



Cheat Sheet

Apple Watch Symbols & Icons Explained

APPLE WATCH SYMBOLS & ICONS EXPLAINED

BY THE IPHONE LIFE TEAM

Each of the symbols and icons on your Apple Watch has a unique purpose. In general, these images are colorful methods for your watch to communicate with you without disturbing you with formal notifications.

AT-A-GLANCE ICONS ON APPLE WATCH'S CONTROL CENTER



At the top of the Control Center, you will see tiny icons. These will vary depending on which features you have enabled at any given time, so don't worry if you see something completely different. Tap on them to see more information.



You will be able to tell if your iPhone is connected to your Apple Watch if the phone icon is green. If the icon is red and there is a diagonal line through it, your phone is disconnected.



If you see the Wi-Fi symbol instead of a phone, this means that your iPhone is disconnected but your Apple Watch is connected to Wi-Fi.



If you have a Focus mode enabled, it will also appear here along with the schedule you've set up.



If you have Silent mode turned on, you will see the red crossed-out bell icon here.



If you see a blue arrow, it means an app on your Apple Watch has used Location Services recently. You can find out which app requested your location on the screen under the word Location.



If you see a yellow circle, it means that Low Power Mode is on.



To return to the Control Center, tap the x icon.

There are many other symbols that might show up here, such as lock, accessibility or microphone icons, and they should be recognizable from the other icons, apps, or features you see across Apple products.

APPLE WATCH CONTROL CENTER CONTROLS

Pressing the side button on your watch gives you quick access to key settings. Here's what they mean:



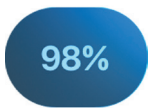
The Wi-Fi icon can show you if you are connected to Wi-Fi. You can tap and hold this to connect to a different network.



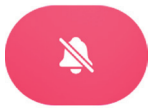
The cellular icon turns the Apple Watch cellular connection on or off. It is only available on Apple Watch models with cellular. Enabling cellular functions allows you to make and receive calls and texts when don't have your iPhone near you and can't access Wi-Fi.



The icon with the phone that has two curved lines on either sign is the "ping iPhone" button. As long as your iPhone is connected to your Apple Watch and within range, tapping this will make your iPhone make a noise so that you can locate it.



The percent icon shows the remaining battery percentage of your Apple Watch. It is one of the few icons that cannot be removed from the Control Center. If you tap on it, you will see the option to activate Low Power mode to have your watch battery last longer by limiting functionality.



The bell icon can turn Silent Mode on and off. When the bell is gray, your watch has sound and vibrations on. If the bell is red and has a line through it, it will not make any sounds, but it will still vibrate and light up when there is a notification.



The happy and sad masks represent Theater Mode. When enabled, it turns Orange and activates Silent Mode (your watch will vibrate if you receive a notification, but won't ring or light up your screen). When the icon is gray, Theater Mode is off.



The Focus icon will show you what Focus mode you are in. If you do not have Focus engaged or set up, it will show the moon symbol that represents Do Not Disturb. Tap it to turn on regular Do Not Disturb or, press and hold to change the Focus mode.



Many users are surprised to learn that their Apple Watch has a functional flashlight! You can turn it on by tapping on the flashlight symbol in the Control Center. This will turn your screen a bright white color. You can swipe left to switch to a flashing white and again to a red screen. You can turn it off by swiping down.



The airplane symbol turns Airplane mode on and off. When it is grayed out, it is off. Tap it to turn Airplane mode on, and it will turn orange. By default, Airplane Mode will turn off your Wi-Fi and cellular networks but will keep your Bluetooth enabled. You will still get notifications in Airplane Mode, especially if you are connected to Wi-Fi.



The droplet icon turns the Water Lock on but not off. When you turn on Apple Watch Water Lock, you will still be able to see your watch face, but you won't be able to interact with it. To turn Water Lock off, you will need to press and hold the Digital Crown to unlock your watch.



The volume icon is an icon that comes to the Control Center on the Apple Watch Series 10 and Apple

Watch Ultra 2 running watchOS 11 or later. You can tap on it then swipe with your finger or scroll using the Digital Crown to change the volume of your Apple Watch's external speaker. Earlier watch models do not have this option.



Tapping the triangle with three curved lines above it takes you to a list of any Bluetooth speakers, headphones, or earbuds that your watch is connected to. You can add new audio devices by tapping Connect a Device.



Certain apps let you increase the text size on your Apple Watch for easier viewing. If you tap this button, you will have the option to increase or decrease text size for your Apple Watch.



Tapping the ear symbol in the Control Center takes you to headphone volume. This control only appears on older Apple Watch models. Otherwise use the volume icon above.



The radio icon in the Control Center is the Walkie-Talkie icon. The Walkie-Talkie feature lets you quickly communicate with friends. When it is gray, the feature is off. Tap it to turn it on, and it will be yellow with two curved lines on either side to show that it is on. You will still have to set it up and open the app from the App Library in order to send a message to a contact. If you don't see the icon, go to the App Store and re-download the Walkie-Talkie app.



If you don't see this icon in your Apple Watch's Control Center, don't panic! It will only be viewable and tappable under certain circumstances. In order to have access to this particular icon, you will need to have enabled Announce in both Siri and Phone Notifications in your Apple Watch's and iPhone's settings. Additionally, you will need to have AirPods or

certain models of Beats headphones (not all Beats models are compatible with this feature) in order for the icon to appear on your Apple Watch's Control Center and for it to be tappable. Lastly, your AirPods or Beats must be turned on and actively connected to the Apple Watch's Bluetooth. Once all of these things come together, you should be able to tap the Announce button to enable or disable Siri to announce phone calls and messages while you listen to audio. The Siri Announce button is gray when enabled and red when disabled.



The person with a raised hand icon enables Schooltime, minimizing distractions. It functions like an Apple Watch lock button, similar to Water Lock and Sleep mode. Tap to enable Schooltime from Control Center. To disable, you need to press and hold the Digital Crown.



The squiggle is the Backtrack feature. This will open the Compass app and help you trace your steps so that you may retrace them later. It's available on Apple Watch Series 6 and later, including the Ultra and SE models.



The bullet list icon opens the Reminders App and starts a new reminder. This option must be added to your Control Center, and there is also an option like this for opening the Notes app and starting a new note.

There are more obscure symbols on your Apple Watch than those in the Control Center. If you have more questions about symbols we didn't cover, check out our web article: [Understand All Apple Watch Icons & Symbols](#).