

Parkling — User Manual

Version: 1.7.1

Platforms: iPhone, Apple Watch, CarPlay, Widgets & Controls, Siri

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1. What is Parkling?

Parkling is a parking timer app designed to help you keep track of how long your car has been parked. When your paid or time-limited parking is about to expire, Parkling sends you timely notifications so you never return to a parking fine.

Key features at a glance:

Feature	Description
Parking timer	Set any duration from 1 minute up to 23 hours 59 minutes
Notifications	Alerts at the halfway point, shortly before the end, and when time is up
GPS auto-start / stop	The timer starts automatically when you arrive at your spot and stops when you drive away
"Parked?" detection	Offers to start a timer when the app notices you just parked — with or without CarPlay
Siri & Shortcuts	Start, stop, and check the timer completely hands-free
Live Activity	A countdown on your Lock Screen and in the Dynamic Island (optional)
CarPlay	Start and stop the timer from your car's built-in screen
Apple Watch	Monitor the countdown and control the timer from your wrist
Widgets & Controls	Lock Screen widgets, Watch complications, and a Control Center start/stop button

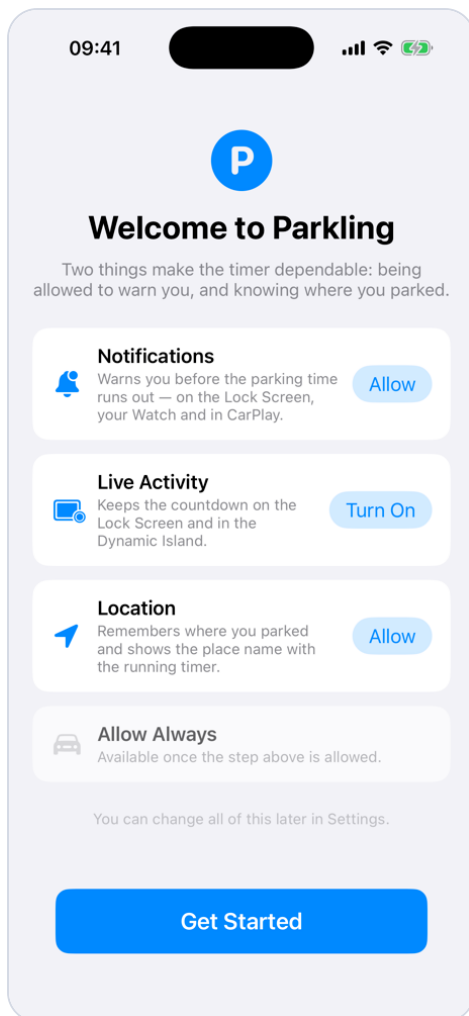
2. Requirements

Requirement	Minimum version
iPhone	iOS 26.0 or later
Apple Watch (optional)	watchOS 26.0 or later
CarPlay (optional)	Supported vehicle with Apple CarPlay

On iPhone models with the **Dynamic Island** (iPhone 14 Pro and later) the Live Activity countdown is always visible at the top of the screen; on other models it appears on the Lock Screen.

3. Welcome & Permissions

The first time you open Parkling you are greeted by a single **Welcome** screen that lists everything the app can use, each with its own button. Nothing is requested automatically — you decide card by card.



The cards appear in a fixed order, because each step builds on the one above it:

1. **Notifications** — *"Warns you before the parking time runs out — on the Lock Screen, your Watch and in CarPlay."* Tap **Allow** to grant notification permission.
2. **Live Activity** — *"Keeps the countdown on the Lock Screen and in the Dynamic Island."* This is an app setting, not a system permission; tap **Turn On** to enable it.
3. **Location** — *"Remembers where you parked and shows the place name with the running timer."* Tap **Allow** and choose **Allow While Using the App** in the system prompt.
4. **Allow Always** — *"Lets the timer start when you arrive and stop when you drive off, even with the app closed."* Unlocks after step 3. Tapping **Allow** shows iOS's *"Change to Always Allow"* prompt.
5. **Motion & Fitness (Optional)** — *"Recognizes that you parked in a car without CarPlay, so a timer can be offered."* Shown when parking detection without CarPlay is enabled; unlocks after "Allow Always".

