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by **Bill Hughes**

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Samsung® Galaxy S® 5 For Dummies®

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Contents at a Glance

.....

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Getting Started with the Samsung Galaxy S 5</i>	7
Chapter 1: Exploring What You Can Do with Your Phone.....	9
Chapter 2: Beginning at the Beginning.....	21
<i>Part II: Communications</i>	49
Chapter 3: Calling People.....	51
Chapter 4: Discovering the Joy of Text.....	63
Chapter 5: Sending and Receiving E-Mail.....	73
Chapter 6: Managing Your Contacts.....	93
<i>Part III: Live on the Internet: Going Mobile</i>	111
Chapter 7: You've Got the Whole (Web) World in Your Hands.....	113
Chapter 8: Playing in Google's Play Store.....	127
<i>Part IV: Entertainment Applications</i>	149
Chapter 9: Sharing Pictures.....	151
Chapter 10: Playing Games.....	173
Chapter 11: Mapping Out Where You Want to Be.....	183
Chapter 12: Playing Music and Videos.....	195
<i>Part V: Productivity Applications</i>	229
Chapter 13: Using the Calendar.....	231
Chapter 14: On the Road Again: Taking Your Work with You on Your Phone.....	243
Chapter 15: Talking with S-Voice.....	255
<i>Part VI: The Part of Tens</i>	265
Chapter 16: Ten (or So) Ways to Make Your Phone Totally Yours.....	267
Chapter 17: Ten Ways to Make Your Phone Secure.....	281
Chapter 18: Ten Features to Look for Down the Road.....	301
<i>Index</i>	309

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
About This Book	2
What You're Not to Read	3
Foolish Assumptions	3
How This Book Is Organized	3
Part I: Getting Started with the Samsung Galaxy S 5	3
Part II: Communications	3
Part III: Live on the Internet: Going Mobile	4
Part IV: Entertainment Applications	4
Part V: Productivity Applications	4
Part VI: The Part of Tens	4
Icons Used in This Book	4
Beyond the Book	5
Where to Go from Here	5

Part I: Getting Started with the Samsung Galaxy S 5 7

Chapter 1: Exploring What You Can Do with Your Phone.	9
Discovering the Basics of Your Phone	9
Taking Your Phone to the Next Level: The Smartphone Features	10
Internet access	11
Photos	12
Wireless e-mail	12
Multimedia	12
Business applications	12
Customizing Your Phone with Games and Applications	13
Downloading games	13
Downloading applications	13
What's cool about the Android platform	13
You and Your Shadow: How Your Cellular Carrier Bills You	14
Voice usage	15
Text usage	15
Data usage	15
Another consideration: Family plans	16
Yet one more consideration: International usage	16
One final consideration: web subscription fees	17
Surviving Unboxing Day	17

Chapter 2: Beginning at the Beginning	21
First Things First: Turning On Your Phone	21
The peel-off back for the Galaxy S 5	23
Now that you have the back off	23
Charging Your Phone and Managing Battery Life	25
Navigating the Galaxy S 5	28
The phone's hardware buttons.....	28
The touchscreen	33
Air Gesture, Air View, and eye gestures	38
The extended Home screen.....	39
The notification area and screen	42
The primary shortcuts	44
The Device Function keys	44
The keyboard	45
The orientation of the phone	47
Going to Sleep Mode/Turning Off the Phone	47

Part II: Communications **49**

Chapter 3: Calling People	51
Making Calls	51
Answering Calls	53
Keeping Track of Your Calls: The Call List	55
Making an Emergency Call: The 411 on 911	58
Synching a Bluetooth Headset	59
Options Other than Headsets	61
Chapter 4: Discovering the Joy of Text	63
Sending the First Text Message	64
Carrying on a Conversation via Texting	67
Sending an Attachment with a Text	69
Receiving Text Messages	71
Managing Your Text History	71
Chapter 5: Sending and Receiving E-Mail	73
Setting Up Your E-Mail	74
Getting ready	74
Setting up your existing Gmail account	75
Setting up a new Gmail account	77
Working with non-Gmail e-mail accounts	82
Setting up a corporate e-mail account	84
Reading E-Mail on Your Phone	87
Writing and Sending an E-Mail	88
Replying to and Forwarding E-mails	90

