6 only-for-iPad gestures you need to know

Nope, you can't pinch your iPhone's display to get to the home screen, nor can you swipe directly through your open apps—but you can if you're an iPad user.

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.

Read on for six handy gestures for iPad—and only for iPad—starting with...

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

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**

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**

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.

**Pull the keypad apart with your fingertips**

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**

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**

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**

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.
Use Guided Access with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch


Guided Access helps you to stay focused on a task while using your iPhone, iPad or iPod touch. Guided Access limits your device to a single app and lets you control which app features are available.

You can use Guided Access to:

- Temporarily restrict your iOS device to a single app
- Disable areas of the screen that aren’t relevant to a task, or areas where an accidental gesture might cause a distraction
- Disable the hardware buttons

Set up Guided Access

Tap Settings > General > Accessibility > Guided Access to set up Guided Access. From there, here’s what you can do:

- Turn Guided Access on or off
- Set a passcode that controls the use of Guided Access and prevents someone from leaving an active session
- Set whether the device can go to sleep during a session

Start a Guided Access session

To start a Guided Access session, follow these steps:
1. Open the app you want to use.
2. Triple-click the Home button.
3. Adjust settings for the session, and then tap Start.

Control apps, screen sensitivity, and motion sensitivity

You can use Guided Access to turn off app controls, parts of the screen, and motion sensing. Follow these steps:

To disable app controls and areas of the app screen, follow these steps:
1. Circle any part of the screen you want to disable.
2. Use the handles to adjust the area.

To ignore all screen touches, turn off Touch.
To keep your iOS device from switching from portrait to landscape or from responding to any other motions, turn off Motion.

**End a Guided Access session**

If you're using Touch ID on your iOS device, you can use it to end a Guided Access session. First, go to Settings > General > Accessibility > Guided Access > Passcode Settings and turn on Touch ID. Now, when you're using Guided Access, you can end the session by following these steps:
1. Press the Home button once.
2. Use Touch ID.

If you're not using Touch ID on your device, follow these steps to end a Guided Access session:
1. Triple-click the Home button.
2. Enter the Guided Access passcode.