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SAMSUNG GALAXY

FOR BEGINNERS

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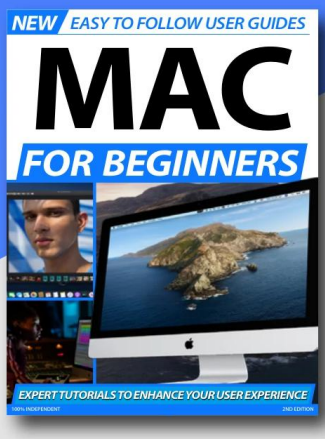

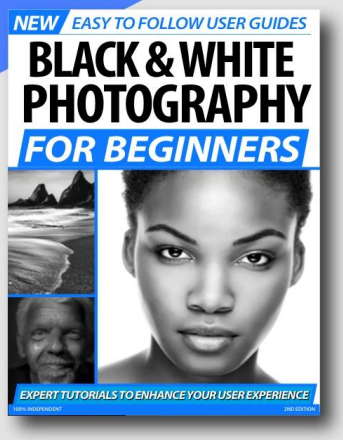

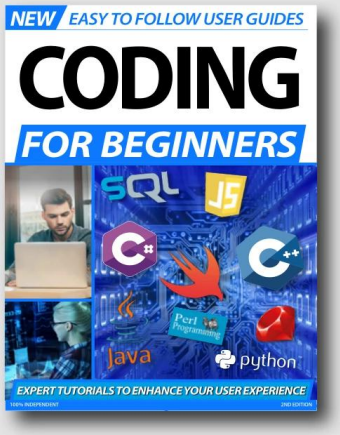

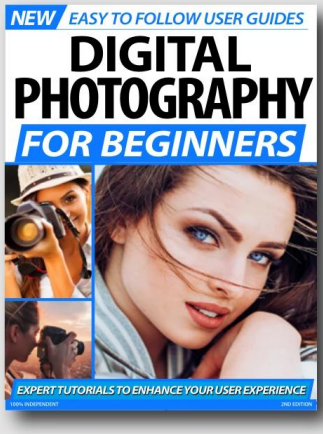

SAMSUNG GALAXY

FOR BEGINNERS

Starting something new can be daunting. Learning a skill or mastering a new piece of hardware is tough. Even tougher if you have no-one at hand to help. Conversely as the complexity of our consumer technology increases, the size of the requisite instruction manual decreases or in some cases it simply disappears. At numerous times in our lives we have all been "beginners", there is no shame in that fact and rightly so. How many times have you asked aloud, "What does this button do?". "Why doesn't that work?". "What do you mean it doesn't do that?". "HELP!". At the start of any new journey or adventure we are all beginners but fortunately for you we are here to stand beside you at every stage.

Over this extensive series of titles we will be looking in great depth at the latest consumer electronics, software, hobbies and trends out of the box! We will guide you step-by-step through using all aspects of the technology that you may have been previously apprehensive at attempting. Let our expert guide help you build your technology understanding and skills, taking you from a novice to a confident and experienced user.

Over the page our journey begins. We would wish you luck but we're sure with our support you won't need it.

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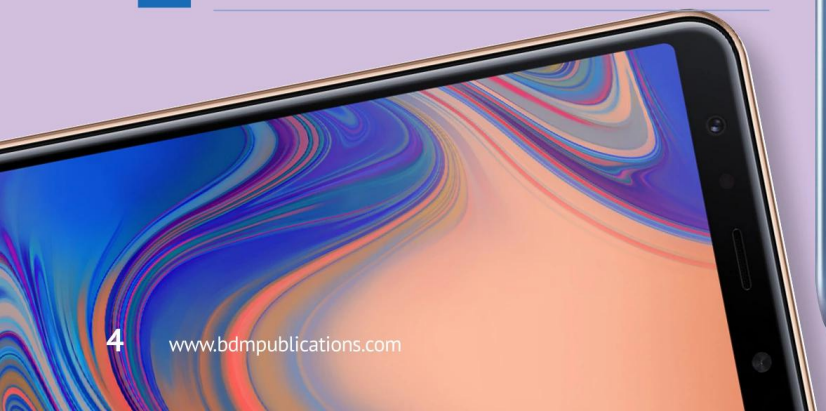

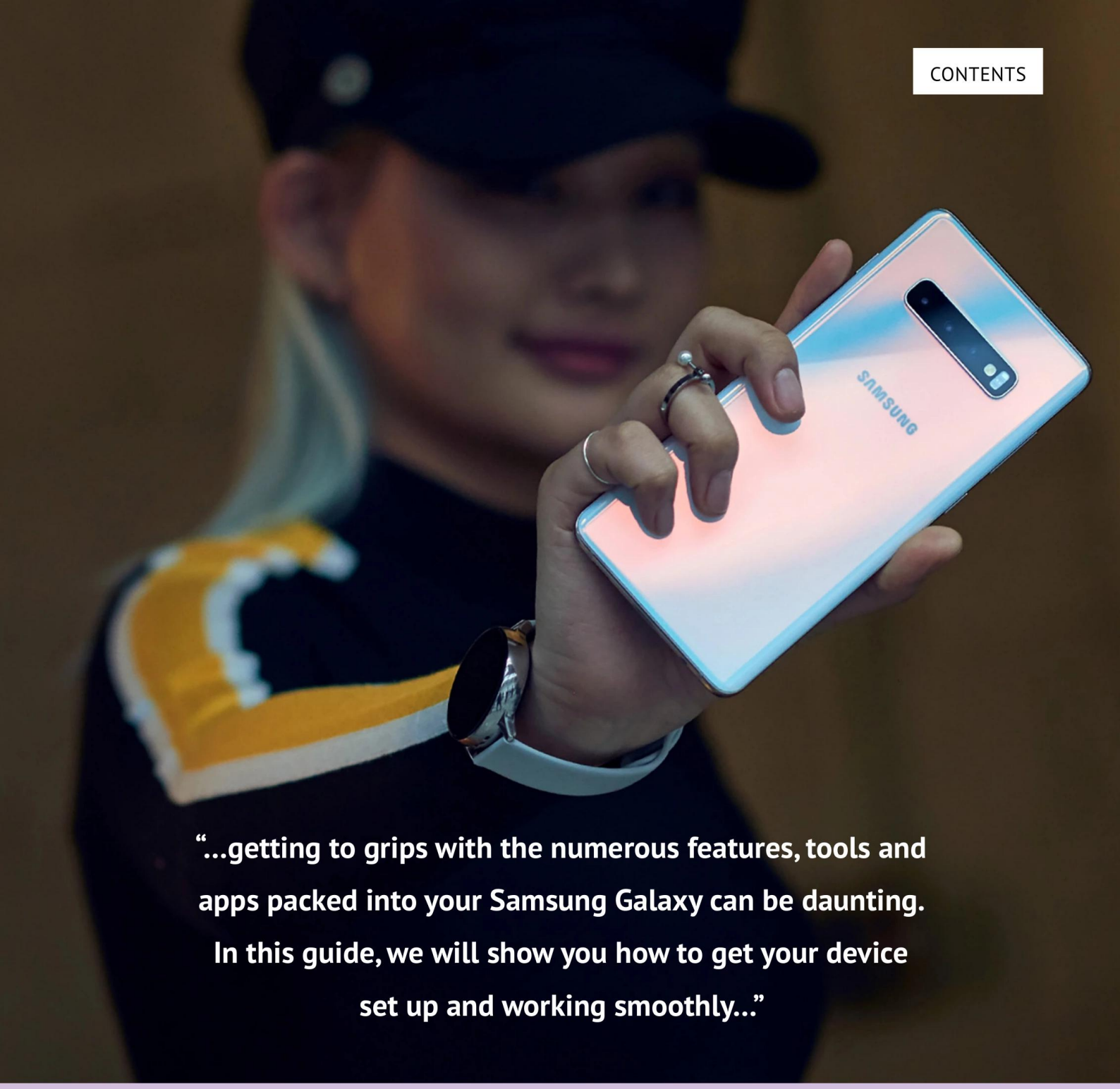

"...getting to grips with the numerous features, tools and apps packed into your Samsung Galaxy can be daunting. In this guide, we will show you how to get your device set up and working smoothly..."

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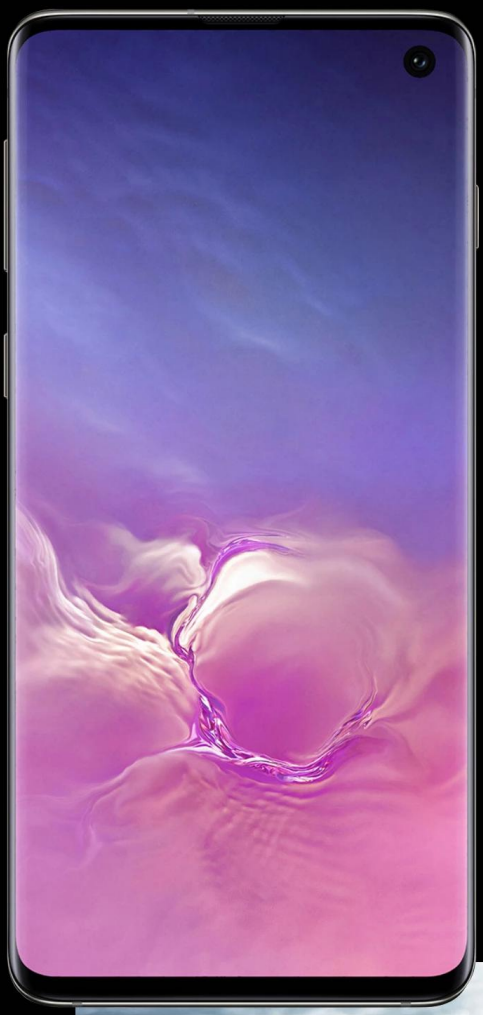
Set up and essentials

No matter if you have an older Galaxy J4 or a brand new S10, learning how to get your Samsung device set up and running smoothly is key to success. If you accomplish this properly, everything that comes afterwards such as making the most of those seemingly simple main features is easier, quicker and less likely to cause frustration.

Galaxy S10 - All You Need to Know

10 years on from the very first Samsung Galaxy, the S10 range is still pushing the limits of what makes a good smartphone. With not one but three new S10 devices, Samsung continues to create phones that people just love to use, no matter if you want a huge powerhouse like the S10+ or a smaller, neater package offered by the S10e. Let's take a look at exactly what bang you get for the Galaxy buck!



Elegant Design and No Notch

Completely redesigned to remove interruptions from your view. The Galaxy S10 introduces a stunning new Infinity-O Display. It's crafted from flawless glass which wraps perfectly from edge to edge. It's minimal, beautiful and effortlessly elegant. With no home button, no notch for the receiver and a simple dot opening for the front camera, you'll have an uninterrupted viewing experience. It even comes with a screen protector to safeguard it against life's little accidents. The display is constructed with sturdy Gorilla Glass 5 or 6 (depending on the model) to handle the rigours of everyday life.

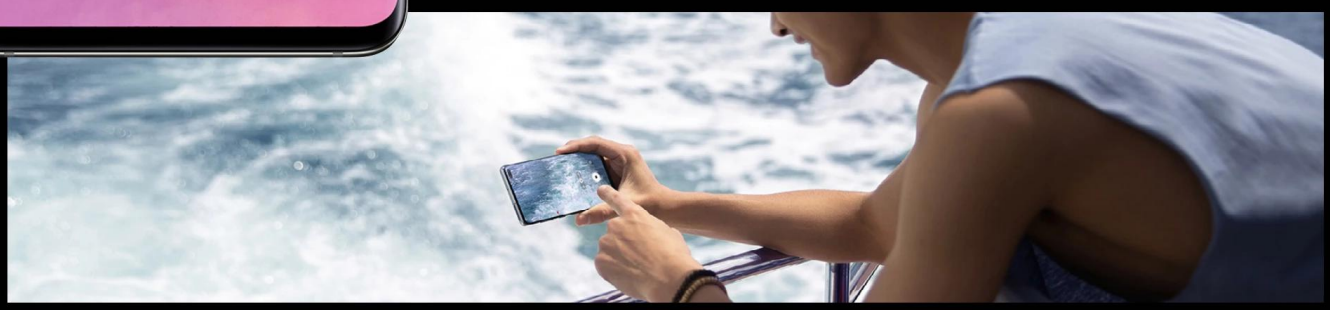
The whole S10 range is available in a variety of colours and finishes. Go for a glossy finish with vibrant, prismatic colours, encased by a polished metal frame for a style that pops or check out the durable, sophisticated ceramic finish on the Galaxy S10+.

Advanced Performance

Featuring some of the snappiest processors found in any smartphone, the S10, S10e and S10+ are real performance powerhouses, while using less energy; and have a more resourceful processor and up to 12GB RAM. Even if you're live broadcasting and playing a graphics-heavy game, your phone runs smoothly.

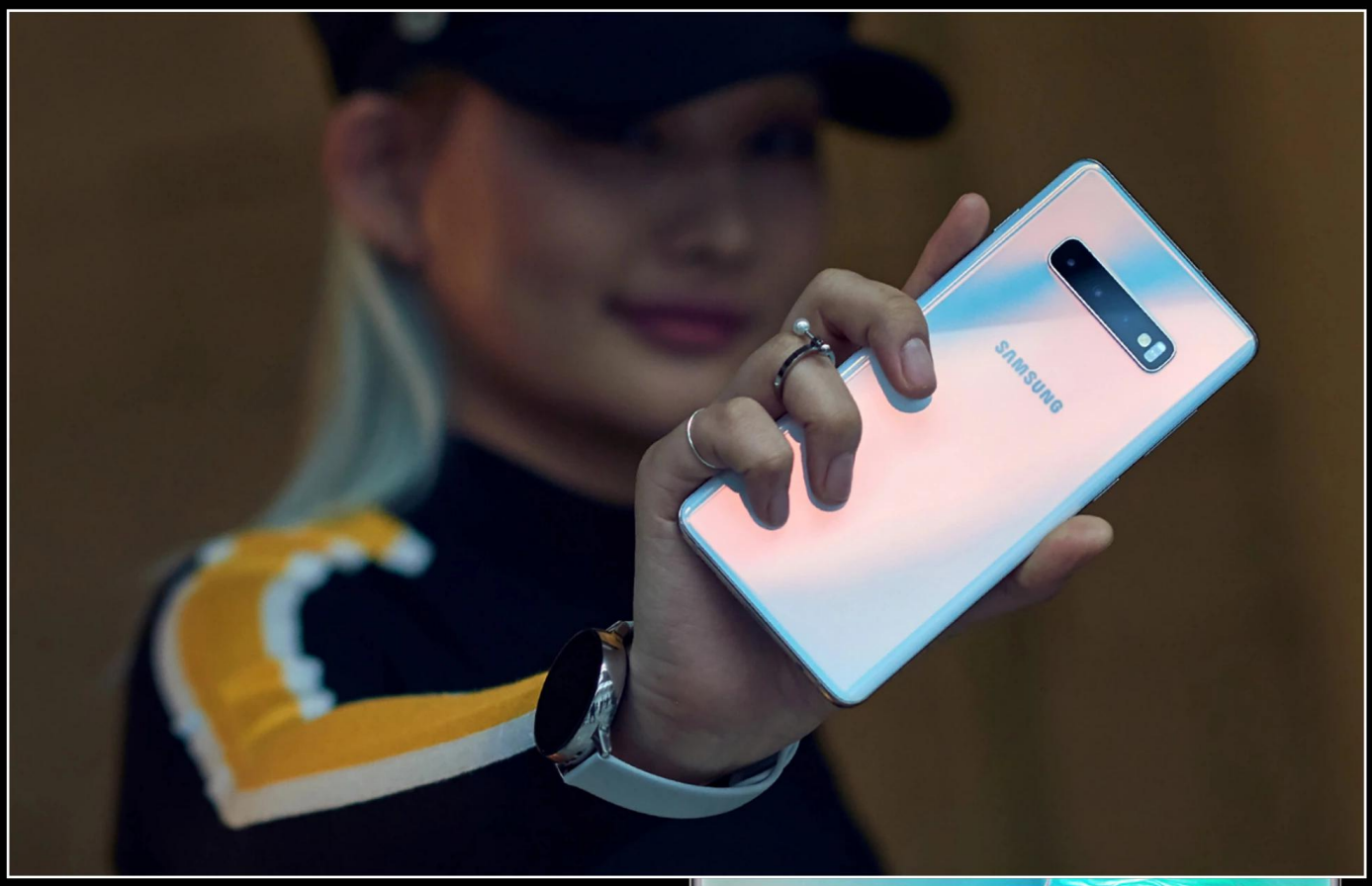
When compared to the Galaxy S9, the new devices boast a 29% faster CPU and a 37% faster GPU (Graphics Processing Unit). A vapour chamber cooling system, AI-based performance improvements, and an optimised GPU ensure smooth gameplay. Plus, the long-lasting battery means you can worry less about power mid-game.

Intelligent Wi-Fi reaches faster speeds with Wi-Fi 6, connecting reliably and securely even on public networks. And it seamlessly switches to LTE to hit incredible speeds.



Intelligent Battery

The Galaxy S10e, S10 and S10+ learn your daily routine and usage patterns, powering down apps you don't need. Also, Adaptive Power Saving Mode manages your battery life based on the prediction of your day. And with up to a 4100mAh (typical) battery capacity on the Galaxy S10+, you can spend more time living and less time charging. Wireless PowerShare gives you the ability to share your power with other devices, and Fast Wireless Charging 2.0 gets your phone back to 100%, faster.



Up to 5 Camera Lenses

It's a full kit of lenses in your pocket. There's a Telephoto Camera (except in the S10e) for amazing zoom possibilities, a Wide-angle Camera for everyday moments and an Ultra Wide Camera for panoramic landscapes; allowing you to take stunning, cinematic photos with a 123 degree field of vision. The intelligent camera helps you shoot stunning photos by suggesting image compositions and automatically optimising your camera settings to the scene.

For the first time on any Samsung phone, both the front and rear cameras can capture video in stunning 4K UHD at up to 60fps. The Galaxy S10e, S10, and S10+ all record like a professional action camera utilising the Ultra Wide Camera and predictive software. Super Steady gives you smooth videos, even when your journey is on the adventurous side.

Ultrasonic Fingerprint Security

Samsung have moved the Fingerprint Scanner from the back to the front, creating a revolutionary, on-screen sensor. Using ultrasonic pulses, it detects the 3D ridges and valleys of your fingerprint, so only you can access your phone. It's secure and convenient; even allowing you to unlock, drag and hold to open the app you want.

Dimensions:

S10 - 149.9 x 70.4 x 7.8 mm
S10e - 142.2 x 69.9 x 7.9 mm
S10+ - 157.6 x 74.1 x 7.8 mm

Weight:

S10 - 157g
S10e - 150g
S10+ - 175g

Display:

S10 - 6.1 in, 1440 x 3040 pixels (550 ppi)
S10e - 5.8 in, 1080 x 2280 pixels (438 ppi)
S10+ - 6.4 in, 1440 x 3040 pixels (522 ppi)

OS: (all)

Android 9.0 (Pie)

CPU: (all)

Octa-core (2x2.73 GHz Mongoose M4 & 2x2.31 GHz Cortex-A75 & 4x1.95 GHz Cortex-A55)

Memory:

S10 - 128/512GB
S10e - 128/256GB
S10+ - 128/512GB/1TB

RAM:

S10 - 8GB
S10e - 6/8GB
S10+ - 8/12GB

Main Camera:

S10 - 12 MP wide, 12 MP telephoto, 16 MP ultrawide
S10e - 12 MP wide, 16 MP ultrawide
S10+ - 12 MP wide, 12 MP telephoto, 16 MP ultrawide

Selfie Camera:

S10 - 10 MP wide
S10e - 10 MP wide
S10+ - 10 MP wide, 8 MP wide

Wi-Fi: (all)

Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac/ax, dual-band, Wi-Fi Direct, hotspot

Bluetooth: (all)

5.0, A2DP, LE, aptX

Battery:

S10 - Non-removable Li-Ion 3400mAh
S10e - Non-removable Li-Ion 3100mAh
S10+ - Non-removable Li-Ion 4100mAh

Discover the Samsung Fold

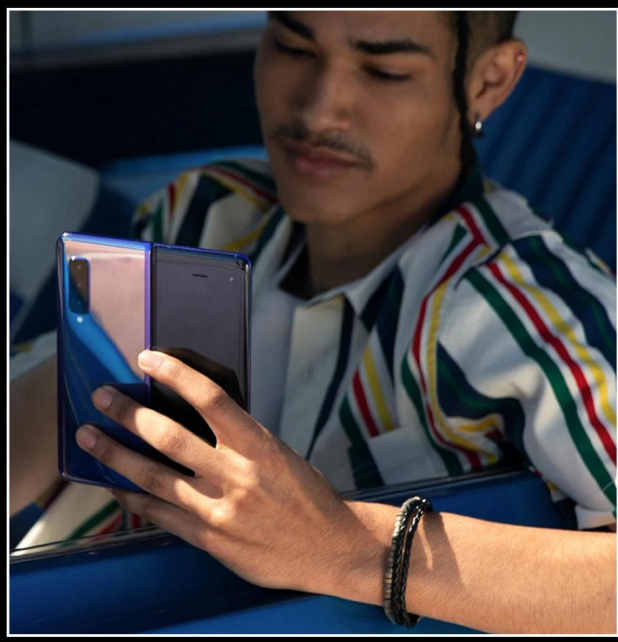
The Fold is one of the most amazing pieces of tech to appear in the world of smartphones. Not quite a phone and not quite a tablet but both at the same time, what can you expect this incredible device to do, and does the innovation justify the fairly huge price tag? We will try to answer these questions below.

Unique Design

The fold contains two AMOLED displays: the one on the front cover when folded, and a second large display that folds out when the device is opened. The folding mechanism, which Samsung have described as a complicated arrangement of interlocking cogs, is rated to withstand 200,000 folds. There is no fingerprint reader on the screen, as in the S10, but there is one in the power button on the edge.

The One UI

The Fold uses a new user interface from Samsung, the One UI. This will also roll out to other Galaxy devices, starting with the S10 range. One UI helps you focus on what really matters to you. With hardware and software working together in harmony, you'll only see what you need, using and viewing your phone with an experience that feels second nature. Specifically, the One UI will allow the Fold to display three applications at once.

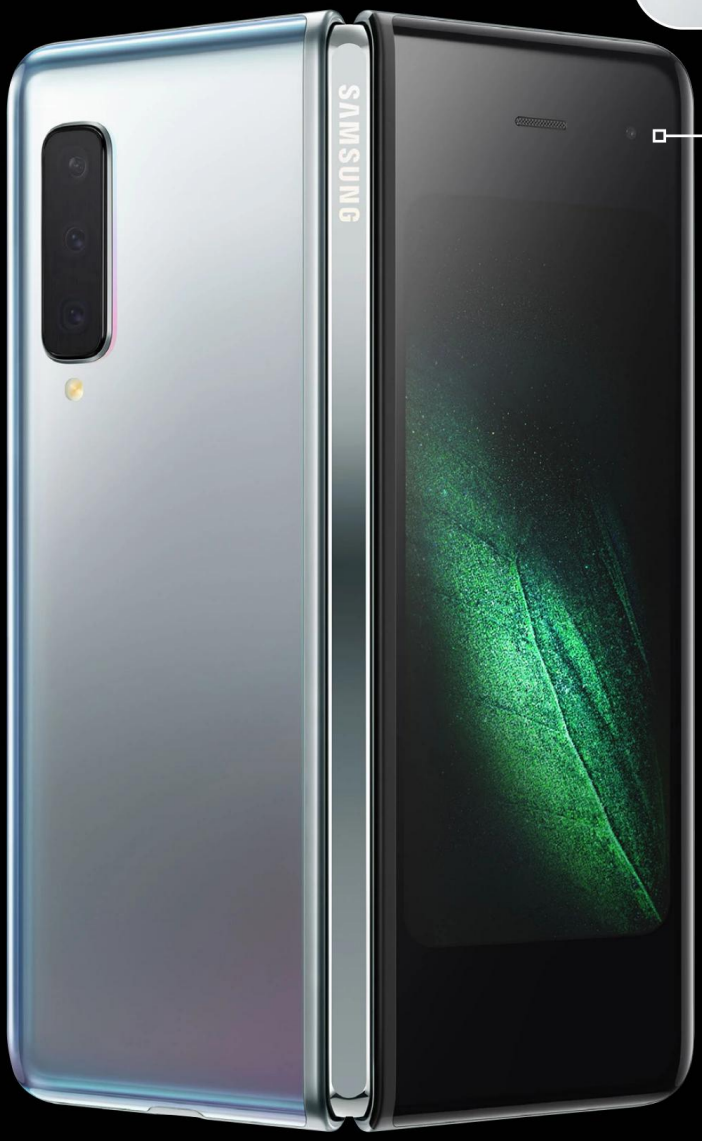


Apps and App Continuity

Open an app on the small front display and it will automatically transfer to the larger display when you flip open the device. Another key feature of the Galaxy Fold is Multi-Active Window, which allows you to run three applications on the screen at once. You could have a SMS message open in one window, a map of the local area in another and a Google Search of local restaurants in the third.

Battery and Cameras

The device contains two batteries split between the two halves of the body. In total, these provide a capacity of 4380mAh. The Galaxy Fold contains 6 cameras, using the same sensors equipped on the Galaxy S10+, including three rear-facing camera lenses (12 MP, 12 MP telephoto, and 16 MP ultra wide-angle); as well as a 10 MP front-facing camera on the cover, and a second 10 MP front-facing camera, with a RGB depth sensor, on the inside screen.



Dimensions:

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Weight:

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Display:

7.3in (open), 1536 x 2152 pixels (414 ppi)
4.6in (closed)

OS:

Android 9.0 (Pie)

CPU:

Octa-core (1x2.84 GHz Kryo 485 & 3x2.42 GHz Kryo 485 & 4x1.8 GHz Kryo 485)

Memory:

512 GB

RAM:

12 GB RAM

Main Camera: (triple)

12 MP wide, 12 MP telephoto, 16 MP ultrawide

Selfie Camera:

10 MP wide, 8 MP depth sensor

Wi-Fi: (all)

Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac, dual-band, Wi-Fi Direct, hotspot

Bluetooth: (all)

5.0, A2DP, LE, aptX HD

Battery:

Non-removable Li-Po 4380 mAh

Exploring the Samsung Galaxy S9

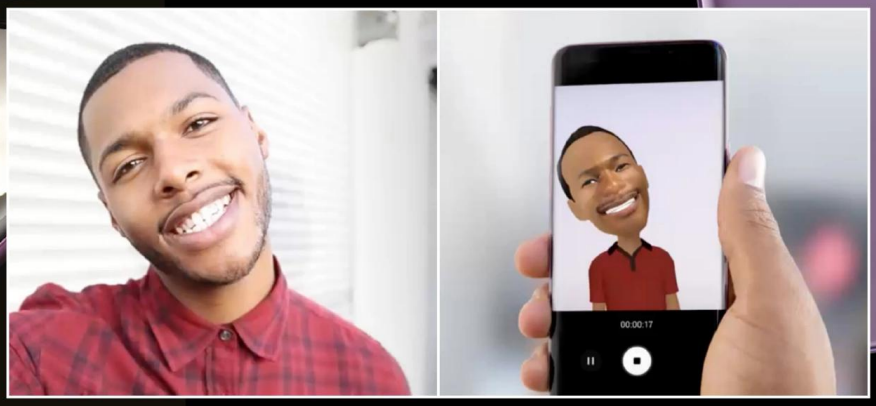
The latest and greatest phone in the Samsung Galaxy range is the Galaxy S9. The S9 is something of a monster in terms of specification, boasting one of the most impressive displays and most powerful hardware configurations available in any smartphone right now. Let's take a look at some of the features that make the S9 every tech fan's dream.

Edge-to-edge Display

Open up your view with this grand edge-to-edge display that fits comfortably in your hand. It curves over the sides for a sight that seems boundless with minimal visual distractions. The 18.5:9 display ratio gives you a cinematic view. While the stereo speakers tuned by AKG and enhanced with Dolby Atmos offer pure, surround sound.

Dual Aperture Camera

For many consumers, one of the main things they look for when purchasing a new device is the camera. The S9 features a category defining Dual Aperture lens that adapts like the human eye. If it's dark, the lens opens to F1.5 mode to pull in light for a bright and clear photo. In daylight, the lens shifts to F2.4 mode to help your picture come out sharp. Features like Super Slow-mo, letting you shoot video at an incredible 960 frames per second, Live Focus and Optical Image Stabilisation further add to this Instagrammer's dream.



Augmented Reality

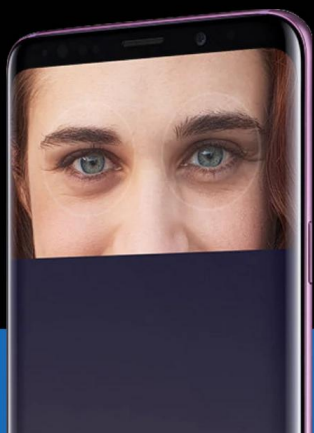
Turn your selfie into an emoji and watch your messaging come alive! The S9 allows you to create an animated version of yourself that shows off your inner you. Then show off your personal style, from hair to clothes; you can make your emoji look a lot like you or who you want to be. The S9 also lets you enhance your world with an Augmented Reality assistant. Looking for a restaurant nearby? How about the calorie count of your snack? Just open the camera or an image and bring up Bixby Vision to reveal what you need to know.

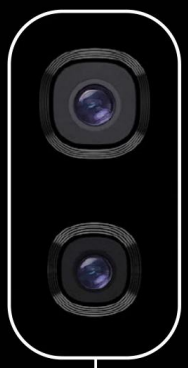
Powerful Performance

With up to 6GB RAM, a 10nm 64-bit octa-core processor and expandable memory (up to 400GB), you have the power you need to browse, stream, play games and multitask. The Galaxy S9 has plenty of power, and indeed there are few, if any, mobile devices available today with a more powerful set of components.

Intelligent Scan

Intelligent Scan is a new technology that combines face recognition and iris scan to make unlocking simple even in low light. When face recognition needs help, iris scan kicks in to verify you, and vice versa. For even more security, Samsung Knox is built into the phone from the chip up, to make Galaxy S9 (and S9+) secure to the core.





Cameras

Front - 8MP AF
Rear - 12MP Dual Pixel AF

Water & Dust Resistance

IP68

Dimensions

147.7 x 68.7.8 x 8.5mm
Weight - 163g

Display

5.8" Quad HD+ Super AMOLED (2960 x 1440) - 570 ppi

CPU

Octa-core (2.8GHz Quad + 1.7GHz Quad), 64-bit

Memory

4GB RAM (LPDDR4))

Storage (internal)

64/128GB

OS

Android 8.0 (Oreo)

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac (2.4/5GHz)

Battery

3300mAh

Sensors

› Iris sensor, Pressure sensor, Accelerometer, Barometer, Fingerprint sensor, Gyro sensor, Geomagnetic sensor, Hall sensor, HR sensor, Proximity sensor, RGB light sensor

Samsung Galaxy Smartphones

The Samsung Galaxy range has gradually condensed over the past few years to contain four main models: the S, the A, the J and the Note ranges. These devices range in hardware spec, as well as processor, quite widely but all give you access to the innovative Samsung software features that have made the Galaxy devices so popular. Let's take a closer look at the main players.

Galaxy S8

The Galaxy S8, along with the S8+, are still some of the best phones available right now! Boasting one of the fastest processors in any smartphone of 2017, with an incredible Quad-HD Infinity display that flows seamlessly into the curved edges, and a sharp and accurate rear camera (with an impressive 8MP front camera). Plus there's extras like Iris recognition and fingerprint technology, IP68-rating, Bixby personal assistant and lots more.

Weight: 155g
Dimensions: 148.9 x 68.1 x 8.0mm
OS: Android 7.0 (Nougat)
Screen Size: 5.8"
Resolution: 2960x1440 (Quad HD+)
CPU: 2.3GHz, 1.7GHz Octa-core
RAM: 4GB
Storage: 64/128GB (expands up to 256GB)
Battery: 3000mAh
Rear Camera: Dual Pixel 12.0MP
Front Camera: CMOS 8.0MP

Galaxy S7

Although no longer the flagship phone from Samsung, the Galaxy S7 and S7 Edge are still right up there with some of the best phones available (and you can pick one up pretty cheaply these days). The Quad-HD screen is perfect for gaming, watching videos and viewing images, the precision engineered body is stunning and the powerful cameras (front and rear) are perfect for capturing the world around you.

Weight: 152g
Dimensions: 142.4 x 69.6 x 7.9 mm
OS: Android 6.0 (Marshmallow)
Screen Size: 5.1"
Resolution: 1440 x 2560 (Quad HD)
CPU: 2.3GHz, 1.6GHz Octa-core
RAM: 4GB
Storage: 32/64GB (expands up to 256GB)
Battery: 3000mAh
Rear Camera: 12MP
Front Camera: 5MP

Galaxy A5

Massively improved since the last generation, the A5 is now a brilliant choice if your budget won't quite stretch to one of the flagship Galaxy devices. Featuring a powerful octa-core processor and crafted with highly resistant rear 3D Glass and optimal 5.2" display, the A5 also gives your photos the added depth and detail they deserve thanks to the much improved 16MP camera.

Weight: 159g
Dimensions: 146.1 x 71.4 x 7.9 mm
OS: Android 7.0 (Nougat)
Screen Size: 5.2"
Resolution: 1920 x 1080 (FHD)
CPU: 1.9GHz Octa-core
RAM: 3GB
Storage: 32GB (expands up to 256GB)
Battery: 3000mAh
Rear Camera: CMOS 16MP
Front Camera: CMOS 16MP

Galaxy Xcover4

Rugged design with a sense of sophistication. At a slim 9.7mm wide, the Galaxy Xcover4 is thinner than previous generations and features an easy-to-grip, non-slip finish. Designed to function wherever you go, with IP68 and MIL-STD 810G certification, the Galaxy Xcover4 is durable enough to withstand harsh conditions. The Galaxy Xcover4 also features an intuitive display that lets you interact with your device even with gloves on.

- Weight: 172g
- Dimensions: 146.2 x 73.3 x 9.7 mm
- OS: Android 6.0 (Marshmallow)
- Screen Size: 5.0”
- Resolution: 720 x 1280 (HD)
- CPU: 1.4GHz Quad-Core
- RAM: 2GB
- Storage: 16GB (expands up to 256GB)
- Battery: 2800mAh
- Rear Camera: CMOS 13.0 MP
- Front Camera: CMOS 5.0 MP

Galaxy A3

It might not be winning any awards for style or processing power, but the A3 is a great choice if you want a good, solid phone on a budget. It boasts lots of the same features as more expensive Galaxy devices, including IP68-rating, an octa-core processor and a 13MP camera, so it still feels like a capable smartphone, even at a fraction of the cost of the super S8 or Note 8. A great budget phone!

- Weight: 138g
- Dimensions: 135.4 x 66.2 x 7.9 mm
- OS: Android 6.0 (Marshmallow)
- Screen Size: 4.7”
- Resolution: 720 x 1280 (HD)
- CPU: 1.6GHz Octa-Core
- RAM: 2GB
- Storage: 16GB (expands up to 256GB)
- Battery: 2350mAh
- Rear Camera: CMOS 13.0 MP
- Front Camera: CMOS 8.0 MP

Galaxy J5

Updated for 2017, the Galaxy J5 is now a low-cost handset, with high-cost aspirations! Like almost all of the current Galaxy devices, it uses a brilliant AMOLED display, features IP68-rating and has a multi-core processor under the hood. Where it differs from many other devices at this price point, is the stunning all-metal body and the feeling of solidness in your hand.