Chapter 6: Managing Your Contacts	93
Bringing It All Together.....	94
Using the Galaxy S 5 Contact Database	94
Learning the Contact Database on your phone	94
Linking Contacts on your phone.....	98
Linking the Contact Database on your phone and your Gmail account.....	100
Entering the Contacts on Your SIM card	102
Creating Contacts within Your Database	104
Adding contacts as you communicate.....	104
Adding Contacts when you're dialing	104
Adding contacts manually	106
How Contacts Make Life Easy	109
Playing Favorites	110

Part III: Live on the Internet: Going Mobile 111

Chapter 7: You've Got the Whole (Web) World in Your Hands	113
Starting the Browser	113
Accessing Mobile (or Not) Websites.....	114
Navigating the Browser	117
Using Bookmarks.....	119
Adding bookmarks.....	119
Bookmark housekeeping.....	120
Navigating Multiple Browser Sessions.....	123
Googling Your Way to the Information You Need: Mobile Google Searches.....	124
Chapter 8: Playing in Google's Play Store	127
Exploring the Play Store: The Mall for Your Phone	128
Getting to the Store	128
Seeing What's Available: Shopping For Android Apps	130
Installing and Managing the Facebook for Android App	133
Downloading the Facebook app.....	133
Creating an account.....	139
Accessing Facebook Settings	142
Rating and Uninstalling Your Apps	145

Part IV: Entertainment Applications..... 149

Chapter 9: Sharing Pictures	151
Say Cheese! Taking a Picture with Your Phone	153
Digital Magnification	154



- Getting a Little Fancier with Your Camera 158
 - The Mode setting 158
 - Basic Settings options 160
 - Advanced Settings and Effects options 162
- The Digital Camcorder in Your Pocket 163
 - Starting the camcorder 163
 - Taking and sharing videos with your camcorder 164
- Managing Your Photo Images 166
- Using Images on Your Phone 167
 - Deleting an image 169
 - Viewing images on your phone 169
- Sharing Your Photos 169

Chapter 10: Playing Games 173

- The Play Store Games Category 173
- Leaving Feedback on Games 178

Chapter 11: Mapping Out Where You Want to Be 183

- Figuring Out GPS 101: First Things First 184
- Practically Speaking: Using Maps 184
 - Changing map scale 185
 - Finding nearby services 188
- Getting and Using Directions 191
- Upgrading Your Navigation 193

Chapter 12: Playing Music and Videos 195

- Being Mindful of Carrier Quirks 195
- Getting Ready to be Entertained 196
 - Choosing your headset options 196
 - Choosing your Bluetooth speaker options 198
 - Connecting to your stereo or TV 199
 - Licensing your multimedia files 202
- Enjoying Basic Multimedia Capabilities 203
 - Grooving with the Music Player app 204
 - Playing downloaded music 212
 - Jamming to Internet radio 218
 - Looking at your video options 219
- Skyping with your Galaxy S 5 220
 - Signing in to Skype 221
 - Creating Skype contacts 224
 - Setting up a Skype video chat 227

Part V: Productivity Applications..... 229**Chapter 13: Using the Calendar231**

Syncing Calendars	231
Changing Sync Frequency	234
Setting Calendar Display Preferences	235
Setting Other Display Options	237
Creating an Event on the Right Calendar	238
Creating, editing, and deleting an event	238
Keeping events separate and private.....	240

Chapter 14: On the Road Again: Taking Your Work with You on Your Phone243

Preparing for Using Office Apps	244
Focusing on the Big Three	244
Accessing the Office files	244
Cloud computing.....	245
Using a VPN	246
Reading and Editing Files with Your Phone	246
Creating a document	246
Sending an Office file as an attachment	249
Managing Office documents with a server	251

Chapter 15: Talking with S-Voice255

Look Ma! No Hands!.....	255
Dictating a Text.....	257
Preparing to Work with S-Voice.....	258
Searching the Web by Voice	260
Updating Your Facebook Status	261
Changing Settings on S-Voice.....	263

Part VI: The Part of Tens..... 265**Chapter 16: Ten (or So) Ways to Make Your Phone Totally Yours267**

Using a Bluetooth Speaker	267
Your Phone Is Watching You	269
Making a Statement with Wraps	269
Cruising with a Bluetooth Car Speaker	270
Driving in Style with a Car Docking Station.....	271
Maximizing Shortcuts from Home.....	272

