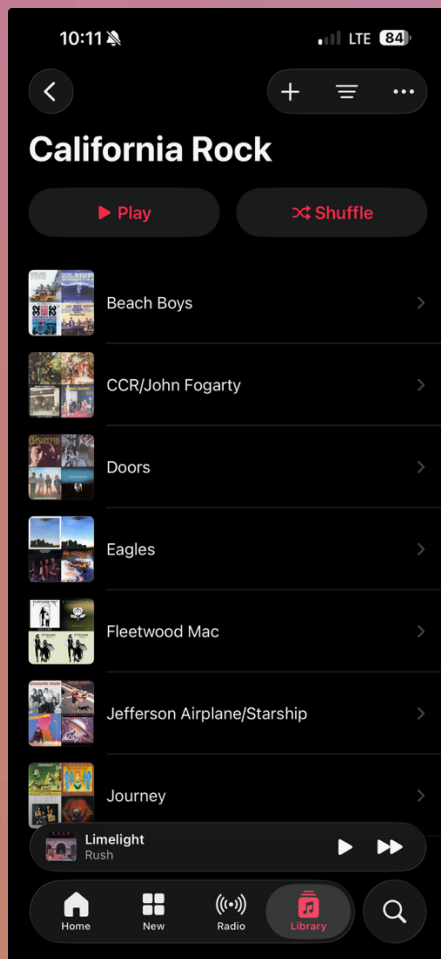
5. Long press on a playlist and then tap "Move to Folder."



8. PLAYLIST FOLDERS

How do you create playlist folders?

6. Keep doing this until you've populated the folder with the playlists you want.



You can even create subfolders in a folder. Perhaps I decide I want to divide my California Rock folder into two separate groups: San Francisco and L.A.

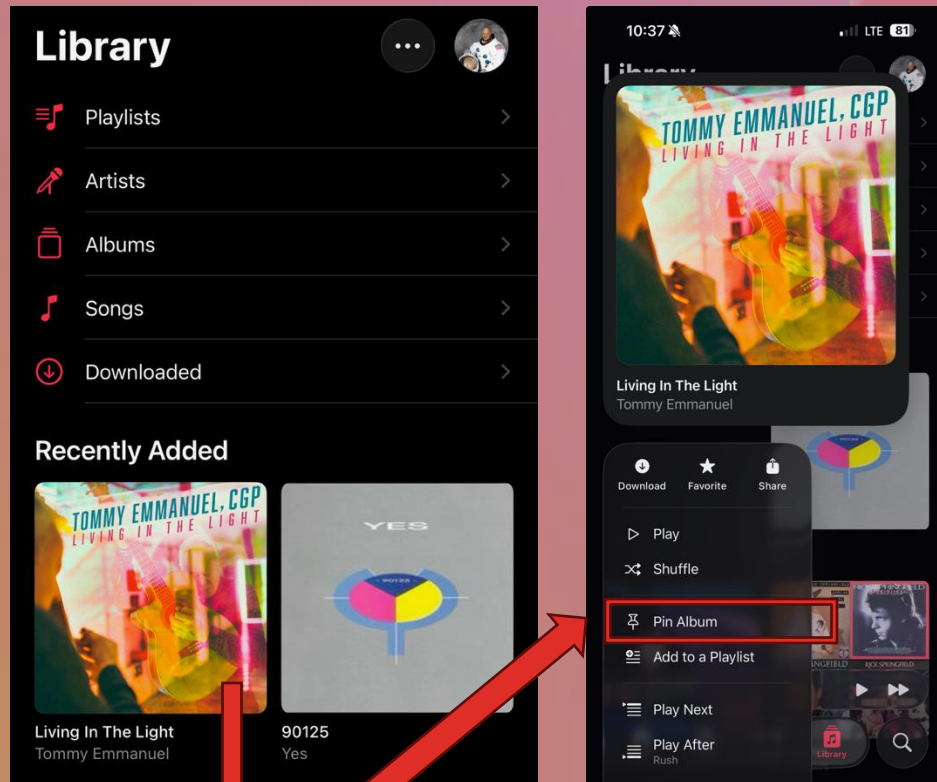
You can also move playlists out of folders but I haven't figured out how to do this on the iPhone yet. Go to your Mac and drag it out of the folder to "All Playlists"

You can delete the folder by clicking on the 3 buttons at the top.