- Weight: 160g
- Dimensions: 146.2 x 71.3 x 8.0 mm
- OS: Android 6.0 (Marshmallow)
- Screen Size: 5.2”
- Resolution: 720 x 1280 (HD)
- CPU: 1.6GHz Octa-Core
- RAM: 2GB
- Storage: 16GB (expands up to 256GB)
- Battery: 3000mAh
- Rear Camera: CMOS 13.0 MP
- Front Camera: CMOS 13.0 MP

Galaxy J3

With a minimalist design and smooth cover, you can expect a really comfortable handheld experience with the Galaxy J3 (2017), partly thanks to the camera lens now being completely flush with the rear of the phone. The 13MP camera will capture the perfect photo first time, every time. With a large f/1.9 aperture you’ll be able to absorb more light into the lens, and more light equals more colourful, accurate shots.

- Weight: 142g
- Dimensions: 143.2 x 70.3 x 8.2 mm
- OS: Android 6.0 (Marshmallow)
- Screen Size: 5.0”
- Resolution: 720 x 1280 (HD)
- CPU: 1.4GHz Quad-Core
- RAM: 2GB
- Storage: 16GB (expands up to 256GB)
- Battery: 2400mAh
- Rear Camera: 13.0 MP
- Front Camera: 5.0 MP

Galaxy Controls and Connections

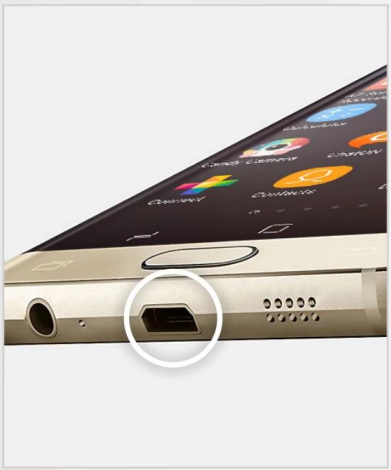
Although the exact buttons and connection ports on your Samsung Galaxy device may vary, there are standard features that always appear. Let's take a look at those buttons, connections and controls and see what they can and cannot do.

Connections

These are the plugs, ports and other interfaces which allow you to connect or add something to your device, or connect your device to the mains for charging. Most devices have a standard set of connection ports, but some may have additional ones.

Micro USB/USB-C

Most modern devices use Micro USB or the newer USB-C connections for both the charging cable and the data cable (for connecting to a computer to transfer files). The position of this will vary depending on what device you have, but it can usually be found on the bottom edge or sometimes the side of the device.

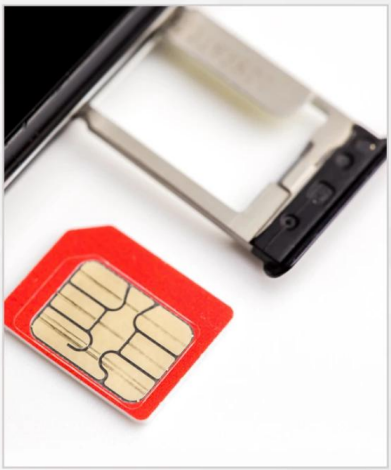


3.5mm Audio Port

Almost all Android devices, including Samsung, feature a 3.5mm standard audio port, for use with headphones, headsets or speakers. This is usually on the top or bottom edge of the device, but the exact location varies. A few Android devices have lost this port, in favour of Bluetooth connected headphones, etc.

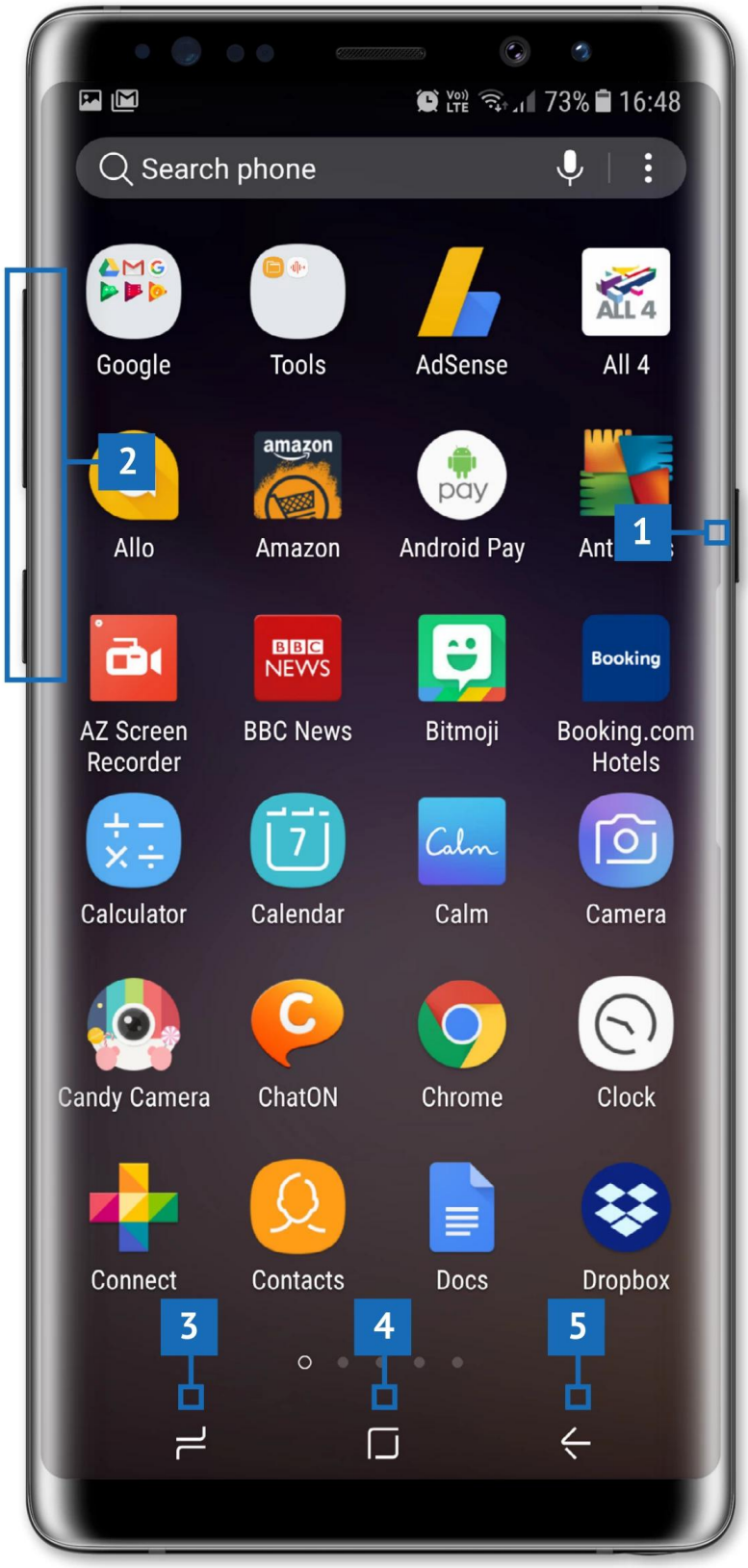
SIM Card Tray

Some devices, usually those with a removable battery cover, will have a SIM tray next to the battery. If your device has no battery cover, you will find the SIM tray embedded in the case. It is opened using a thin pin-like tool supplied with the device. It is often combined with a MicroSD card tray on unibody devices.



What is USB-C?

USB-C is the new industry-standard connector for transmitting both data and power to a device such as a phone or tablet. Unlike the older Micro USB, the USB-C connector is symmetrical and can fit in to the port either way up. USB-C provides much faster charging, and can even be used to charge large devices like laptops.



LEDs and Sensors

Your Samsung device is also equipped with several LED indicators and sensors (including a light meter). On most devices these will be clustered around the top speaker on the front and around the camera lens on the back. All Samsung Galaxy devices also include a number of sensors hidden inside the body.

Standard Buttons

These buttons are the physical buttons you will find on your device, rather than the capacitive controls on screen.

1 Sleep/Wake Button

As well as being the button which turns your smartphone on and wakes it up out of sleep, the power button, when held, also brings up a menu for shutting down and restarting your smartphone. The exact options vary between handsets, but may include: Power Off, Silent/Vibration Mode, Airplane Mode and Restart.

2 Volume Up/Down Buttons

The volume profile that the Up and Down Volume buttons controls depends on what you are doing when it is pressed. If on the Home screen, this will change the main ringtone volume. If you are listening to music or watching a video, it will change the media volume. On most devices, pressing volume down along with the Power button or Home button will take a screenshot of whatever is on screen at the time.

Capacitive Buttons

Capacitive buttons are those which are part of the Android user interface, or touch-only buttons which are part of the screen.

3 Recent Button

This capacitive button, when tapped, opens the recent app screen. This shows a list of all apps opened recently, and allows you to quickly switch between them. At the bottom of the screen, you will often see tabs that allow you to switch to the Active Applications screen, where you can close running apps (background apps). In Lollipop, bookmarked web pages are also in the recent menu.

4 Home Button

If your device doesn't have a physical Home button, it will have a capacitive button instead. This will always return you to the Home screen with a single tap. Tap and hold the Home button and you can open Google Now. It is possible, using third-party apps, to change the features of the Home button.

5 Back Button

The Back button always takes you back one step in whatever process you are currently following. If you tap Back from a settings sub-menu, it will return you to the previous or main settings menu. Pressing Back while playing a game will usually return you to the Home screen.

Tablet Controls

Just as with the smartphone controls detailed on the previous pages, Samsung Galaxy tablet controls and connections follow a fairly standard layout plan. The exact position of the buttons may vary slightly between devices.

1 Sleep/Power

› As well as being the button that turns your tablet on and wakes it up out of sleep, the Power button, when held also brings up a menu for shutting down and restarting your tablet.

2 Volume Up/Down

› The volume profile that the up and down buttons controls depends on what you are doing when it is pressed. When the volume display appears on screen, you can access more volume sliders.

3 Recent Button

› This capacitive button, when tapped opens the recent app screen. This shows a list of all apps opened recently and allows you to quickly switch between them.

4 Home Button

› Almost all Samsung Galaxy devices have a physical Home button, flanked by capacitive (but part of the hardware) Back and Recent buttons. The Home button often doubles as a fingerprint scanner.

5 Back Button

› The Back button always takes you back one step in whatever process you are currently following. If you tap Back from a settings sub-menu, it will return you to the previous or main settings menu.

Additional Buttons

› Some tablets will have additional buttons and some will have fewer. Many of the official Google tablets (the Nexus range for example) will only have physical volume and power buttons, with all the rest being capacitive buttons on screen.

Tablet Connections

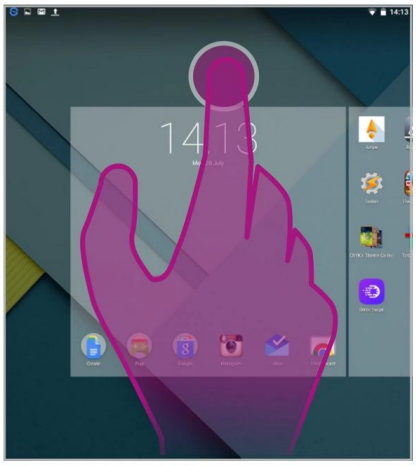
› Tablets usually have a similar amount of connections and ports as a phone. These can include a headphone port, MicroSD card slot and a SIM card slot in some cases. Some tablets may also include a mini HDMI port but this isn't often seen nowadays.

Touch Screen Controls

Modern Android devices no longer rely on physical pressure to register a touch, instead relying on tiny electrical charges in our fingers.

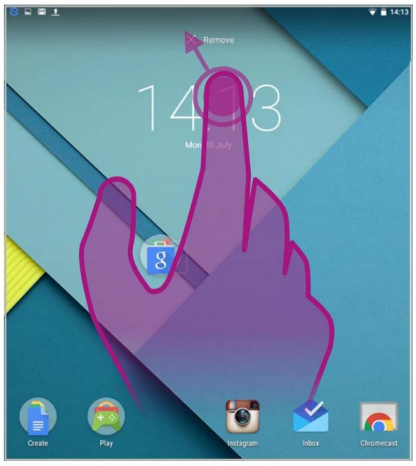
Single Touch

To activate items on the screen such as application and settings icons, to type letters and symbols using the on screen keyboard, or to press on screen buttons, you simply (gently) touch them with your finger. The touch screen is capacitive, meaning it is sensitive to the tiny electrical charge in our bodies. This means you only have to tap the screen, not press down hard with your finger.



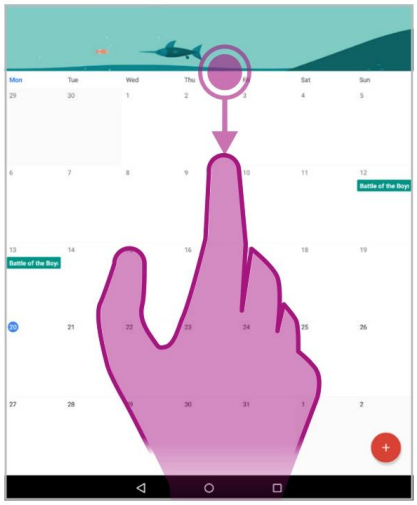
Touch and Hold

Touch and Hold means to tap an item on the screen and not lift your finger until a secondary action occurs. This could be a menu opening, allowing you to customise the home screen, or an icon lifting off the screen and showing that it can be moved. Another useful tip is that when typing using the Android keyboard, touch and hold will reveal alternative uses for several keys.



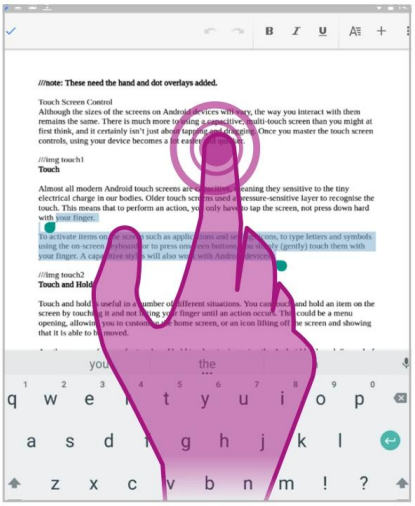
Touch and Drag

To drag items around the screen touch and hold an item for a moment and then, without lifting your finger, move it across the screen until you reach the required position. Lift your finger off the screen and the item will drop into that location, if it's free. You can drag items on the home screen to reposition them and you drag down the screen to open the Notifications panel.



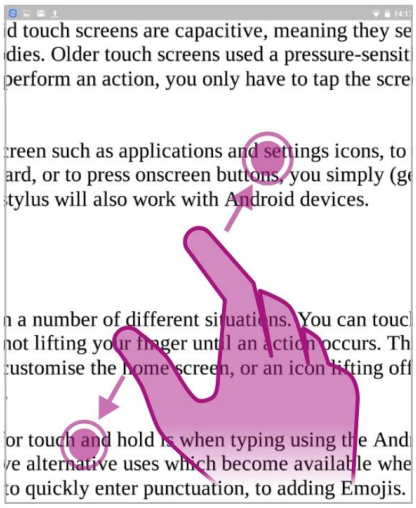
Swipe or Scroll

Many of the menus or web pages that you can access on Android require you to scroll. To swipe or scroll, quickly move your finger across the surface of the screen, without pausing when you first touch it. For example the app drawer lets you slide the screen up or down to scroll through the list and in Calendar, you can swipe quickly across the screen to change the range of time visible.



Double Tap

There are several situations where a double-tap results in an action. For example, tap quickly twice on a web page, map or other screen to zoom. You can double-tap a section of a web page in the Browser to zoom that section to fit the width of the screen. Double-tapping after pinching to zoom in some applications such as the Browser, reflows a column of text to fit the width of the screen.



Pinch and Rotate

In some applications such as Maps, Browser and Gallery, you can zoom in and out by placing two fingers on the screen at once and pinching them together to zoom out or spreading them apart to zoom in. Two fingers can also be used to rotate the view of a picture or map for example, in several apps. The picture follows the rotation of your fingers and turns clockwise or anti-clockwise.

Add and Use a MicroSD Card

Many Samsung Galaxy devices offer the ability to expand the storage by inserting a MicroSD memory card. On modern devices, the capacity can be as much as 256GB, although this may vary and you should check before you buy a large SD card. Inserting the card is relatively simple, however it might not be obvious to someone doing it for the first time.

Choosing a MicroSD

Some memory cards may not be fully compatible with the device. Using an incompatible card may damage the device or the memory card.

Card Capacity

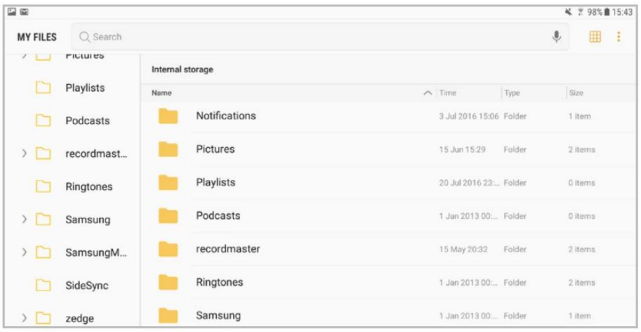
As already mentioned, not all devices can read all sizes of MicroSD card. The largest capacity card you will easily find is 256GB, and the smallest is 2GB. All devices with a MicroSD slot or tray will accept and work with a 2GB card but only a very few will work with more than 128GB (let alone 256GB).

File Systems

The device supports the FAT and the exFAT file systems for memory cards. When inserting a card formatted in a different file system, the device will ask to reformat the card or will not recognise the card. If the device does not recognise your memory card, format it on your computer.

Recycling Cards

You may have a MicroSD card in an old device you can use. Be aware that some memory cards may not be compatible with your device depending on the memory card manufacturer and type. To view your device's maximum memory card capacity, refer to the Samsung website.

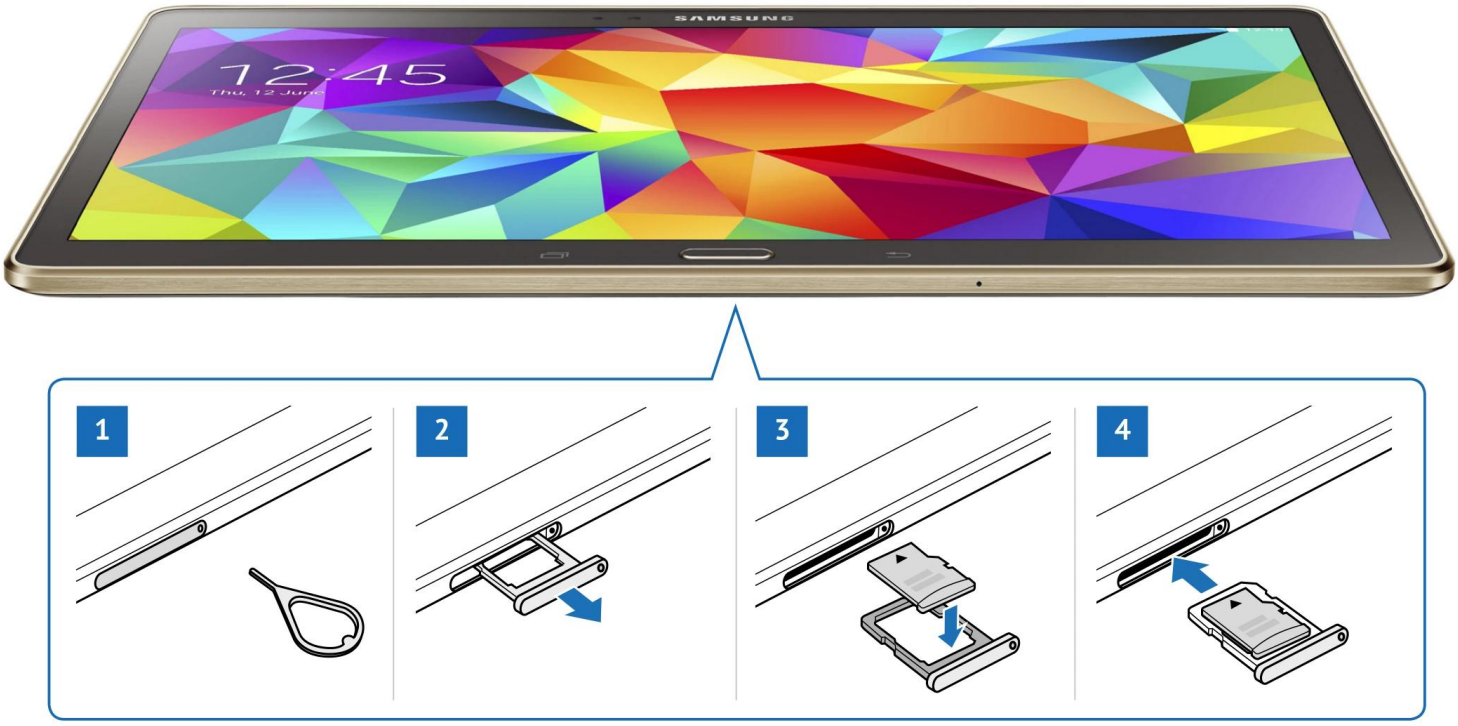


Card Maintenance

Once you have chosen a MicroSD card, remember that frequent writing and erasing of data shortens the lifespan of memory cards. When inserting a memory card into the device, the memory card's file directory appears in the My Files > SD card folder. You can manage files from here.

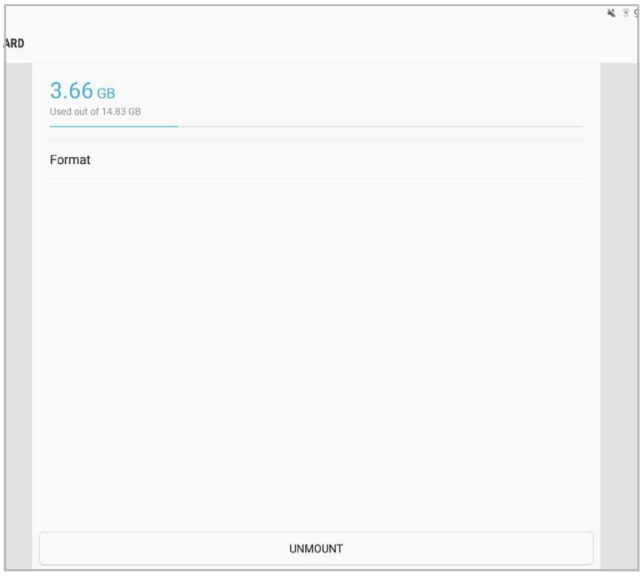
Inserting the MicroSD

All Samsung devices with an SD card slot use the same mechanism for inserting and removing it: a sliding tray which needs to be opened with a special tool (should have been supplied with the device).



Removing a MicroSD Card

Never remove the memory card while the device is transferring or accessing information. Doing so can cause data to be lost or corrupted or damage to the memory card or device.



1 Before removing the memory card, first unmount it. To unmount a working MicroSD card, head in to the device Settings > Device maintenance > Storage > Storage settings > SD card > UNMOUNT. Wait for the message to appear on screen telling you the card is safe to remove.

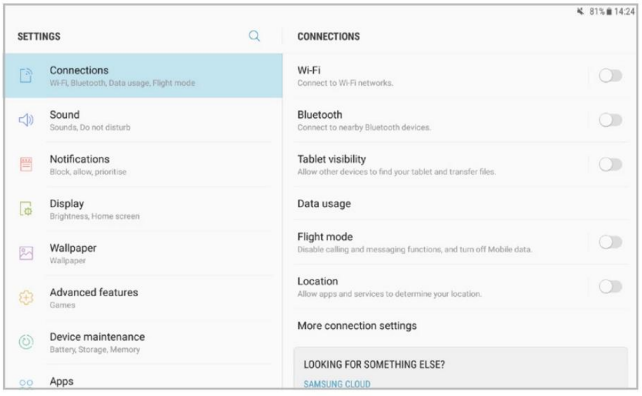
2 Insert the ejection pin into the hole on the memory card tray to loosen the tray. Pull out the memory card tray gently from the memory card tray slot. Remove the memory card. Insert the memory card tray back into the memory card tray slot. If concerned, turn off your device before doing this.

Connecting to Your Wi-Fi

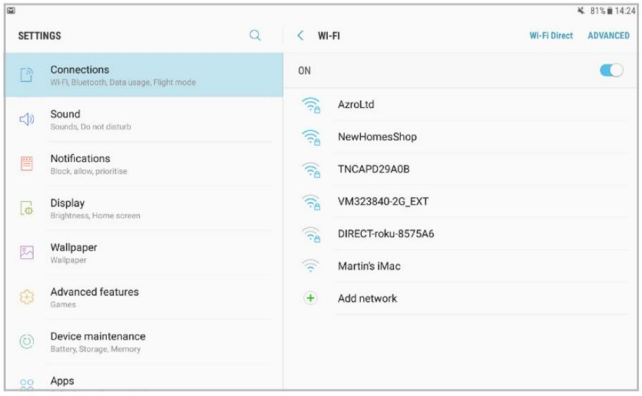
A large amount of the content you will want to access on your Galaxy device will require a flexible and fast Internet connection, which usually means a Wi-Fi connection. Here you will learn how to use your device's wireless networking capabilities to activate Wi-Fi and connect to any wireless local area network (WLAN) you have access to.

Connecting to a Network

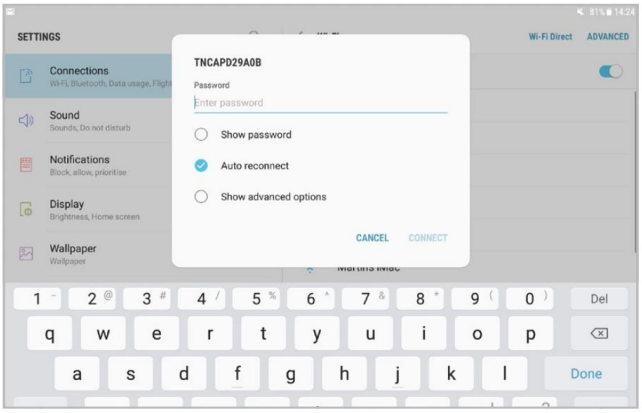
Before trying to connect to a Wi-Fi network, you should ensure that you know the SSID of the network you want to connect to as well as the password needed.



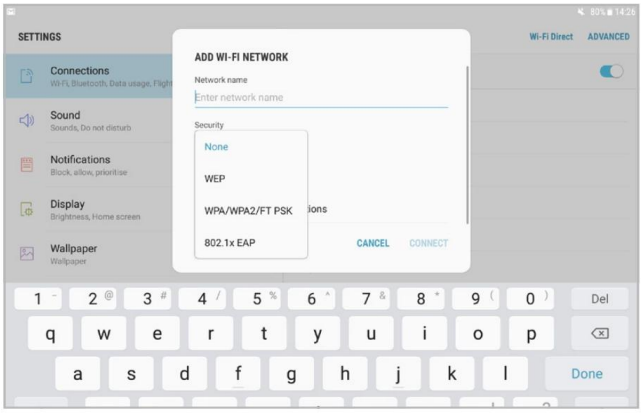
1 Open the Settings app and look for the Wi-Fi heading. Before you can start to find your Wi-Fi connection, you will need to turn the feature on. Drag the slider to the right. Your device will begin to scan for and display any networks within range in a list.



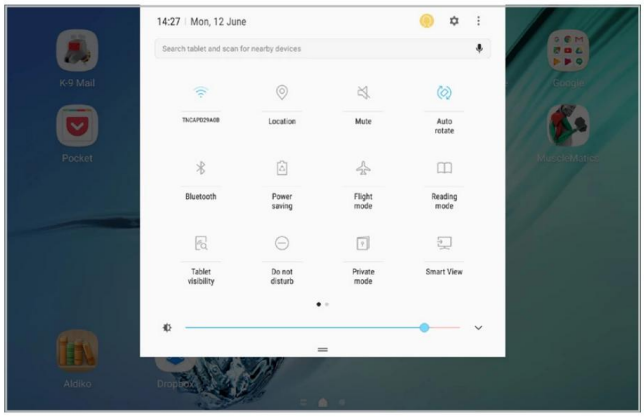
2 You will see, next to each available network, an indication of signal strength and whether the network is secured. Hopefully you will see your Wi-Fi network in the list. If not, make sure that the Wi-Fi router is working and then tap Scan to try and find it again.



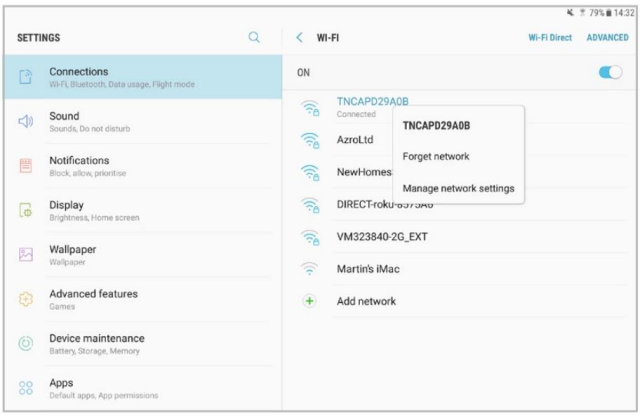
3 When the name of your network is shown, tap it and you will be prompted to enter your Wi-Fi password. Your Wi-Fi password is provided by your service provider, although it can be changed afterwards. If you don't know your current, try looking for an information sticker on your router hardware.



4 If you can't see your network in the list of networks, tap More > Add Wi-Fi network. You will then need to type in your Network SSID (the name of the Wi-Fi network you want to connect to) and select the security type (normally WEP or WPA). Again, this information should be on the bottom or back of your router.



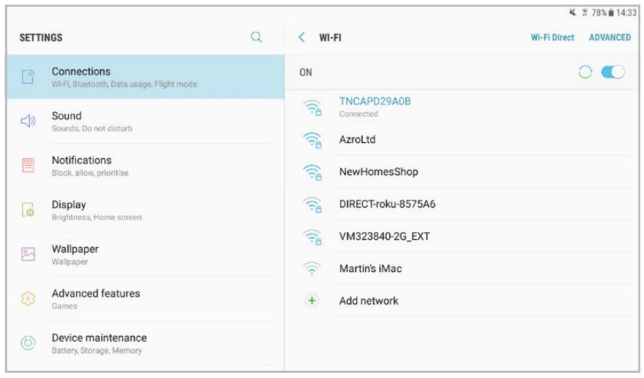
5 Following either of these connection methods, your phone or tablet should now connect to the Wi-Fi network. The Wi-Fi icon will now appear in the top status bar (although this does not always mean you have a connection). When you next turn Wi-Fi on, it will automatically choose this network, if in range.



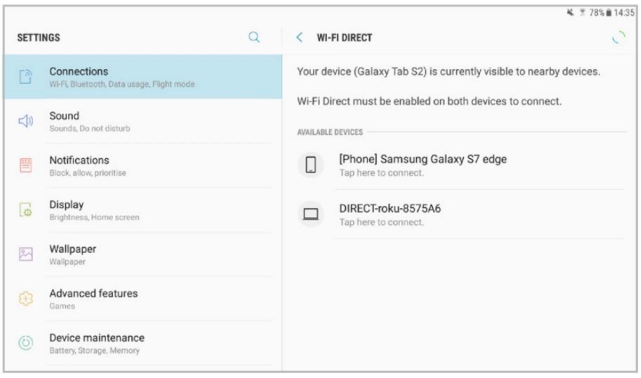
6 If you want to make your mobile device forget a previously connected network, you can do so by tapping and holding on the network SSID in the networks list, and choosing Forget network from the menu that pops up. If you ever have the need to, you can also access DCHP and Proxy settings here.

Using Wi-Fi Direct

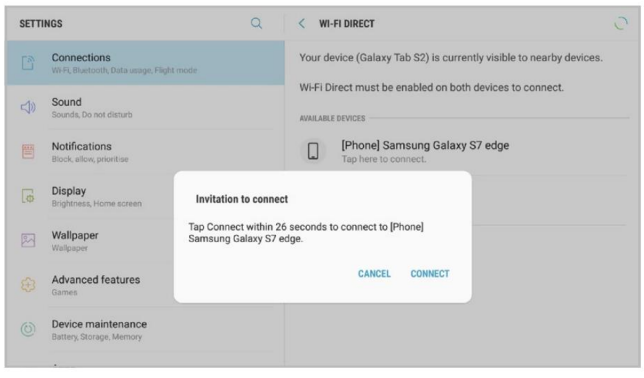
Wi-Fi Direct is a way for Samsung users to transfer data to and connect to devices on the same Wi-Fi network. This can be anything from another phone to a Roku TV box.



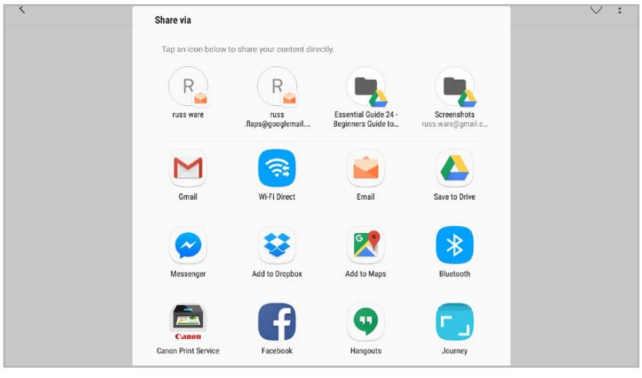
1 In the application list, select Settings > Wi-Fi > Wi-Fi Direct. Tap Scan and wait for nearby devices to be shown. Both devices need to be connected to the same Wi-Fi network. Select a device and when the owner of the other device accepts the connection, the devices are connected.



2 You can connect your device to multiple devices and send data by selecting Multi-connect. To send data via Wi-Fi, select a file or item from an appropriate application. Select an option for sending data via Wi-Fi. The method for selecting an option may vary by data type.



3 To receive data via Wi-Fi Direct, you simply need to accept the transfer request. When you receive data, it is saved to your device automatically. Received files are normally saved to the My Files app but you may also see a "Shared Via Wi-Fi" folder. You can also search for files in the main app drawer if you can't find them.



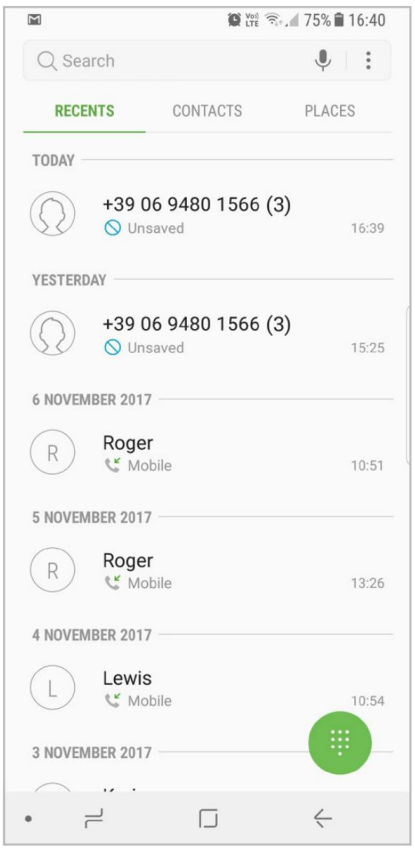
4 To send a file, an image for example, to a device you are currently connected to, simply open the image in the Gallery app and tap the Share button. From the share menu you should be able to select Wi-Fi Direct and then choose the correct device to send to from the list of available devices.