You Look Mahvelous: Custom Screen Images	274
Personalizing Your App List.....	275
Using S-Health	275
Using Health and Fitness Monitors	276
S Beam Me Up, Scotty	278
Chapter 17: Ten Ways to Make Your Phone Secure	281
Use a Good Case and Screen Cover	282
Put a Screen Lock on Your Phone.....	283
Preparing for your Screen Lock option.....	284
Selecting among the Screen Lock options	285
Entering your fingerprint	286
Encrypt Your Device	287
Get as Secure as Ft. Knox with Knox.....	289
Put Your Contact Number on the Screensaver	290
Be Careful with Bluetooth	292
Back Up Your Phone	294
Protect Against Malware	295
Rescue Your Phone When It Gets Lost	297
Wipe Your Device Clean	298
Chapter 18: Ten Features to Look for Down the Road	301
Fill 'Er Up — Wirelessly	301
Smarter Customer Care for Your Phone.....	302
Control of Your Home Electronics	303
Entertainment Selector	303
Information Finder.....	304
More and Better Health Sensors.....	304
Better 911 Services	305
Simpler Bluetooth Pairing	306
More Body English/Less Tapping.....	306
Serving You Better.....	306
Index.....	309

Introduction



The Samsung Galaxy S 5 is a powerful smartphone, perhaps the most powerful phone ever sold. As of the publication of this book, the Galaxy S 5 is the standard against which all other Android-based phones are measured.

Each cellular carrier offers a slightly customized version of the Galaxy S 5. Some cellular carriers come out of the box with pre-loaded applications, games, or files. Some come with accessories, such as a corded headset; others don't. This book doesn't dwell on these kinds of differences.

Although the name for each network is different, these phones are largely the same (at least one marketing person at each cellular carrier is cringing as you read this). This similarity allows me to write this book in a way that covers the common capabilities.

At a more core level, these phones are built for high-speed wireless communications. The cellular carriers have spent kajillions upgrading their networks to offer more coverage and better data speeds than their competition. Again, this book doesn't dwell on these differences in network technology because they don't really make much difference (again, at least one engineering person at each cellular carrier is cringing as you read this).

I assume that you already have a phone, and I just hope that you have good coverage where you spend more of your time with your phone. If so, you'll be fine. If not, you need to switch to another network; otherwise the experience with your phone will be frustrating. I would advise you to return your phone to that carrier and buy your Galaxy S 5 at another cellular carrier. As long as you have good cellular data coverage, owning a Galaxy S 5 will be an exciting experience!

First, in much the same way that different brands of PCs are all based on the Microsoft Windows operating system, all Galaxy S phones use the Google Android platform. The good news is that the Android platform has proven to be widely popular, even more successful than Google originally expected when it first announced Android in November 2007. More people are using Android-based phones and more third parties are writing applications. This is good news because it offers you more options for applications (more on this in Chapter 8 on the Play Store, where you buy applications).

In addition, all Galaxy S 5 phones use a powerful graphics processor, employ Samsung's super-bright AMOLED touchscreen, and are covered in Corning's Gorilla Glass. The superior screen experience differentiates this product line

from other Android phones. Because of these enhanced capabilities, you can navigate around the screen with multi-touch screen gestures instead of the hierarchical menus found on lesser Android phones. Plus, the videos look stunning from many angles.

Smartphones are getting smarter all the time, and the Galaxy S 5 is one of the smartest. However, just because you've used a smartphone in the past doesn't mean you should expect to use your new Galaxy S 5 without a bit of guidance.

You may not be familiar with using a multi-touch screen, and your new phone offers a lot of capabilities that you may or may not be familiar with. It would be unfortunate to find out from a kid in the neighborhood that the phone you've been carrying around for several months could solve a problem you've been having because you were never told that the solution was in your pocket the whole time.

In fact, Samsung is proud of the usability of its entire Galaxy lineup — and proud that the user's manual is really just a “quickstart” guide. You can find lots of instructions on the web. However, you have to know what you don't know to get what you want unless you plan to view every tutorial.

That's where this book comes in. This book is a hands-on guide to getting the most out of your Galaxy S 5.

About This Book

This book is a reference — you don't have to read it from beginning to end to get all you need out of it. The information is clearly organized and easy to access. You don't need thick glasses to understand this book. This book helps you figure out what you want to do — and then tells you how to do it in plain English.

I don't use many conventions in this book, but here are a few you should know about:

- ✓ Whenever I introduce a new term, I put it in *italics* and define it shortly thereafter (often in parentheses).
- ✓ I use **bold** for the action parts of numbered steps, so you can easily see what you're supposed to do.
- ✓ I use `monospace` for web addresses and e-mail addresses, so they stand out from the surrounding text. If you're reading this as an e-book, these links are live and clickable. **Note:** When this book was printed, some web addresses may have needed to break across two lines of text. If that happened, rest assured that we haven't put in any extra characters (such as hyphens) to indicate the break. So, when using one of these web addresses, just type in exactly what you see in this book, pretending that the line break doesn't exist.

