Sharing Files with AirDrop on iPhone or iPad

Sometimes, you may want to share a file or document on your device with another user. With AirDrop, you can share content without sending it as an attachment in an email or text message. You can send photos, videos, websites, locations, and more to a nearby iPhone, iPad, or Mac using the devices' wireless connections. You can send files to nearby users even if you're not on a wireless network.

In this tutorial, you'll learn how to send and receive files using AirDrop on your iPhone or iPad. You'll also learn how to troubleshoot AirDrop settings.
Section 1

Set Up for This Tutorial

In addition to the system requirements listed in What You'll Need, this tutorial requires that you have a second iPhone or iPad. You need one device to send files and another to receive the files.

Note

Although the steps in this tutorial are for iPhone, they also apply to iPad.

Section 2

Prepare Devices for AirDrop

This section assumes that you're using two of your own devices to send and receive files. In the following steps, you'll prepare your sending and receiving devices for AirDrop.

Step 1

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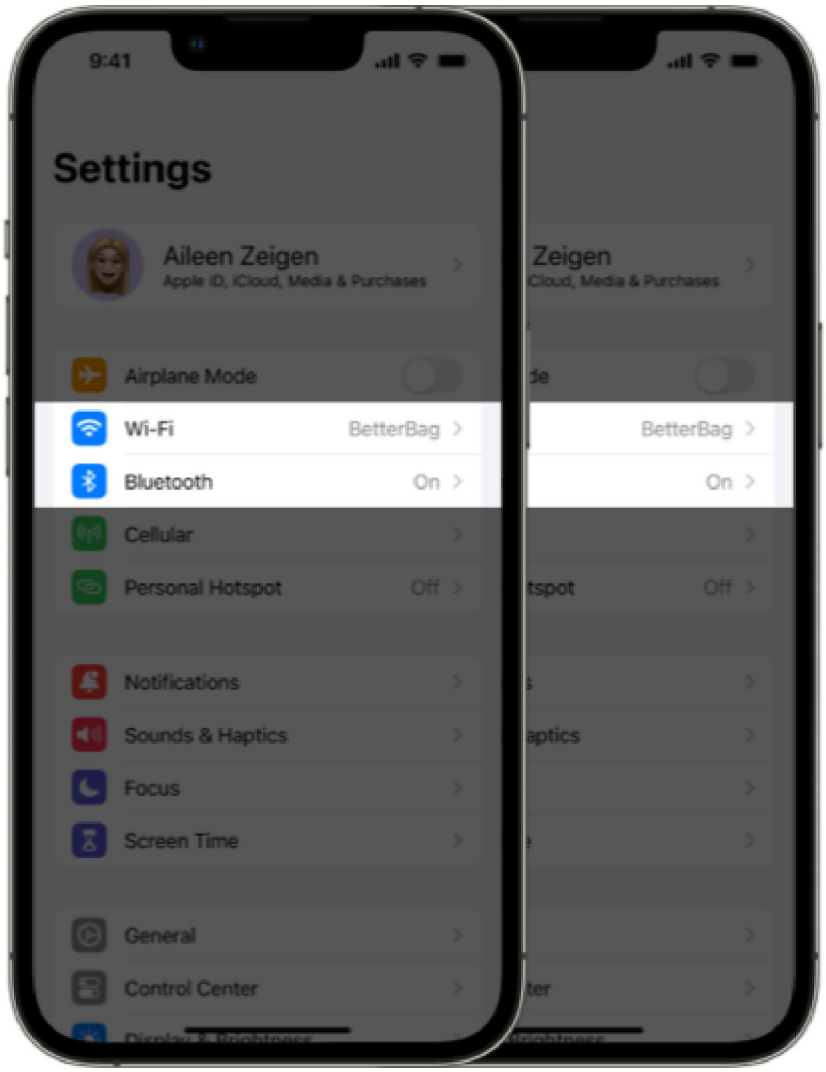
Turn on Wi-Fi and Bluetooth on both iPhone devices.

AirDrop transfers data using Wi-Fi and Bluetooth.

Note

AirDrop uses Bluetooth to discover nearby devices and Wi-Fi to transfer data between devices. If the devices leave Bluetooth or Wi-Fi range of each other after you initiate an AirDrop transfer, the transfer can continue over the internet.



Step 2

Place the iPhone devices near one another.

The devices must be within Bluetooth and Wi-Fi range of each other (about 40 feet or 13 meters apart).

