Apple readies first foldable iPhone launch

LEVEL B1


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I. WARM-UP

1. What phone features matter most to you and why?
2. Have you ever seen or used a foldable phone?
3. How much would you pay for a top-end phone?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

unveil
to show a new product to the public for the first time

foldable
able to bend or close so it becomes smaller

prototype
an early test version of a product

rumour
information people share that is not confirmed

facial recognition
technology that uses your face to unlock a device

flagship
the most important or best product in a range

campus
the grounds and buildings of a company or school

competitor
another company that sells similar products and tries to win customers

III. READING

Apple is set to unveil its first foldable iPhone at the "Surprise and Shine" event. The launch begins at 10am Pacific Time on Apple's campus in Cupertino, California. The flagship device folds like a passport, reportedly growing from about 5.5in when shut to 7.8in when open.

Reports say it will skip Face ID because the phone is too thin for the facial recognition camera, and will rely on Touch ID instead. The moment is the first big test for Apple's new CEO, John Ternus, who assumed the role on 1 September, replacing Tim Cook.

Apple is rumoured to price the phone above $2,000, while a competitor, Google's Pixel 11 Pro Fold, retails at $1,899. Apple tested prototypes of a folding display as early as 2021. It is not clear what the phone will be called; people expect either iPhone Fold or iPhone Ultra. Alongside this, Apple is expected to announce routine updates such as iPhone 18 Pro models.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **The Guardian***: "Apple expected to unveil folding iPhone as...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What time and where will Apple hold the event?
2. How does the new iPhone change size when it opens?
3. Why is Face ID not expected on the device?
4. Who is Apple's new CEO leading this launch?
5. How may the price compare to Google's foldable phone?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Would you buy a foldable phone at a premium price? Why?
2. Which feature would you use most on a larger screen?
3. Is this a risky first test for John Ternus? Why or why not?
4. Will foldables ever outsell standard phones? Why or why not?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Embedded questions

Use a reporting verb (asked, wondered) + an embedded question in normal statement order. Put the question word first, then the subject and verb: 'what the phone will be called', not 'what will the phone be called'.

"Reporters asked **who will lead the launch**.*"*
"Readers asked **how much the phone will cost**.*"*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Choose the correct option in each sentence.

1. Journalists asked (when the event starts / does the event start). _____
2. Reporters asked (how thin the phone is / how thin is the phone). _____
3. Fans asked which name (will Apple / Apple will) give the phone. _____
4. Developers asked (will Apple use Touch ID / whether Apple will use Touch ID). _____
5. Historians asked (when Apple tested prototypes / when did Apple test prototypes). _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading and comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10–12 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach or check: foldable, prototype, flagship, rumour, facial recognition, Touch ID/Face ID, campus, competitor.
- Run a first read for gist, then a second for details (sizes, prices, names, timing). Pair-check answers before brief class feedback; monitor for short, clear justifications.
- Differentiation: stronger students list two pros and two cons of foldables; others underline text clues for each answer and read them aloud.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Take a quick show of hands, then pair a “yes” with a “no” and ask for a price limit.
2. Elicit examples (video, maps, split-screen). Ask students to rank their top two uses.
3. Prompt with facts from the text (new CEO, high price). Ask for one risk and one benefit.
4. Set up a mini-debate: pairs choose a side, argue for two minutes, then swap sides.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Role-play: Run an 8-minute press Q&A: one student is John Ternus; others ask about name, price and features.

Presentation: In pairs, make a 3-slide comparison of the rumoured iPhone and Pixel 11 Pro Fold (price, size, one extra).

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Embedded questions

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What time and where will Apple hold the event?
   At 10am Pacific Time on Apple's campus in Cupertino, California.
2. How does the new iPhone change size when it opens?
   It reportedly grows from about 5.5in shut to 7.8in open.
3. Why is Face ID not expected on the device?
   The device is too thin for the facial recognition camera.
4. Who is Apple's new CEO leading this launch?
   John Ternus.
5. How may the price compare to Google's foldable phone?
   Apple may price it above $2,000; the Pixel Fold is $1,899.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Choose the correct option in each sentence.

1. Journalists asked (when the event starts / does the event start). **when the event starts**
2. Reporters asked (how thin the phone is / how thin is the phone). **how thin the phone is**
3. Fans asked which name (will Apple / Apple will) give the phone. **Apple will**
4. Developers asked (will Apple use Touch ID / whether Apple will use Touch ID). **whether Apple will use Touch ID**
5. Historians asked (when Apple tested prototypes / when did Apple test prototypes). **when Apple tested prototypes**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use a reporting verb (asked, wondered) + an embedded question in normal statement order. Put the question word first, then the subject and verb: 'what the phone will be called', not 'what will the phone be called'. (Examples constructed.)

> *"Reporters asked* **who will lead the launch**.*"*
> *"Readers asked* **how much the phone will cost**.*"*