Making and Receiving Calls

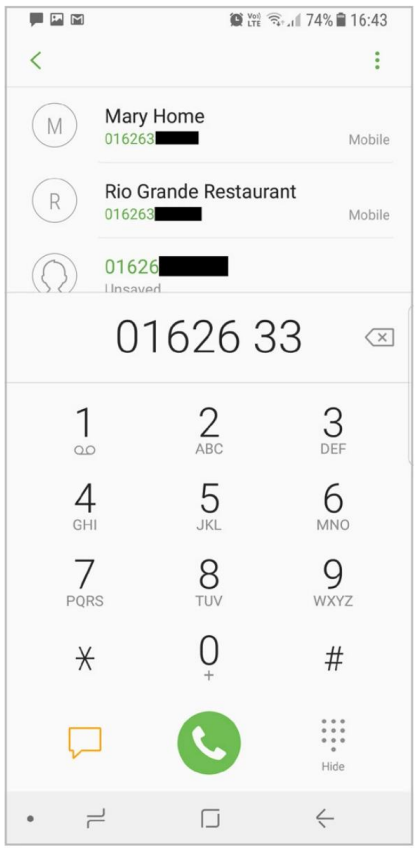
While your Samsung Galaxy is an incredibly powerful device with lots of bells and whistles, let's not forget that its main function is as a phone to make and receive phone calls. Making a call on your new Samsung Galaxy might seem like the most simple of things but there are actually several ways to initiate a call, as well as control over who calls you. Plus there are a few settings you can change to make this simple phone function even simpler.

Dialling a Number

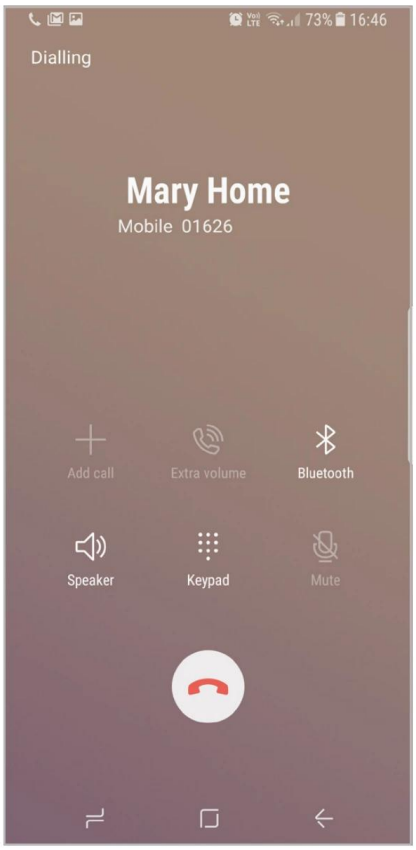
There are lots of different ways to initiate a call on your Samsung Galaxy phone but if you know the number you want to dial this is usually the fastest method of making a call.



1 To begin making a call on your Samsung device, tap the phone icon on your Home screen and, by default, the call log screen will open. This lets you quickly return a call to a recent caller. If the person you want to call is not in the call log, tap the dialler button at the bottom of the screen to enter a number manually.



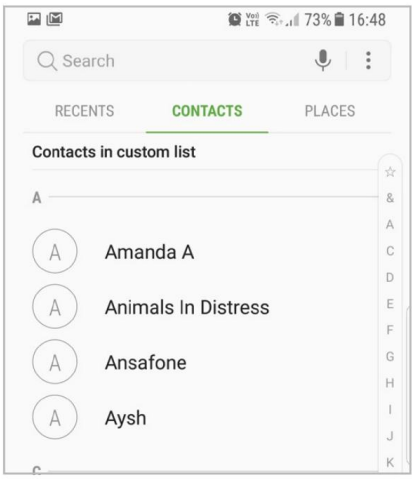
2 The Samsung phone dialler is pretty much standard and should be familiar to anyone who has used a phone in the last twenty years. Simply use the keypad to enter the number for the contact you want to call. As you type matching numbers from your contacts list will be displayed for selection.



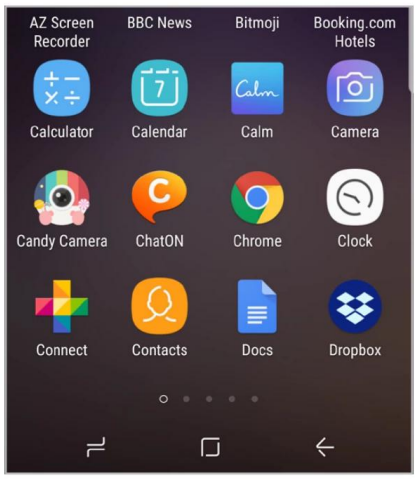
3 When you have entered the number tap the green Call button to start the call. Tapping the green video camera button (if there is one on your device) next to the call button will initiate the video Call option instead of a voice call. The number will then be dialled. You can cancel the call by tapping the red phone button.

Dialling From Contacts

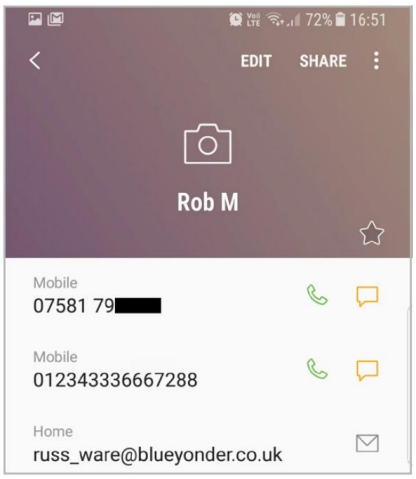
On your Samsung Galaxy phone there are a couple of different ways to call a number in your contacts list.



1 Tap the phone icon on the Home screen and then tap the Contacts tab to display your contacts list. Scroll down to the contact you wish to call and touch their name to see the available options: call, video call or message. Alternatively, swipe to the right across the contact in the list to call them.



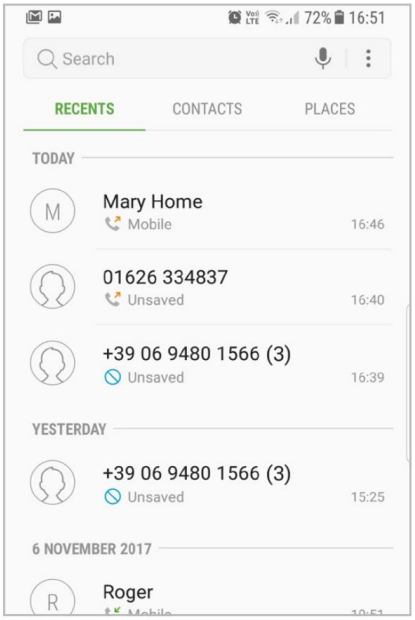
2 You can also open your contacts list directly rather than going through the dialling screen. Open the main apps list from your Home screen and look for the Contacts app. Once Contacts is open you can scroll to or search for the contact you wish to call. You can even search by voice by tapping the mic.



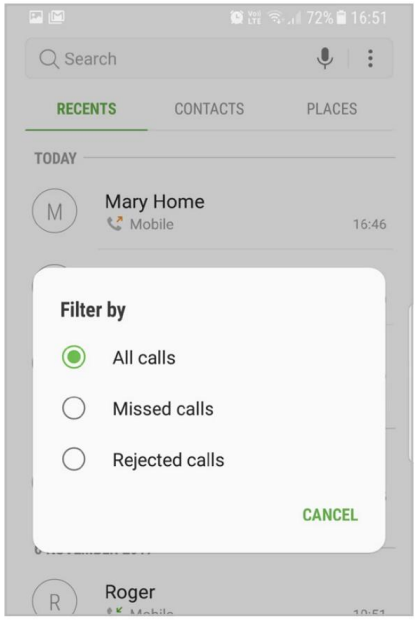
3 When you find the contact you want to call, tap their name to see the information screen. Here you can see the number and any associated numbers, email addresses, social media account details, etc. You will also see buttons to call, video call or message the contact. Tap the phone button to make the call.

Viewing Call Logs

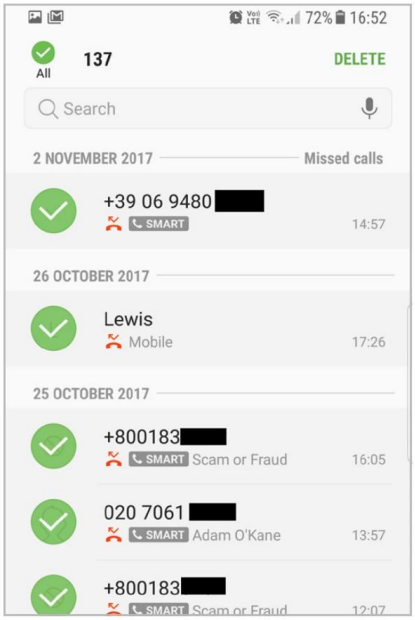
Every call that you make and every call that you receive is logged for future reference, with varying levels of information attached. You can view these missed and received call logs at any time.



1 Either touch the phone icon at the bottom of the Home screen and use the tabs to open the call log or open the main apps list and look for Call History. By default the initial view is a full list of all calls and messages received, made and missed, listed with name and number.



2 You can change this view by pressing the Menu/More button and selecting "View By" or "Filter". You can then choose from All Calls, Missed Calls or Rejected Calls. Just as with your contacts list, you can quickly dial a number in the Log by swiping it to the right or swipe left to message.



3 To protect your privacy you can delete your call log. To do this press the Menu/More button while viewing it and then select "Delete". You can then select all of the history or just individual calls and messages by tapping the appropriate checkboxes.

Call Options

During a call you have several useful options, including the ability to mute the call, all easily accessible from the dialler call screen. Exact options may vary between devices.

1 Call Details

› The name, if known and number of the person you are calling will be displayed prominently at the top of the dialler, along with a contact photo if one is applied.

2 Add Call

› Dial and call a second number whist keeping the current call open. Once you tap the add call button the dialler pad will open on screen.

3 Extra Volume

› This will give the call volume an instant boost, which is often easier than trying to fiddle around with the device volume buttons, particularly if calling hands-free.

4 Bluetooth

› Allows you to quickly switch the call to a Bluetooth headset or microphone if you have one set up and paired with your device already.

5 Speaker

› Activate or deactivate the speakerphone. When using the speakerphone, speak into the microphone at the top of the device and keep the device away from your ears.

6 Keypad

› Hides or shows the dialler keypad on screen. Useful if you need to enter an extension number or enter options in an automated caller system.

7 Mute Mic

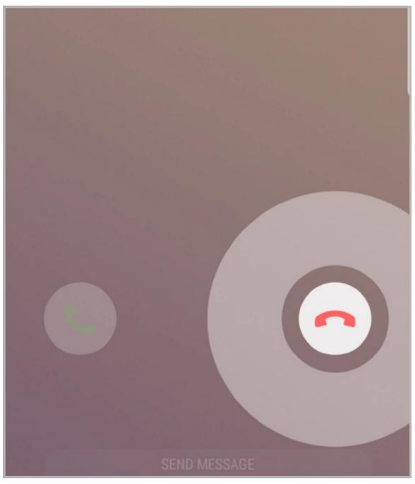
› If you need to talk with someone without the person on the other end of the call being able to hear, you can use this button to turn off the internal microphone.

8 End Call

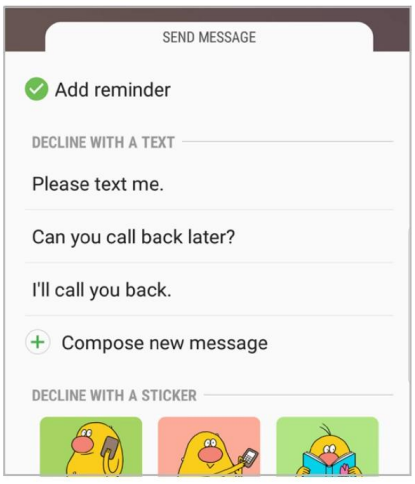
› Tap the red phone icon to end the current call (not all calls, if connected to more than one). This button will be the same when in a video call.

Reject a Call

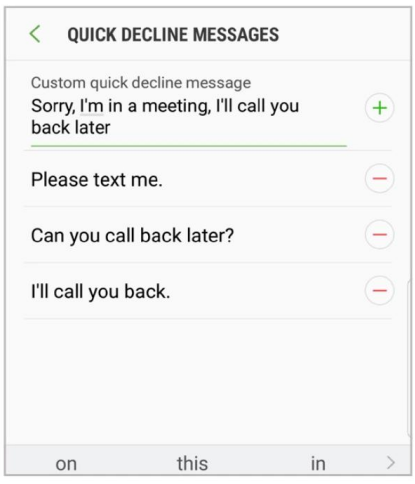
You can reject calls in three ways: ignore it until the answerphone kicks in, tap the red Reject Call button, or reject it with an explanatory message.



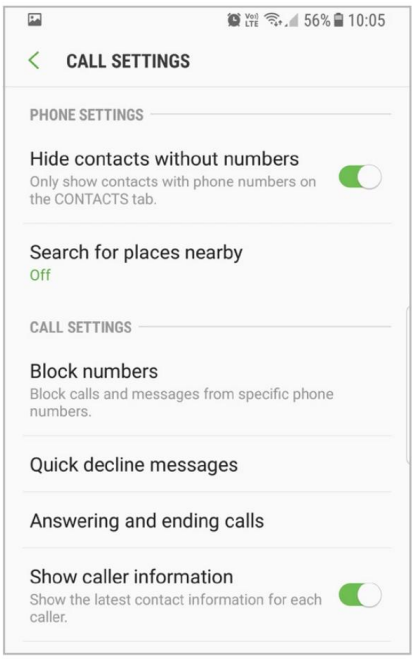
1 You can reject any call by dragging the red Reject button out of the circle. This will result in the caller hearing a message explaining you are unable to take their call. If you just want to silence your ringtone without rejecting the call, you can simply press the Down Volume button.



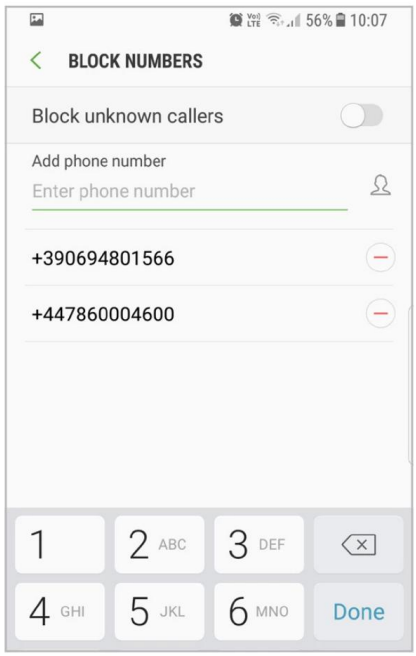
2 If you want to reject a call with an SMS message, drag the Reject Call with Message tab up over the screen. You will see a list of pre-set messages that you can choose from. Tap one of these messages or tap Create Custom Message. You can then write a message of your choice.



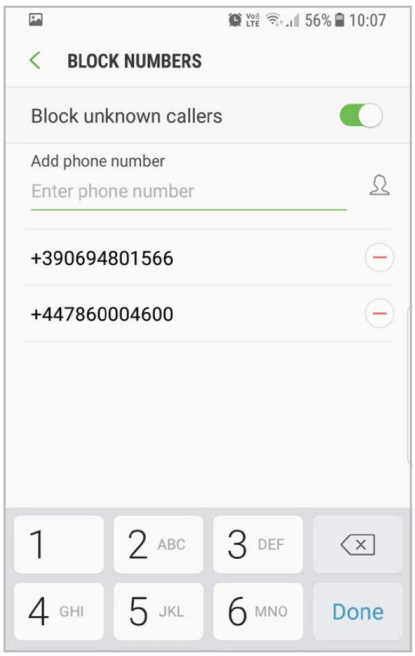
3 As soon as you select a message or start a custom message, the call will be rejected and the message will be sent to the caller within a few seconds. If you don't like the pre-set messages and don't want to have to write a custom message each time, you can create new ones in the settings.



4 To create new or additional call rejection messages, open the Apps screen and tap Phone > More > Settings > Call rejection > Rejection messages, enter a message and then tap the + button. To remove the pre-set messages, tap the – button next to each one.



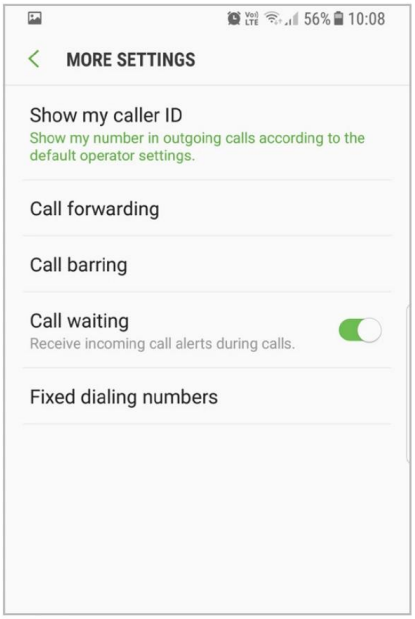
5 You can also select phone numbers for Automatic Rejection. Tap the "Auto Reject List" option and enter a number that you want to reject or tap the Contacts icon to choose from contacts. Tap the + button to add the number to the list. Tap the – button to remove a number from the list.



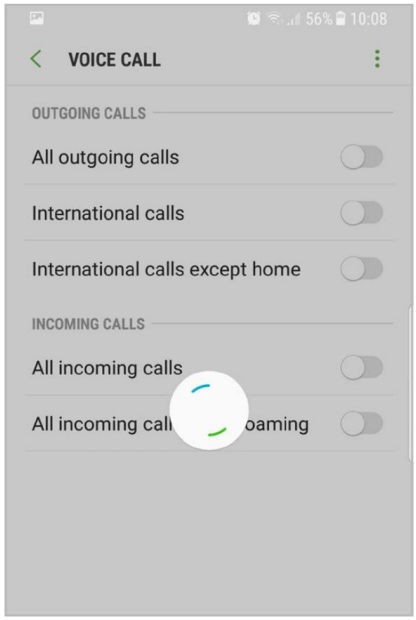
6 You can also reject all unknown numbers by tapping the slider below the reject list. You can now set the criteria for the number. This means you can enter a number prefix i.e. 0880, 0800 etc. and automatically reject any number that starts with that prefix.

Call Barring

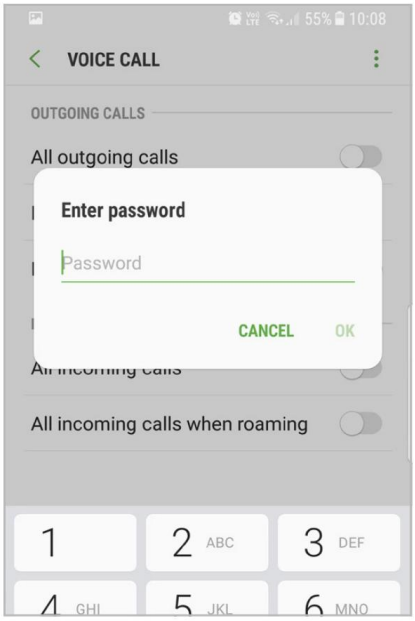
You have complete control over all outgoing and incoming calls thanks to the Call Barring option.



1 Call Barring options can be found by pressing the More button while on the phone dialler and then Call Settings > Additional Settings > Call Barring. You can then choose to set the call barring options for either voice calls or video calls independently. The exact options will vary by device/OS.



2 Tap the voice call option and take a look at various call barring options open to you. Here you can choose to block all incoming calls, all outgoing calls, outgoing international calls and incoming calls while roaming. Use the sliders next to each option to activate it.



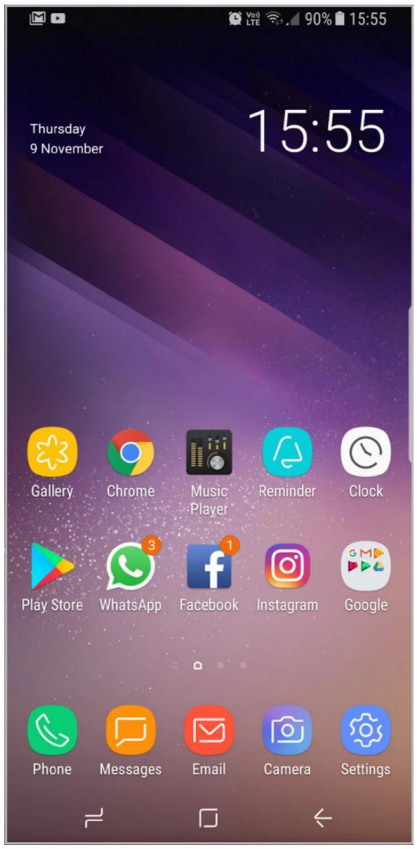
3 The Call Barring settings are password protected, meaning that you will be asked to set a password when you first activate one of the barring options. Password protection is useful if you want to limit the call options on a phone being used by your children for example.

Sending SMS Messages

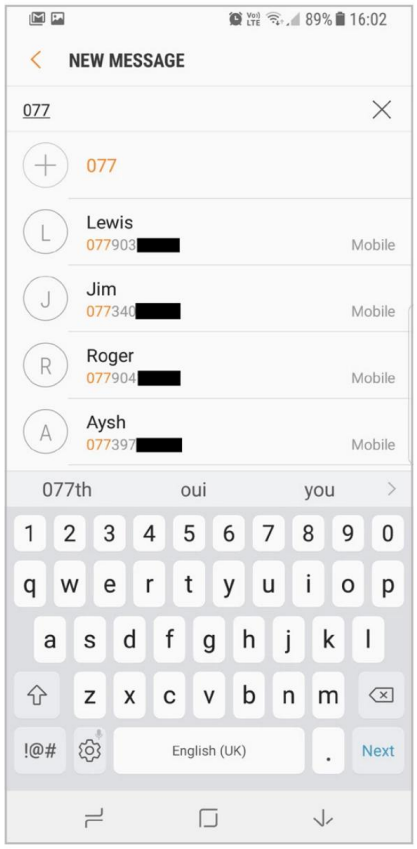
Sending text messages doesn't change much from phone to phone, so if you have sent an SMS message in the past, you shouldn't have any problems doing so on your Samsung Galaxy. However, there are a few useful extras that the Galaxy can do that you might not have seen before; many of them will almost certainly become an essential part of sending text messages. Let's take a look at how you can make SMS messaging a breeze.

Create a New Message

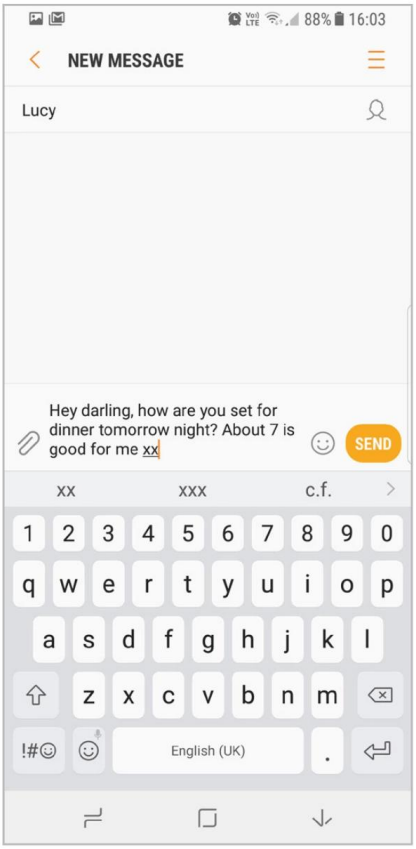
Despite how simple an act it might seem, there are a number of options to consider when composing and sending SMS messages on your Samsung Galaxy device.



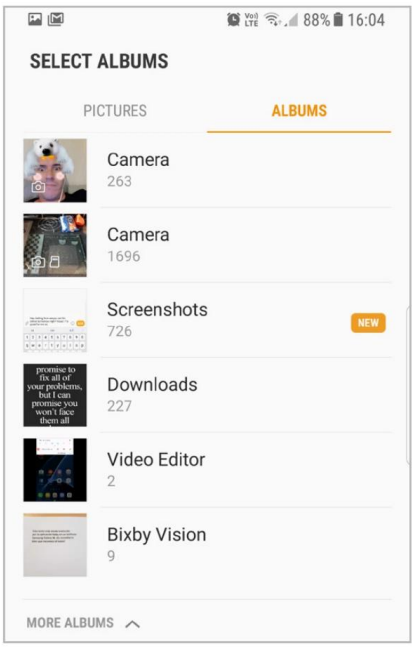
1 The easiest way to start a new message is to tap the Messaging app icon on the Home screen. On almost all Samsung devices, the Messages app icon is in the dock at the bottom of the screen. Tap the New Message icon at the bottom-right of the screen to begin composing the message.



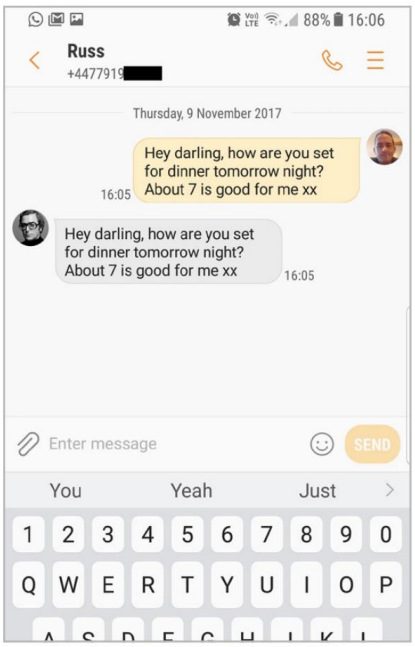
2 In the top box, either type the phone number that you want to message, type the name of the contact, or tap the Contacts icon beside the box, and then choose who you want to message from the contacts list. You can add more than one contact as a recipient of the message.



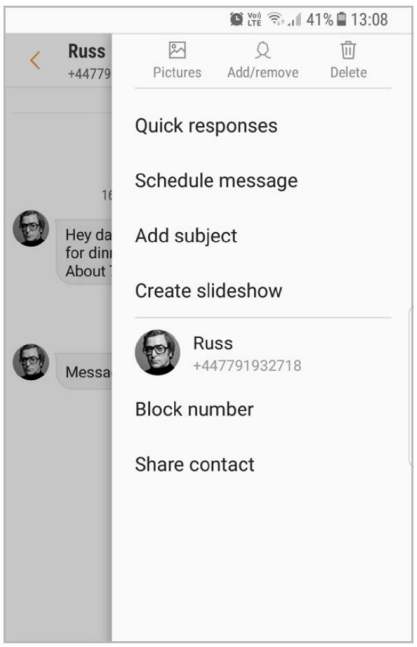
3 You can start to type your message in the box above the on screen keyboard. A single text message can't be more than 160 characters (including spaces), so keep an eye on the character count which appears on the right side when there are less than 10 remaining.



4 If you want to attach a file (photo, document, etc.) to the message, tap the Paperclip button. Once you add an image or video to a text message, it becomes a multimedia message and may cost more to send.



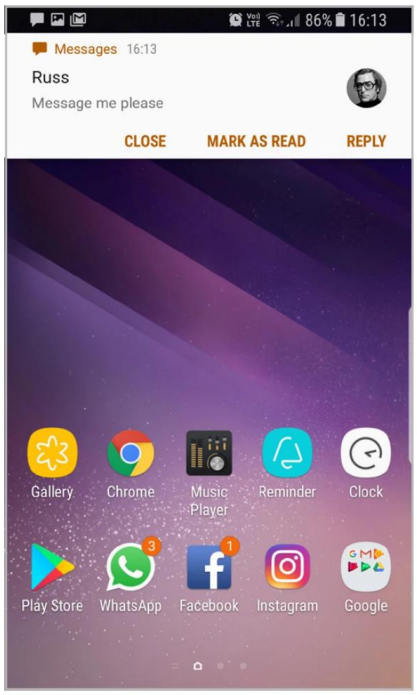
5 When your message is ready to send, tap the Send button (either the envelope with an arrow on it, or the button with "Send" on it). If you have not added a recipient, this button will be greyed out and not available to press.



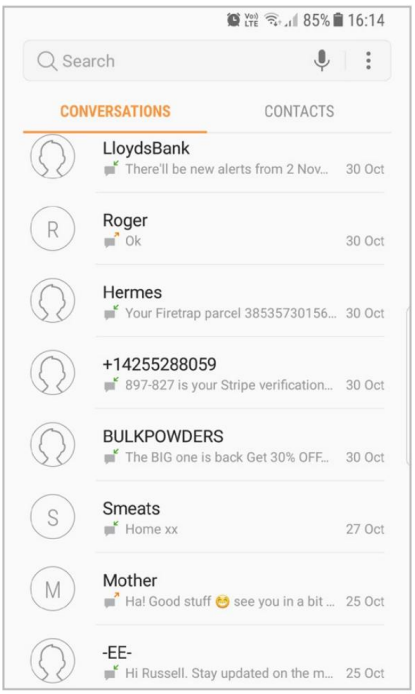
6 The screen will then return to the conversation view. This will show your recent messages to that contact, as well as replies. Once in a text conversation with a contact, messages can be scheduled by tapping More > Schedule Message.

Reply to Messages

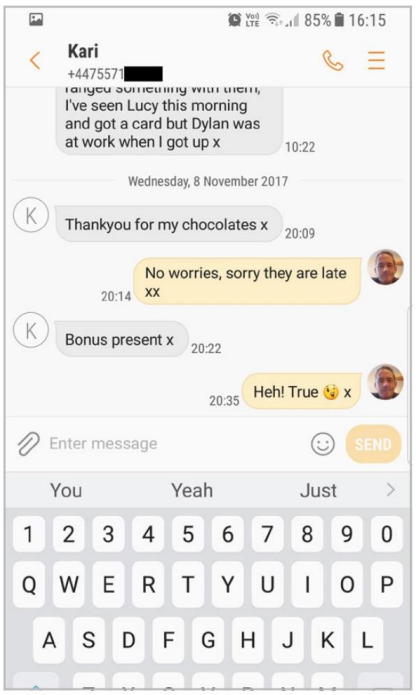
Samsung devices, as with all Android, let you reply to messages either from a conversation, or from the notification when it appears in the status bar/notifications panel.



1 When you receive a message, a notification will appear in the status bar at the top of the screen. Drag the bar down to see your notifications. To reply, tap the message Notification.



2 To reply to an older message, tap the Messaging app icon and you will see a list of your messaging conversations. Tap the name of the person you want to reply to and you will see a history of your messages.



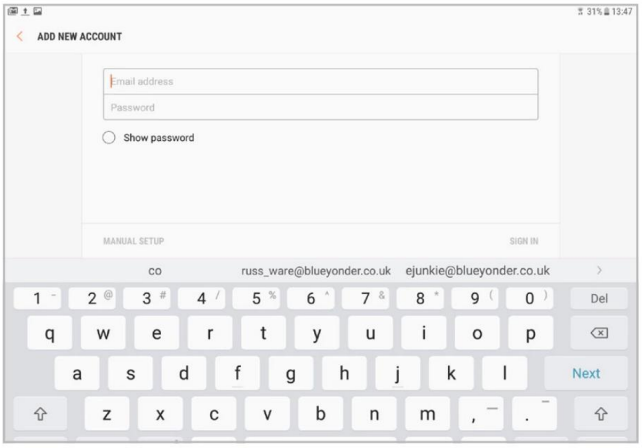
3 Tap in the Enter Message box and the keyboard will pop up. You can then type your reply, attach a file and send the message as normal. Your reply will appear in the message conversation view.

Setting Up and Sending Emails

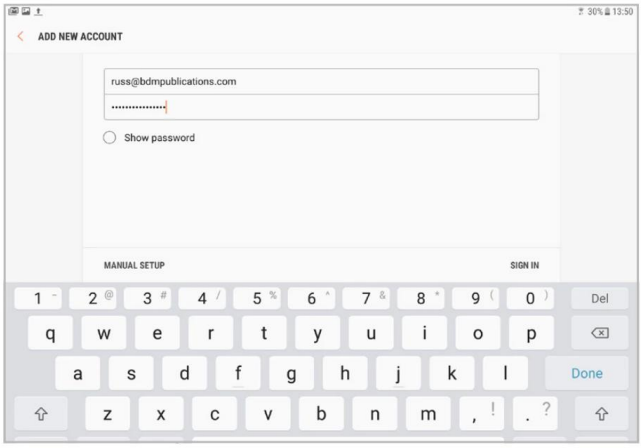
Being able to sync your Gmail account easily to your Galaxy is great but there are sure to be lots of users who use different email accounts. Setting up your phone to pull emails from these POP3 or IMAP accounts is relatively easy but you will need your username and password details and possibly the names of your incoming and outgoing mail servers.

Automatic Setup

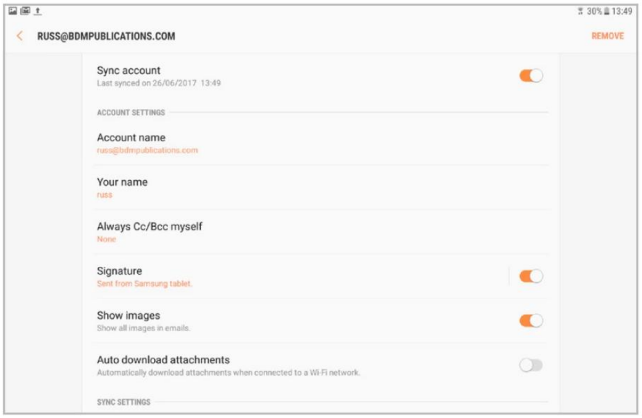
For most users, the automatic email set up wizard will take any hard work out of configuring your email app and should be able to find the relevant email server details just from the email address you provide.



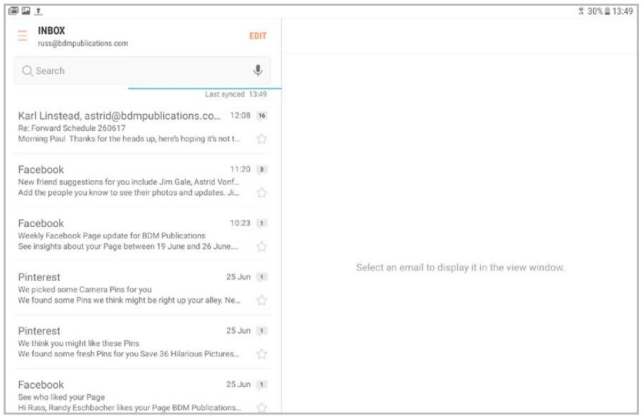
1 Open the email client app from the All Apps menu on your phone and enter your email address and the password for that email account. If you don't know the password, contact your ISP.



2 Tap Next and wait to see if the email app can pull the email settings from your ISP automatically. In most cases, this is as difficult as it gets when setting up your POP3 or IMAP email account.



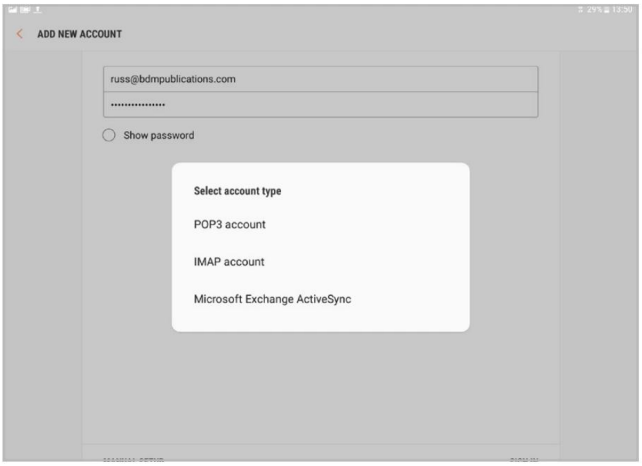
3 Once the automatic setup is complete, you can choose if and when the app checks for new emails. You can set a higher frequency for peak times and a lower frequency for off-peak times. If happy with the default settings, you can just leave this for now. You can always change these settings later.



4 Your emails should now begin to load on to your device from your mail server. This can take a while, depending on how many emails you have on the server and which type of email account has been set up by default (Pop3 or IMAP). You can simply repeat the process to add more email accounts.

