

Are you using the full potential of the buttons on your Android phone?

The buttons on your Android phone aren't just for adjusting the volume or waking up the screen. With a few simple tweaks, they can become shortcuts for taking a quick photo, skipping songs, launching apps, or even activating emergency features.

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7. The Basics

You already use the power button to lock and unlock your phone, but if you press and hold it, it won't power off your phone, but will instead launch your default digital assistant, be it Gemini , Bixby , or any other assistant. You can change which assistant is activated or disable this shortcut altogether by going to **Settings > Advanced Features > Side Button > Long press** .

Settings



Accounts and backup

Manage accounts • Smart Switch



Google

Google services



Advanced features

Labs • Side button



Digital Wellbeing and parental controls

Screen time • App timers



Device care

Storage • Memory • App protection



Apps

Default apps • App settings



General management

Language and keyboard • Date and time



Accessibility

Vision • Hearing • Dexterity

< **Advanced features**



Bixby

Labs

Side button

Multi window

Motions and gestures

One-handed mode



Screenshots and screen recordings

Video effects



Gaming Hub

Organize all your games all in one place and access extra features that enhance your gameplay experience.



Video brightness

< **Long press**



Digital assistant

Google



Bixby



Power off menu

If you hold down the power button and the volume down button at the same time, you'll see the power menu. From there, you can turn off your device, restart it, or boot into Safe Mode (by pressing and holding the **Power Off** icon).

6. Instant photography

The camera on your Android phone is capable of taking stunning photos and sharp videos. But not every moment requires you to unlock your screen, launch the camera app, and press the shutter button. For those blink-and-you-miss-it moments, your phone's physical buttons can come to your rescue.

On most Android devices, double-pressing the power button will instantly launch the Camera app. By default, this opens the rear camera, but you can customize it to launch the video camera, the front camera, or even portrait mode. Go to **Settings > Advanced Features > Side Button > Double press** , tap the gear icon next to **Camera** , and select the option you want.

< **Long press**



Digital assistant

Google



Bixby



Power off menu

< Double press

On



Camera

Open Camera



Quick launch Samsung
Wallet



Flashlight



Magnifier



Voice Recorder



Samsung Notes



Samsung capture



Modes and Routines



Apps



< **Camera**

Open Camera

Record video

Take portrait

Take selfie

Once the camera opens, you don't need to press the shutter button; just press either volume button to take a photo. This is especially useful when you want to hold the phone steady or take a quick shot with one hand.

5. Activate emergency assistance quickly

In an emergency, every second counts. That's why Android phones come with built-in emergency features that let you act quickly when you need help most.

Simply press the power button 5 times quickly to activate the phone's Emergency SOS feature. If you're using a Samsung phone, just press it 3 times quickly. This will immediately start calling your local emergency number. If you have emergency contacts set up on your phone, it will also send them a text message with your real-time location.

< **Safety and emergency**



Medical info

Emergency contacts

Emergency SOS

Emergency sharing

Silence notifications while driving

Emergency Location Service

Wireless emergency alerts

Earthquake alerts

Unknown tracker alerts

< Emergency SOS



Press the Power key quickly 3 times to call emergency number 112 when you are in an emergency situation.

Send SOS to emergency contacts

Text your location and an SOS message to your emergency contacts.



[Emergency sharing settings](#)

Emergency sharing

Send SOS messages with your location to your emergency contacts.



Swipe to send SOS messages

Cancel

4. Answer, end, or mute a call

Answering or rejecting a phone call is usually simple, but what about when your hands are dirty, wet, or wearing gloves? Sure, if you're wearing a headset that supports call controls, you'll be protected. But if not, the physical buttons on your phone can handle calls just as easily.

When a call comes in, press either volume button to instantly silence the ringer. This is a quick way to silence an incoming call, even if your phone is still in your pocket.

And that's it; you can now manage your phone calls with just one tap. Just be careful not to accidentally hang up when you're about to turn off your screen!

< **Accessibility**



Recommended for you



Vision enhancements



TalkBack



Hearing enhancements



Interaction and dexterity



Advanced settings



Installed apps
6 apps



About Accessibility



Contact us

< Interaction and dexterity

Universal switch

Use external accessories to control your phone and select items on the screen.

Assistant menu

Show a menu of easy-to-reach buttons that let you replace hardkeys, gestures, and other common interactions.



Voice Access

Interactions

Answering and ending calls

Interaction control

Block touches for the Back, Home, and Recents buttons, the keyboard, and a selected area of the screen.

