

# iOS 26 Call Screening Feature\*

Apple's iOS 26 update introduced a highly effective **Call Screening feature** that automatically intercepts unknown calls, asks the caller for their identity and reason for calling, and provides a real-time transcription on the user's screen. The feature has received overwhelmingly positive reviews for its success in dramatically reducing spam and robocalls.

## Key Features

The Call Screening feature (also known as "Ask Reason for Calling") provides a "conversational gatekeeping system" between you and unknown numbers:

1. **Automatic Interception:** When a call comes from a number not in your contacts, your iPhone automatically answers with an automated message asking the caller to state their name and purpose.
2. **Real-time Transcription:** The caller's response is transcribed into text and displayed on your screen in real time.
3. **User Control:** You can read the transcription and decide whether to answer the call, send a pre-written text response (which Siri will read aloud), or ignore the call entirely.
4. **Privacy-Focused:** The entire process is handled on-device, ensuring your data and the content of the interaction remain private.
5. **Silence Unknown Callers Alternative:** It offers a middle ground between letting all unknown calls ring through and silencing them all entirely (which sends them straight to voicemail).
6. **Known Callers Unaffected:** Calls from contacts or recent outgoing numbers ring normally without being screened.
7. **Carrier Spam Filtering Integration:** The Phone app can also use carrier-identified spam/fraud data to automatically silence and filter those calls into a separate list.

## Current Review and User Feedback

Reviews and early user feedback for the iOS 26 Call Screening feature have been largely positive, with many users reporting a significant drop in the number of spam calls they receive.

1. **Effectiveness:** Users are calling it a "life-changer" and "pure bliss," successfully eliminating a vast majority of spam and telemarketing calls.
2. **Ease of Use:** It's described as simple to set up and highly effective in practice.
3. **Legitimate Calls:** The feature helps legitimate callers (like doctors or delivery services) identify themselves, allowing them to get through the screening process, unlike the "Silence Unknown Callers" option.
4. **Minor Issues:** Some users have reported minor "teething troubles," such as legitimate callers hanging up when they encounter the automated voice, or the feature not working in certain region/language settings.

Overall, the feature is considered one of the best and most impactful additions in iOS 26, bringing much-needed peace and quiet from unwanted interruptions.

\*Source: Google Search "call screening apple iOS 26 features current review"