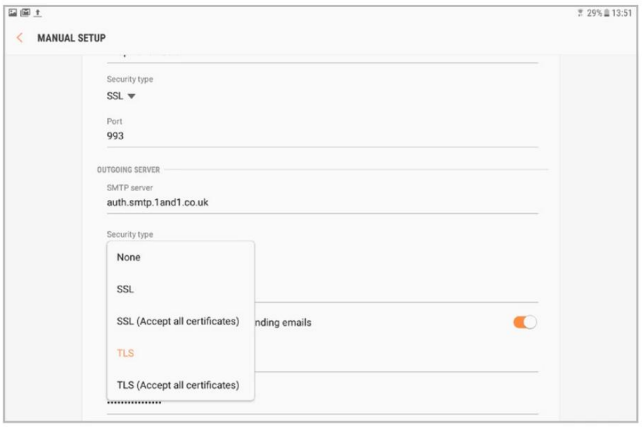
Manual Setup

In some cases, the automatic email setup will fail and you will have to set up manually. If you have set up email accounts before, this should be fairly familiar to you. If not, don't worry, it isn't too difficult.

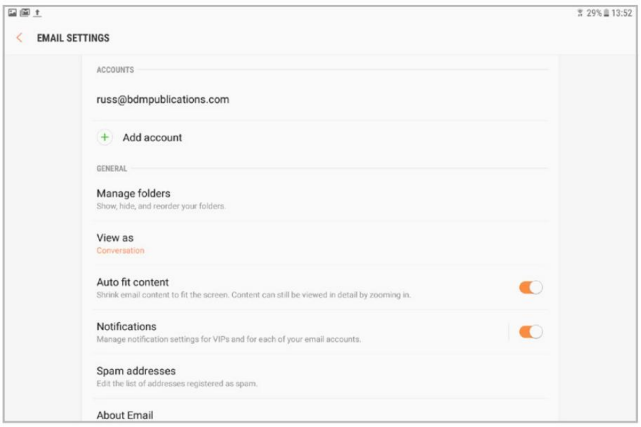


1 Open the email app and enter your email address and password in the boxes provided. Instead of tapping Next, tap Manual Setup. You will need to have the email server details ready at hand (from your ISP or from their website).

2 Choose the type of email account you use (POP3, IMAP or Exchange). IMAP is generally better as this type of account keeps the message on the server after reading on your phone. Useful if you access emails in multiple places. Tap Next.

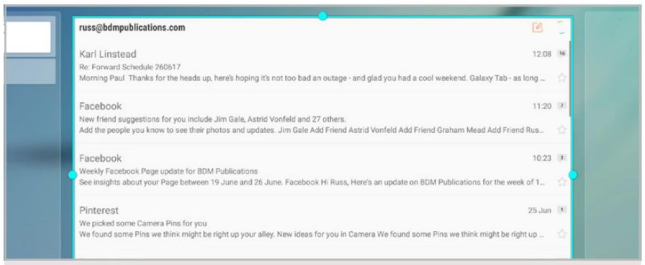


3 The server settings should be pre-filled for most of the major ISPs, but if not, fill them out with the information you have. Tap Next and let the email client attempt to automatically configure the incoming server settings. Repeat for the outgoing server.



4 If the manual setup fails, you may need to change the security type to SSL/TLS. The port for incoming emails is usually 993, and 465 for outgoing emails (IMAP). If you are still having problems, double-check with your ISP.

5 On the next screen you can change some of the account settings. These include the frequency at which the app checks for new emails on the server and whether notifications are turned on.

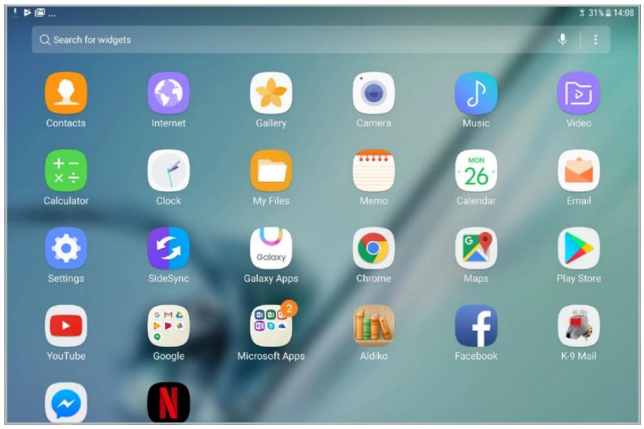


Email Widget

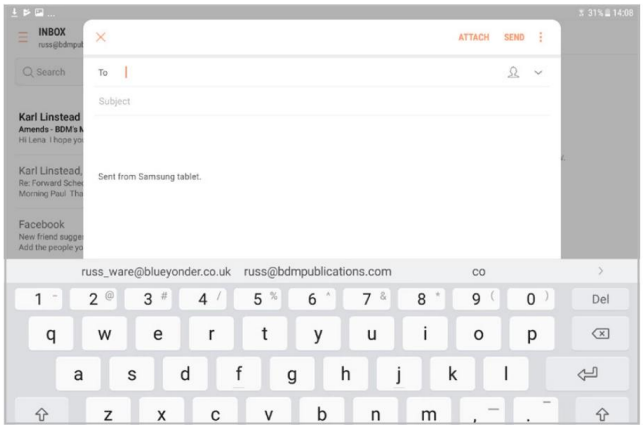
› The standard email client on the Galaxy comes with just one widget that you can use to display the latest emails on your Home screen. You can change how big the widget is (show 2, 3 or 5 emails) by dragging the orange box when you add it to the Home screen. The widget allows you to quickly compose a new email or read received emails without having to use the app icon.

Sending Emails

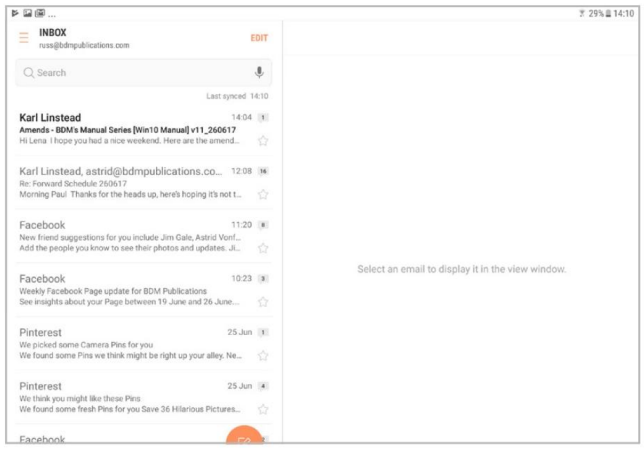
If you are not used to using your phone to send and receive email, getting started can seem a bit of a chore. By following this essential guide, you will learn how to compose, send and receive your emails anywhere.



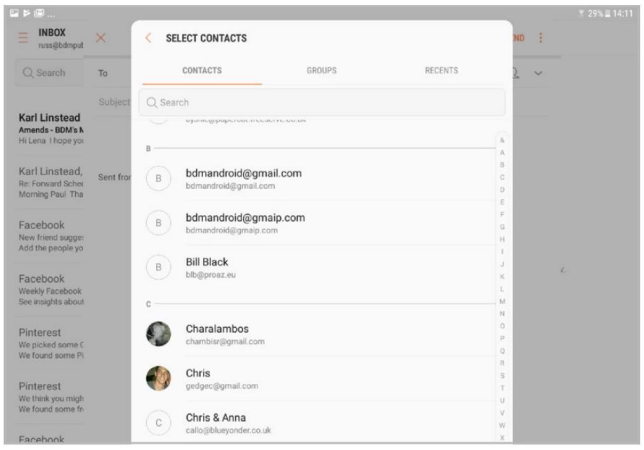
1 Open the Mail app from either the shortcut on the Home screen or by browsing the main apps list. You can also start a new email or reply to a recent email by tapping the email widget if you have one set up on your home screen.



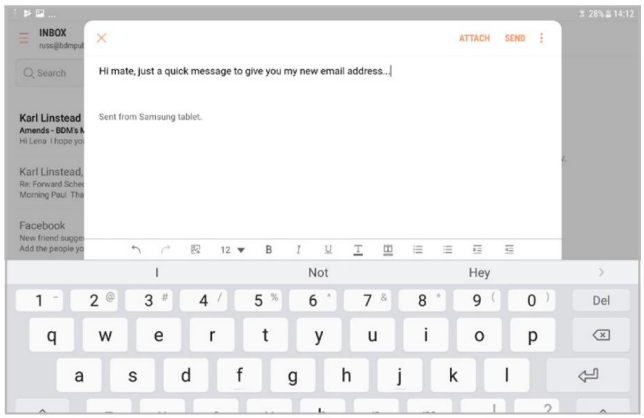
2 If you want to compose a new email, tap the Compose button at the top of the screen. If you want to reply to an email you have received, simply select the email in the list and then tap the Reply button (the curved arrow).



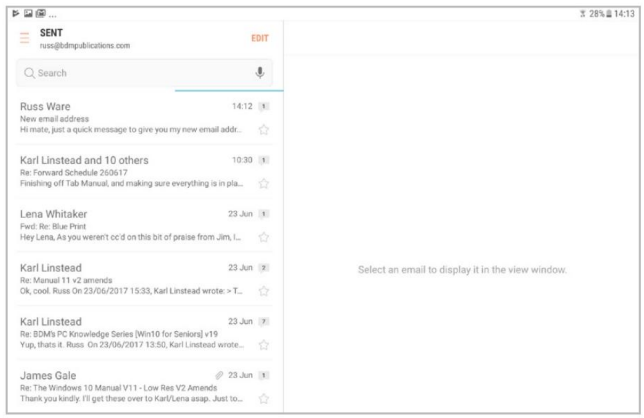
3 Received emails always show with the most recent at the top of the inbox. If you have had more than one email in a conversation, you can open it and read all associated emails on one screen before replying.



4 If composing a new email, tap the Contacts icon to find a contact or contacts in your main list. You can also enter the email address manually into the To box if you're emailing someone not in your contacts.



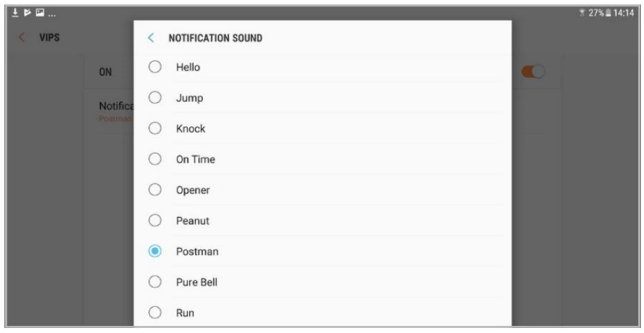
5 Add a subject, then tap the main message box and start to type your email message. When you're typing, the predictive text works equally well in emails as elsewhere and you can add special characters such as emoji to your emails.



6 When you have finished composing your email, tap the Send button at the top of the screen (usually an envelope icon). You can also tap the Menu button and choose to Save as Draft if you don't want to send the message straight away.

Email Settings

Once you have your email account set up, you can change some of the default settings to suit your particular needs for that account.

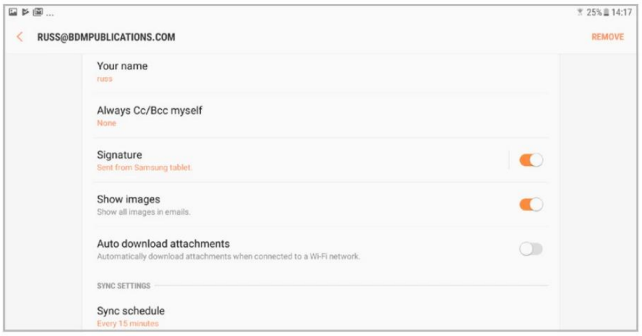


Notifications

› Tap "More" whilst in the email app and choose Settings from the menu. Here you can configure how you are notified of new emails, how emails are viewed in the app: list or conversation view. If you turn notifications on a new mail icon will appear in your notifications bar.

Account Settings

› Tap your email address in the settings to see more specific options. Here you can configure your email account name and data usage settings. You can also alter your receive Settings. Receive Settings include the frequency which your client checks for new emails as well as the size limit.

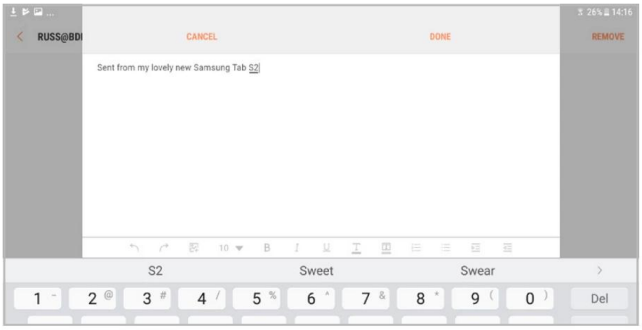


Email Display

› There are several display options available in the Galaxy email app, such as auto fitting content when opened. You can also choose whether to automatically display images in emails or whether you will be asked if you want to see images each time. To see display settings, tap Menu > Settings.

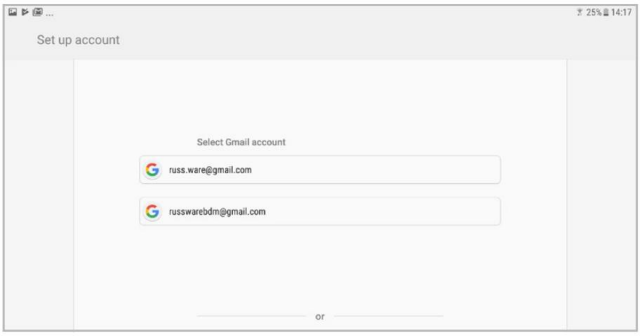
Spam Addresses

› You can also add a list of spam addresses and domains, so that these are automatically moved to a spam folder or deleted altogether instead of cluttering up your Inbox. Tap "Add" and type either a full single email address or a domain (the last part of an email address, e.g. ...@spamdomain.com).



Email Signature

› When you start to compose a new email you should see some text already in the message box. This will be something like "Sent from Samsung Mobile" and is your default signature. This will automatically be added to any new email but can be turned off or altered in Settings > Account Name > Signature.



Multiple Accounts

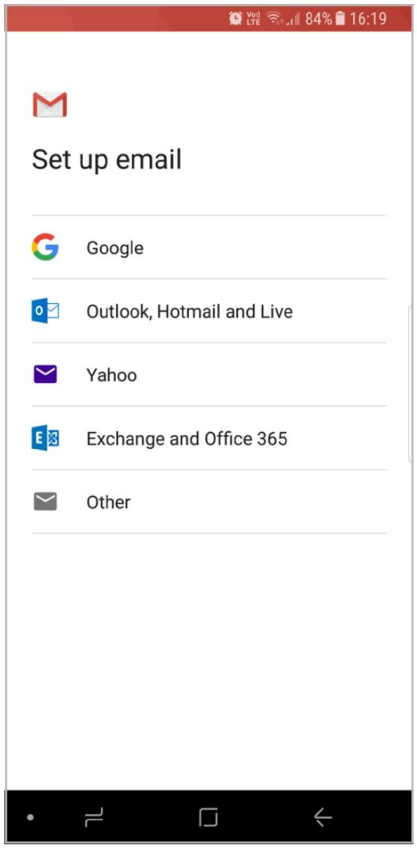
› If you have more than one email account set up on your Android phone, you can switch between them easily from the main email inbox. The name of the account is at the top of the email screen. Tap the arrow to bring down a list off all your accounts and select the one you want to send mail from.

Using the Gmail App

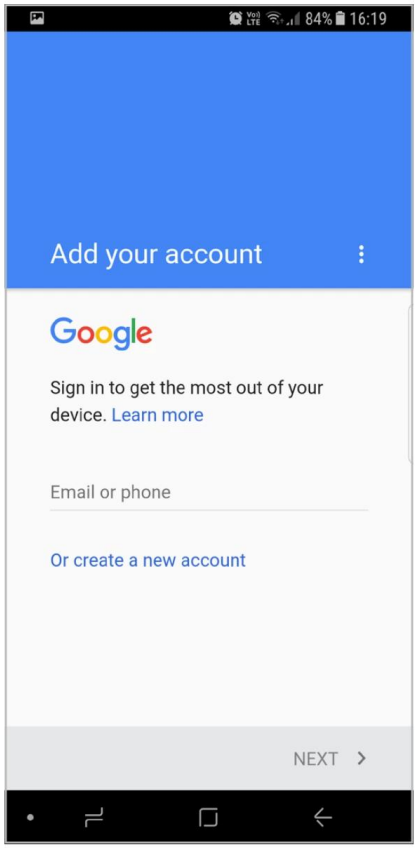
It isn't a surprise that an operating system owned by Google includes the Gmail app as standard. Gmail works particularly well on Android because it can push new emails to your device rather than your device having to pull them from the server. This means that you do not have to manually connect to a data network (or Wi-Fi) to check your Gmail account. Gmail also integrates perfectly with many other apps that Android uses as standard.

Activating Your Gmail Account

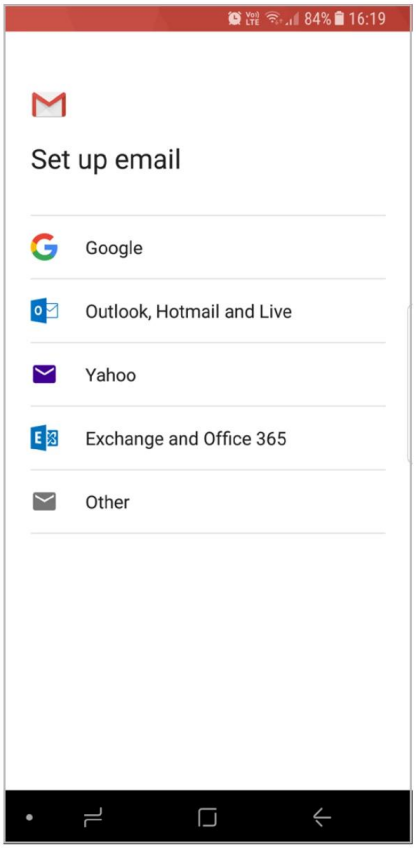
If you have a Google account, you also have a Gmail account by default, even if you have never used it. Your Gmail account is useful for lots of things on Android, including syncing your contacts.



1 When you open the Gmail app, if it's the first time you have used it, it will ask you to set up a new account or log in to an existing one. Select "Sign In" and enter your username (Gmail address) and password. If you don't already have an account choose Set Up.



2 Enter your first and last name along with the Gmail address you would like to use. If your name is not available you can try a different one; you may need to add a number to the end or you can view suggestions made by Google. These will incorporate your name in some form.



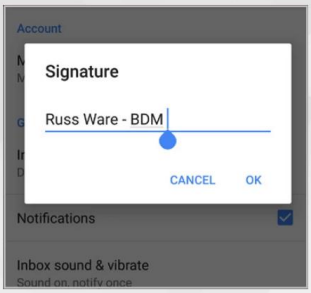
3 Once you have activated or signed in to your account the Gmail app will open properly and display any emails you have in there. If it is a new account this will be a welcome email. If you are signing in to an existing account your old emails will load after a short time.

Configure Your Gmail Account

Once you have your account set up on your phone, you will probably want to change a few settings on the options menu.

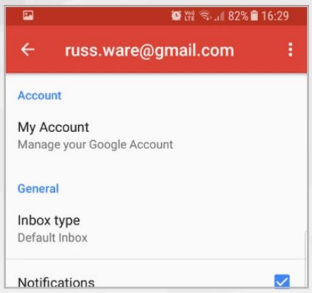
As mentioned on the previous page, Gmail uses Push technology, meaning your new emails can be pushed to your phone.

However, if you are not careful, this can use up a lot of your data allowance, not to mention putting a strain on your battery.



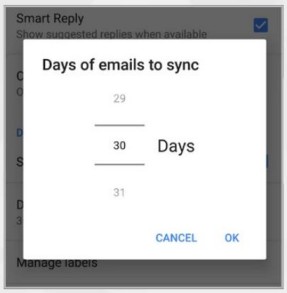
Account Settings

Within the Gmail setting you can add a signature which will be added to the end of every outgoing message, choose when you receive confirmation of actions such as archiving, deleting and sending emails, as well as choosing which labels are synced from your Gmail account. You can find all Gmail settings by tapping the Menu button from within the app, then selecting Settings.



Notifications

There are several ways you can be notified of new emails, from a simple icon in the notification bar to a unique ringtone. You can also choose to be notified of every new email individually or just once to show you have new mail in your inbox. The level of notification is up to you, but be aware that setting full notification (icon, ringtone, etc.) will use more battery.

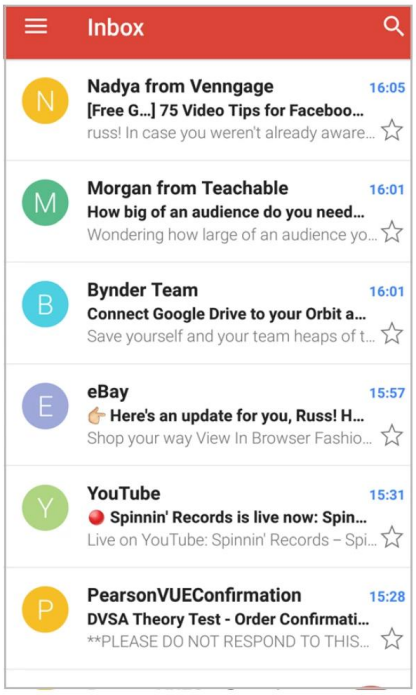


Syncing

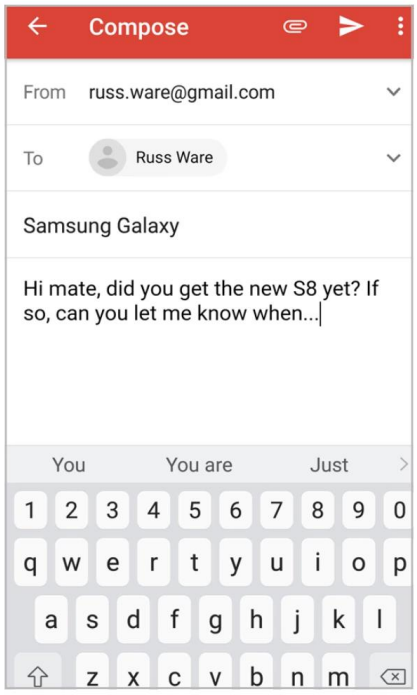
Open your phone's main Settings menu and choose Accounts and Sync. Here you can select the level of sync for your Google account (including Gmail). Enable Background Data if it is not already, but disable Auto-Sync. Your emails will now not be pushed to your phone automatically; you will have to open the Gmail app and choose Sync. This will reduce battery usage.

Composing New Gmail Messages

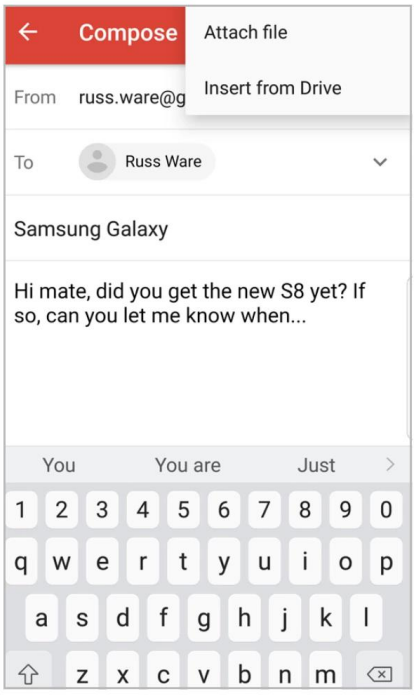
Now that you have your Gmail account set up on your Android device, you can begin composing and replying to messages; Gmail makes both of these tasks simple.



1 Open the Gmail app. By default it will open to show your main Inbox for your primary account. Look at the bottom for the Compose Message icon. Tap this to start a new email. You will be able to see the Compose Message button on any screen/ folder in Gmail.



2 Type the recipient's address in the next box down. As you start to type, known email addresses for contacts will appear. Type a subject/title for the email and then type your message in the box below. If you want to attach an image or video, tap the Menu button and select Attach File.



3 You can also "Insert from Drive" meaning insert media from Google Drive. When you have typed your message tap the Send button at the top of the screen or tap Done on the keyboard. An icon in the notification bar will show if the message does not send for some reason.

Browse the Internet with Chrome

The mobile version of Google Chrome is now the standard browser on most Android smartphones and tablets and is widely considered to be the fastest and safest browser around. The app will be preinstalled on your Samsung Galaxy but you should check for the latest updates on Google Play before you use the browser on your device. Samsung Galaxy devices may also have a second web browser app that is called simply Internet.

Browsing the Internet

The Google Chrome browser is far from the only option for getting onto the Internet but unless you need very specific features offered by other browsers, Chrome is a great all round choice.

1 Search Field

› Type your search terms or URL here. You will also see a microphone icon, which when tapped will allow you to search by voice.

2 Chrome Menu

› The Menu button should always be visible and gives you access to the bookmarking button, page refresh and the forward and back buttons.

3 Bookmarks List

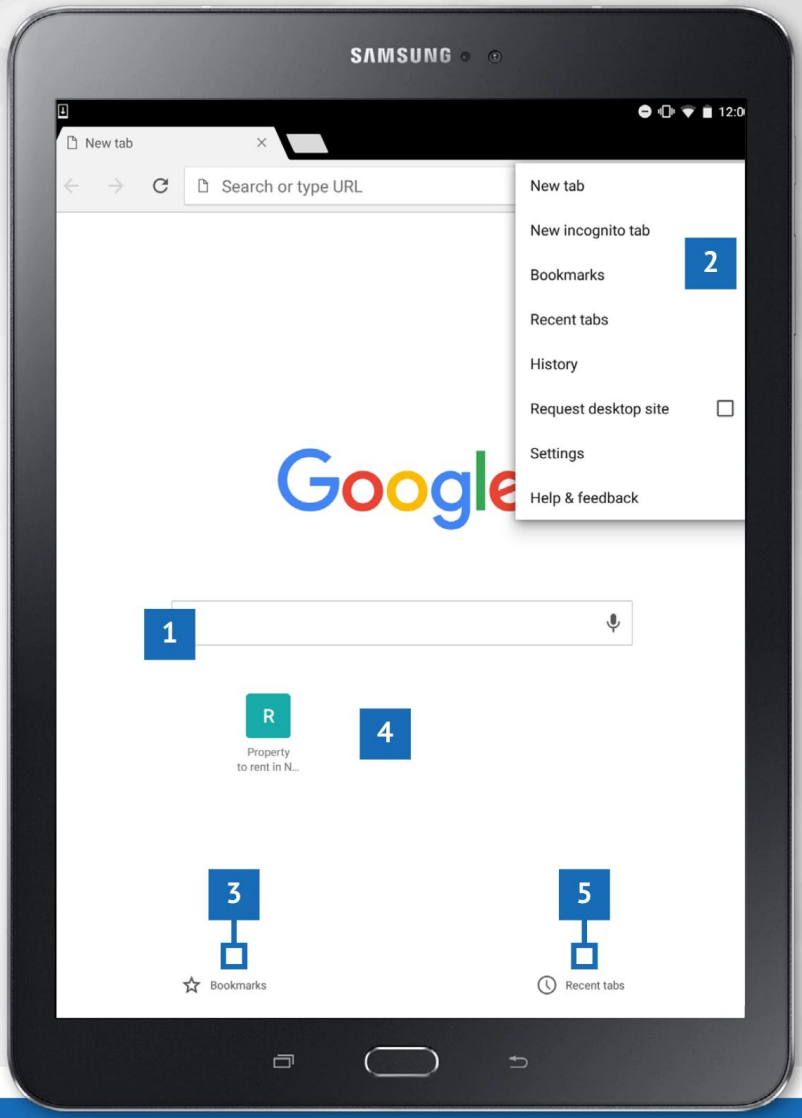
› Tap the star at the bottom of the Chrome Home screen to see your bookmarked websites. You can also access bookmarks through the menu.

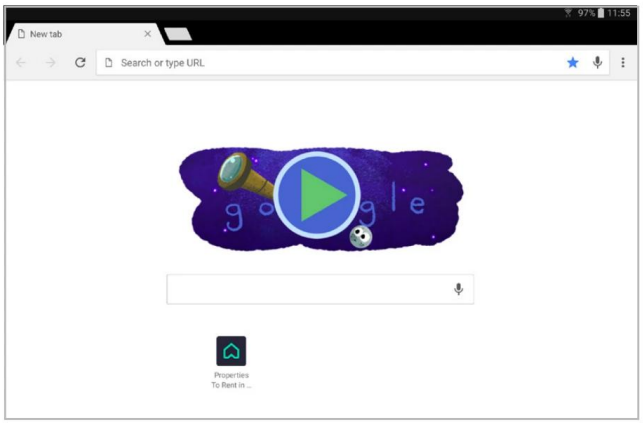
4 Recent Sites

› Recently visited websites will be displayed as thumbnails on the opening screen of Chrome. Tap any to open that website.

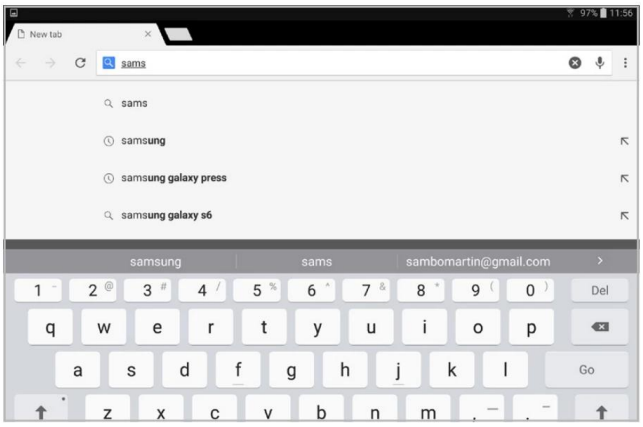
5 History

› For a full browsing history tap the clock icon. The browsing history from your other devices will also be shown if they use the same Google account.

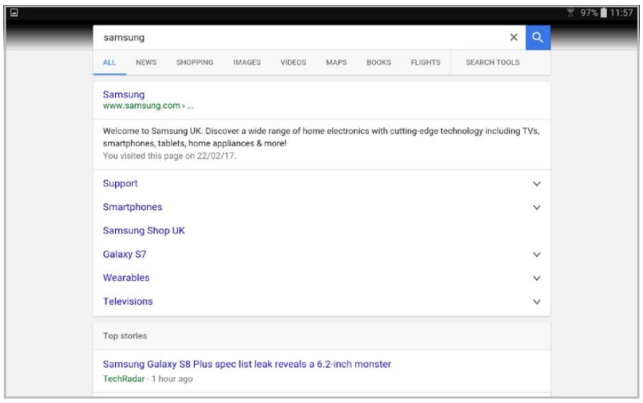




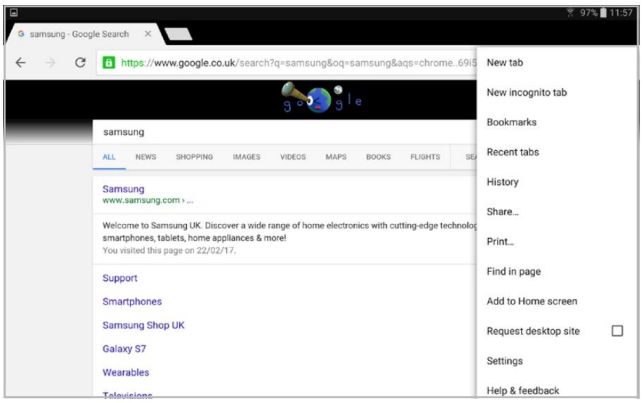
1 Tap the Chrome icon to open the app. The familiar Google search screen should open first, with recently opened or frequently opened websites as thumbnails below. If you're using the app for the first time the screen will be blank. To start searching for websites, type in the search field.



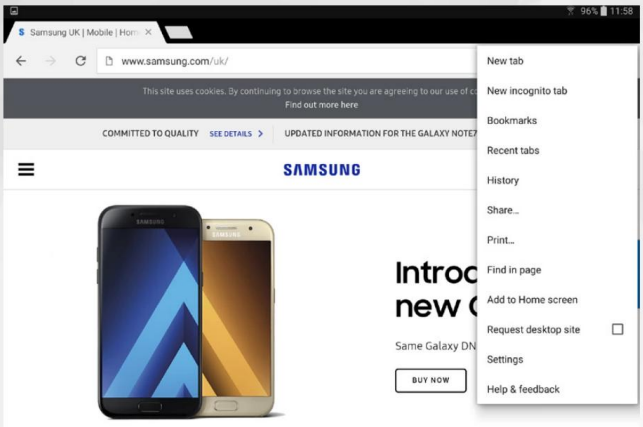
2 You can either type a search term or a URL if you know the address of the website you want to visit. As you type Chrome will offer suggestions based on the words entered. Tap any of these to enter the word as your search term. If Location Services are active, local results will be shown.



3 By default Chrome will use Google as the search engine, so results for your search query will be displayed in a familiar Google format, albeit slightly adapted for small screens. If you don't want to use Google, you can change the default search engine in the settings. Tap Menu > Settings > Search Engine.

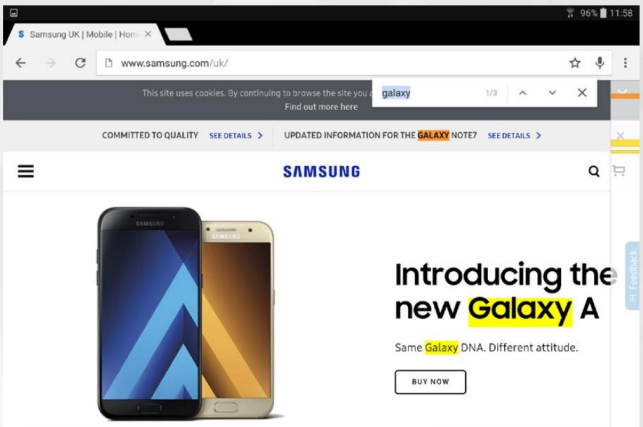


4 To begin a new search and view another website whilst keeping the first one open, you can create a new tab. On larger tablet screens tap the New Tab button at the top; you can also tap Menu > New Tab. You can then do a new search. If not browsing on a tablet you switch tabs by tapping the Overview button.



Request Desktop Site

› Chrome will automatically detect if a website has a mobile version and display the version appropriate to your device. If you prefer to view the original version of a website, you can force Chrome to do so. Open the site tap the Menu button and check the box next to Request Desktop Site.



Find in Page

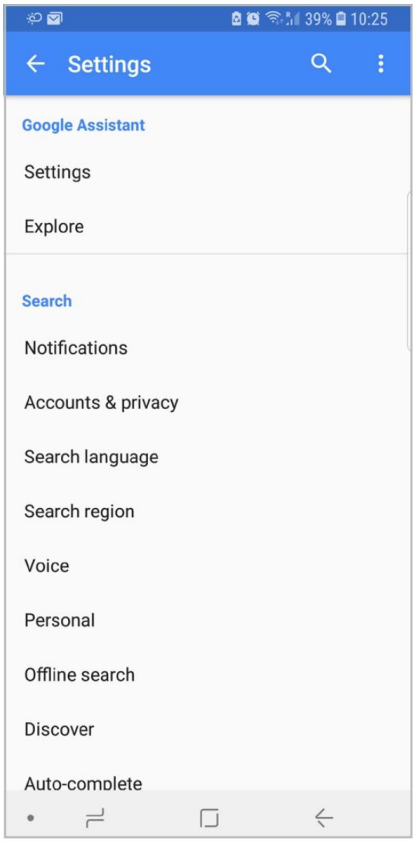
› This feature, accessed through the Chrome menu, allows you to search an individual open web page for specific words or phrases. Tap Menu > Find in Page and then type the word in the search field that opens. The number of times the word appears is displayed and the arrows let you switch between instances.