What You're Not to Read

I think you'll find every last word of this book scintillating, but I may be a little biased. The truth is, you don't have to read

- ✓ **Sidebars:** Sidebars are those gray boxes throughout the book. They're interesting, but not essential to the topic at hand, so if you're short on time (or you only want the information you absolutely need), you can skip them.
- ✓ **Text marked with the Technical Stuff icon:** For more on this icon, see the "Icons Used in This Book" section, later in this Introduction.

Foolish Assumptions

You know what they say about assuming, so I don't do much of it in this book. But I do make a few assumptions about you:

- ✓ **You have a Galaxy S 5 phone.** You may be thinking about buying a Galaxy S 5 phone, but my money's on your already owning one. After all, getting your hands on the phone is the best part!
- ✓ **You're not totally new to cellphones.** You know that your Galaxy S 5 phone is capable of doing more than the average cellphone, and you're eager to find out what your phone can do.
- ✓ **You've used a computer.** You don't have to be a computer expert, but you at least know how to check your e-mail and surf the web.

How This Book Is Organized

The 18 chapters in this book are divided into six parts. Here's what you can find in each part.

Part I: Getting Started with the Samsung Galaxy S 5

The first part of this book gets you familiar with the basic capabilities of your Galaxy S 5 phone. Chapters 1 and 2 are an introduction to everything from turning it on and off, to understanding cellular billing, to managing battery life.

Part II: Communications

In this part, I walk you through the basic capabilities of the Galaxy S 5 for communicating with voice, texts, and e-mails. Chapter 3 is about making calls. Chapter 4 covers what you need to know about texting. Chapter 5

covers e-mailing, and Chapter 6 explores how the phone works with your Contacts database.

Part III: Live on the Internet: Going Mobile

This part is all about the Internet — how to access it from your Galaxy S 5 phone. I also introduce you to the Play Store, where you can trick out your phone with more apps.

Part IV: Entertainment Applications

An important use for many smartphone owners involves entertainment. Chapter 9 covers the impressive picture-taking capabilities of your phone, but really only covers some of the capabilities. Chapter 10 looks at the impressive gaming capabilities; Chapter 11 explores navigating to all the fun places you can go in the real world. Chapter 12 walks you through playing music and video on your phone.

Part V: Productivity Applications

In this part, I cover the capabilities of the Galaxy S 5 smartphone that make you more productive at home and work.

Part VI: The Part of Tens

This wouldn't be a *For Dummies* book without a Part of Tens. In this book, the Part of Tens covers ways to customize the phone to make it truly your own, how to keep your information safe, and ten capabilities to look for in future releases.

Icons Used in This Book



Throughout this book, I used *icons* (little pictures in the margin) to draw your attention to various types of information. Here's a key to what those icons mean:

This whole book is like one big series of tips. When I share especially useful tips and tricks, I mark them with the Tip icon.



This book is a reference, which means you don't have to commit it to memory — there is no test at the end. But once in a while, I do tell you things that are so important that I think you should remember them, and when I do, I mark them with the Remember icon.



Whenever you may do something that could cause a major headache, I warn you with the, er, Warning icon.

Beyond the Book

This book has more great online extras. To access the book's online cheat sheet, go to www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/samsunggalaxys5. To read articles about the Samsung Galaxy S 5, go to www.dummies.com/extras/samsunggalaxys5.

Occasionally, we have updates to our technology books. If this book does have technical updates, they will be posted at dummies.com/extras/samsunggalaxys5.

Where to Go from Here

You don't have to read this book from cover to cover. You can skip around as you like. For example, if you need the basics on calling, texting, and e-mailing, turn to Part II. To discover more about photos, games, and apps, go to Part IV. To find out about the phone's calendar functions or about the Galaxy S-voice capability, turn to Part V.



Many readers are already somewhat familiar with smartphones and won't need the basic information found in Parts I and II. A reasonably astute cell-phone user can figure out how to use the phone, text, and data capabilities. Parts I and II are not for those readers. For them I recommend skipping ahead to the chapters in Parts III through VI.