Important — the "Always" prompt is one-shot: iOS shows the *"Change to Always Allow"* escalation only **once per install**. If you dismiss it, the card offers a **Settings** button instead, which takes you to Parkling's page in iOS Settings where you can select **Always** manually.

The screen also warns about two "granted but broken" states with an orange icon and a **Settings** shortcut:

- *"Time-sensitive alerts are off, so a Focus can hold back the expiry alert."*
- *"Precise location is off — starting and stopping automatically needs it."*

When the screen appears:

- **First launch:** full screen, titled *"Welcome to Parkling"*, with a **Get Started** button.
- **After updating** from a version without this screen: once as a review sheet titled *"Everything Allowed?"*.
- **As a reminder:** if notifications or "Always" location are missing, a sheet titled *"Something Is Missing"* appears — at most once per app launch. Tap **Don't show again** to suppress these reminders permanently.
- **Any time manually:** **Settings > Welcome & Permissions > Show**.

Everything can be changed later — the footer says it best: *"You can change all of this later in Settings."*

4. Getting Started

1. Open **Parkling** on your iPhone.
2. On the Welcome screen, allow **Notifications** (and anything else you want), then tap **Get Started**.
3. Use the hour and minute scroll wheels to choose your parking duration.
4. Tap **Start** — the timer begins.
5. Go about your day. Parkling will alert you before the time runs out.
6. When you return to your car, tap **Stop** to end the session, or let the timer count down to zero.

That is all you need for basic use. The sections below describe the optional features in detail.

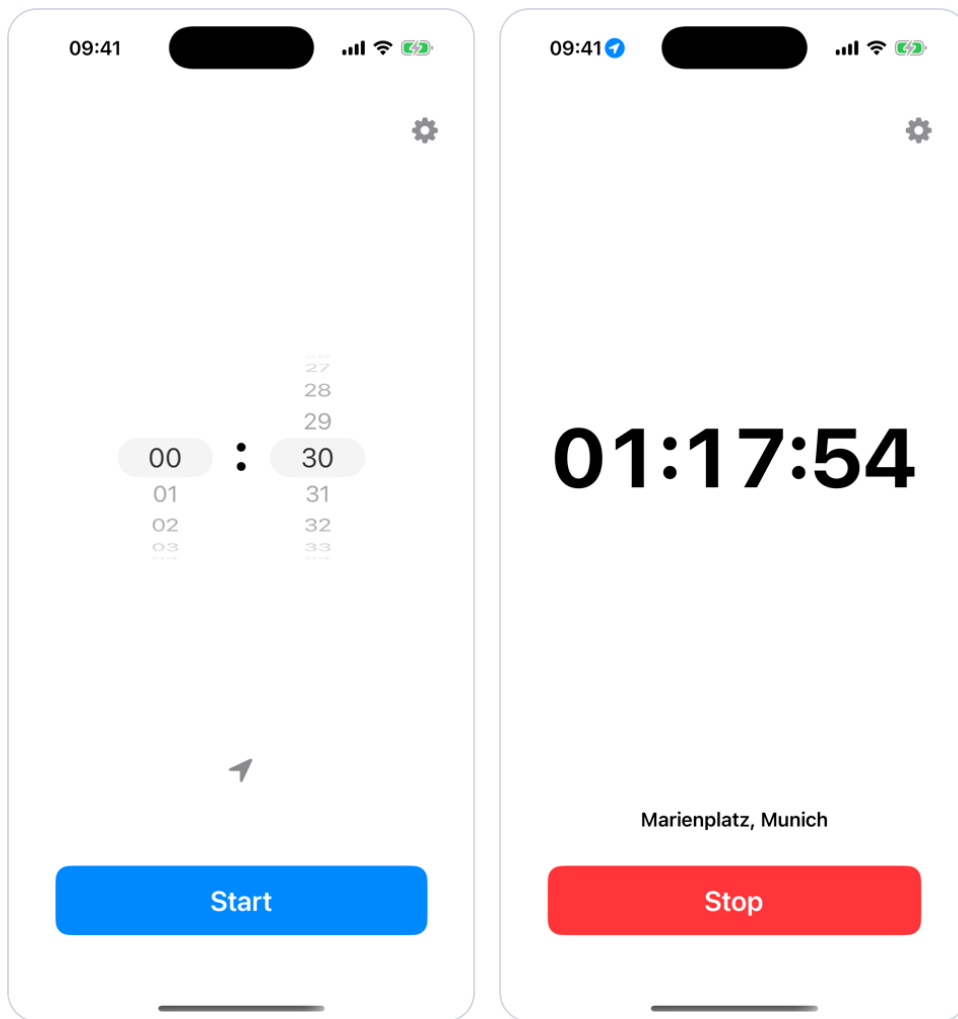
5. Setting a Parking Timer on iPhone

5.1 Main Screen Overview

When no timer is running you will see:

- **Hour and minute scroll wheels** — scroll to select the duration (initially 00:30; your last-used duration is remembered).
- **Location row** — shows your saved parking spot, see [Section 6](#).
- **Location arrow button** — a one-shot toggle to *skip the location update* for the next start (crossed-out arrow = the next timer will not move your saved parking spot). This toggle is synchronized with Apple Watch and CarPlay.
- **Start button** (blue) — starts the timer.

- **Settings button** (gear icon, top-right) — opens the Settings screen.



5.2 Starting the Timer

1. Scroll the hour wheel to choose 0–23 hours.
2. Scroll the minute wheel to choose 0–59 minutes.
3. Tap **Start**.

The scroll wheels are replaced by a large countdown display with the parking location name beneath it. The Start button becomes a red **Stop** button.

5.3 Stopping the Timer Early

Tap the red **Stop** button at any time to end the session. All pending notifications are cancelled and the Live Activity ends. No notification is sent for a manual start or stop.

5.4 Timer Restoration After Relaunch

If you close Parking while the timer is running and reopen it, the running session is restored automatically. The countdown resumes from the correct remaining time.

6. Parking Location & Automatic Start/Stop

Parking can remember where you parked and use low-power geofencing to start and stop the timer for you. This requires location permission set to **Always** with **Precise Location** on.

6.1 The Location Row

There is no separate GPS switch — the location row on the main screen reflects your current permission state:

Permission state	The row shows	Tapping it
Not yet decided	<i>"Your location is added when you start"</i>	Asks for location permission
Denied	<i>"Tap to allow location in Settings"</i>	Opens iOS Settings
While Using only	Saved place name, plus an orange hint <i>"Allow 'Always' for auto-stop when you leave"</i>	Opens the map picker (hint opens iOS Settings)
Always	Saved place name	Opens the map picker

6.2 How the Parking Spot Is Saved

When you tap **Start**, Parking:

1. Fetches your current GPS position.
2. Performs a reverse geocode to get the name of the nearby place or street.
3. Saves the position as your parking spot and shows the place name with the running timer.

If you enabled the *skip location update* toggle ([Section 5.1](#)), the previously saved spot is kept instead. Starts via Siri also never move the saved spot.

6.3 The Map Picker

Tap the place name on the main screen (or **Settings > Parking Location > Show on Map**) to open the **"Parking Location"** map:

- Drag the blue pin to adjust the spot (*"Drag the pin to adjust"*).
- Search for a place or address (*"Search for a place or address"*).
- Tap **Current Location** to snap the pin to your GPS position.
- The arriving radius is drawn as a blue circle around the pin.
- Tap **Set Location** to confirm — the auto-start geofence is re-armed at the chosen spot, and a running timer is re-anchored there.

6.4 Automatic Start When You Arrive

When you return to within the **Arriving Radius** (default 100 m) of your saved spot, Parkling reacts according to the **Auto-start Delay** setting (default 3 minutes):

- **With a delay:** a notification appears — **"Arrived"**: *"You arrived at {place} and a {N} min timer will start automatically while you stay here for {D} min."* It has two buttons: **Start Now** (start immediately) and **Don't Start** (cancel; Parkling won't offer again until you have left and returned). If you simply wait, the timer starts after the delay.
- **No delay (0 minutes):** the timer starts instantly, confirmed by **"Timer Started"**: *"You arrived at {place} and a timer started automatically for {N} min."*
- **Leaving during the delay** cancels the pending start silently.

The timer is back-dated to your arrival. The end time is always calculated from the moment you entered the geofence, not from when the delay expired. Arrive at 10:00 with a 3-minute delay and a 1-hour timer, and the timer ends at 11:00 — not 11:03.