Get More From Google Now

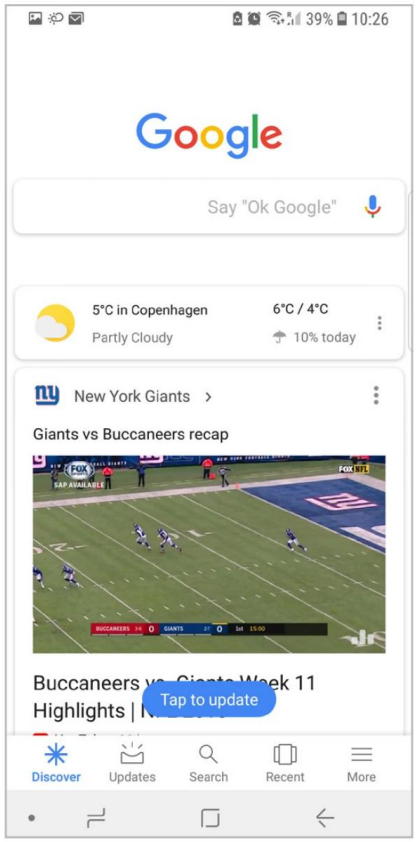
Google Now is about getting you the right information at the right time. It can tell you today's weather before you start your day, how much traffic to expect before you leave for work and even the opening times of a restaurant you are talking about in Messenger. Google Now is always ready to work for you as you go through your day but making the most of its features can take a bit of setting up and customisation. This is how to get started.

Using Now on Tap

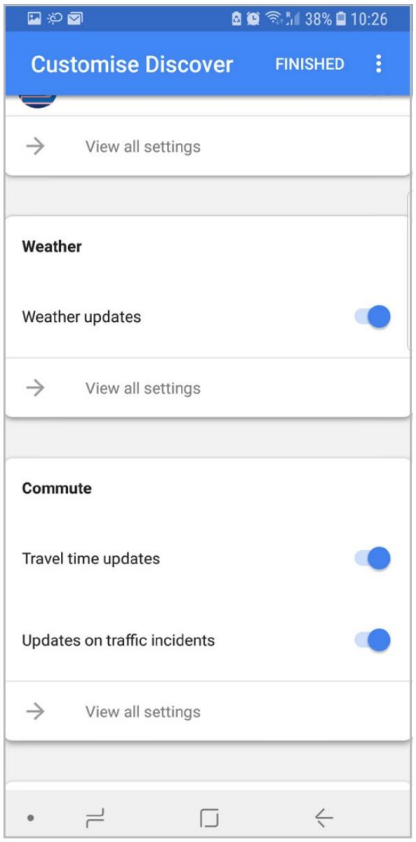
Now on Tap, also known as Screen Search, is one of those features that you didn't know you would miss until you start using it. Android works perfectly well without it but even better with it.



1 Now on Tap uses Screen Search. You can activate Screen Search on your Android device by pressing and holding the Home button. If, when you do this, the Google Search app opens instead, you will need to turn Screen Search on. Open the settings in the Google app (the multi-coloured G icon) and enable the feature there.



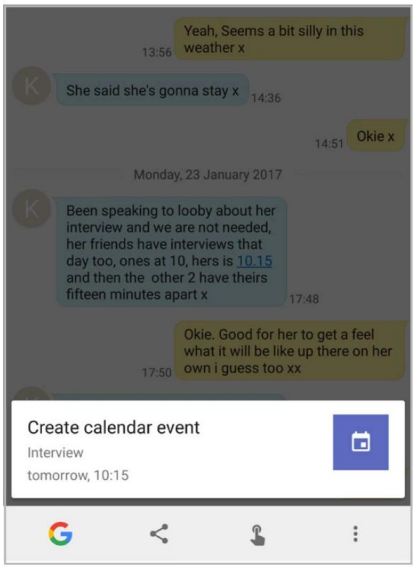
2 What is shown when you press and hold the Home button with Screen Search enabled, varies depending on what you are doing at the time. If you are on the Home screen, you may see a series of quick launch shortcuts for things like Set Alarm, Show Directions for Home and Set a Reminder.



3 There are always some set options available when you open Screen Search. Google Search on the left, Share next to that and then Select Screen and Settings. The Select Screen button allows you to select text or an image on screen and then offers you different ways to search for that item.

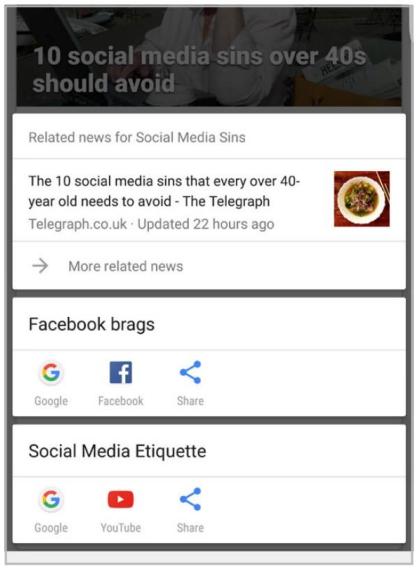
6 Ways to Use Now on Tap

The more you try out Now on Tap, the more you realise just how useful and interactive it is. There is no substitute for discovering uses yourself, but here are six to get you started.



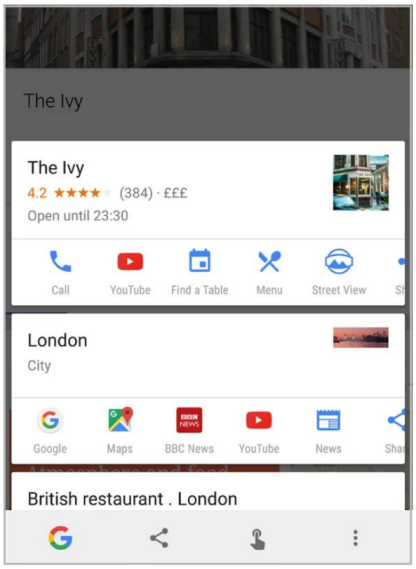
Create Calendar Events

When chatting in almost any of the messenger apps for Android, you can use mentions of times or dates to create events in calendar. For example, if you sent the message "Let's meet at 2 tomorrow" and then activated Now on Tap, a calendar entry set for 2pm the following day will be created and ready to confirm.



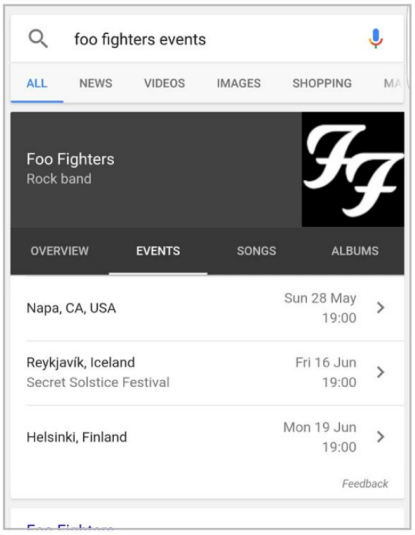
Follow Up on Stories

When you see stories in your news feeds and want to find some alternative sources or follow up with additional information, you don't just have to rely on the feed source. Now on Tap should recognise that the information on screen is news and offer up several different sources for related stories to view.



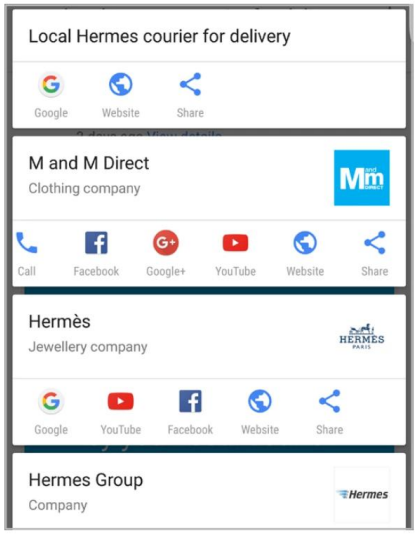
Bookings and Reservations

You can use Now on Tap to make bookings and reservations for all sorts of things. For example, if you are on the Facebook page of a restaurant or if a friend mentions going to the cinema to see a certain film, activating Now on Tap should show you booking times, links and other info.



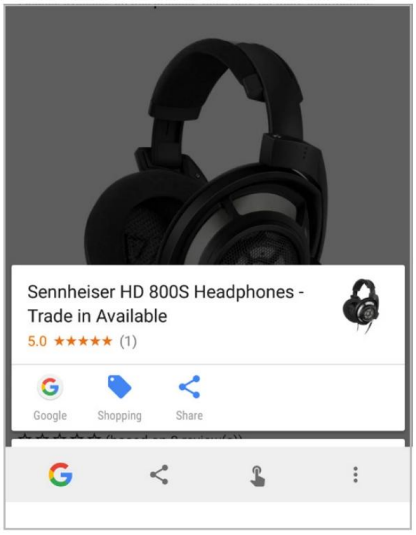
Check Band Tour Dates

Bands are pretty good at getting tour dates out on their websites or Facebook pages but keeping track if you follow lots of bands can be harder. If you are listening to a song from a favourite band and suddenly think "oh, that reminds me..." you can use Now on Tap > Events to find tour dates.



Track Parcel Deliveries

Google Now will automatically track packages for you as it finds valid tracking numbers in your email inbox. You can also track packages if a valid tracking number is mentioned in a chat or if you are on a courier's website. Just activate Now on Tap and tap Track [courier] Package.



Find Product Reviews

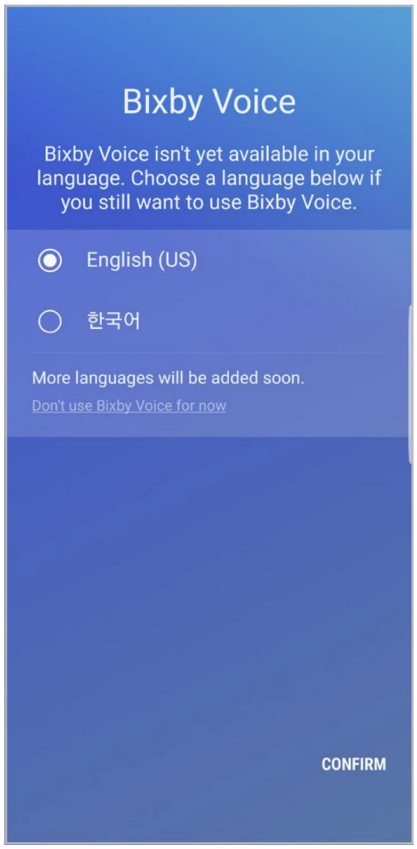
Any experienced online shopper not only knows to check customer reviews, but also that on certain sites, those reviews can't always be trusted. Using Now on Tap, you can jump to a Google search or YouTube for more professional reviews of the product you are looking at.

Using the Bixby Personal Assistant

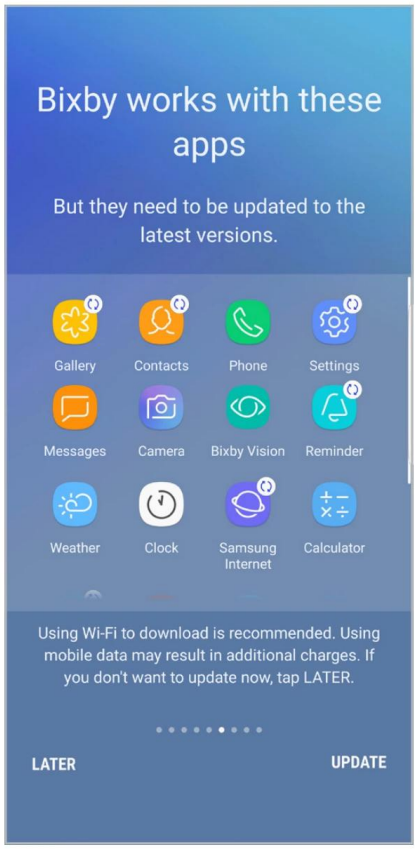
Bixby is a new Samsung tool, designed to act like a personal assistant (like Siri on iPhone or Cortana in Windows 10). You can use Bixby in a number of ways, from using it for voice commands to getting it to recognise objects or text in a photo and then providing information. Bixby is currently only available on the newest Samsung Galaxy devices like the S8, S8+ and the Note 8.

Bixby Set Up

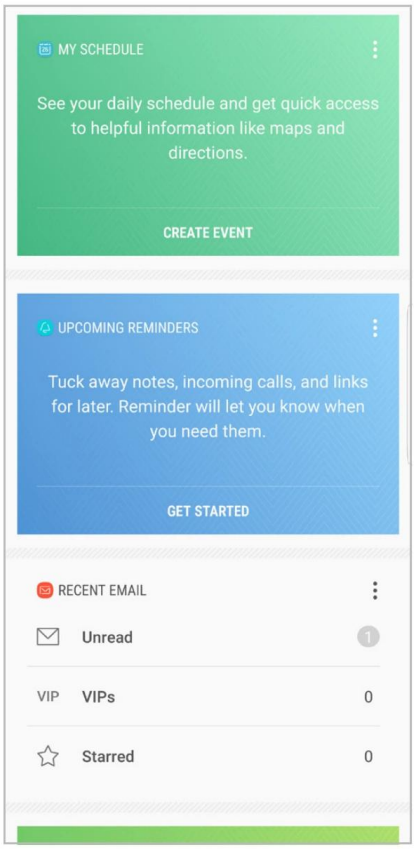
Bixby is currently only available on a few select devices, including the Galaxy S8/S8+ and the new Galaxy Note 8; but even on these devices, it will need to be set up before use.



1 Press the dedicated Bixby button on the side of your Galaxy device, or slide your finger in from the left side of the screen, to open Bixby for the first time. You will need to pick a language to use if Bixby isn't yet able to use the default language your phone is set to (in our case English US instead of English UK).



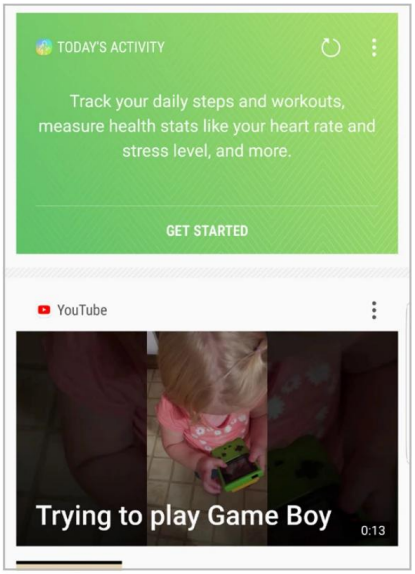
2 There are several screens to look through, including standard things like Terms and Conditions and a list of things Bixby can do. You will also be shown a list of apps that work with Bixby. These may need to be updated but if so you will be prompted to do so here and the process will run in the background.



3 The Bixby Home screen will now open. If you have apps such as Facebook installed on your device, you will be asked to allow Bixby to access them to provide you will updates and notifications here. Bixby will constantly be updating with new info and is a great way to get a snapshot of your phone's activity.

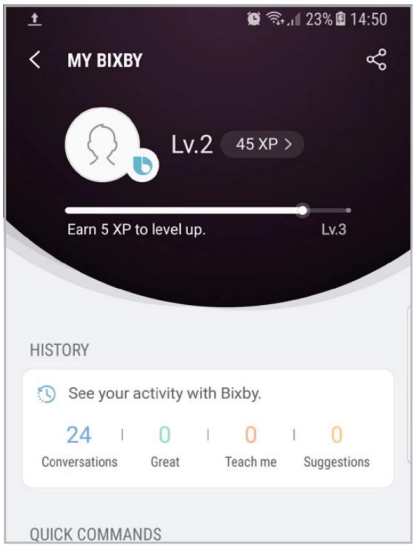
Bixby Home

The Bixby Home screen is your central hub for everything Bixby can do, as well as for notifications and alerts from other apps such as Gmail; notifications still appear in the status bar/notification panel.



Open Bixby Home

› To open Bixby Home, press the Bixby key. Alternatively, swipe to the right on the Home screen. On the Bixby Home screen, you can view recommended services and information that Bixby provides by analysing your usage patterns and your routine. To close, press the Bixby button again.

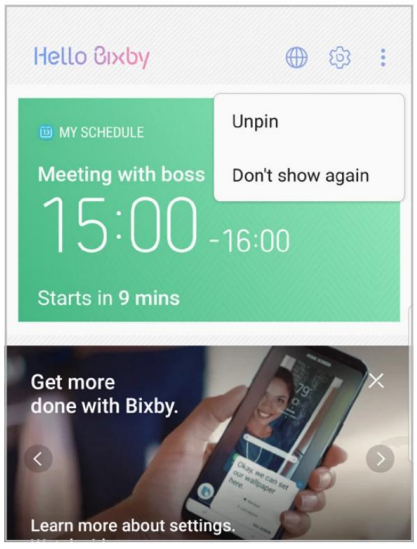


Experience Points

› In Bixby Home, tap Menu > My Bixby. Bixby rewards you for using it, giving you experience points; as well as becoming smarter with every use. You can earn up to 500 experience points a day and use them to unlock goodies such as wallpapers, exclusive contests and even reward cards.

Bixby Tools

› You can also launch the Bixby Voice, Bixby Vision and Reminder tools from Bixby Home. They will need to be enabled and set up first; this can be done by tapping the Menu button in Bixby, selecting Settings and choosing which tools you want to set up from the list.

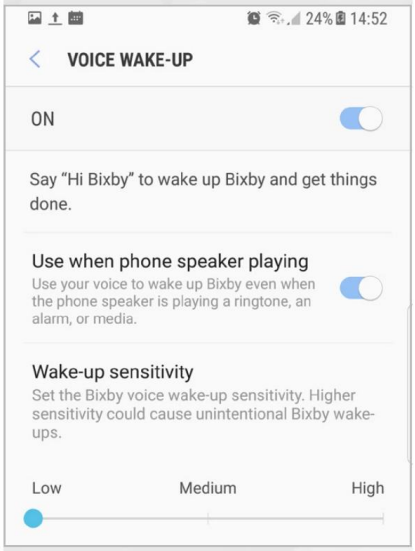


My Schedule

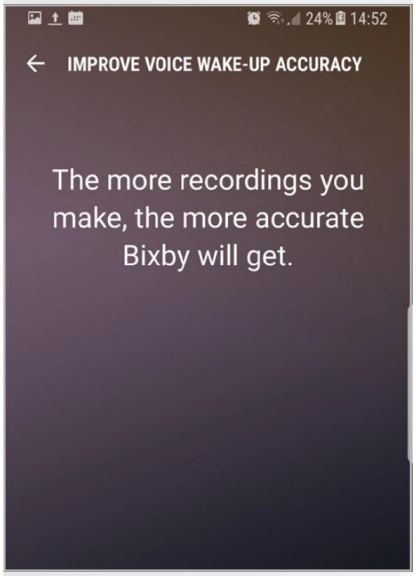
› The My Schedule panel will always be displayed on Bixby Home but you can pin it to the top if you wish: tap the Menu button on the panel and then 'Pin to top'. Any upcoming events you have added, either through Bixby or by adding to the Calendar app, will be displayed in the panel.

Wake Bixby with Your Voice

You can use the Bixby button to wake it or you can wake Bixby with your voice.



1 When you set voice wake-up, you can say "Bixby" at any time to start a conversation. You will need to first register your voice to use voice wake-up. On the Bixby Home screen, tap → Settings → Voice wake-up and tap the switch to activate it.

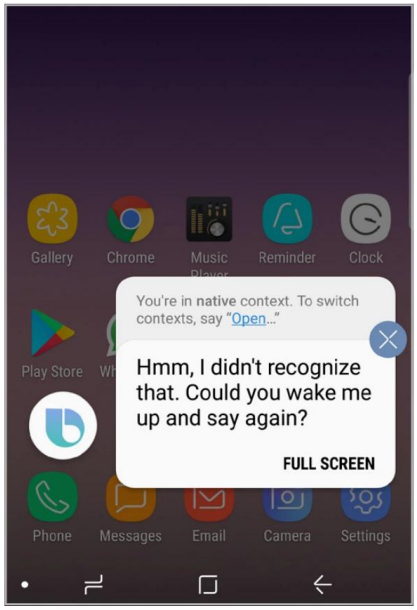


2 Tap the Bixby icon on screen and follow the displayed instructions to complete the setup. You may need to move to a quieter room if there is a lot of noise around you during the setup. Once set up, you can say "Bixby" at any time to get started or say "Bixby" followed by a voice command.

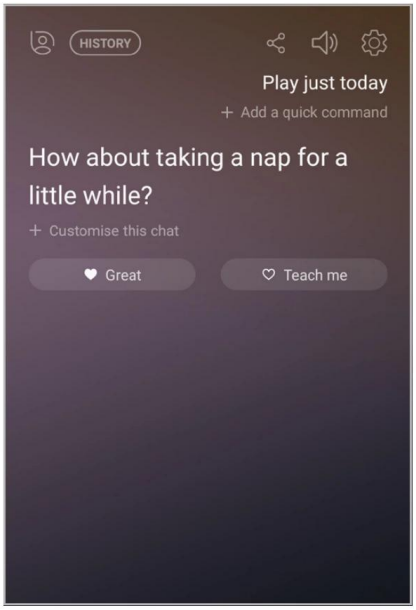
Bixby Voice

Bixby Voice is the voice activated way to use the personal assistant, letting you search, open, write and create without even touching your phone.

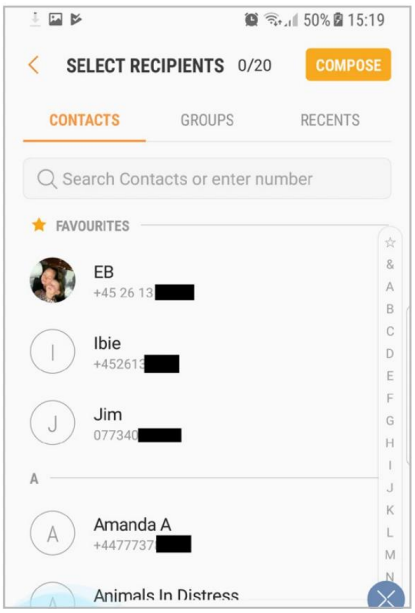
1 To launch Bixby Voice for the first time, press and hold the Bixby button on the side of your phone. When you launch Bixby Voice for the first time, you can set the language to communicate with Bixby Voice and voice wake-up. Voice wake-up means starting Bixby Voice by saying "Bixby" or "Hey Bixby".



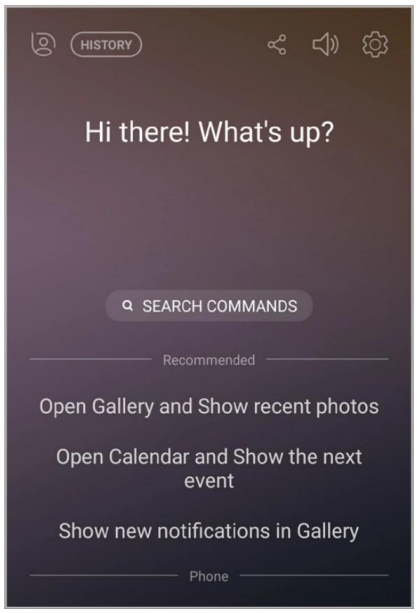
2 When the blue and white Bixby listening status icon is displayed, you can say your request to Bixby Voice. Bixby Voice will display your speech as on screen text (as it understands/interprets it) and will launch the corresponding functions or show the information you requested on screen.



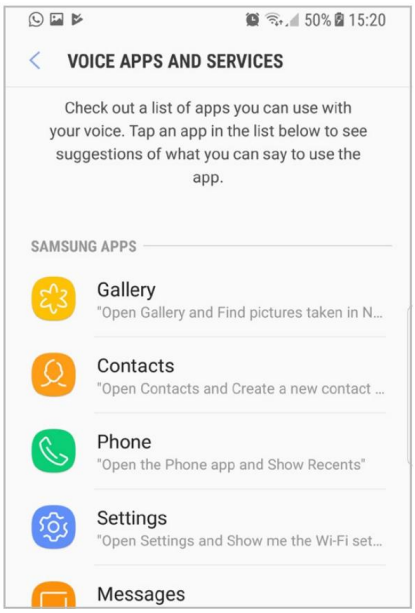
3 For example, you could say "Play [song name]" to start that song playing in your default music app, or "Send okay to Mum" to create a message to your mum saying "okay" (if she is saved as Mum in your contacts list). There are lots of voice commands available and you can see a more complete list later in this guide.



4 Depending on what you ask Bixby, it might follow up with a question of its own. For example, if you simply say "Send a text", Bixby will ask who you want to send the message to and may even ask how you want to send it (which app to open). Tap the Bixby icon on screen and give more information.



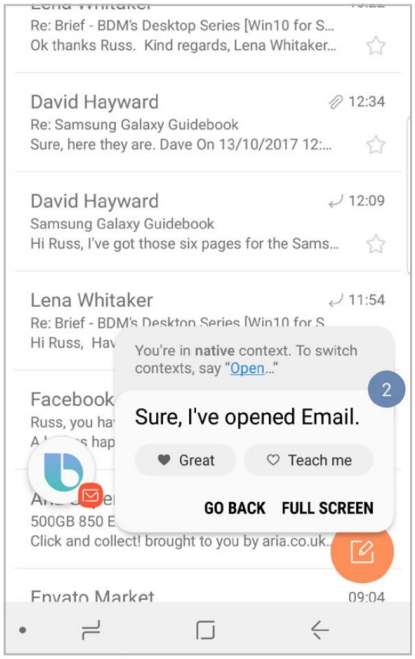
5 The more you use Bixby Voice and the phone it is installed on, the better it will get at predicting or recognising what you want to do. When you activate Bixby Voice, tap the Full Screen button to see a selection of suggested commands, as well as popular commands based on your use.



6 Not every app on your device will support Bixby Voice. To see supported apps, Open Bixby Home and tap Menu > Voice apps and services. Apps that support Bixby Voice will appear in a list. You can tap on a desired app to view a selection of the suggested commands that can be used with Bixby Voice.

Bixby Voice Commands

The more you use Bixby, the better it gets at understanding your voice and your needs. Here are some commands that it should easily recognise even the first time you use it.

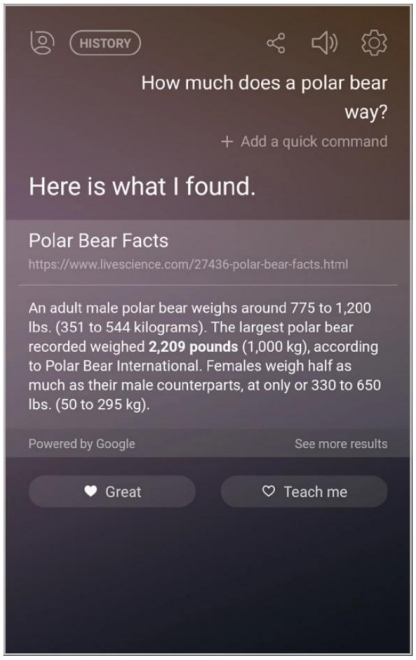


Launch Apps or Functions

You can ask Bixby to open an app directly: "Open Mail", or you can ask it indirectly by requesting a function of a particular app: "Send email to Jim". Say your request including the app or feature name to help Bixby Voice execute your request more accurately.

Checking Your Schedule

You can use Bixby to show you the weather forecast for the day or even the week. Press the Bixby key and say "Show me today's weather". Brief information will appear on the Bixby Voice screen. You can then tap the weather information for details.



Searching the Internet

You can quickly search for information on the Internet using Bixby Voice. For example, say "Search for nearby book stores on the Internet"; the Internet app will show the results. You can also ask Bixby specific questions to prompt an online search.

More Bixby Commands

This is by no means a complete list, but it will give you much better idea of just what you can use Bixby to do on your Samsung Galaxy device.

- Open [app name]
- What time is it?
- What's the date today?
- Turn the volume up/down
- Restart my phone
- Turn the Flashlight on/off
- Turn on Emergency mode
- Play music
- Stop the music
- What song is this?
- What's the name of this song?
- Remind me to buy milk tomorrow at 9 am
- Show me my most recent reminder

- Take a screenshot
- Go back
- Show the Home screen
- Scroll up/down
- Swipe left/right

- Scroll to the top/bottom
- Zoom in/out
- Turn on auto rotate
- Set the phone to portrait mode
- Turn off the screen

- Show me my most recent app in split screen view
- Close [app name]
- Close all recent apps
- Open [app name] in split screen view
- Show me my recent apps
- Open this app as a pop-up
- Minimise this app
- Switch windows
- Close Messages
- Clear notifications from Messages
- Show me all notifications
- Open the quick panel
- Close the notification panel

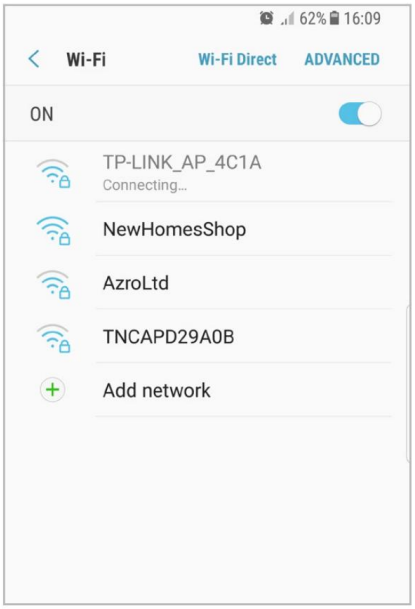
- Expand the notification from Messages
- Control the brightness on the notification panel
- Read all notifications
- Read the latest notification

- Open Contacts and Create a new contact as David
- Open Contacts and Show David's contact info
- Open Contacts and Show my friends group
- Open Contacts and Change my status message to busy
- Open Contacts and Link David to Jane

- Open Phone app and...
- Open Settings and...
- Open Messages and...
- Open Camera and...
- Open Clock and...
- Open Calendar and...

Bixby Vision

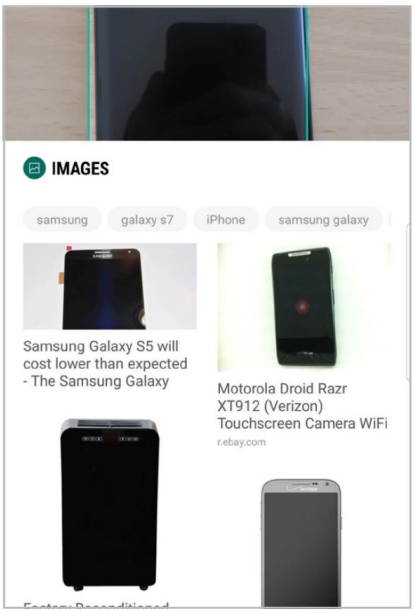
Bixby Vision is a bit like an online image search, except it uses live images (taken on your camera) as the source, rather than just images from the Internet. It can then supply information about the object you photograph.



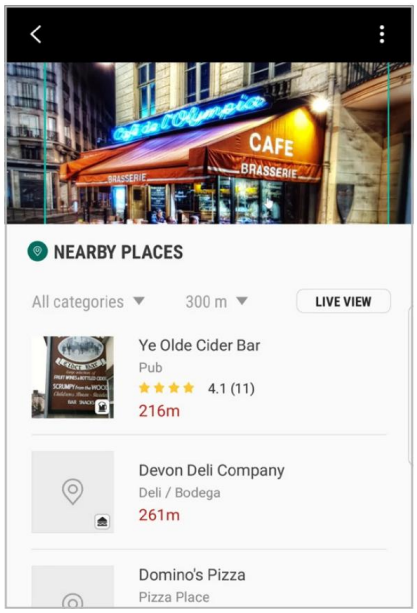
1 Before you can use Bixby Vision, you will need to make sure that you are connected to a Wi-Fi or data network and that you have signed in to your Samsung account on the device. The available features and search results may vary depending on the region or service provider, but most should be available everywhere.

2 Bixby Vision is different to Voice in that it can only be launched from supported apps, such as the Gallery or Camera apps. When you open an app such as the camera, you will see a small Vision icon (an eye) that you will need to tap to enter Bixby Vision mode. You can then take a snap of an object.

3 When Bixby recognises an object, for example, it will give you certain options. These can include a shopping option, which lets you check an objects information (price, availability, etc.) at whichever online retailers it is matched to. If no matching item is detected, the Shopping button won't appear.



4 You can also search for images similar to the recognised object online. You can view various images with properties similar to the object. You need to keep the object within the frame of the camera's viewfinder to recognise it. When the object is recognised, the available search icons will appear.



5 Bixby Vision lets you search for information about certain landmarks, buildings and other geographical features. For example, if you want to search for cafes in your current area, use the Bixby Vision feature. Point the camera at a cafe and the device will search for and hopefully show you other nearby cafes.

6 Bixby Vision can be used to read QR codes, so there is no need to have a third-party reader app installed. It will automatically recognise the QR when lined up in the Vision box. QR codes give access to a variety of information, such as website details, location information, or business card details.

Detect and Translate Text

One of the best features of Bixby Vision, is the ability to detect text and translate it automatically. For example, if you want to know what a sign says while travelling abroad, snap a picture and the device will detect the sign's text and translate it into the language you select.

1 Bixby Vision should recognise the area of text you focus on; you will see tiny dots flashing on screen, showing detection. The image of the text that has been captured will be displayed above the translation.

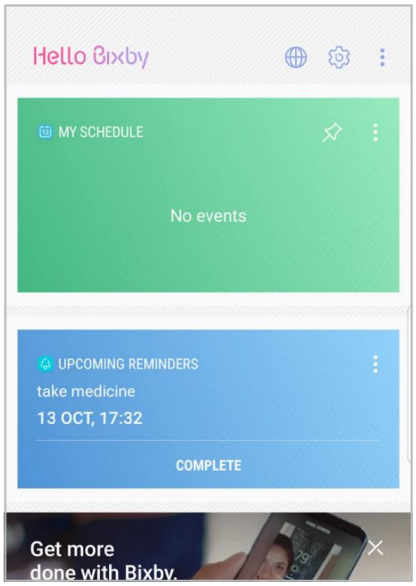
2 The source language detected and the language being translated to are also shown. You can change either one by tapping it or swap the languages by tapping the arrow icon in the middle. Drag the text box upwards to make it full screen.

3 The text that is recognised will be displayed here. This is so you can check that Vision has detected everything and translated the full word, sentence or paragraph; it should be fairly easy to spot if not.

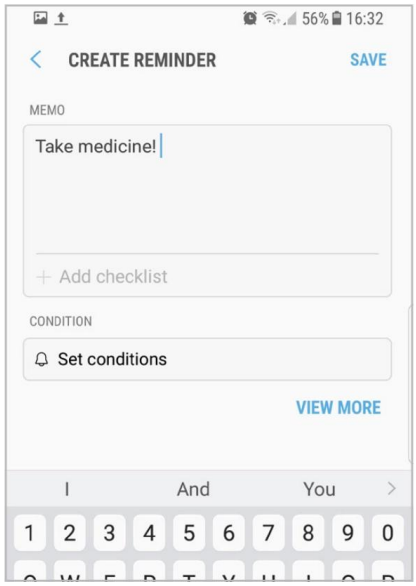
4 The translation itself is shown at the bottom. In general, translations from more commonly used languages like English, Spanish or Chinese are the most accurate but it can do a good job even with more difficult language text.

Creating Reminders with Bixby

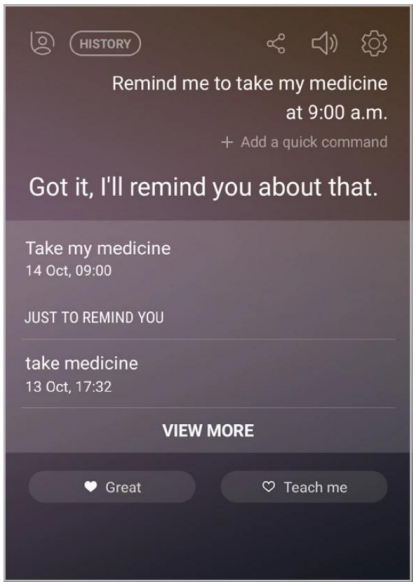
Dedicated reminders, as opposed to reminders in the calendar app, are another useful tool added with Bixby. You can create and manage reminders in a number of ways.