Touch settings

Touch and hold delay

Short (0.5 seconds)

Tap duration

Set how long an interaction needs to be held to be recognized as a tap.

< Answering and ending calls

Gesture to answer calls

Swipe

Answer using speaker

Use speaker by default when there's no headset or Bluetooth device connected.



Read caller names aloud



Answer automatically



Press Volume up to answer calls



Press Side button to end calls



3. Unlock hidden accessibility shortcuts

Android phones come with built-in accessibility features that are helpful to everyone. For example, **Magnification** **turns** your camera into a magnifying glass, while **Extra dim** reduces the screen brightness below the normal minimum. You also have **Live Caption** , which automatically adds captions to videos so you can enjoy them in noisy environments or when you need to turn down the volume.

And luckily, you don't have to dig through the settings menu every time you want to use these features. Instead, you can turn your phone's physical buttons into quick-access shortcuts.

< **Accessibility**



Recommended for you



Vision enhancements



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Accessibility shortcuts

Quick panel buttons

None

Accessibility button/gesture

Magnifier

Side and Volume up buttons

None

Volume up and down buttons

None

Notifications

Flash notification

Time to take action

Default

Looking for something else?

Repeat notification alerts

< Side and Volume up buttons

Choose what to use when you press the Side and Volume up buttons at the same time.


 Accessibility

 TalkBack

 Magnifier

 Magnification

 Color inversion

 High contrast fonts

 Relumino outline

 Color adjustment

 Color filter

 Extra dim

2. Professional music control

You don't have to wake your phone to skip tracks when listening to music or a podcast ; pressing and holding the volume buttons on your phone can help you do that. By default, Android doesn't let you skip tracks using the volume keys, but that's easy to change with an app.

If you're using a Samsung Galaxy phone, download the Sound Assistant app from the Galaxy Store. Once you've set it up, turn on **the Control music with Volume keys** option . You can then choose to hold the volume up button to skip to the next or previous song, and do the same with the volume down button.

< Sound Assistant



Media key shortcuts

Control music with Volume keys

Press and hold the Volume keys to go to the next or previous track when the screen is locked or turned off.



Favorite media app

Select an app to play and control music when you press multimedia keys on your connected headphones, Bluetooth device, etc. If the currently open app supports multimedia keys, it will play through that app instead.



External audio devices

Bluetooth metronome

Sync Bluetooth sound for videos

Advanced settings

Change the advanced audio settings on your device.

Maintain media volume while using navigation

Can't reduce the media volume while using the navigation.



Sound and vibration effects

< **Control music with Volume k...**

On



Up - Previous Songs
Down - Next Songs





Up - Next Songs
Down - Previous Songs




Settings

Main settings

Activity mode (i)

 Only screen off	 Always
--	--


Vibration intensity (i)

 Disabled	 Normal	 Strong
--	--	--

Long click duration (ms) (i)

300 600 2000

Advanced settings PRO

 Customize clicks & actions >


Home


Settings


About

1. Customize buttons to do almost anything

If some of the previously mentioned shortcuts are not available on your phone, or if you want complete control over the functionality of your buttons, download the Button Mapper app from the Play Store.

Once set up, Button Mapper lets you assign custom actions to almost any button on your device, including volume up, volume down, and even the button on your headphones. You can set different actions for a single tap, double tap, and long press.

To get started, open the app and tap the button you want to customize. Next, choose the tap type — single, double, or long press — and then assign an action.



Button Mapper



Buttons



Volume Up



Volume Down



Headset Button



Add Buttons



Troubleshooting



More Options

Screen off actions

Android does not natively support remapping while the screen is off. Button Mapper uses advanced methods to allow screen off remapping on most devices.

Screen off actions

Volume buttons single, double and long press, works on most devices, requires adb command after every reboot



Suppress volume change

Try not to change volume while screen is off





Button Mapper



Volume Up

Customize



Single tap

Default



Double tap

No Action



Long press

Default



Options

Volume panel bypass

Disable Button Mapper when volume panel is shown



Volume button vibration 

Disabled



Volume long press vibration 

30%





Actions



Tap to choose
Actions, Apps or
Shortcuts



No Action



Default



Home



Back



Recents



Show menu



Open camera (PRO)



Turn screen off (sleep)

CANCEL

You can use a button to open recent apps, launch your favorite app, call a specific contact, enable Do Not Disturb mode, or even jump straight to a WhatsApp chat. There are a lot of options to explore, so it all depends on how creative you are.

You finished reading the article "**Are you using the full potential of the buttons on your Android phone?**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.