Former iPhone users, on the other hand, are a special case (first, welcome to the world of Android). The reality is that the iPhone and Galaxy S series have very similar capabilities, but these functions are just done in slightly different ways and emphasize different approaches to the similar problems. iPhone users, don't worry if you find that this book spends a fair amount of time explaining capabilities with which you're familiar. You can read through those chapters quickly, focus on the *how* instead of the description of *what*, and bypass potential frustration.

Current Samsung Galaxy S 4 users are also a special case. The Samsung Galaxy S 5 is very similar to the Galaxy S 4 in many ways. Galaxy S 5 operates mostly like the S 4, but has improvements in usability, power consumption, and performance. If you're comfortable with the Galaxy S 4, and now have a Galaxy S 5, Chapters 15 and beyond would be of interest to you.

Part I

Getting Started with the Samsung Galaxy S 5



Visit www.dummies.com/extras/samsunggalaxys5 for great Dummies content online.

In this part...

- ✓ Review the capabilities cellphones and what sets smartphones apart
- ✓ Navigate your phone for the first time
- ✓ Turn off your phone and managing sleep mode
- ✓ Make sense of cellular billing

Exploring What You Can Do with Your Phone

- ▶ Reviewing the basic capabilities of just about any cellphone
- ▶ Understanding what sets smartphones apart
- ▶ Mapping out what makes Samsung Galaxy S 5 phones so cool

Whether you want just the basics from a phone (make and take phone calls, customize your ringtone, take some pictures, maybe use a Bluetooth headset) or you want your phone to be always by your side (a tool for multiple uses throughout your day), you can make that happen. In this chapter, I outline all the things your phone can do — from the basics, to what makes Galaxy S 5 phones different from the rest.

Throughout the remainder of the book, I walk you through the steps you need to take to get your phone doing what makes you the happiest.

Discovering the Basics of Your Phone

All cellphones on the market today include basic functions, and even some entry-level phones are a little more sophisticated. Of course, Samsung includes all basic functions on the Galaxy S 5 model. In addition to making and taking calls (see Chapter 3) and sending and receiving texts (see Chapter 4), the Galaxy S 5 sports the following basic features:

- ✓ **16MP digital camera:** This resolution is more than enough for posting good-quality images on the Internet and even having 4" x 6" prints made.
- ✓ **Ringtones:** You can replace the standard ringtone with custom ringtones that you download to your phone. You also can specify different rings for different numbers.



- ✓ **Bluetooth:** The Galaxy S 5 phone supports stereo and standard Bluetooth devices. (See Chapter 3 for more on Bluetooth.)
- ✓ **High-resolution screen:** The Galaxy S 5 phone offers one of the highest-resolution touchscreens on the market (1920×1080 pixels).
- ✓ **Capacitive touchscreen:** The Galaxy S 5 phone offers a very slick touchscreen that's sensitive enough to allow you to interact with the screen accurately, but not so sensitive that it's hard to manage. In addition, it has an optional setting that steps up the sensitivity in case you want to use your phone while wearing gloves!

Taking Your Phone to the Next Level: The Smartphone Features

In addition to the basic capabilities of any entry-level cellphone, the Galaxy S 5 phone, which is based on the popular Android platform for mobile devices, has capabilities associated with other smartphones, such as the Apple iPhone and the phones based on the Windows Phone 8 operating system:

- ✓ **Internet access:** Access websites through a web browser on your phone.
- ✓ **Photos:** The phone comes with a camera that has millions of combinations of settings, filters, and resolutions, but it also has the capability to manage photos.
- ✓ **Wireless e-mail:** Send and receive e-mail from your phone.
- ✓ **Multimedia:** Play music and videos on your phone.
- ✓ **Contact Manager:** The Galaxy S 5 phone lets you take shortcuts that save you from having to enter someone's ten-digit number each time you want to call or text a friend. In fact, the Contact Manager can track all the numbers that an individual might have, store an e-mail address and photo for the person, and synchronize with the program you use for managing contacts on both your personal and work PCs!
- ✓ **Digital camcorder:** The Galaxy S 5 phone comes with a built-in digital camcorder that records live video at a resolution that you can set, including UHD (ultra-high definition, which is just now becoming available on the newest televisions).
- ✓ **Mapping and directions:** The Galaxy S 5 phone uses the GPS (Global Positioning System) in your phone to tell you where you are, find local services that you need, and give you directions to where you want to go.
- ✓ **Fitness information:** The Galaxy S 5 phone automatically tracks important health information within the phone and with external sensors.
- ✓ **Business applications:** The Galaxy S 5 can keep you productive while you're away from the office.

I go into each of these capabilities in greater detail in the following sections.

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