1 Press the Bixby key or swipe to the right on the Home screen. Tap the reminder icon at the top of the screen, or tap the reminder panel. Tap Write a reminder and enter, for example, 'Take medicine'. Tap Set conditions and enter a specific date and time you want the reminder to alert you on. Tap Save to finish creating your reminder.



2 Alternatively, you can launch the Samsung Reminder app, enter information, set the time or the location condition and then save the reminder. You can then tap the icon from Bixby Home or launch the Reminder app to view your full reminders list. To view the full reminder details, simply select a reminder.



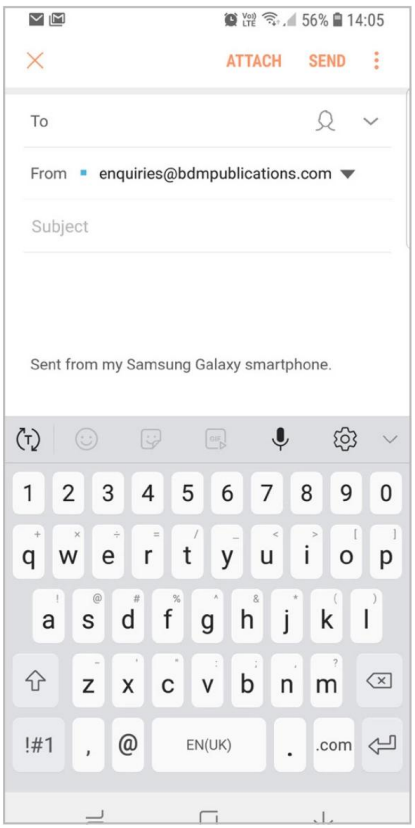
3 Of course you can also create reminders using Bixby Voice. Press the Bixby key and say what you want to save as a reminder. For example, say "Remind me to take my medicine at 9 AM". Bixby Voice will display what it thinks it heard and, if it is correct, then let you save what it displays as a reminder.

Master the Galaxy Keyboard

If you are not used to typing on a phone or tablet, using the tiny keyboard can seem like a challenge at first. However, the keyboard found on most Samsung devices has been evolving and improving ever since the first touchscreen phone appeared. If you just want to type a quick email, it can be as simple as it needs to be but explore a bit further and you will see that it is packed with features designed to make it easy to use.

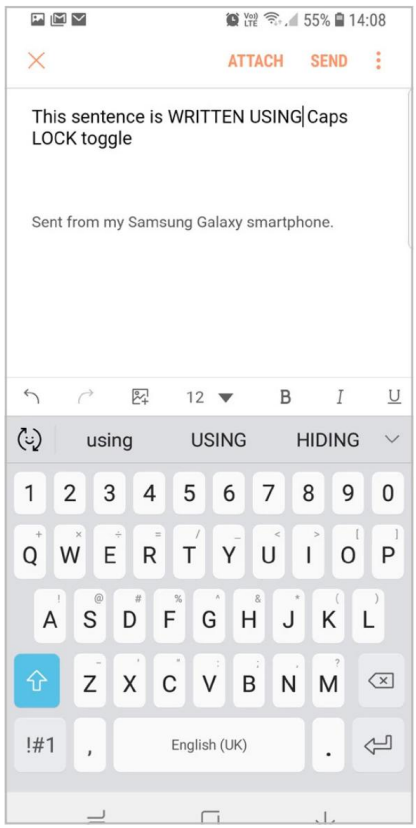
Essential Keyboards Tips

The keyboard is updated almost every time Android is updated, so the exact features you have access to on your device will vary, depending on the version you are using.



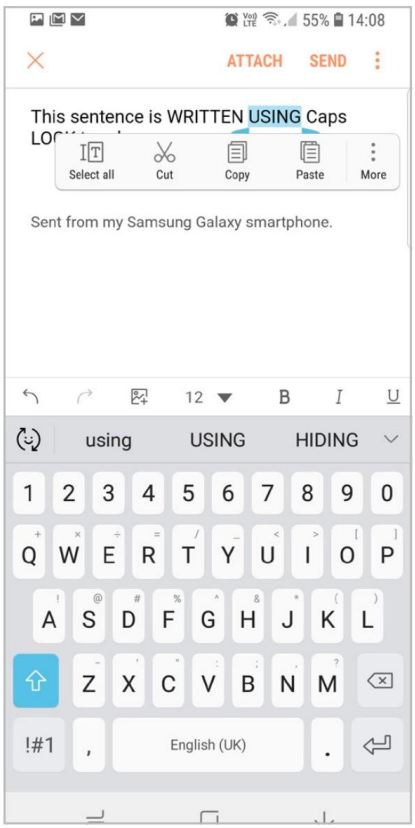
Tip 1 - Hide or Reveal

Many apps, especially communication apps, where typing is assumed to be the reason you are using them, will automatically open the keyboard when first opened. In others, you will need to tap in the text box to show the keyboard. To hide the keyboard in any app, tap the Back button once.



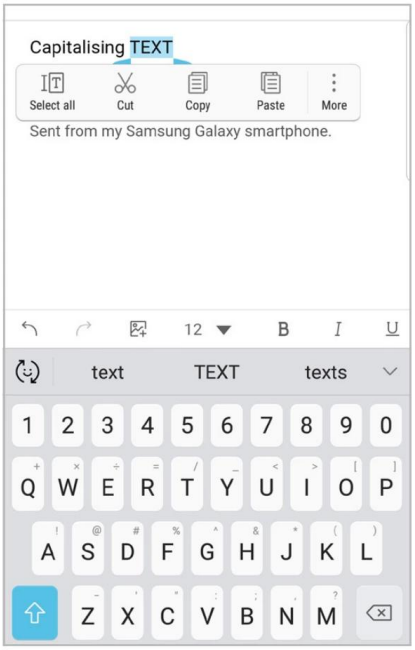
Tip 2 - Toggle Caps Lock

To type a capital letter in any app, tap the Shift key once. The next letter you type will be upper case, after which it will automatically switch back to lower case (this is Sentence Case) as you type. If you need to type all in upper case, either tap and hold or double-tap the Shift key.



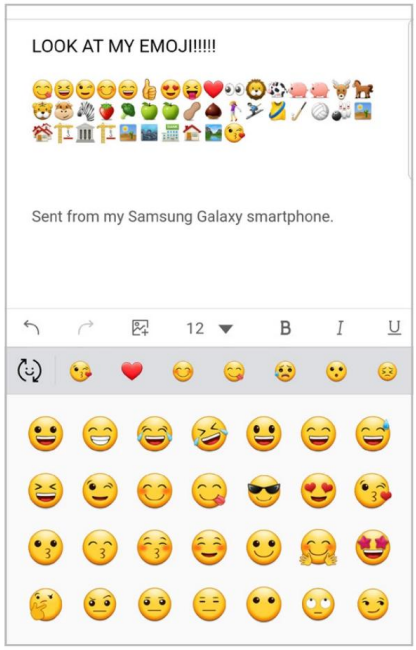
Tip 3 - Selecting Text

To select a single word or section of text, touch and hold or double-tap on screen within the text. The word will be highlighted, with a tab at each end of the selection. You can then drag the tabs to increase the text selected. To place the cursor within a word, just tap where you want it to appear.



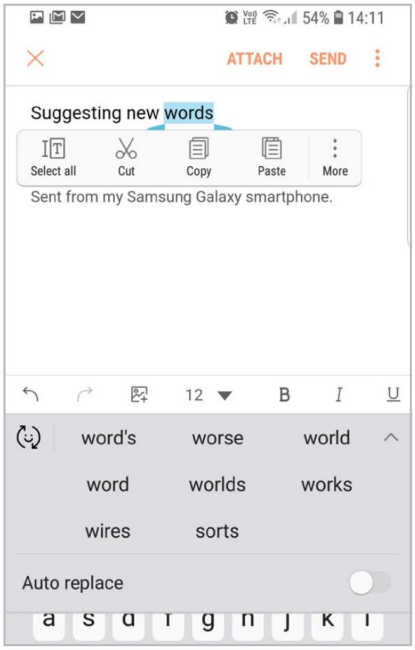
Tip 4 – Capitalisation

If you need to change the capitalisation of a word you have already typed, you can simply select it (see the Selecting Text tip) and tap the Shift key. Tapping once will capitalise the first letter of the word only, while double-tapping Shift will change the whole selection to upper case.



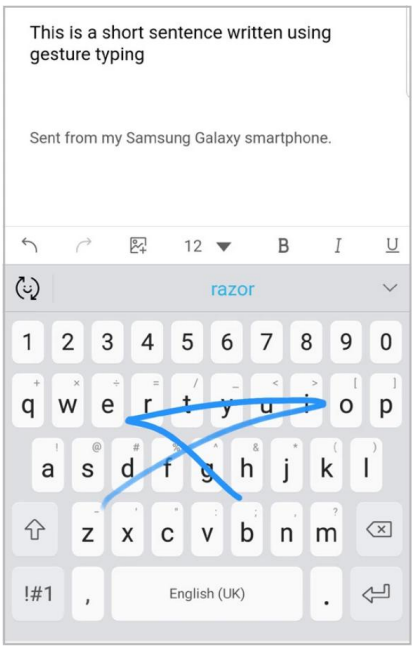
Tip 5 – Using Emojis

Most Samsung device keyboards now have a dedicated emoji icon in the quick access bar along the top but there might also be an emoji key on the keyboard. Each section of the emoji menu will have multiple pages, swipe left or right to move between them. Different apps feature different emojis.



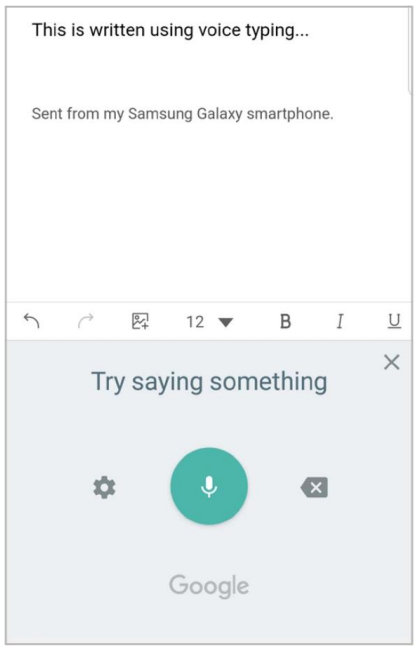
Tip 6 – Alternative Words

Android will try to guess which words you are typing and show them as suggestions above the keyboard. You can speed up your typing by tapping the correct word as it appears, to insert it into the text. Tap the small arrow (or the word with three dots) to see a bigger list of alternative words.



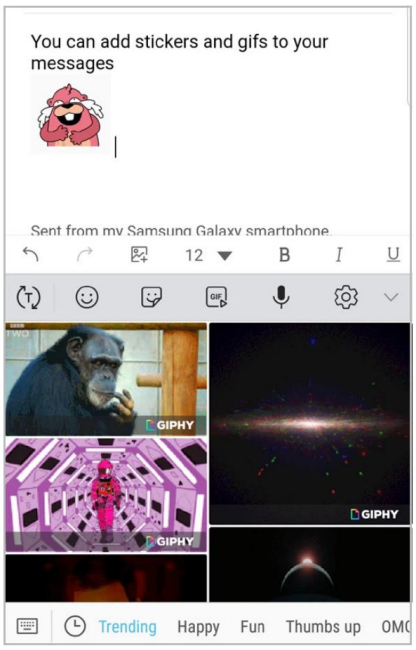
Tip 7 – Gesture Typing

You may need to enable this feature in Settings > Language & Keyboard. To input a word using gesture typing, also called continuous input, slide your finger smoothly across the letters of the word you want to input. Lift your finger when the word is displayed in the suggestion strip.



Tip 8 – Voice Typing

On Samsung devices, you can input text by speaking. To type with your voice, tap the mic key on the keyboard and say what you want to type. In some languages, you can enter punctuation by saying it, for example "comma", "full-stop", "question mark" or "exclamation mark".



Tip 9 – Stickers and Gifs

The newest Samsung keyboard gives you quick access to several additional elements with a bar across the top. Here you can switch to the emoji menu, find stickers to add in to messages and browse GIFs from Giphy. This quick access bar also lets you start voice typing and see keyboard settings.

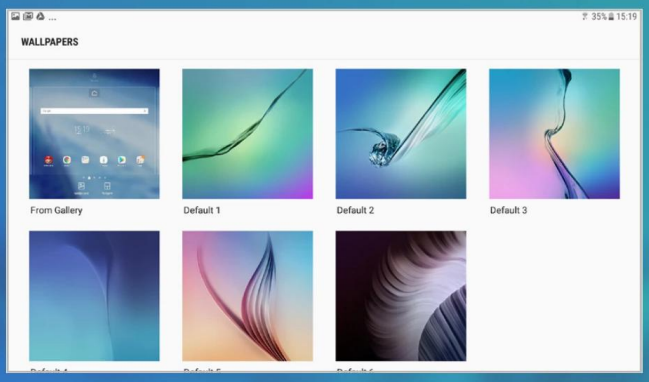
Personalise the Galaxy Home Screen

Changing the Home screen, whether that means a new wallpaper, moving icons into folders or choosing widgets, is one of the first things most new Android users want to do. The Home screen is an extremely flexible area, particularly on Samsung Galaxy devices, and can be used to make your device much more usable, unique and personal to you.

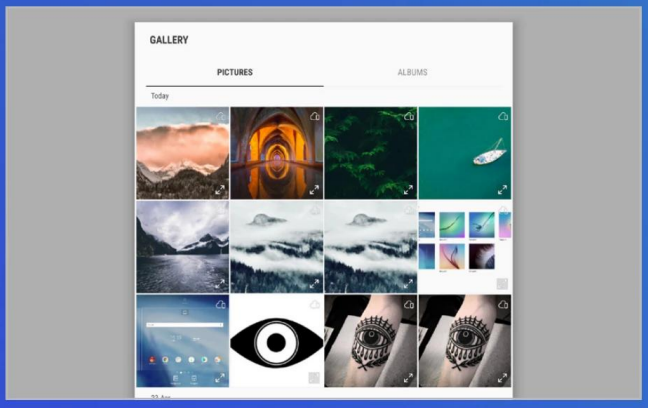
Changing the Wallpaper

The exact steps for changing the wallpaper may vary between devices, depending on how new the device is, and which version of Android is currently being used.

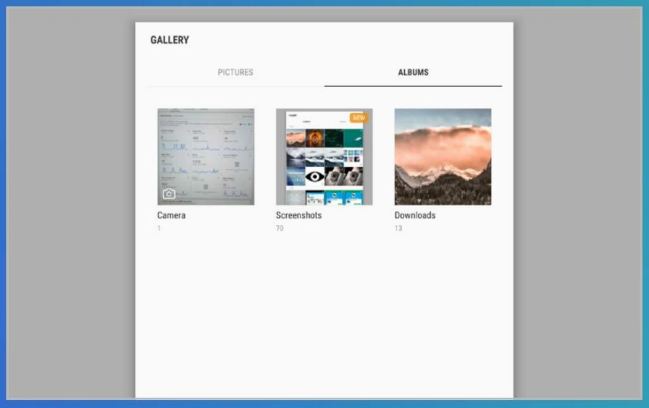
1 Tap and hold in any blank area on the Home screen until it shrinks and options appear. Exact options will vary but you will usually see Wallpapers, Widgets and Settings. Tap the Wallpapers option and the wallpaper selection screen will open.



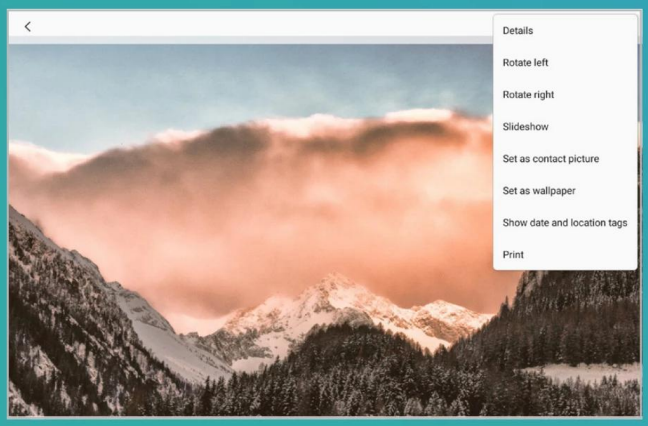
2 Scroll through the wallpaper thumbnails to see all system wallpapers available on your device. If you like the look of one of the system wallpapers, tap on the thumbnail and then choose whether to apply it to lock screen, Home screen or both.



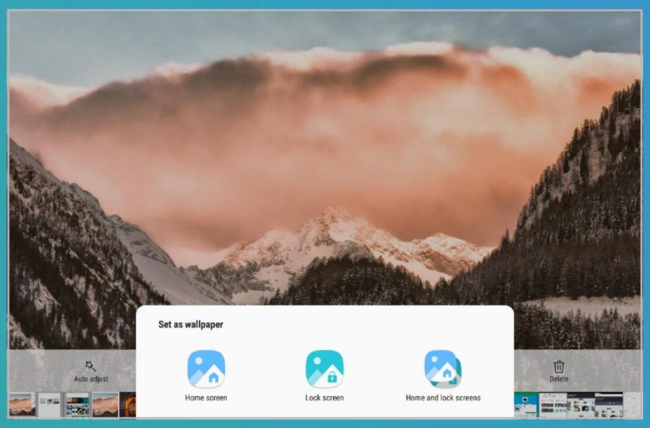
3 The wallpaper chooser also gives you the option to use an image from your Gallery. Tap From Gallery and a selection of recent images will appear. These can be displayed from multiple locations, depending on what apps you have installed.



4 If none of the recent images shown appeal to you, tap the Albums tab and choose the location you want to browse. Just as with system wallpapers, when you see an image you want to use, tap the thumbnail and then tap Set Wallpaper to complete the process.



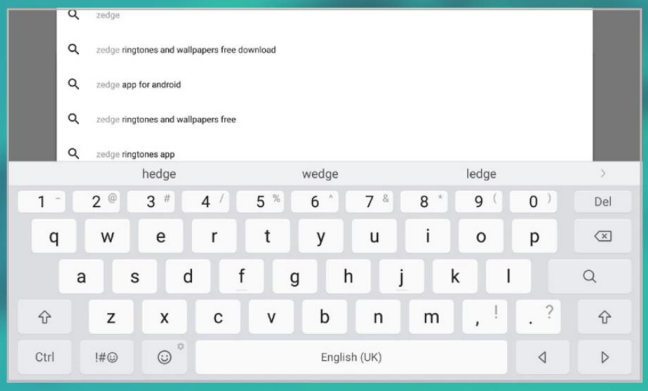
5 An alternative way to set an image as a Home screen wallpaper is to open the application where the image is located (the Gallery for example), view the image and tap the Menu button. From the menu, select Set As and choose Wallpaper.



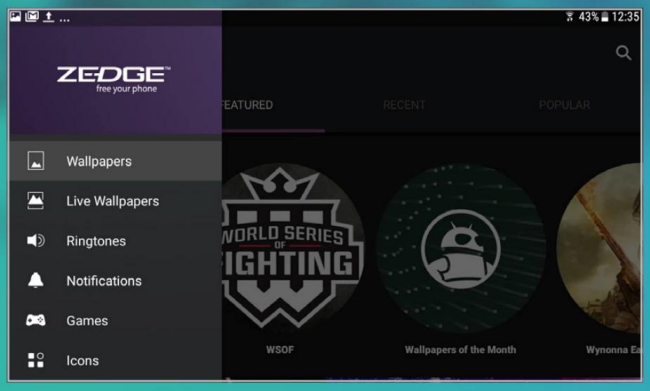
6 The image you choose will be shown as the background image on both the lock screen and the Home screen. On some devices, when setting the image as a wallpaper, you will be given the choice to save as Home screen, lock screen or both.

Finding New Wallpapers

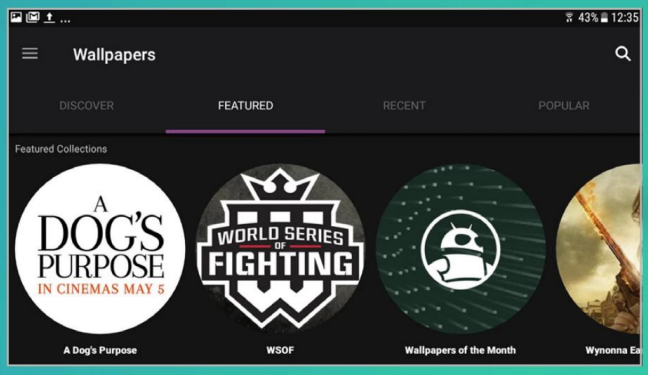
As mentioned, you can use almost any image on your device as a wallpaper but if you want to use a custom wallpaper image, you need to know where to look.



1 Open the Play Store app on your device and search for Zedge. There are a couple of different options but the free wallpaper repository is the one with the purple logo. There are other wallpaper repositories available, but we like Zedge.



2 The app will open with the main menu already selected. This is where you choose the type of media you want to browse. The categories include wallpapers, live wallpapers, ringtones and games. For now, choose Wallpapers.

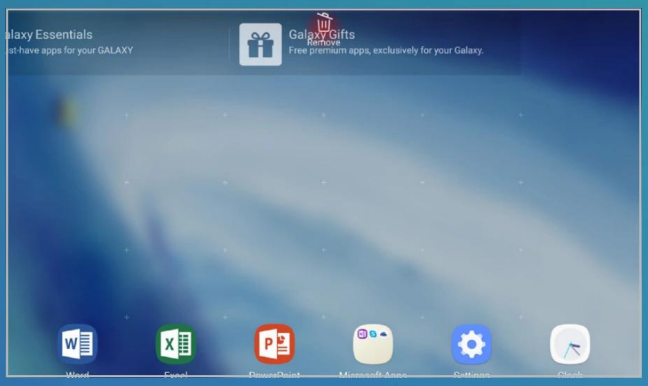


3 Featured wallpapers are shown on screen first. You can scroll the screen left and right to see a full list of wallpaper categories, or sections such as Recent and Popular. These sections regularly update with new images.

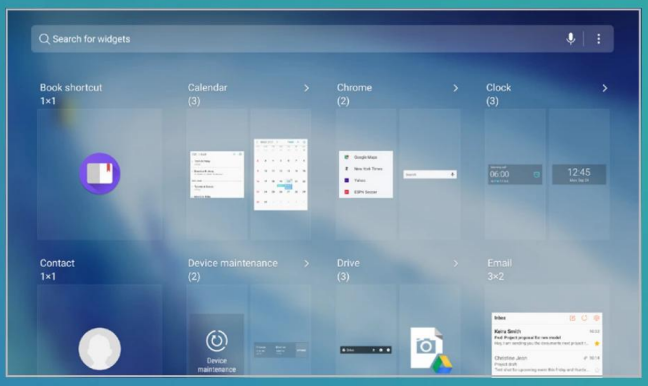
4 When you find a wallpaper you like, tap the thumbnail to view it on screen. Not all wallpapers will be suitable for your device, so use the preview to make sure before you download. Use the tabs to see details of the image. Tap Download to finish.

Home Screen Widgets

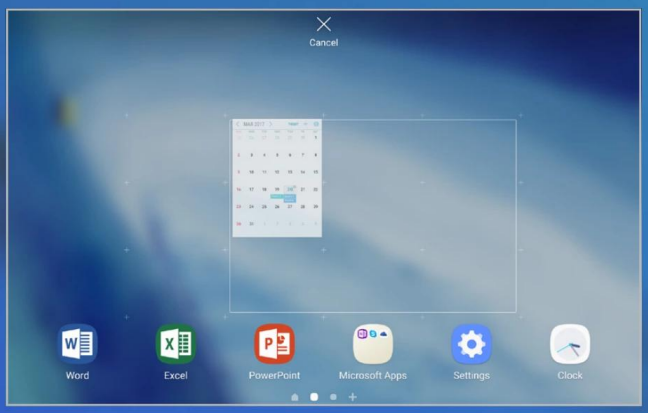
Widgets are an important and useful part of the Android OS, allowing you to access app info from the Home screen.



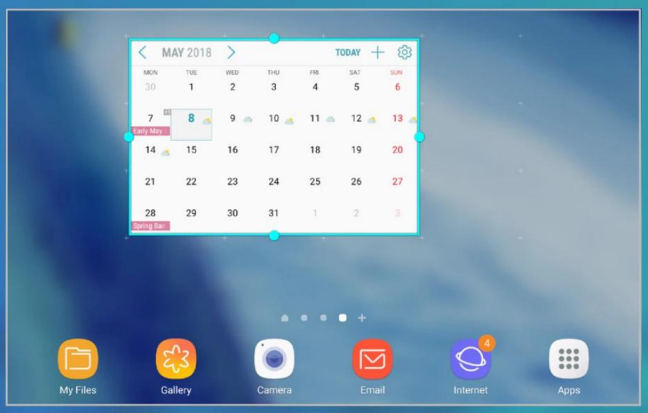
1 Your device may already have a few widgets placed on the Home screen when you first set it up. These can be removed or moved to suit your needs. See more on removing widgets further down the page. To begin adding new widgets, tap and hold on any blank area of the Home screen.



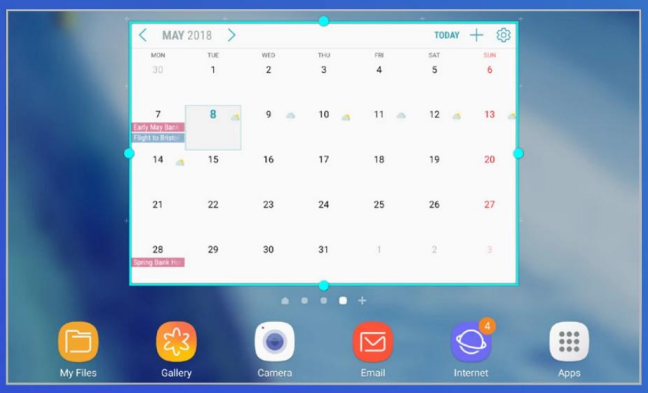
2 From the Menu, tap the Widgets option. You will now see a grid containing all available widgets currently installed. If there are different widgets available for the same app, different sizes for example, you can see them both by tapping on the image in the grid.



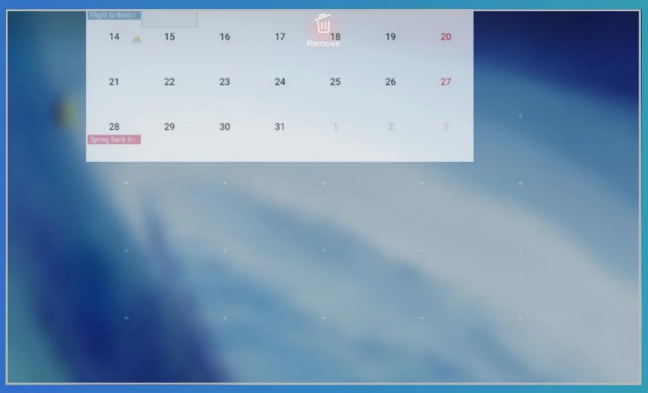
3 To add your chosen widget to the Home screen, tap and hold on the image in the grid until the view shifts back to the Home screen. Keeping your finger on the screen, you can drag the widget into position, even dragging it on to a new Home screen panel. Lift your finger to place the widget.



4 Some widgets can be made bigger or smaller to better fit your available Home screen space. To resize a widget, tap and hold on it for a couple of seconds and then let go. If the widget can be resized, tabs will appear around the edges. Drag these tabs to shrink or expand it.



5 When made larger, some widgets will expand to display more information automatically. Some widgets will stay the same size but their active area, the one that opens the app when tapped expands to cover more of the Home screen panel. Tap away from the widget to stop editing.



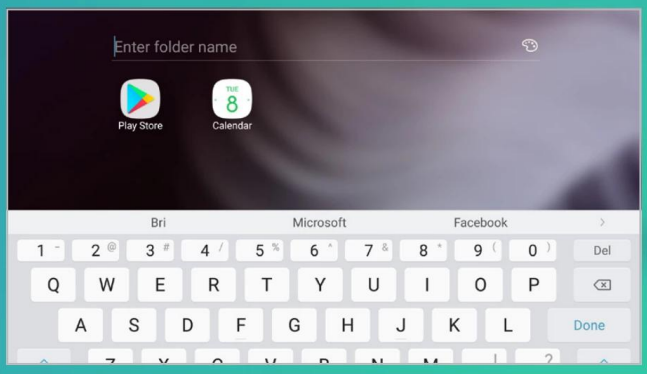
6 Removing widgets is easy and can be repeated as many times as needed. Removing a widget from the Home screen doesn't mean it has been removed from the device; it will be in the widget menu if needed. Tap and hold a widget and then drag it to the Remove icon to delete it.

Creating Home Screen Folders

If your Home screen is becoming too full of app icons and other elements, you can create folders to organise things.

1 Some devices already have folders set up on the Home screen but if you want to add more, the process is very simple. In older versions of Android you could choose to create an empty folder first and then move items into it as you wished. In later versions, folders are automatically created.

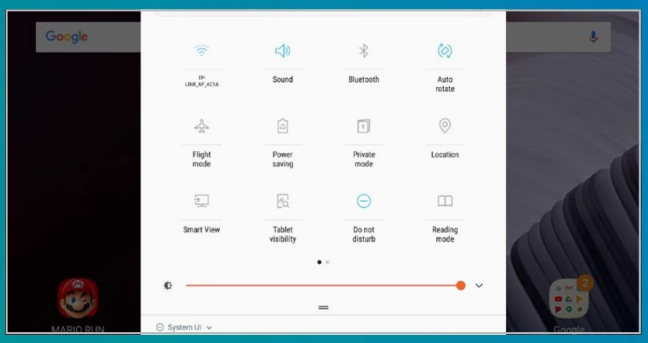
2 Folders are automatically created when you pick up one app icon and hold it over another. Tap and hold on an app icon to pick it up, drag it over to another icon you want in the same folder and when the circle appears, lift your finger off the screen to drop the icon into the folder.



3 Once you have created a new folder, you can rename it to whatever you wish. Open the folder and tap on the existing name or where it says Unnamed Folder. Type your new folder name and then tap the OK button. Folders automatically delete when all contents are removed.

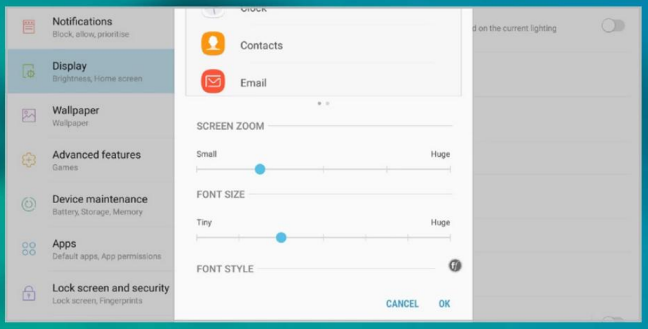
Display Settings

Aside from changing the wallpaper, widgets and app icons, there are several other display settings for the Home screen.



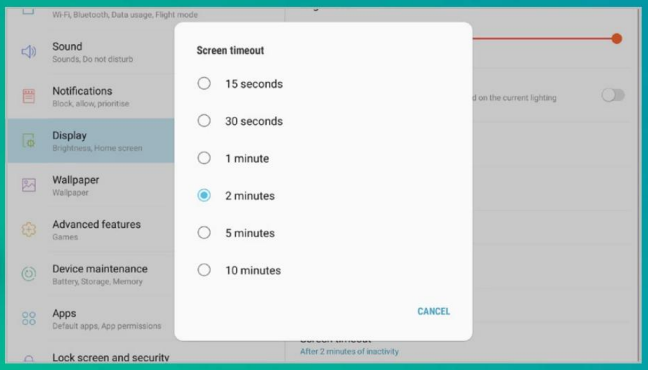
Brightness

You can change the display brightness to suit your needs using the slider in the Quick Settings panel, or by opening the main Display Settings. You can also select Adaptive Brightness, which will automatically adjust the display brightness based on ambient light.



Font Size

You can change the size of the system font in the display settings, choosing from Small, Normal (default), Large and Huge. You can also increase the font size on an ad hoc basis using settings in the Accessibility section.



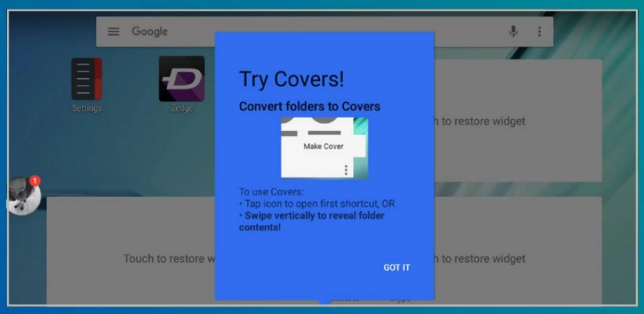
Sleep After

If you are constantly picking your phone up and putting it down, turning the screen on and off, it is a good idea to reduce the sleep timer. This means you don't have to worry about putting the screen into sleep mode every time as it will do so automatically after a selected period: 15, 30, 60 seconds, etc.

Changing Your Launcher

Android is great for personalisation, so if you really want to change how your device looks and behaves, you should consider installing a new Launcher.

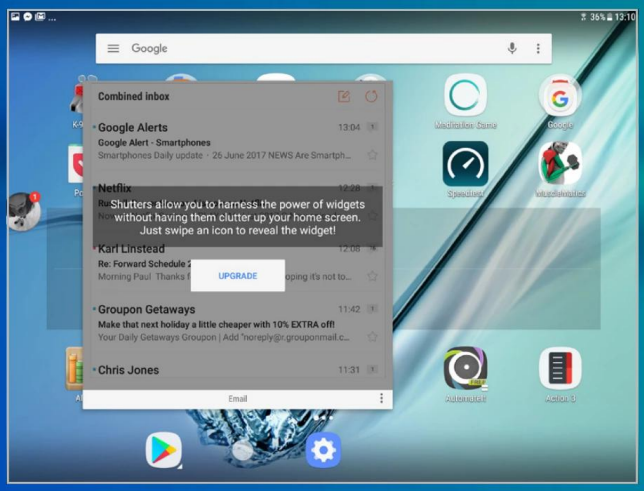
What is a Launcher?



Adding a new Home screen launcher is really just a way of changing how your phone or tablet looks (and sometimes how it behaves) by altering or replacing the preinstalled user interface. Launchers work just like apps in that they can be installed easily and removed just as easily if you don't like the changes. You can find launchers which aim to improve on a standard interface, ones which add specific new features and even launchers which emulate rival operating systems such as iOS and Windows Phone 8.

Launchers can be used alongside the preinstalled user interface, often allowing you to switch between the two at will. When you press the Home button on your device, it will load the launcher rather than the original UI; you will normally be given the choice of which to load until you tell your device to always load one or the other. Launchers are a great way to make major changes to how your device looks and behaves without having to root.

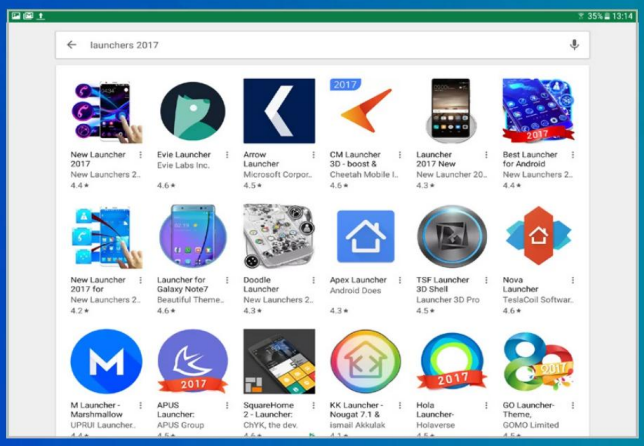
Easier than Rooting?