6.5 Automatic Stop When You Drive Away

Every time a timer starts, Parkling arms a second geofence — the **Leaving Radius** (default 700 m) — around the spot where the car actually stands. When you drive beyond it, the timer stops automatically and you are notified: **"Timer Stopped"** — *"Stopped the {duration} timer because you left {place}."* All remaining alerts are cancelled.

Both radii can be adjusted in [Settings](#).

7. "Parked?" — Automatic Parking Detection

Even without a saved parking spot, Parkling can notice that you just parked and offer to start a timer. When it does, you receive:

"Parked?" — *"Tap Start Now to begin a parking timer."*

with the buttons **Start Now** (starts a timer with your default duration, anchored at your current position) and **Don't Start**. Both work straight from the Lock Screen without opening the app.

Two ways parking is detected:

1. **CarPlay disconnect:** when your iPhone disconnects from CarPlay and no timer is running or pending, the prompt arrives about a minute later — by then you have usually left the car. (If a delayed auto-start was already pending, disconnecting instead activates that timer immediately — see [Section 11.4](#).)
2. **Without CarPlay:** using Apple's visit monitoring plus the phone's recent motion history, Parkling recognizes the pattern "was driving, has now stopped" — even if the app was closed. This

requires **Motion & Fitness** access and location set to **Always**. Bluetooth and Wi-Fi are deliberately not used.

Parkling is careful not to nag: it never asks twice within 15 minutes, and it stays silent while a timer is running, while an automatic start is pending, or after you tapped **Don't Start** at the current spot.

Both detections can be switched off in Settings: **"Ask When I Get Out"** (master switch) and **"Also Without CarPlay"** (the motion-based part). Both are on by default.

8. Notifications

Parkling delivers several types of notifications. All of them use the **time-sensitive** interruption level, so they break through most Focus modes — including the Driving Focus that is often active right when you park.

8.1 Timer Progress Notifications

These are scheduled as soon as a timer starts. The set depends on the total duration:

Duration	Notifications
Under 2 minutes	Halfway, Expiry
2 – 10 minutes	Halfway, 1 minute before end, Expiry
10 – 60 minutes	Halfway, 10 minutes before end, Expiry
1 hour or longer	Halfway, 15 minutes before end, Expiry

The individual notifications:

Notification	Title	Body
Halfway	50% Remaining	"Your timer ends in {X} minutes."
1 minute	1 Minute Remaining	"Your timer ends in one minute."
10 minutes	10 Minutes Remaining	"Your timer ends in 10 minutes."
15 minutes	15 Minutes Remaining	"Your timer ends in 15 minutes."
Expiry	Timer Complete	"Your timer has finished."

Example — 2-hour timer: start at 10:00, *50% Remaining* at 11:00, *15 Minutes Remaining* at 11:45, *Timer Complete* at 12:00.

Note on the expiry notification: *Timer Complete* uses a stronger alert with triple vibration so you do not miss it. On a paired Apple Watch it arrives as a haptic tap.

There is exactly **one** final alert — Parkling sends no repeated reminders after the timer has expired. Stopping the timer manually cancels all pending notifications.

8.2 Location-Triggered Notifications

Trigger	Title	Body	Actions
Arrival at saved spot (delay > 0)	Arrived	"You arrived at {place} and a {N} min timer will start automatically while you stay here for {D} min."	Start Now / Don't Start
Auto-start after the delay	Timer Started	"A timer started after {D} min and will end in {R} min."	—
Auto-start without delay	Timer Started	"You arrived at {place} and a timer started automatically for {N} min."	—
Driving beyond the leaving radius	Timer Stopped	"Stopped the {duration} timer because you left {place}."	—
Parking detected	Parked?	"Tap Start Now to begin a parking timer."	Start Now / Don't Start

Manual starts and stops (app, Watch, CarPlay, Siri, Control Center) never produce a notification.

9. Live Activity and Dynamic Island

While a timer runs, Parkling can show a **Live Activity** — a persistent, real-time countdown that updates without opening the app.

Off by default. Turn it on via the Welcome screen's **Live Activity** card or **Settings > Enable Live Activities**. If it still does not appear, check that Live Activities are allowed for Parkling in iOS Settings.