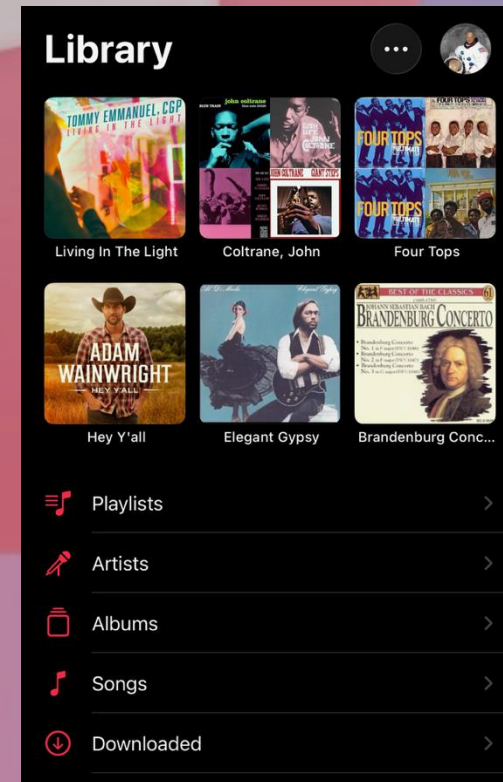
9. PINNED MUSIC

You can now pin albums, playlists, and artists for quick access at the top of your Library screen. You can pin up to 6 of these at any one time.

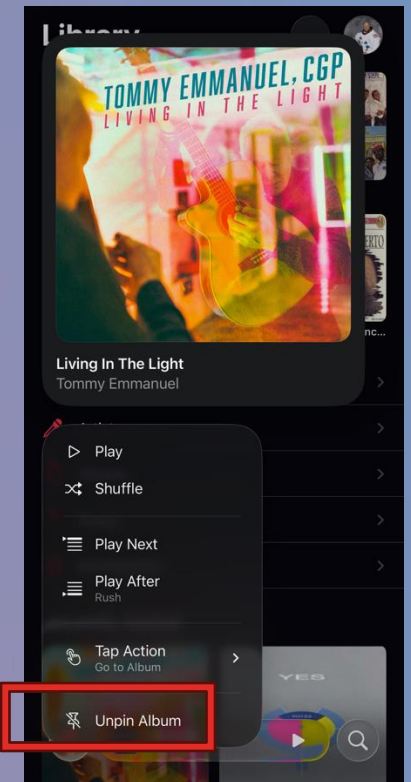
Long-press on any music you want to pin, and a contextual menu will pop-up and you can select “Pin Playlist,” “Pin Album,” or “Pin Artist” depending on what you’re working with.



Long press



Pins filled up at top of library



To unpin: long press & tap “unpin.”