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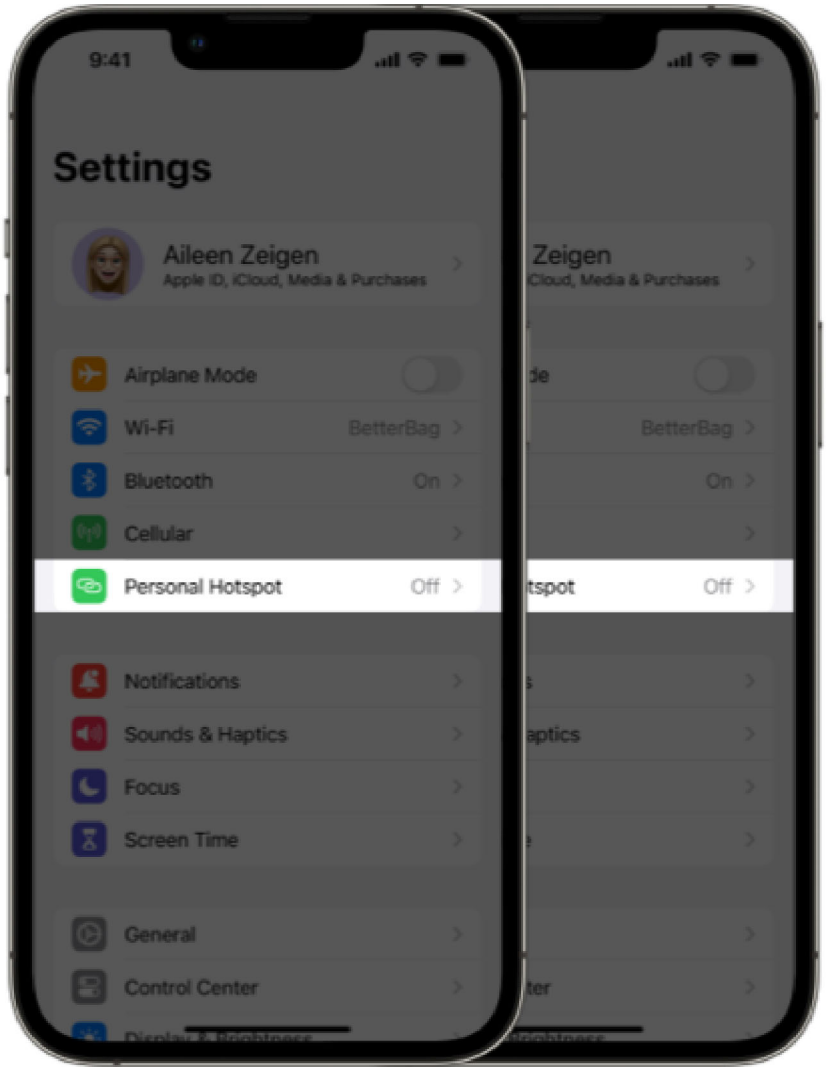
Step 3

Turn off Personal Hotspot on both iPhone devices.



You must select an AirDrop receiving setting on both devices. You can select a receiving setting in Settings or in Control Center. In the next steps, you'll learn both ways by using Settings on your *receiving* iPhone and Control Center on your *sending* iPhone. You can select to receive from Contacts Only if your email address or mobile number is in your contact card on your receiving iPhone. Or you can select Everyone for 10 Minutes if your email address or mobile number isn't in your contact card. If both devices are signed in to the same Apple ID, then files are received automatically.

Step 4

In Settings on your receiving iPhone, tap General > AirDrop and select a receiving setting.

Note

You can set AirDrop to Receiving Off, Contacts Only, or Everyone for 10 Minutes at any time to control who can discover your device and send you files with AirDrop. If you select Receiving Off, you won't receive AirDrop requests.

In the next steps, you'll select an AirDrop receiving setting from Control Center on your *sending* iPhone.

Step 5

Swipe down from the top-right corner of your iPhone screen to open Control Center.

Note

If you swipe too close to the top center of your screen, you might open Notification Center instead of Control Center. To open Control Center on devices with a Home button, swipe up from the bottom edge of the screen. To learn more, refer to Access Control Center on your iPhone.

Step 6

Touch and hold the top-left group of controls, then tap the AirDrop icon.

Step 7

Tap Contacts Only or Everyone for 10 Minutes to select who you want to receive items from.

AirDrop
Receiving Off
Contacts Only
Everyone for 10 Minutes