

## Apple buried these 3 genuinely useful iPhone features — here's how to find them

By [Kaycee Hill](#) published March 4, 2026



(Image credit: Tom's Guide)

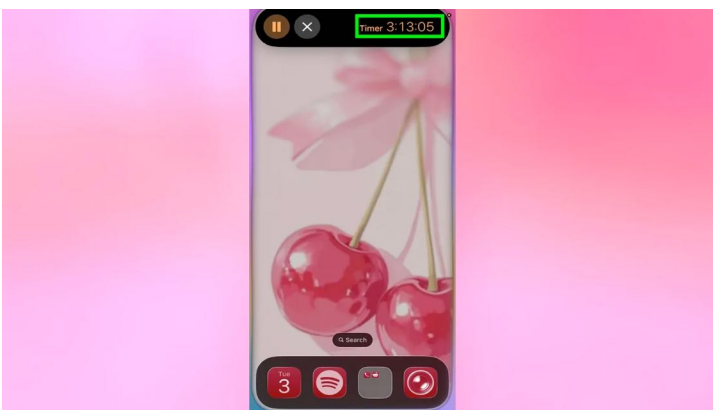
**H**i, I'm Kaycee. Welcome to [Hidden iPhone Tips](#), a weekly column where I dig into the best iOS features Apple doesn't tell you about.

Hidden iPhone features fall into two categories: the ones you try once for fun, and the ones you end up using every single day because they actually solve problems. The features that genuinely improve productivity tend to be less flashy, which is probably why Apple

doesn't advertise them and why most people never discover them.

I've found three iPhone features recently that fall into this category. They're either buried in settings or require specific voice commands. And they all solve genuinely annoying problems.

### 1. Set timers that finish at specific times



(Image credit: Tom's Guide)

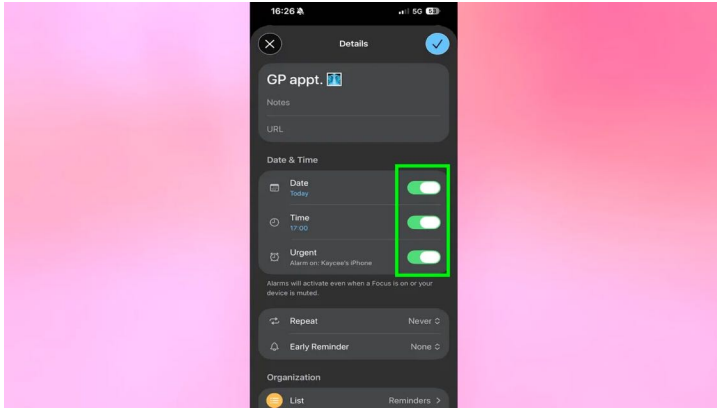
Working to a deadline is stressful enough without having to calculate how many minutes until your meeting starts. Instead of figuring out "okay, it's 10:47 now, so I need a timer for...73 minutes?" just tell Siri exactly when you need the reminder.

**Say "Siri, set a timer to finish at 11 a.m." (or whatever time you need).** Your timer now counts down to that specific moment, giving you a constant visual reminder of how long you have left.

This is so useful because there's nothing more annoying than having to do mental arithmetic when completing work before a deadline, and breaking concentration. Or worse, you could miscalculate and have to rush.

Setting a timer to a specific endpoint removes that friction completely. Your phone handles the countdown, and you can stay focused.

## 2. Make reminders actually impossible to miss



(Image credit: Tom's Guide)

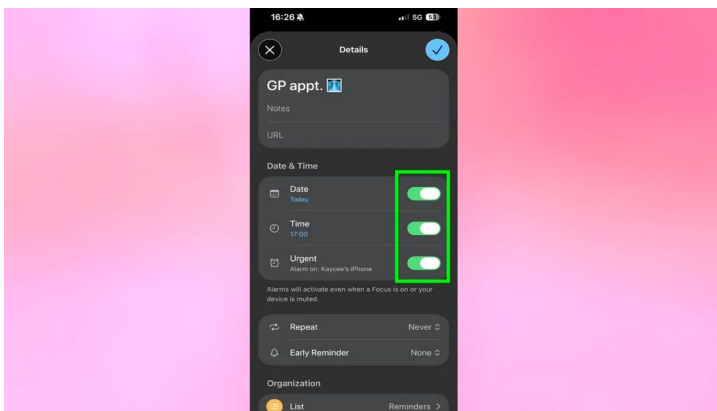
The Reminders app has always felt easy to ignore. Notifications appear, you swipe them away, and suddenly it's three days later and you forgot the thing you were supposed to remember. That's changed with a recent update that most people don't know about.

You can now mark reminders as urgent, which triggers an actual alarm at the due time, making reminders functionally impossible to miss.

**Create a reminder normally** by opening the Reminders app, tapping the plus button, and naming your reminder. Then simply **tap the small info button (the "i" icon)**, then **look for the "Urgent" toggle** under date and time settings. **Enable it, set your due date and time**, and you're done.

When that reminder comes due, your iPhone treats it like an alarm — full-screen alert, sound, the works. You can't passively ignore it the way you can swipe away a notification. For genuinely important tasks you absolutely cannot forget, this is transformative.

## 3. Jump back through Settings



You're deep in **Settings**, six menus down, trying to change something obscure. When you're done, the only way back seems to be tapping the back arrow repeatedly.

There's a faster way nobody knows about. **Tap and hold the back button in the top-left corner**. A pop-up menu appears showing your navigation path. **Tap any level to jump directly there** instead of backing out one screen at a

time.

This sounds minor until you're buried in Settings trying to adjust something technical, or you've gone through multiple submenus and just want to get back to the main Settings screen. One long-press and one tap replaces multiple individual back-button taps.

It works throughout Settings and even in some other third party apps that use similar navigation structures. Once you know it exists, the old way of tapping back repeatedly feels absurdly tedious.