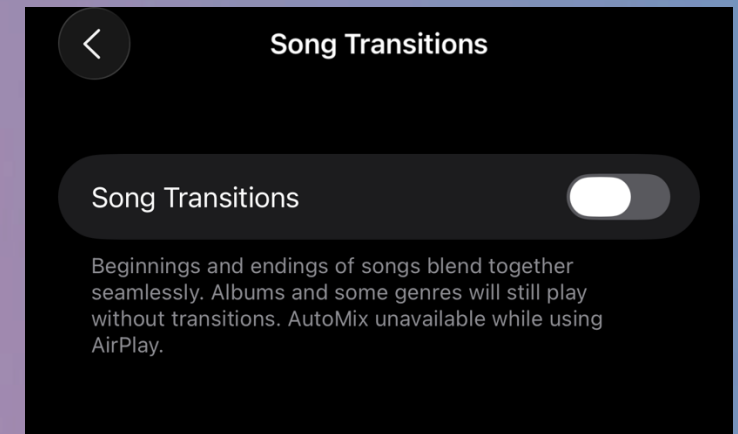
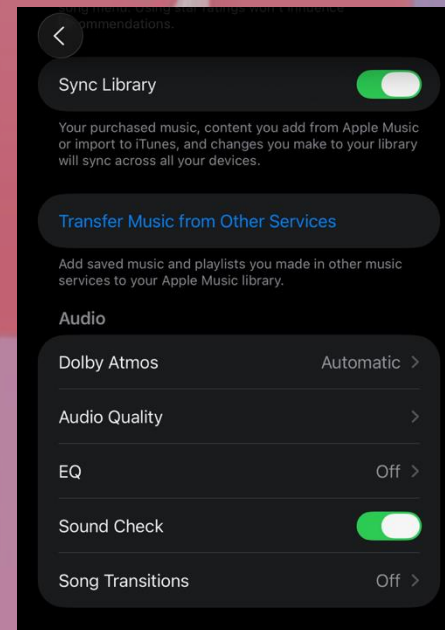
10. SONG TRANSITIONS

I HATE that this feature is turned on by default. I immediately turned it off because I can't stand it. So what is it?

Song transitions is a feature that allows for seamless playback between songs. The two main options are AutoMix, which uses AI to create smooth transitions, and Crossfade, which gradually fades one song out while fading the next one in.

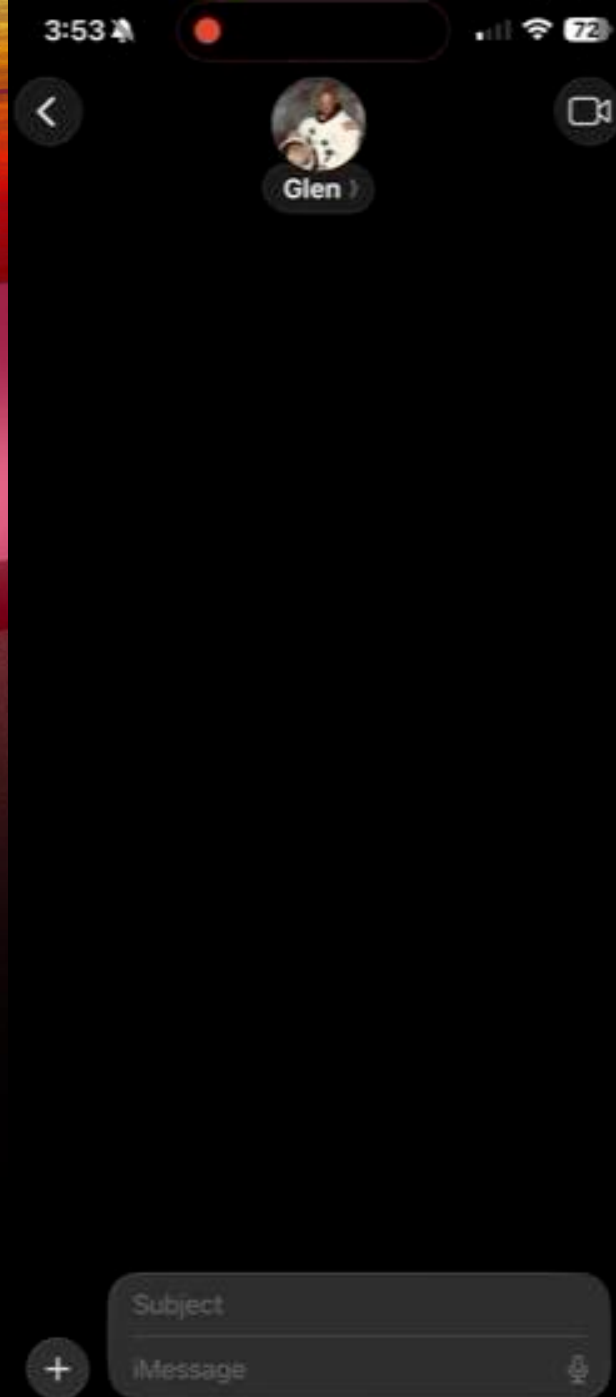
I don't understand why people like this, as it chops up the end of one song and the beginning of another one. I like a nice clean end to one song before I hear the next song. If you're like me, then this is how to turn this feature off.