Although rooting and then installing a custom ROM changes the way Android looks and allows you to make changes to widgets, icons and other graphics, just like a launcher, it is a much more difficult and risky process. This is because the custom ROM completely replaces the original operating system, not just the UI. At first it might sound similar to installing a custom ROM but Launchers do not affect your device in the same way at all.

Using a launcher is a very accessible way to customise your device, without any of the potential problems or risks involved with rooting. Launchers usually include theme options, new icons and graphics, a customised app drawer and customised widgets. Some launchers even add new animations or pseudo-3D interfaces.

Will Launchers Work on Any Device?

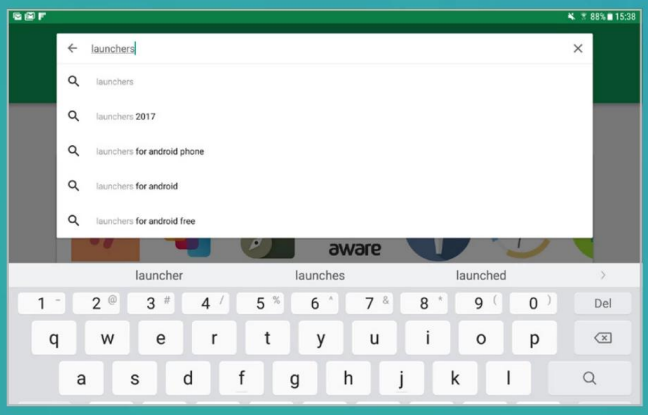


Sadly not. Just like the apps and games you install on your device, you will need to check that a launcher is compatible with your version of Android and with your device hardware before you install it. Furthermore, some launchers, particularly those that add a lot of new animations or features, may affect the performance of an underpowered device.

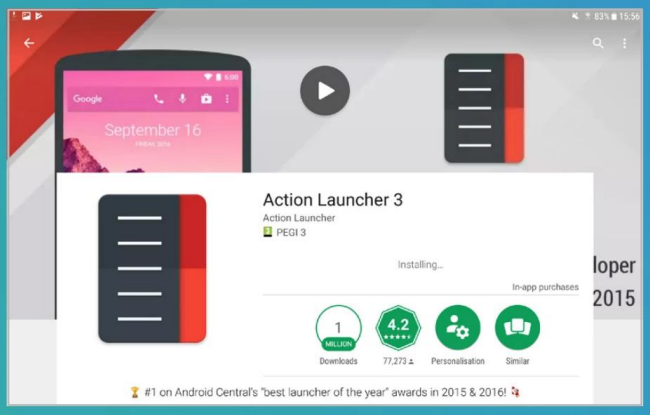
That said, it will do your device no harm if you try out a launcher which does not work. Launchers are really just apps that add or change the way your device looks or works while they are installed. If you don't like the launcher, you can simply uninstall it and try another.

Installing a New Launcher

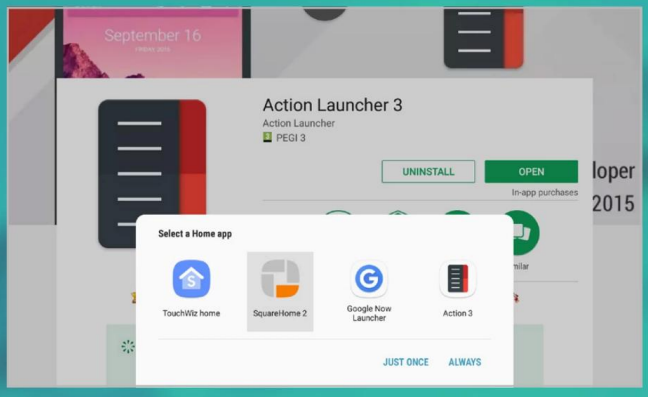
Although changing the whole look and style of your Android device might sound complicated, it is actually quite easy to install and switch between launchers.



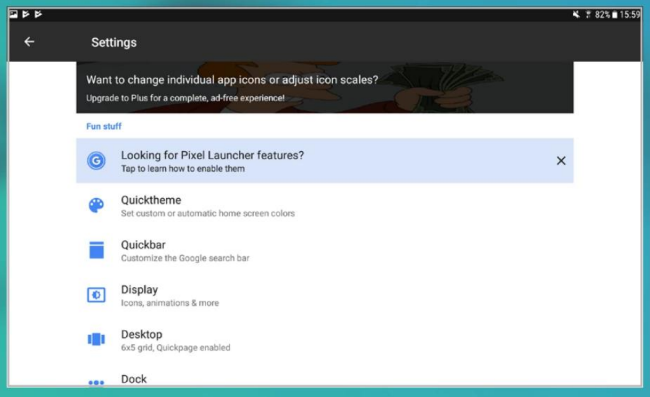
1 Open the Play Store and either search for a launcher you know the name of, or simply search for Launchers. This may not display all launchers but it is a good way to get started. You can also look in the Personalisation section of the apps listings.



2 Not all launchers will work properly on a tablet, so you will need to check out the info screen carefully before installing. For this guide we are going to try out Action Launcher 3, but you can see some other recommendations below if that doesn't appeal to you.



3 Install the launcher as you would any other app. When you press the Home button to go back to the Home screen, you will be asked to choose the new 'Home app' (this means launcher). Select Action launcher from the options, and tap Always.



4 We chose Action Launcher because we know it works on tablets but even so, you will need to do a bit of setting up with any new launcher. It might move app icons or place things in different locations. Look in the app drawer for Action 3 Settings.

Try These Launchers First

Apart from Action Launcher 3 mentioned above, the following two launchers are well worth a try. They are both well designed and much downloaded.

Nova Launcher

> Nova Launcher is one of the top launchers for modern Android devices, embracing full Material Design throughout. It also features icon themes, subgrid positioning, app drawer customiser and an improved widget drawer.

Smart Launcher 3

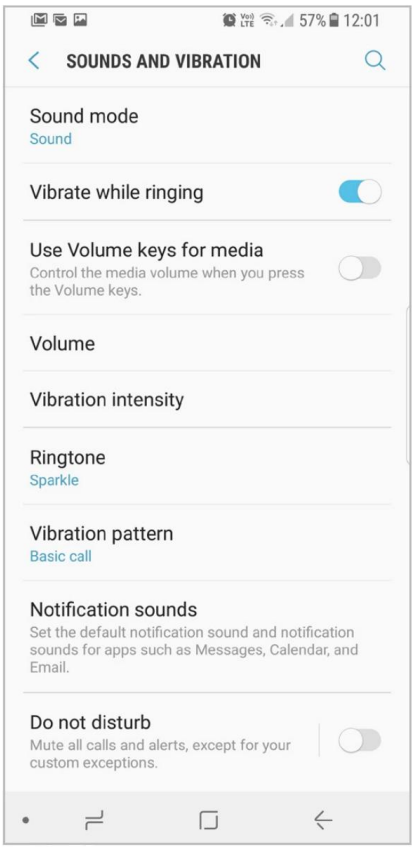
> This innovative launcher makes your Android device more intuitive and well organised, a fact that is backed up by the 20+ million downloads to date. Material design, low resource requirements and super quick app access make this a winner.

Customise Alerts and Ringtones

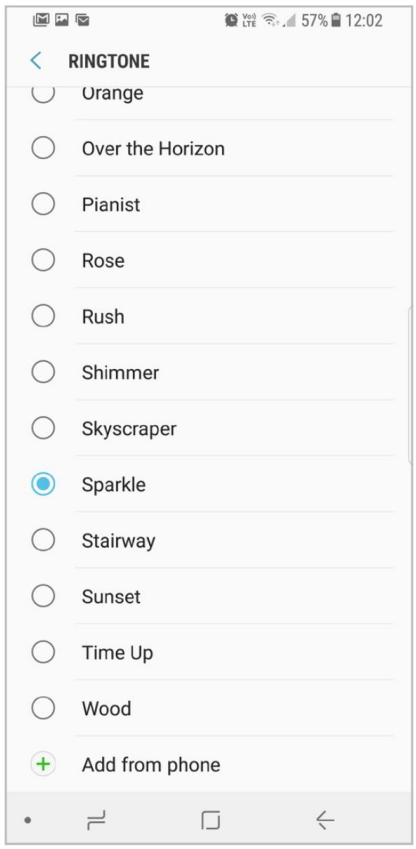
Head in to the Sound settings on your device and you will see that there are dozens of preset ringtones, notification sounds and alert sounds available; they range from simple bells and beeps, to ethereal melodies and dance tunes. You can even set individual sounds to specific contacts. In the event that you aren't happy with the standard ringtone and alerts, you can change almost every element of the sound profile on your device.

Change the Default Ringtone

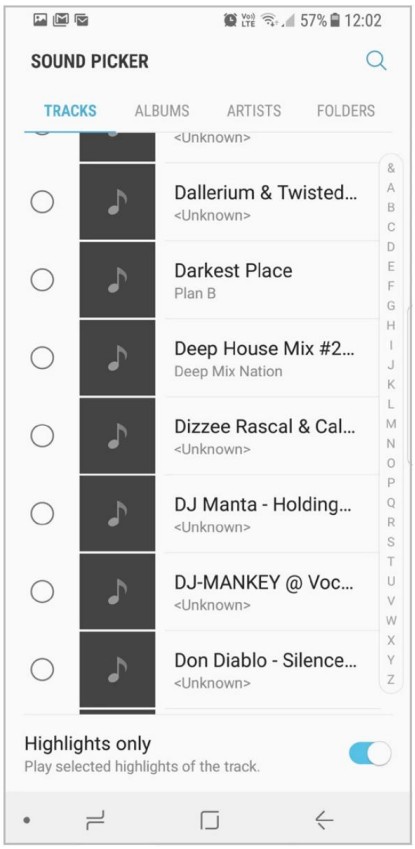
You can customise most of the different sounds on your device even if that just means turning them on or off, from the ringtone to keypad tones.



1 Open the main settings app and look for "Sounds" or "Sounds and Vibration". You can access almost all of the sound options on your device from this settings menu. Scroll down until you see the Ringtone heading, click on it and you will see a list of all of the available ringtones.



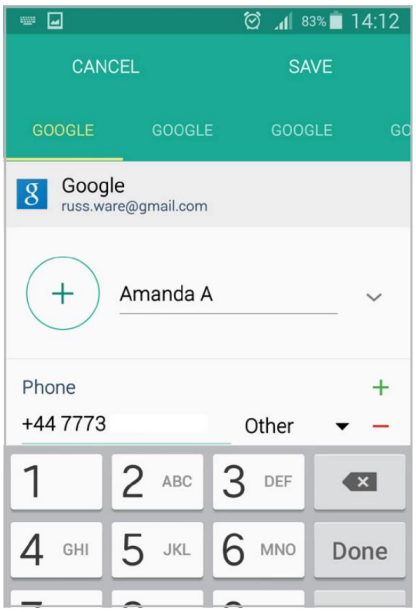
2 Select any of the ringtones in the list and a preview of it will play. Tap the Back button if you are happy with your selection. If you scroll down to the bottom of the list of default ringtones, you should see the option to "Add from phone" or "Add ringtone" (depending on device).



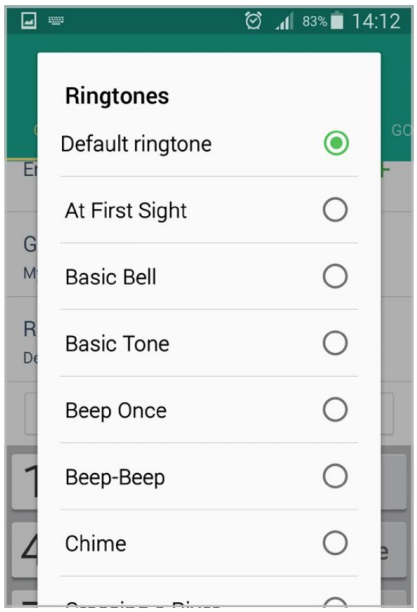
3 This lets you use music and sound files as your ringtone. Tap the option and then choose where you want to look for the audio file (Sound Picker is the Samsung default). Select a song or audio file to use as a ringtone. You can also choose whether it plays from the beginning or just a highlight.

Assign a Ringtone to a Contact

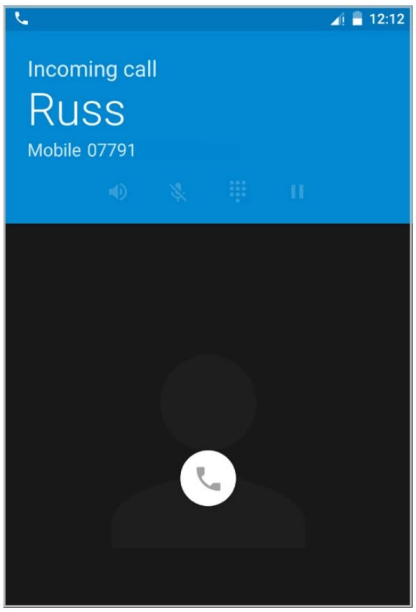
You can assign a different call ringtone to every single person in your contacts if you wished.



1 Open the People or Contacts app on your device. Scroll down to and select a contact from the main list to see that contact's details. With the contact details displayed on screen, tap the Menu button and choose Set Ringtone.



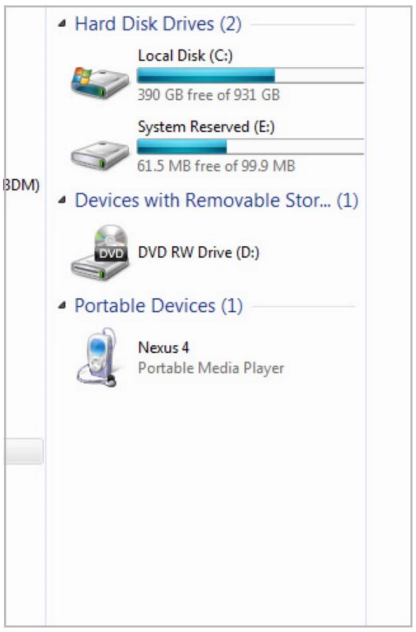
2 Under Call Ringtone & Vibrate select Phone ringtone. You may be asked which app you wish to use to view ringtones (if you have a file manager installed), but stick with Device Ringtones for now. Tap Done to assign the ringtone to the contact.



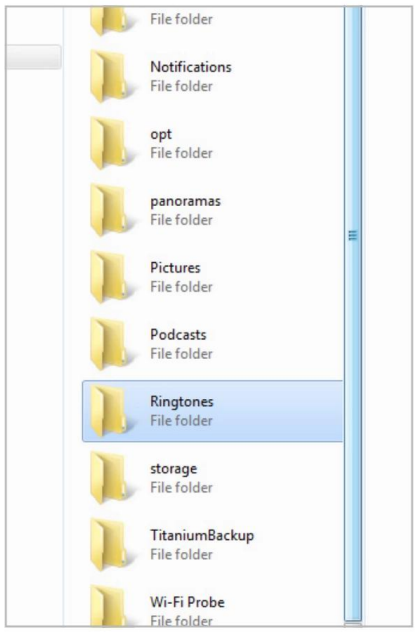
3 When the contact calls you from now on, the newly selected ringtone will play instead of the standard ringtone. This is a great way of screening calls without even needing to take your phone out of your pocket or bag.

Adding New Ringtones

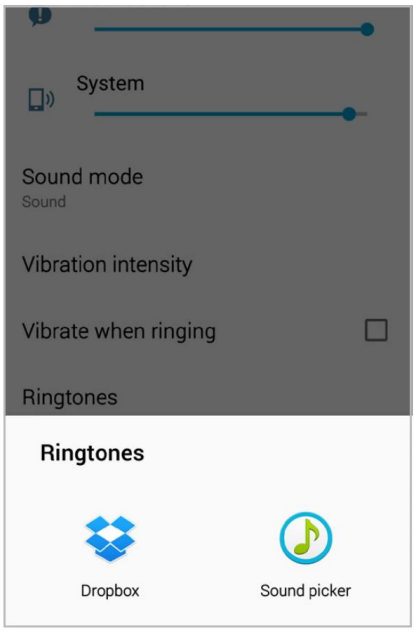
There is no reason why you need to stick with the standard ringtones your device comes with.



1 To transfer a ringtone from your computer, connect your phone to your computer using a USB cable. Your PC should automatically download the drivers you need. Mac users will need to download Android File Transfer.



2 In the window that pops up, you'll see the Ringtones folder. Copy your music file (mp3) into the Ringtones folder. Disconnect your phone from your computer. The music track should now display in the normal Ringtone selection menu.



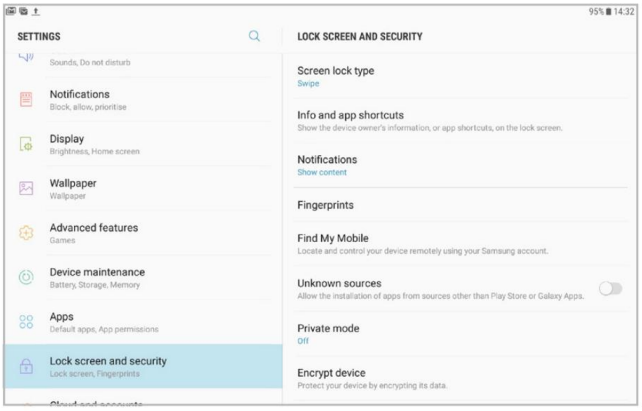
3 Some devices offer a different method for adding mp3s as ringtones. You may see an Add button on the ringtones selection screen. Tapping this will allow you to choose any mp3 file currently on your phone as a ringtone.

Locking the Samsung Screen

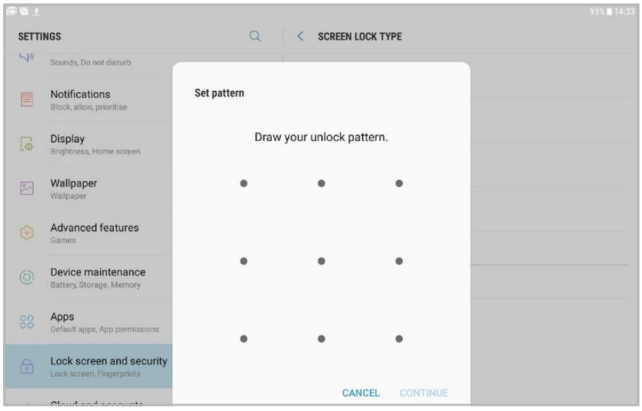
Taking care of the security on your Android device is very important, and should not be overlooked by any new user. Setting up a simple screen lock, whether that is a PIN, pattern or password, is one of the first things you should do to make your device more secure. Adding a lock screen also enables more advanced security features to be activated.

PIN, Pattern or Password Locks

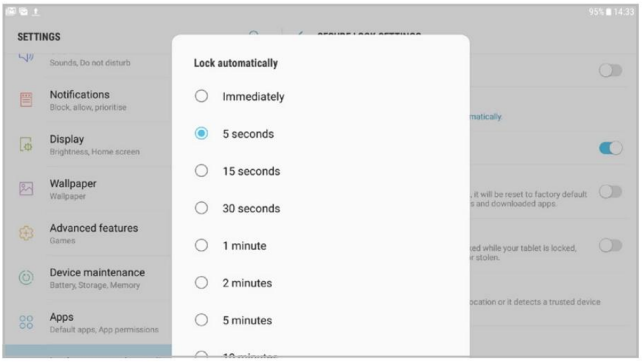
Choosing between PIN, Pattern and Password lock is down to personal preference, and also your security concerns regarding the level at which you want to protect your data.



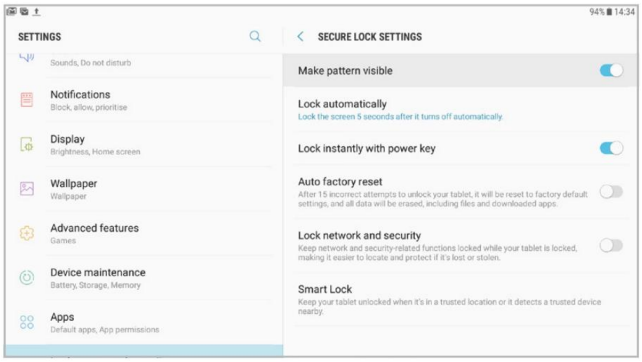
1 Open the main Settings and scroll down to the Security section. Screen Security is the first section, with Screen Lock the first option. Within the Screen Lock settings you will see five options: None, Swipe, Pattern, PIN, and Pattern. Swipe and None can be ignored for now.



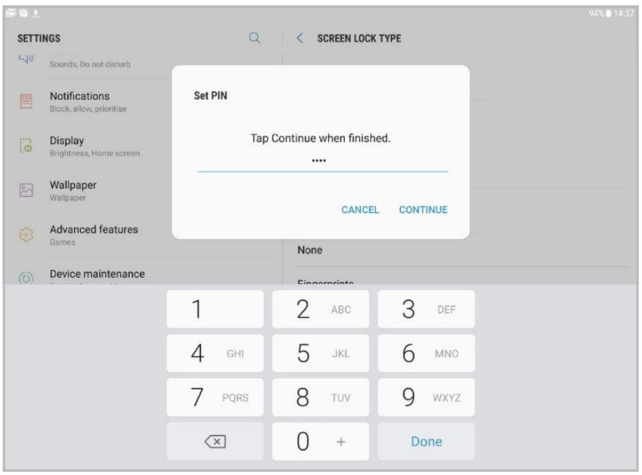
2 To set up a pattern lock, tap Pattern and choose whether you want to add an extra sign in on start-up. Tap Continue and draw your pattern out on the dots. The lines of your pattern can cross over each other, allowing you to make the pattern lock quite complicated and hard to guess.



3 You will have to repeat the pattern on the next screen to confirm it. Once you are back on the Security Settings screen, take a look at the Automatically Lock option and change it to a period which best suits you. You should choose Immediately or a short period for the best security.

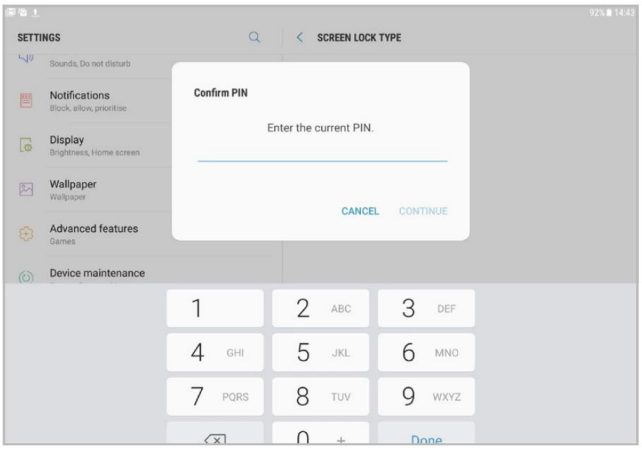


4 To add an extra level of security, use the slider to make the pattern invisible when you input it. This stops someone looking over your shoulder and easily seeing the pattern drawn. To check your pattern lock, turn off the screen and then turn it back on again. Enter your pattern.

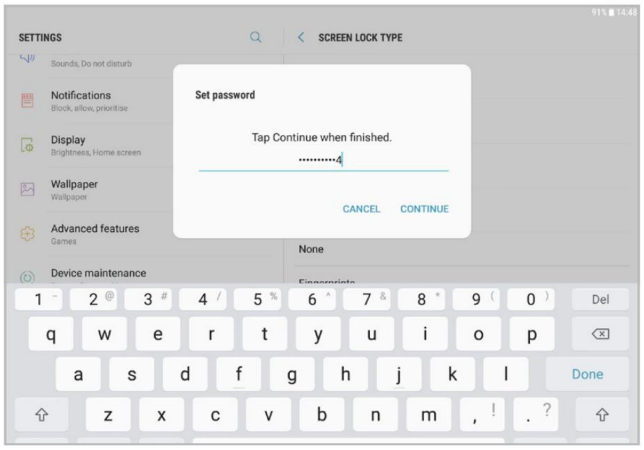


5 Both PIN and password locks are inherently more secure than a pattern lock, although they are not quite so quick to input. As when setting up a pattern lock, when you set up a PIN lock, you will be asked if you want to add a PIN on start-up for extra security.

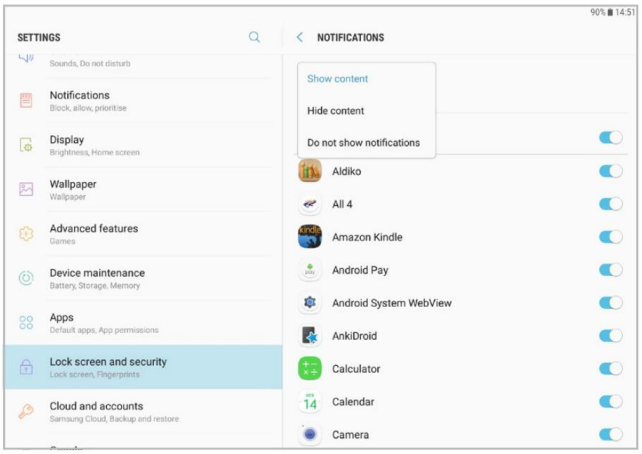
6 Your PIN needs to be four numbers (PIN locks are always numerical only), but steer clear of repetition or runs of numbers such as 1111 or 1234, as these are easy to guess. You should also avoid using your birth date or any other easily guessed number.



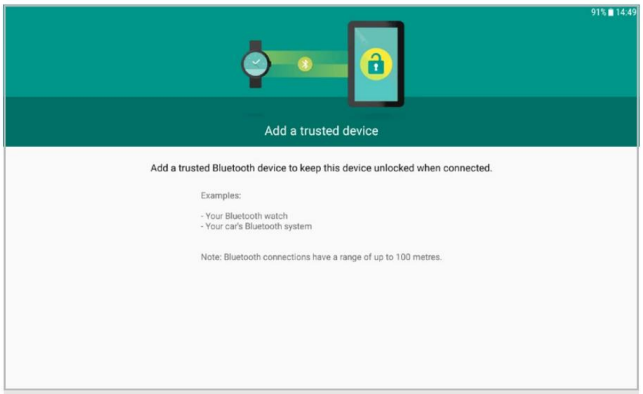
7 As when setting a pattern lock, you will have to repeat the PIN to confirm it. Once this is done and you are back on the Security Settings screen, take a look at the Automatically Lock option and change it to a period which best suits you. Choose Immediately or a short period of time for the best security.



8 A password lock is the most secure type available on your Android device. Passwords can be alphanumeric and therefore the most difficult to guess if you choose well. As with a PIN lock, don't choose an easily guessed word such as your surname. The hardest passwords to crack use letters, numbers and symbols.

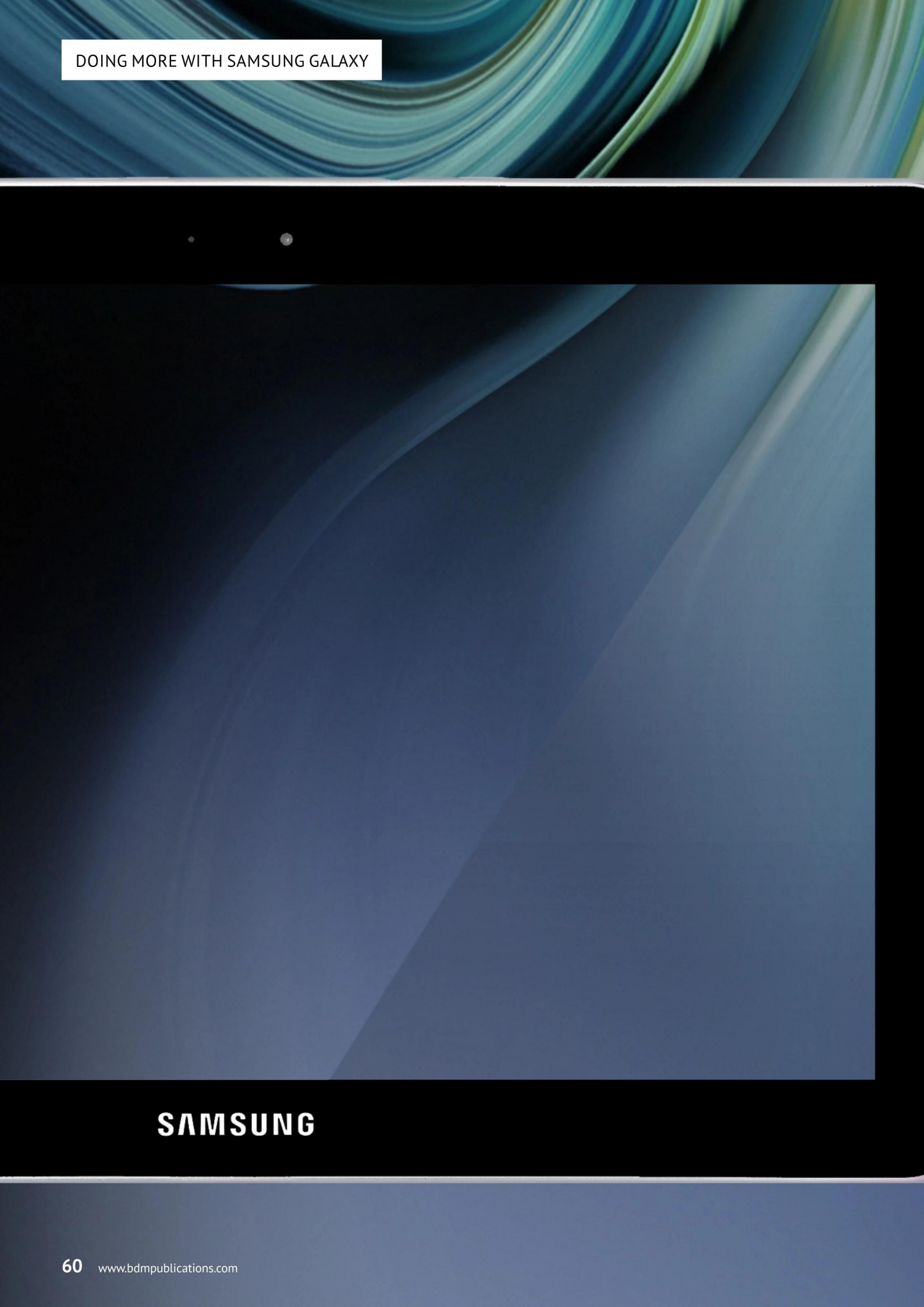


9 You can also choose how much of your notifications are shown on the lock screen once you have a lock set up. You can choose to show all of the notification content, or just show that there are notifications (without showing content). You can also disable notifications.



Smart Lock

› If you are running Lollipop on your device, you can make unlocking easier using Smart Lock for Android. You will need to have a screen lock set up before you can activate Smart Lock. You can read more about Smart Lock on page 78 of this magazine.


SAMSUNG

Doing more with Samsung Galaxy

Your Samsung Galaxy is brim-full of useful, time-saving and entertaining features, so why not take full advantage of them? Start adding apps to your device and its potential can expand even further. Learn how to get more from your smartphone than you ever thought possible, from saving battery power to reducing data usage there is something here for everyone.

Find and Install Apps

All of the apps and games you could possibly want are available for download from the Google Play store; from WhatsApp and Viber to Pokémon Go and Clash of Clans. The Play Store app is usually found on the Home screen of new devices, but may be in the app drawer. If you want to get the most from your Android device, the Play store is the key.

Using the Play Store

Getting used to navigating the Play store is one of the first things you should do if you are new to Android.

1 Google Play Menu

The default screen when you open the Play Store is the Apps & Games screen. To view the main screens for Movies, Music, Books etc. tap the Menu button here. You can also access account settings here.

2 Search Field

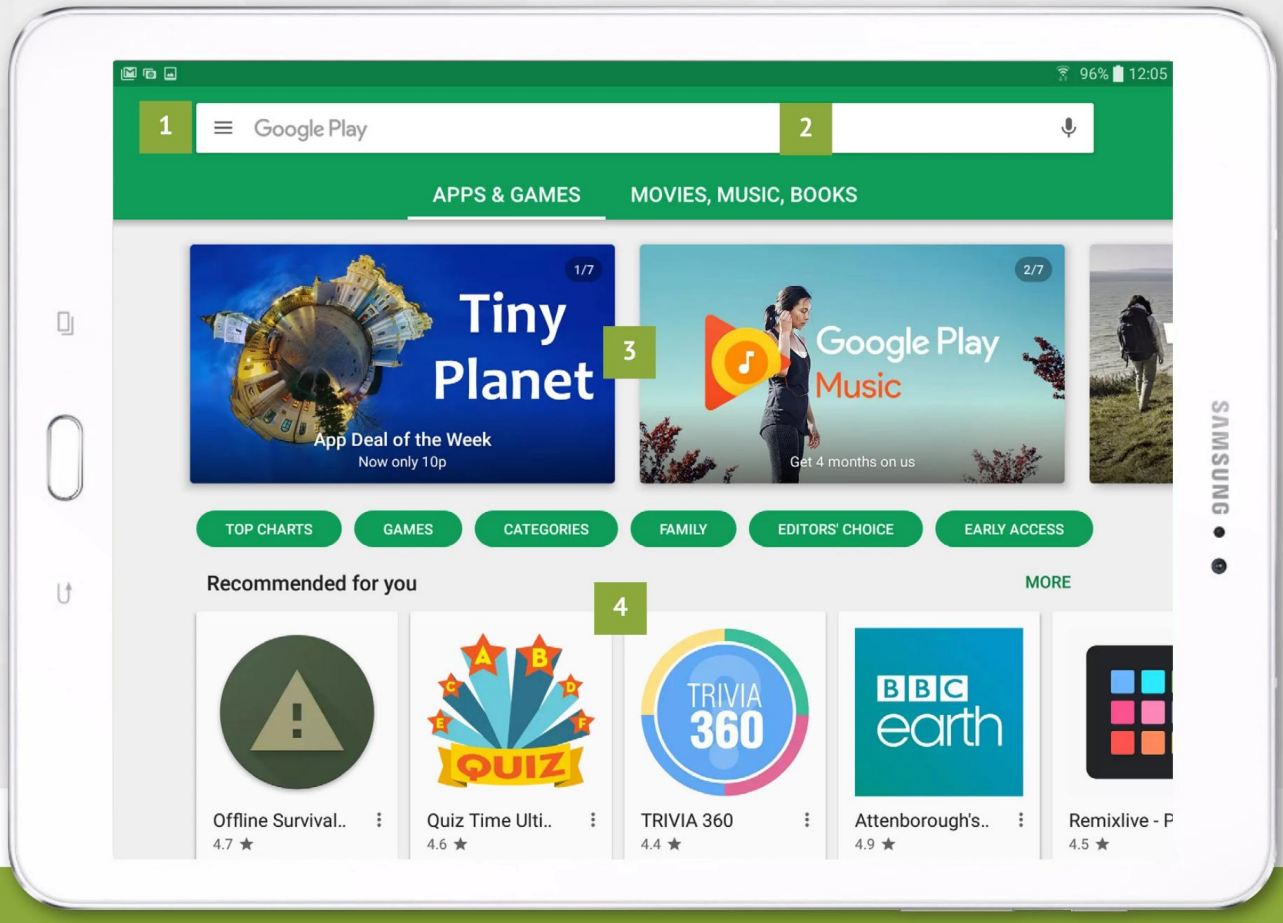
The search field is always visible when browsing any category in Google Play. Search in Apps & Games and the results will be apps. If you search in Books the results will only include books.