9.1 Lock Screen

The Live Activity appears as a card on the Lock Screen showing the Parkling icon, the "**Parking Timer**" header, the live countdown, your parking location, and the exact end time ("*Ends at {time}*").

9.2 Dynamic Island (iPhone 14 Pro and later)

- **Compact:** the Parkling icon and the running countdown in the pill.
- **Expanded** (press and hold): countdown plus location and end time.
- **Minimal:** just the Parkling icon.

9.3 When the Live Activity Ends

The Live Activity shows **00:00** when the timer finishes and is removed when you stop the session or dismiss it.

10. Siri & Shortcuts

Parkling supports three fully hands-free voice commands. The app never opens — Siri answers directly, which also works while CarPlay is active.

Siri recognizes the app as "**Parkling**", and also by the more natural names "**Parking**" and "**Parken**" (German).

10.1 Start Parking

"Start parking in Parkling" / "Start the parking timer in Parkling" / "Siri, start the parking"
"Start parking for 30 minutes in Parkling"
German: "Starte das Parken" / "Starte das Parken für 3 Minuten"

Without a duration, your default duration is used — Siri asks nothing back. Available durations: 1–20 minutes in 1-minute steps, 30 / 45 / 90 minutes, and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 or 24 hours. Siri confirms: "*Parking started. The timer ends at {time}.*" If a timer is already running, Siri says so instead. A voice start never moves your saved parking spot.

10.2 End Parking

"End parking in Parkling" / "Stop the timer in Parkling"
German: "Beende das Parken"

Stops the running timer ("*Parking ended.*"). If an automatic start is still counting down its delay, this cancels it ("*The automatic start was called off.*").

10.3 Check Parking Time

"How much parking time is left in Parkling" / "Check the parking time in Parkling"
German: "Wie lange läuft das Parken noch"

Siri answers with the remaining time and end time. In the **Shortcuts** app, this action also *returns the remaining minutes as a value*, so you can build automations such as "if under 15 minutes, remind me".

All three actions appear in the Shortcuts app and Spotlight as **Start parking**, **End parking**, and **Check parking time**.

11. CarPlay

Parking integrates with Apple CarPlay so you can control your parking timer from your car's built-in screen — without touching your iPhone.

11.1 Connecting to CarPlay

Connect your iPhone to your car as usual (USB cable or wireless CarPlay). Parking appears automatically in the CarPlay app list.

11.2 CarPlay Main Screen

When no timer is running:

- **Quick-start durations** — 15 minutes to 3 hours in 15-minute steps. Tap one to start (a confirmation appears). Shown as a **grid** of buttons or as a **list** — switchable on the CarPlay screen itself or via **Settings > CarPlay Layout** on iPhone.
- **Custom duration** — pick any hours/minutes combination with scroll wheels.
- **Options** — enable/disable location use, skip the next location update, and set the arrival spot from **Nearby** places or **Use Current Position**.
- **About** — app name and version.

When a timer is running:

- **"Timer ends at {time}"** — tap to stop the timer (a confirmation prompt appears).
- The saved parking location.

11.3 Arrival Alerts on CarPlay

If you arrive at your saved spot while connected, the arrival offer also appears as a CarPlay alert with **Start Now** and **Don't Start** buttons.

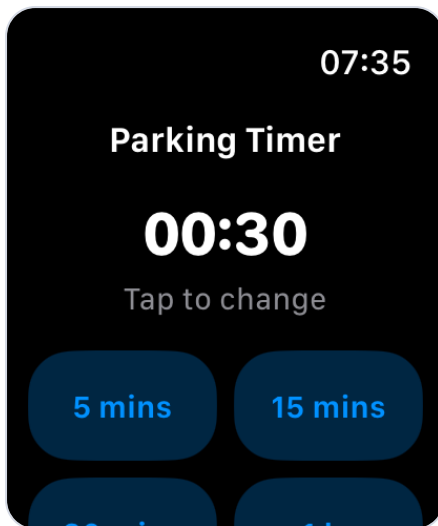
11.4 What Happens When You Leave CarPlay

When you disconnect CarPlay (unplug the cable, turn off the car):

- **A running timer** simply continues on iPhone, with all scheduled notifications.
- **A pending delayed auto-start** is activated *immediately* — disconnecting is treated as "I've parked and left the car", so you are not left without a running timer.
- **Nothing running or pending?** About a minute later the **"Parked?"** prompt appears on your iPhone ([Section 7](#)).