To turn off Song Transitions in Apple Music, open the Settings app on your iPhone, scroll down to Apps > Music > Song Transitions, and toggle the Crossfade option off.



MESSAGES





11. MESSAGES BACKGROUNDS

In any conversation in Messages with other iPhone users, you can set a custom background.

To set a custom background, go to the message and at the top under the person's picture tap on their name. On the next screen, move your slider to the right on backgrounds and choose from the different options presented. You can choose from photos, textures, colors, and suggestions that the system gives you.

Be aware that if you set a background for a messages conversation the other person will see it as well if they are running iOS 26. They may or may not find it annoying. My wife doesn't like that I set a background in our text conversation because she finds it too cluttered and makes it harder for her to focus on the text. I like it.

If one person wants to disable the background, they can. Go to Setting > Apps > Messages, then find the Conversation Backgrounds toggle and disable it. This will restore the plain background from before iOS 26 on all your threads. Unfortunately, at this time you can't have it on for one person and off for others.

12. LIVE TRANSLATION IN MESSAGES

While messaging with people who speak different languages, you will now see automatic translations. Live Translation is an Apple Intelligence feature, so you HAVE to have an iPhone 15 Pro, iPhone 15 Pro Max, or any of the iPhone 16 or 17 models.

Translation works with nine languages right now:

- Chinese (Mandarin, Simplified), French, German, Italian, English, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese (Brazil), and Spanish (Spain).

Your messages appear in both languages on your device, while recipients see everything in their preferred language IF they are using a device running iOS 26, iPadOS 26, or macOS Tahoe.

Let's take a look at a quick video from Apple that shows how to use this feature on your iPhone in iOS26 in Messages, on your phone, with FaceTime, and with your AirPods.

