



iPhone 5:  
Cool Cases PG 60



Apps & Gear for  
the iGuitarist PG 84



Brew a Cold One  
with iBrewmaster PG 58

# iPhone + iPad Life

Best Apps • Top Tips • Great Gear

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## iPad mini

Palm-Sized  
Power



## New Year NEW YOU

Inspiring Success Stories, Apps, & More PG 25

- GADGETS & GEAR to Get You in Shape
- Best AIRPRINT Printers • iOS 6 Tips & Tricks



### SUCCESS STORY



#### TEACHING ANIMATION TO EIGHT-YEAR-OLDS

Last fall, I learned that my elementary school had purchased enough iPads that I could do an in-depth digital lesson with my students throughout the school year. I immediately researched and wrote a grant to purchase an animation app that I could use with all my students. That's when I found **Doink**

(iPad only: \$4.99, [app2.me/5259](http://app2.me/5259)). It opened up so many possibilities for teaching art and animation that I knew I could design a variety of lessons across all grade levels.

My third graders piloted our first Doink animation lesson. They created an alien figure in a sequence of four running poses. At first I thought that was all they would be able to accomplish, but they picked up on the tools and techniques so quickly that I was soon able to teach them how to use their drawing sequence to make a composition that made the alien run from left screen to right screen. They sent their video clips to me, and I edited them into class alien videos.

The concepts they grappled with while making this collaborative movie astounded me as an art educator. They were able to do four figure drawings using the onion-skinning technique; understand the vector tools to fill, transform, layer, and select; move their sequence across an animation stage; export the movie to QuickTime; and then email me the final piece. It sounds like more than 8-year-olds could grasp, but Doink's simple yet powerful interface made it easy for them to use and understand.

-Tricia Fuglestad, Elementary School Art Teacher, Arlington Heights, IL

### BECOME A SEASONED CHEF

Recipe apps can only take you so far. If you're looking to sharpen your culinary skills from scratch, check out the **Rouxbe Cooking School** ([rouxbe.com](http://rouxbe.com)), which has over 1,000 instructional cooking videos that you can watch from your iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch. The videos cover essential cooking techniques, and the courses feature practice recipes, quizzes, and short 15-minute lessons for time-starved aspiring chefs. Yearly memberships start at \$399.95, or you can choose from a range of à la carte classes at various prices.

### BEST APPS FOR LEARNING

#### GENERAL:



**iTunes U** (Free, [app2.me/5006](http://app2.me/5006)) Apple's iTunes U app gives you free access to courses from leading universities like Stanford, Yale, MIT, Oxford, and many others. Get an Ivy League education from the palm of your hand!



**Qwiki** (iPad only: Free, [app2.me/4069](http://app2.me/4069)) I like to think of Qwiki as Wikipedia on steroids. When you select a topic on Qwiki, it pulls content from all over the web and narrates an instant infographic that gives you the highlights about that topic.

#### LANGUAGES:



**Babbel Mobile apps** (11 languages; free to \$3.99, [www.babbel.com/mobile](http://www.babbel.com/mobile)) Babbel features 11 apps for learning the world's most popular languages. Each app has a mobile vocabulary trainer that includes over 2,000 words and a speech-recognition feedback system to sharpen your pronunciation.



**MindSnacks** (6 languages plus English; free with \$4.99 in-app purchases, [mindsnacks.com](http://mindsnacks.com)) MindSnacks prides itself in creating "games for your brain." Learn Spanish, German, Italian, Chinese, French, and Portuguese through fun, engaging, and interactive word games that will challenge and educate you.



**iStart apps by Mirai** (separate apps for 6 languages, \$4.99 each, including Mandarin Chinese: [app2.me/5297](http://app2.me/5297); Japanese: [app2.me/5299](http://app2.me/5299); and Spanish: [app2.me/5300](http://app2.me/5300)). The iStart apps by Mirai Language Systems use a tutor-based lesson system, where two native foreign speakers and one English speaker team up to give you in-depth language lessons.



**ASL Ultimate** (\$4.99, [app2.me/5286](http://app2.me/5286); Lite version: free, [app2.me/5285](http://app2.me/5285)) ASL Ultimate is your premier guide to learning American Sign Language. The Ultimate version includes about 1,400 words, while the free version only has about 50.