



Tech Talk

The Apple Watch Series 2 ©

by John McCarthy

This week, we take a brief look at the Apple Watch Series 2. Is it the perfect smartwatch? Reviews have been extremely favourable, so could it attract new buyers and people formerly reticent to the idea of investing in a smartwatch and are you interested in purchasing one? To find out more, stay tuned to EnglishWaves.fr.

Hi and welcome once again to Tech Talk. The Apple Watch S2 arrives eighteen months after the original Apple Watch first hit the hi-tech shelves. Some of you no doubt may have already toyed with the idea of acquiring one, especially with the festive season approaching; and this new model is considerably faster, sports a far brighter display and is generally more fitness-oriented. It's also 50-meter water-resistant, so swimmers will be able to enjoy and measure their sporting prowess in the pool and open-water workouts. As fitness apps play an ever-increasingly important role in people's lives, water resistance is now an indispensable prerequisite if a product is to be successful. The Apple Watch can even be taken into the ocean, because its 'wet mode' locks the display and disables touch functionality when activated. The speaker will take in water so that you can continue communicating and when you wish to unlock it, you just rotate the digital crown and sound vibrations force the water back out of the speaker, should any be left there.

GPS tracking for runs is also included and accurately records mileage and route in the built-in workout app or in third party applications. Tracking happens automatically and it starts determining your position once the iPhone is away – useful because a map of your run can be stored so that you can later see where you went and how far you ran. It also means that you'll be spared the added inconvenience of having to lug your large iPhone Plus around.

Another feature that could be very useful is the HomeKit-connected Home app. I wasn't able to check this out as I don't have any HomeKit appliances in my lair, but the idea that one can return home after a hard day's slog and rely on the Apple Watch to turn on the lights, cook dinner, run a hot bath and then play soothing music to lull one into the

beckoning arms of Morpheus sounds very appealing. Homekit-connected things are becoming more common and may well be standard features in our homes before the end of this decade, and this could mean that our watches will become veritable remote controls and windows to other interfaces.

The dual-core processor is up to 50% faster than the previous model. Apps can comfortably run in the background, so recently used apps load very quickly indeed. Checking to see how your favourite football team is faring, what your e-mail is or whether rain is likely to ruin your weekend barbecue can be accomplished in the blink of an eye.

The new Apple Watch S2 comes in three material designs: aluminium, stainless steel and a new ceramic edition that replaces last year's ridiculously priced gold version. Starting price for the S2 is €419. Design will generally elicit a thumbs-up or nod of approval; the curved edges, the formed glass and the quality of the digital crown all exhale a fragrance of quality. Some will even say that it justifies the high price. However, it should be noted that the original Watch is still around, but with added power in the shape of a new chip. The Series 1, as it's now called, doesn't have GPS, lacks the new brighter display and isn't swim-proof, but if you aren't a runner or swimmer, this model is available for a hundred Euros less and may well prove to be the best-seller in the entire range.

This second generation Apple watch is just a reincarnation or two from being a product I'd actually buy. The biggest deal-breaker remains the fact that most of the time it can't stand on its own, and has to remain frustratingly tethered to its iPhone master. The moment it's available with a micro SIM card enabling cellular connection, many more people may well be in there like a dose of salts.