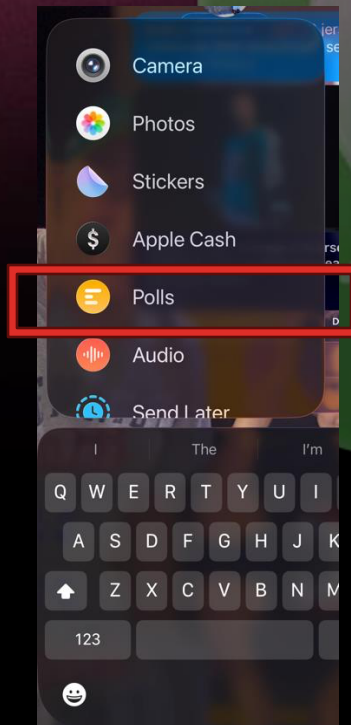
12. LIVE TRANSLATION IN MESSAGES



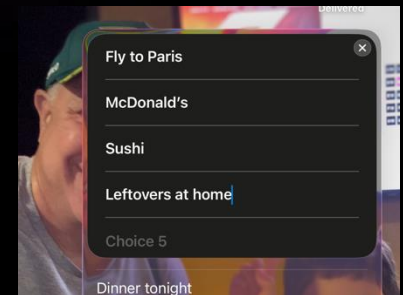
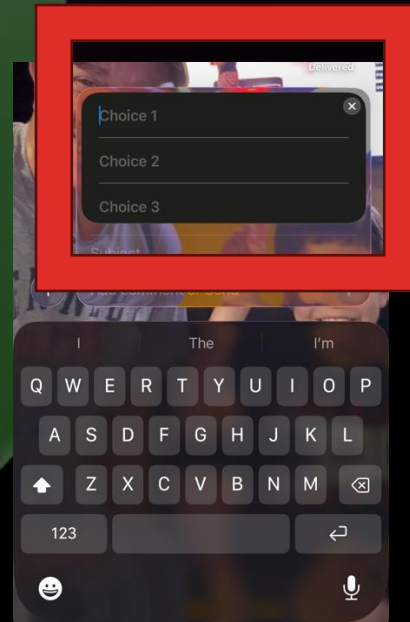
13. POLLS

Messages in iOS 26 brings the ability to make polls and send them in your messages. If you're in a group text thread and want to decide where to meet or what to have for dinner, you can create a poll for everyone. The only catch is that everyone in the conversation has to be on iOS 26 to get the poll. You can create polls with up to 12 different options and rearrange them before sending. The polls appear directly in your conversation thread, making it easy for everyone to participate and watch results update as votes come in.

1. Open Messages and create a message with one or more people
2. Click on the “+” button to the left of the typing window. Then select “Polls.”

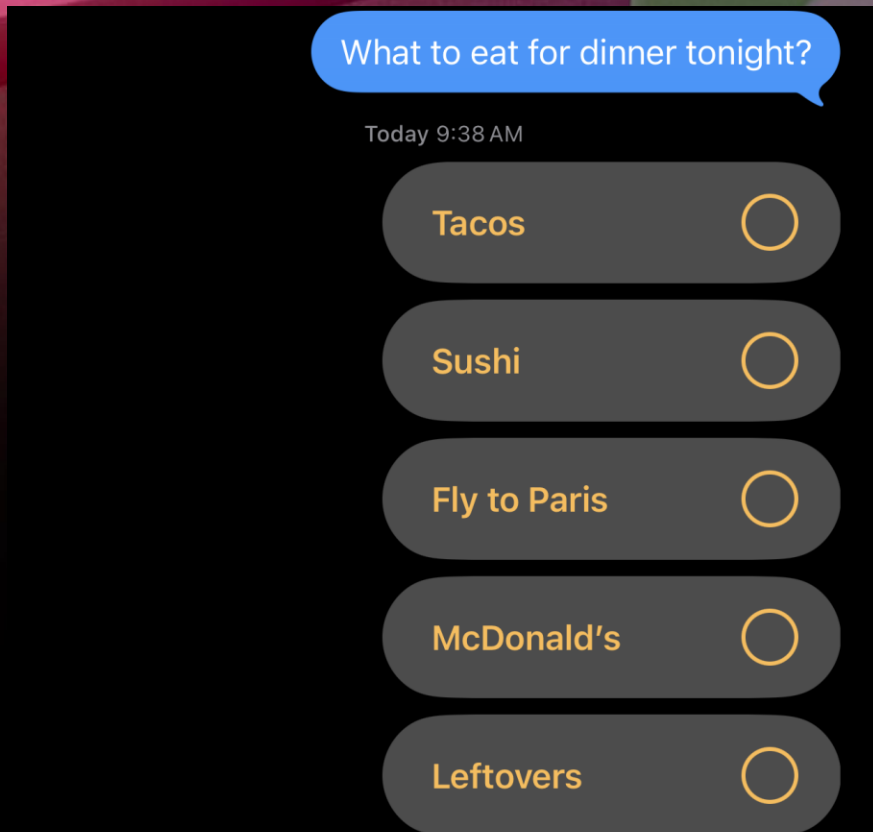


3. Next start typing in your options for people to choose from. As you add more options, the list will automatically expand to give you one more option.



13. POLLS

3. This is what your completed poll will look like.



3. When people start voting their choice will be revealed with their picture next to that choice option and the choice that is winning will have the longest bar.



14. VISUAL INTELLIGENCE