12. Apple Watch Companion App

The Parking Watch app lets you monitor the timer and start a new session directly from your wrist.



12.1 Watch App Main Screen

When no timer is running:

- Current duration display (e.g. "00:30") — "Tap to change" opens an hours/minutes picker.
- Quick presets: **5 mins**, **15 mins**, **30 mins**, **1 hr**, **90 mins**, **2 hrs**.
- A **skip location update** toggle — the same one-shot switch as on iPhone and CarPlay, kept in sync.
- **Start** button.

When a timer is running:

- Large countdown (turns orange under 5 minutes, red under 2 minutes).
- Circular progress ring with the percentage remaining.
- Parking location name.
- **Stop** button (red).

12.2 Synchronization with iPhone

The iPhone is the source of truth; the Watch sends commands to it and refreshes when you raise your wrist or open the app. Starting or stopping on either device is reflected on the other within seconds, and changing the duration on the Watch updates the iPhone's default.

12.3 Haptics

The Watch taps your wrist when the remaining time drops below 5 minutes, at each full hour of longer timers, and when the timer expires.

12.4 Complications

Parking offers watch-face complications in four styles — inline ("P 22m remaining"), corner (curved countdown with gauge), circular (gauge ring that turns red when less than a quarter of the time remains),

and rectangular (countdown, gauge bar, and location). While a timer runs, the Watch refreshes them in the background about every 15 minutes and flips them to idle exactly when the timer ends.

13. Widgets, Lock Screen & Control Center

13.1 Lock Screen Widgets (iPhone)

Add Parking widgets to the Lock Screen (long-press the Lock Screen > **Customize**):

Style	Shows
Inline (above the clock)	"P 22m" remaining, or "P No active timer"
Circular	Gauge ring with the compact remaining time
Rectangular	Live countdown, progress bar, and "P {location}"

The widgets update on a per-minute timeline and switch to idle exactly when the timer ends.

13.2 Control Center Button

Parkling provides a **"Timer"** control — a toggle showing the timer state (On/Off):

- Toggle **on** to start a timer with your default duration.
- Toggle **off** to stop the running timer.

Add it in **Control Center** (long-press > Add a Control > search "Parkling"), on the **Lock Screen**, or bind it to the **Action button**. It goes through the same logic as the app, so notifications, widgets, Live Activity, and Watch all stay in sync.

14. Settings

Tap the **gear icon** in the top-right corner of the main screen. Changes take effect immediately.

Setting	What it does	Values	Default
Arriving Radius	The auto-start zone around your parking spot	10 – 500 m in steps	100 m
Auto-start Delay	Wait time after arrival before the timer starts	No delay – 10 minutes	3 minutes
Leaving Radius	How far you must drive for the auto-stop	100 m – 5 km in steps	700 m
Parking Location	Show on Map opens the map picker (Section 6.3)	—	—
Enable Live Activities	Lock Screen / Dynamic Island countdown	on / off	off
Ask When I Get Out	The "Parked?" prompt (Section 7)	on / off	on
Also Without CarPlay	Motion-based parking detection; needs Motion & Fitness and "Always" location	on / off	on
CarPlay Layout	Quick-durations as a grid or a list	List / Grid	Grid
Diagnostic Logging	Logs activity for 7 days to help diagnose issues; Send Log via Email / Delete Log	on / off	off
Welcome & Permissions	Show reopens the Welcome screen (Section 3)	—	—
About	App name and version	—	—

Use a **smaller arriving radius** if you want the app to react only very close to your exact spot; a **larger leaving radius** if your parking area is a big complex. The leaving radius should always be larger than the arriving radius.

Tip: Your default timer duration is not in Settings — it is simply the last duration set on the main screen's scroll wheels (or on the Watch), and it is what auto-starts, Siri, and the Control Center button use.

15. Scenario Walkthroughs

Scenario A — Manual timer

1. Open Parking, scroll the wheels to e.g. 1 hour 30 minutes, tap **Start**.
2. Parking notifies you: *50% Remaining* after 45 minutes, *15 Minutes Remaining* at 1:15, *Timer Complete* at 1:30.
3. Return to your car and tap **Stop**, or let it expire.

Scenario B — Arriving at your saved spot (with delay)

1. You park within the arriving radius of your saved spot.
2. Notification: **"Arrived — You arrived at Marienplatz and a 90 min timer will start automatically while you stay here for 3 min."**
3. Wait 3 minutes and the timer starts, back-dated to your arrival. Or tap **Start Now** — or **Don't Start** to skip this visit.

Scenario C — Arriving with no delay

1. Auto-start delay is set to "No delay".
2. The instant you enter the arriving radius: **"Timer Started — You arrived at Marienplatz and a timer started automatically for 90 min."**

Scenario D — Driving away while the timer runs

1. You return to your car and drive off.
2. Beyond the leaving radius the timer stops: **"Timer Stopped — Stopped the 1 hr 30 min timer because you left Marienplatz."** All remaining alerts are cancelled.

Scenario E — Leaving during the auto-start delay

1. The arrival notification came, the delay countdown is running.
2. You drive away before it expires: the pending start is cancelled silently. No timer, no notifications.

Scenario F — Parking with CarPlay

1. You drive with CarPlay connected and park somewhere new (no saved spot nearby).
2. You turn off the car and walk away. About a minute later: **"Parked?" — "Tap Start Now to begin a parking timer."**
3. Tap **Start Now** on the Lock Screen — a timer with your default duration starts, anchored where the car stands.

Scenario G — Parking without CarPlay

1. You drive somewhere, park, and walk away — phone in your pocket, app closed.
2. Parkling's parking detection (visits + motion history) notices the drive that just ended.
3. The same **"Parked?"** prompt appears. This requires Motion & Fitness access and "Always" location.

Scenario H — Hands-free via Siri

1. While parking: *"Siri, start parking for 45 minutes in Parkling."*
2. Siri: *"Parking started. The timer ends at 14:45."* — the app never opens.
3. Later: *"How much parking time is left in Parkling?"* and Siri answers: *"Parking runs for another 12 minutes, until 14:45."*

4. Driving off, the leaving radius stops the timer automatically — or say "*End parking in Parkling.*"

16. Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will notifications arrive if my iPhone is in a Focus mode or on silent?

A: All Parkling notifications are *time-sensitive* and break through most Focus modes — including the Driving Focus. If you have disabled time-sensitive notifications for Parkling in a Focus, alerts can be held back; the Welcome & Permissions screen warns you about this.

Q: Does the GPS feature use a lot of battery?

A: No. Parkling uses iOS region monitoring (geofencing) and visit monitoring — low-power system services. Your iPhone's location hardware is not running continuously; iOS wakes the app only when something happens.

Q: Why is there no countdown on my Lock Screen?

A: The Live Activity is **off by default**. Enable it in Settings under **Enable Live Activities** (or on the Welcome screen), and make sure Live Activities are allowed for Parkling in iOS Settings.

Q: What do the automatic features need to work?

A: Location permission **Always** with **Precise Location** on. With only "While Using" you can still save your spot and see the place name, but auto-start, auto-stop, and parking detection stay off. Detection without CarPlay additionally needs **Motion & Fitness**. Without any location permission, the timer works fully manually.

Q: My timer "started late" but ended earlier than expected. Why?

A: With an auto-start delay, the timer is back-dated to when you *entered* the geofence, not when the delay expired. Arrive at 10:00 with a 3-minute delay and a 1-hour timer — the timer ends at 11:00, not 11:03.

Q: I missed the "Start Now" button. Can I still start manually?

A: Yes — from the app, the Watch, CarPlay, the Control Center button, or via Siri.

Q: The timer stopped by itself. Why?

A: You most likely drove beyond the leaving radius; Parkling stops the timer and sends a "*Timer Stopped*" notification explaining it. Check your notification history.

Q: Can I use Parkling without a data connection?

A: Yes. The timer and all notifications work entirely on-device. Only the reverse geocoding (turning coordinates into a place name) needs the internet — without it, coordinates are shown instead.

Q: Does Parkling collect or store my location data?

A: No data leaves your device. The parking location is stored only locally and is deleted with the app. The optional diagnostic log stays on your phone until *you* choose to email it.

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