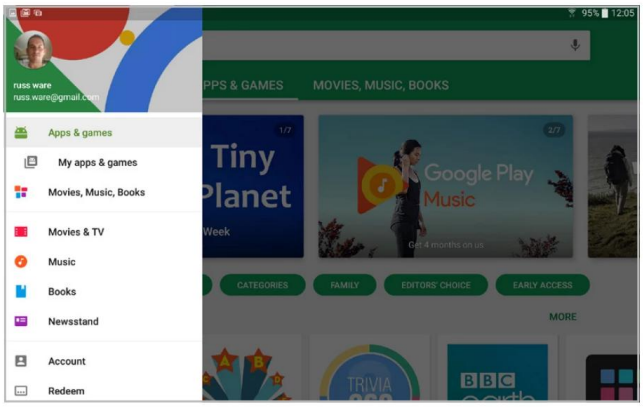
3 Charts and Categories

These buttons will take you either to app charts, free, bestselling etc. or let you view the different categories within this section of the Play Store. Similar buttons appear in each section of the store.

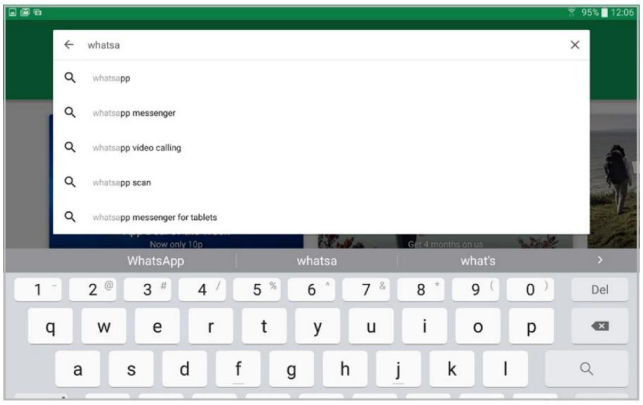
4 The App Gallery

You can scroll down the main screen of the Play Store to see various app galleries. These range from New & Updated to apps which are specifically recommended for you personally.

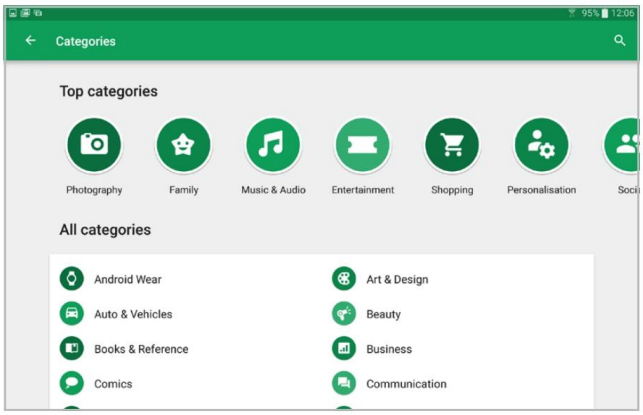




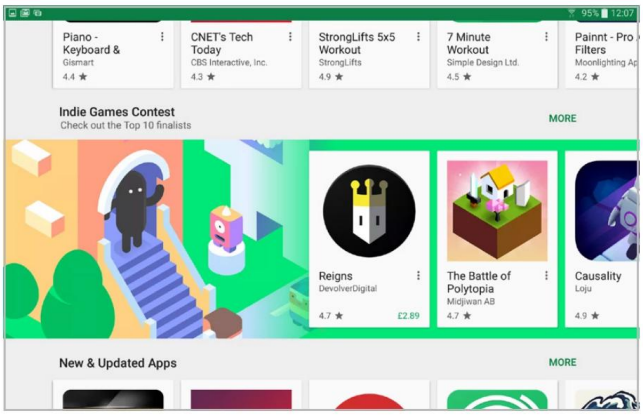
1 Tap the Play store icon on the Home screen or the main app drawer and the app will open to show the Play store main screen. Tap the Menu button in the top left of the screen to see links to other sections of the Play Store: Books, Music, Movies, etc. You will also find account details and app settings in this menu.



2 The search bar at the top of the screen allows you to search for apps and other content by name if you know what you are looking for. Searching while in any of the main Store sections will return results only for that section; searching in Books for example just shows books in the results.



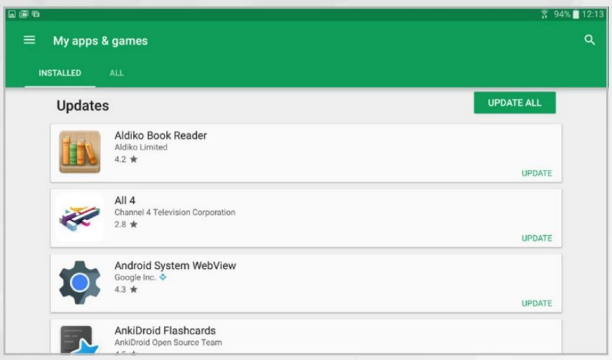
3 If you want to browse all available apps instead of searching, tap the Categories button. Choose the category you want to browse from the list or choose one of the "Top Categories" recommendations from the circles at the top of the screen.



4 Scroll down the main page of the app store and you will see recommendations, offers and other content available. This will change as you begin to install apps, reflecting your previous choices and offering more personal recommendations.

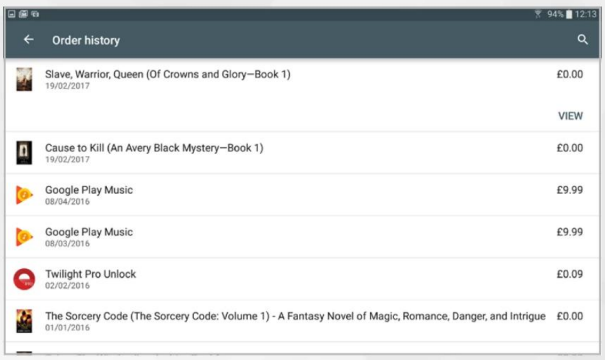
Play Store Menu

Tap the Menu button at the top of the Play store to open the app menu and access the Store Settings.



MY APPS & GAMES

› My Apps & Games allows you to see not only the apps that are currently installed on your device but also all apps that have been installed using the current Google account. This is also where you come to see if apps need updating and to action the updates when needed.



MY ACCOUNT

› This screen lets you review all of your purchases from the Play store, as well as showing you your Google Play balance and current payment method. Tap any of the items in the order history list and then tap View to see more information about the app, music, movie, book or magazine.

Installing Apps and Games

Installing the apps and games you have selected is fairly easy and only really varies depending on if the app is free or needs to be paid for. The app or game information screen contains a lot of useful information and it is worth checking each page out fully before you download anything. Let's take a look at that screen and the process of installing apps from the Play Store.

App Info Screen

There is a lot of information to be found here, from the number of downloads and screenshots, to user reviews and permissions.

1 App Title and Rating

The full name of the app is shown here, along with the developer's name and the PEGI suitability rating. The small blue stylised icon beside the developer name shows editor's recommendations.

2 Install/Purchase

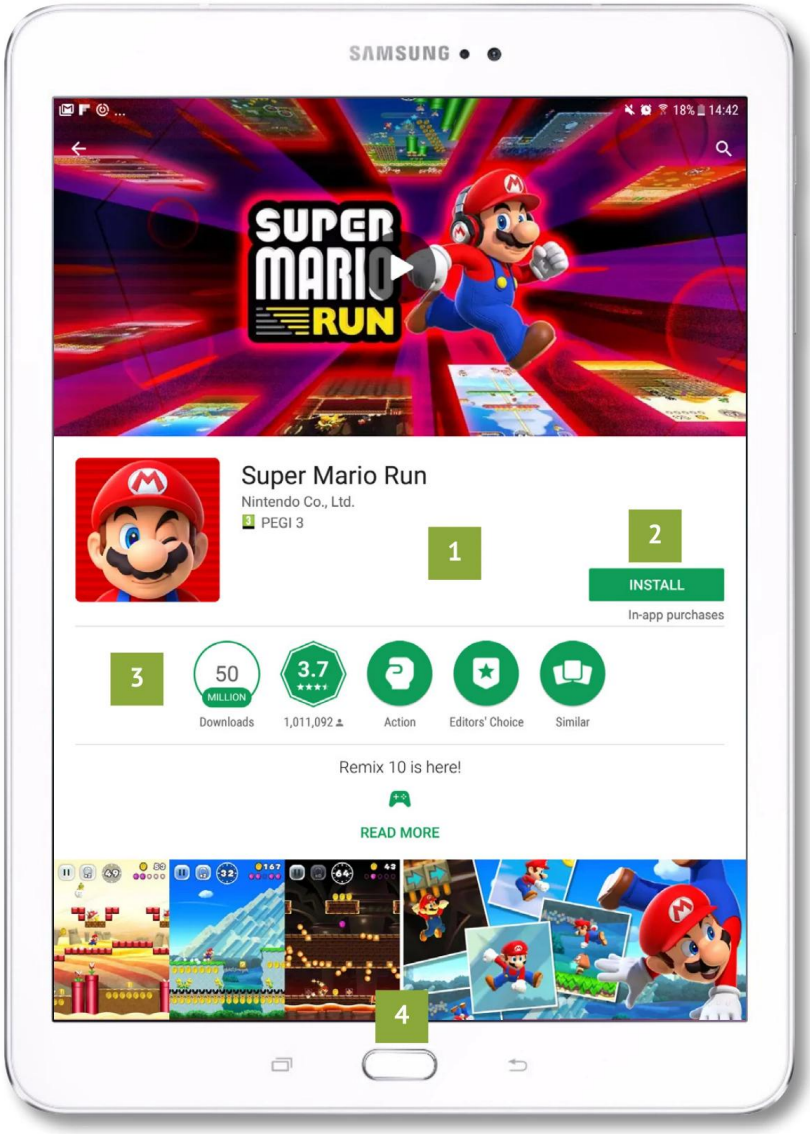
Tap the Install button to begin the installation process. You will have chance to confirm or cancel the installation. If the app is a premium app, this button will show the price and tapping it will open the payment window.

3 App Information

The four icons, from left to right, show number of downloads, user reviews, the app category and similar apps. Aside from the downloads icon, they can be tapped to see more info. Below this is the developer's description.

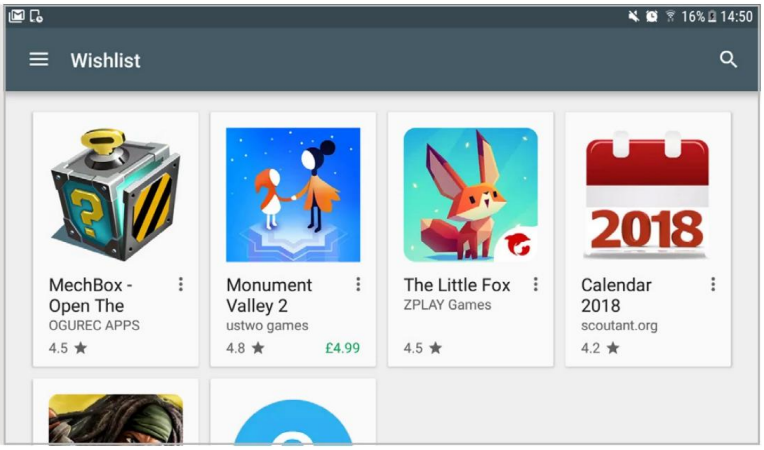
4 App Screenshots

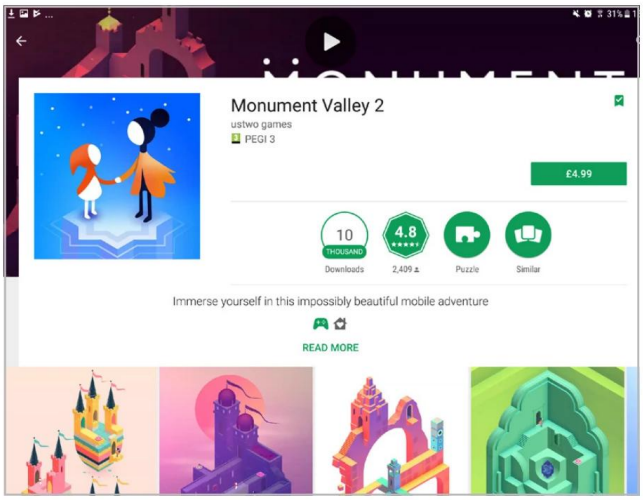
Here you can view images of the app, letting you further explore what the app does before installing. You will also sometimes find videos of the app here. Below the screenshots is a rating system.



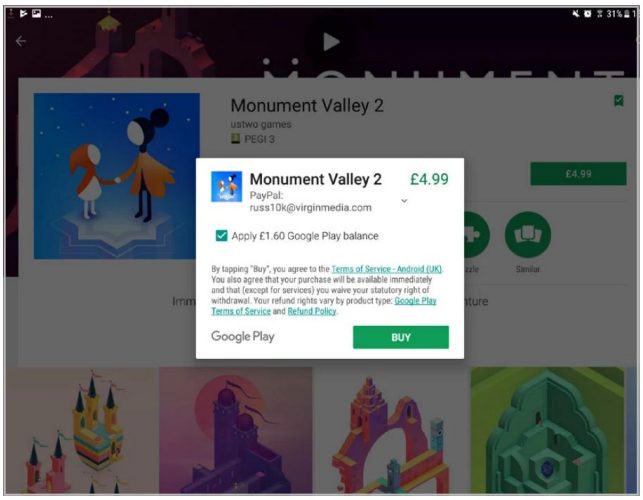
Create a Wishlist

The Google Play Store allows you to add apps and games, along with other content, to a Wishlist. You can add items to the list, on a mobile device or PC, by tapping the small + icon to the right of the app title. You will then be notified if an item on your Wishlist changes. You can view your Wishlist at any time by tapping the Menu button at the top left and selecting "Wishlist". To remove or install an item, tap the Menu button next to the title.

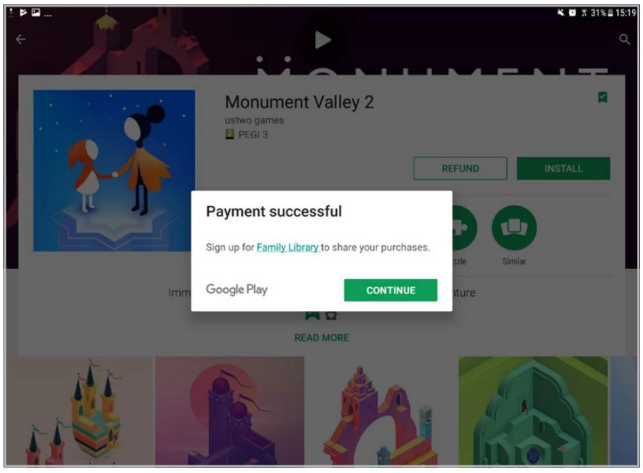




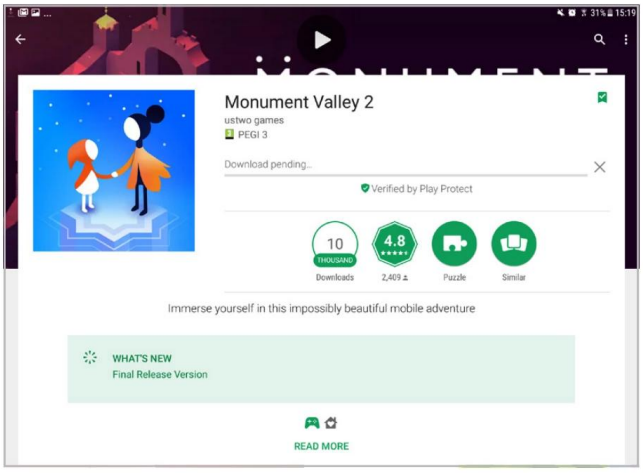
1 When you find an app you want to know more about, tap the thumbnail to open the info screen. Everything you need to know about the app can be found here, from download statistics and screenshots, to user ratings, reviews and similar app suggestions.



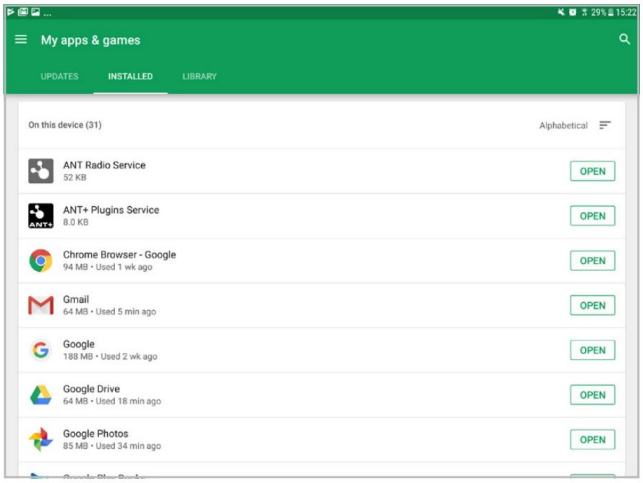
2 Free apps will have an Install button and paid apps will have a button displaying the price in your regional currency. After tapping the Install button you will be shown the Permissions the app requires. These will vary from app to app. Tap Accept.



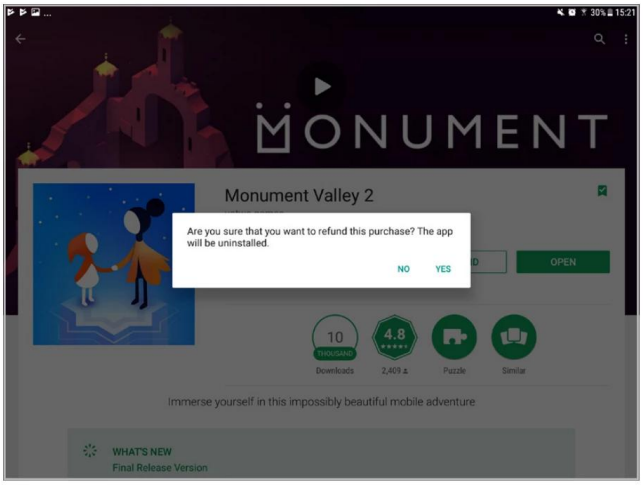
3 The app will now download and automatically install on your device. The button on the app info screen will then change to Open, allowing you to try the app straight away. An uninstall or Refund (if a paid app) button is also added to the screen.



4 If the app is a paid or premium app, after the permissions screen you will need to enter your Google account password to authenticate the purchase. If you don't have a payment service set up, you will be asked to add one before you can continue.



5 You can easily see which apps you have installed from within the Google Play Store. Tap the Menu button and then choose "My Apps & Games". This will not only show you the apps you have installed but all apps you have downloaded.



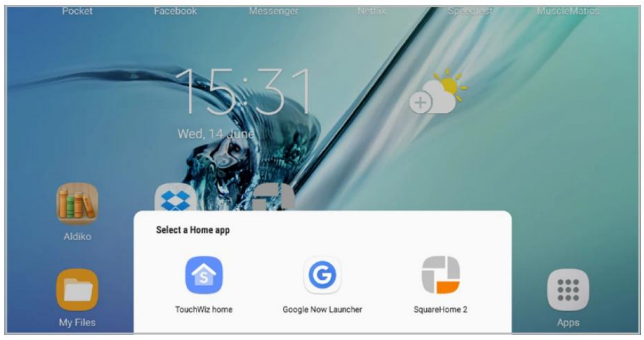
6 We all make mistakes and if you download a paid app and decide that you have made a mistake, getting a refund is easy; as long as you act within 2 hours of purchase. Just go to the app screen in Google Play and tap the "Refund" button.

Manage Your Installed Apps

As you add apps to your Samsung Galaxy, it will become more important to be able to manage them properly. The tips and tricks in this section will introduce you to, amongst other things, the Application Management screen of your Android device, as well as showing you how to disable pre-installed apps and get problem apps working after a fault.

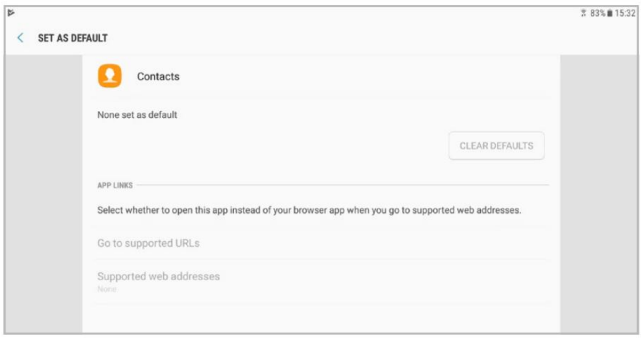
Android App Management

The app management options have changed slightly over time, so some older devices, or those running older versions of Android, may have fewer options than shown here.



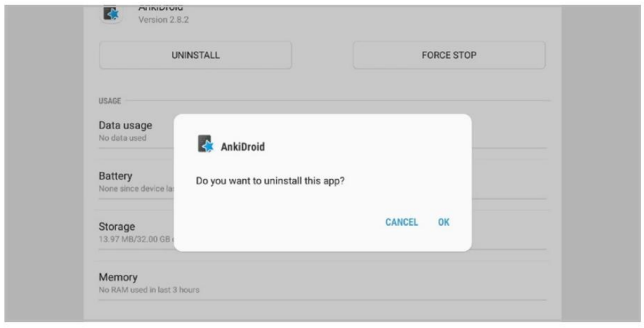
Set App Defaults

There are many apps available on Google Play that provide the same or similar functions to your phone or tablet's built-in tools. When you install one of these apps and then use a particular function it provides, Android will give you the option to make it the default app for that function.



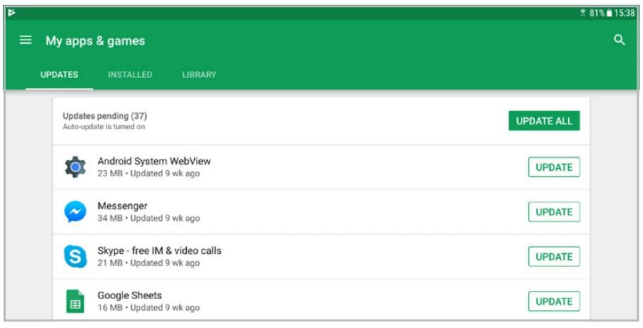
Reset App Defaults

If, for any reason, you decide that the default app you have chosen is not the one you want to use all the time, you can easily remove its default status. Go to Settings > Applications > Default Applications, here you can choose the function you want to alter and then choose the app to assign to it.



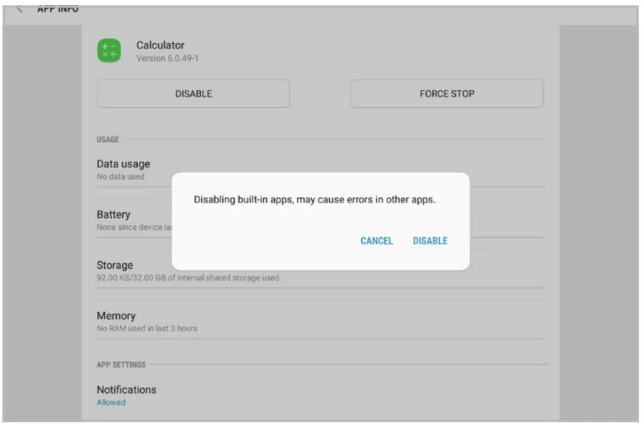
Removing Apps

Most apps take up just a few MB of space but if you wish to remove an app, the process is simple. Head to Settings > Applications > Application Manager. Select the app you wish to remove and then tap Uninstall. You can also remove apps by dragging them to the trash in the app drawer.



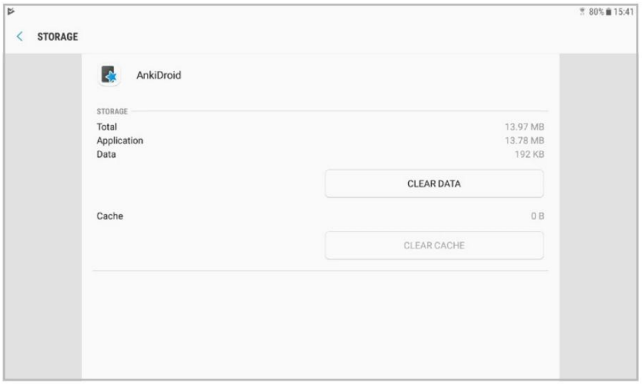
Check for App Updates

If you have tried clearing the cache and data, and the app is still not working properly, it is worth checking to see if there are any updates available for it. Open the Play Store and tap the Menu button. Select My Apps from the menu and check if the problem app has Update next to it.



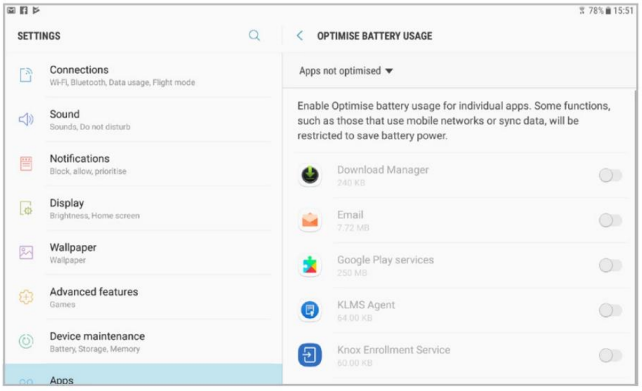
Disable Stock Apps

Newer versions of Android (Jelly Bean onwards) give you the option to disable apps that came preinstalled on your device. Head into the Application Manager and select the app you want to disable. You will see that if there is not an Uninstall button, there is a Disable button instead.



Move Apps to SD Card

You can save space on your smart device by moving apps to your microSD card. Obviously, you will need an SD card inserted. Open the Application Manager, tap on the app you want to move, and then either tap Move to SD or tap Storage > Change > SD Card. System apps cannot be moved.

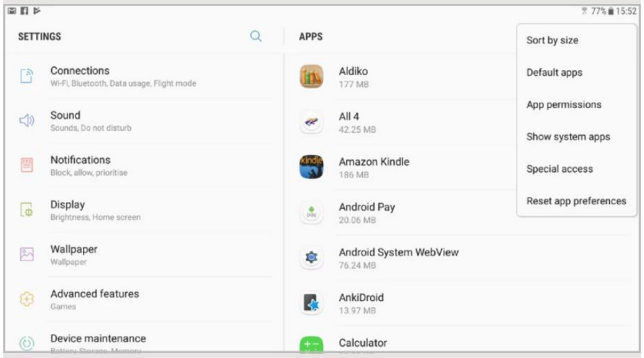


Samsung Special Access

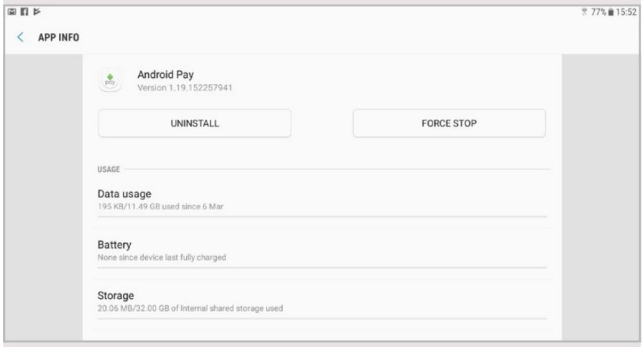
Depending on your Samsung device, you might be able to manage apps based on special access settings. Open Settings > Apps and tap the More button > Special Access. You can then set things like battery optimisation and Do Not Disturb settings for certain installed apps.

Fix Problem Apps

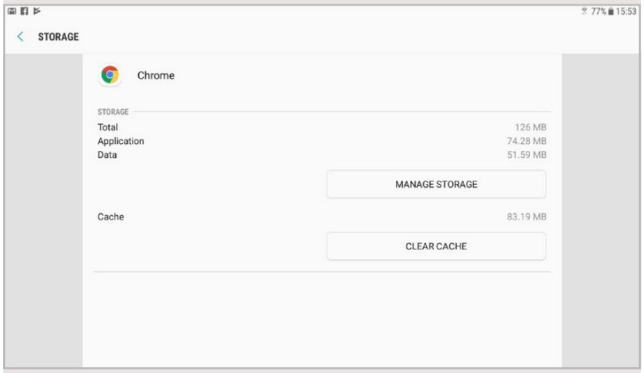
From time to time you might find that an app is not behaving as it should. You might see an error message pop-up on screen or you might not. Sometimes an app just won't seem to open.



1 Go to Settings > Applications > Application Manager and select the Enabled Apps tab at the top of the screen. Find the problem app in the list and tap on it to see the Application Info screen. You will then see several different things to try to get the app working.



2 You can try the **Force Stop**. This sounds worse than it actually is. It simply forces the app to stop running. You can then try running the app again to see if it works properly. You can also try **Clear Cache** before you retry the app. This removes files and data that the app has stored.



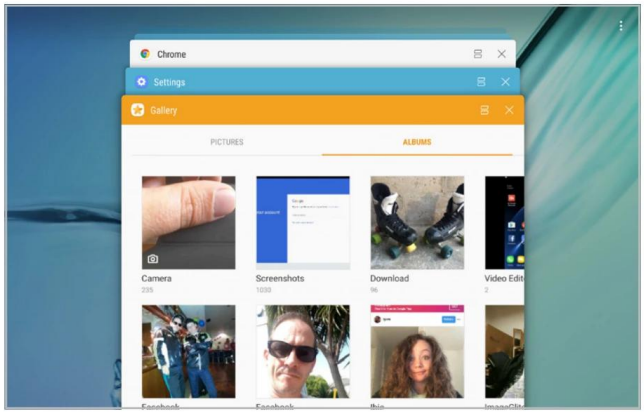
3 Your third option is **Clear Data.** This is more drastic (for the app) than clearing the cache and will remove stored password and settings. The fourth button on the App Info is self-explanatory. If nothing else has helped, **Uninstall** the app and then download it again.

Multi-window and Smart Capture

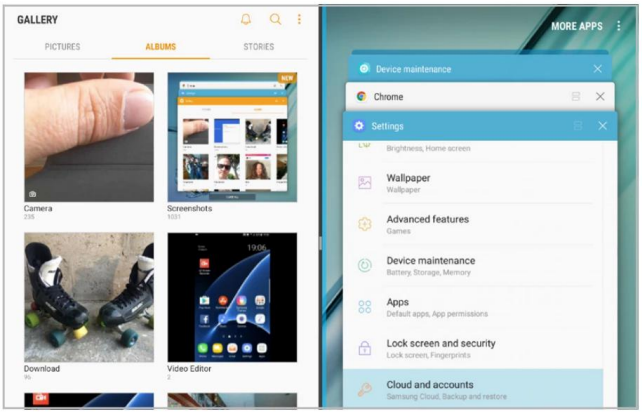
Thanks to a recent update to Android, you can run two apps side-by-side or one above the other in split-screen mode. Samsung Galaxy devices have had this feature for longer, but the way multi-window works on Samsung devices has also changed slightly. This guide looks at multi-window and then the screen capture tool, Smart Capture.

Multi-window on Samsung

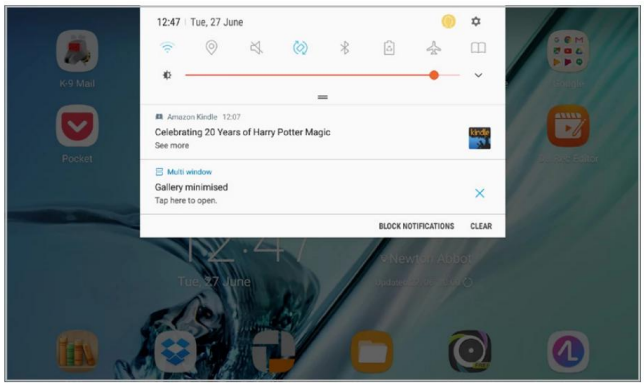
Multi-window mode on Samsung devices has been available for some time, and works very slightly differently to most other devices, even after updating to Nougat.



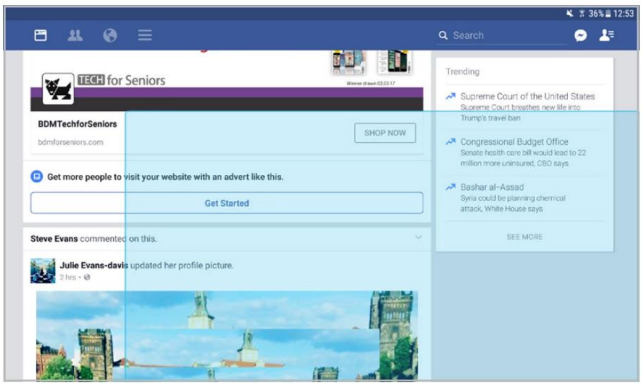
1 On your Samsung device, tap the Recents button to view the thumbnails of recently opened apps. On the top bar of each app thumbnail is a multi-window icon. Tap this to open the first app in the top half of the screen. You will see that the bottom half still shows Recent Apps.



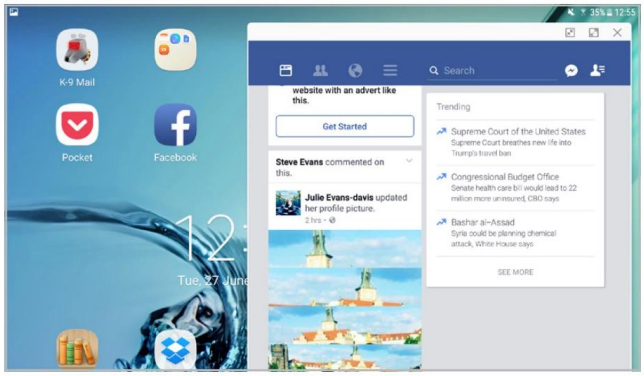
2 You can then tap the thumbnail to open an app in the bottom half of the screen. To change the ratio of the split, touch and hold on the dividing line and drag it up and down. If you drag the divider all the way up or down, you will drop out of multi-window back in to single window mode.



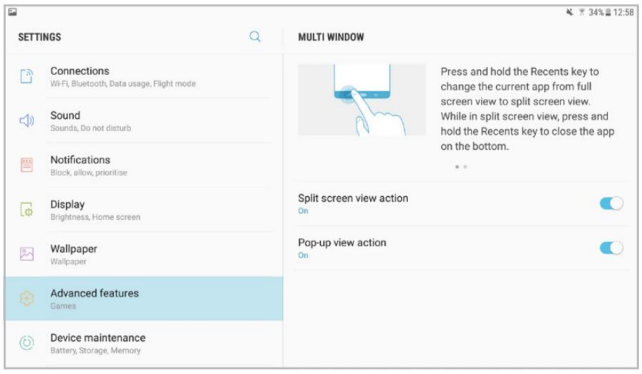
3 If you leave multi-window mode by pressing the Home button, it will stay active. A notification in the status bar will display the multi-window icon, and tapping it will switch back to the split screen view. You can cancel the split screen by tapping the X in the notification.



4 You can also open an application in a pop-up window on some Samsung devices. To move an application to a floating pop-up window, open the application, touch a top corner of the screen and swipe diagonally toward the centre of the screen. This feature works better on tablets than phones, but may be available on both.



5 Touch and drag the blue outline to resize the pop-up. Touch and drag the control dot at the top of the pop-up window to move it around the screen. You can tap the arrow controls at the top of the box to change back to full screen or shrink the window down to app icon size.

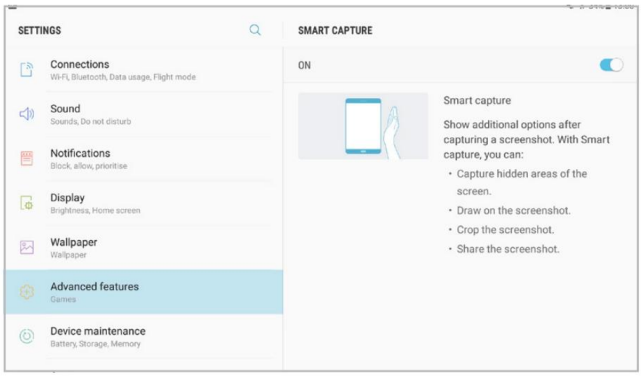


6 If you search for 'multi-window' in the settings on your Samsung Galaxy, you will find that there are a few options for the split screen mode. You can turn certain features on and off, and change how the mode is accessed. There is also a developer option to force apps to split screen.

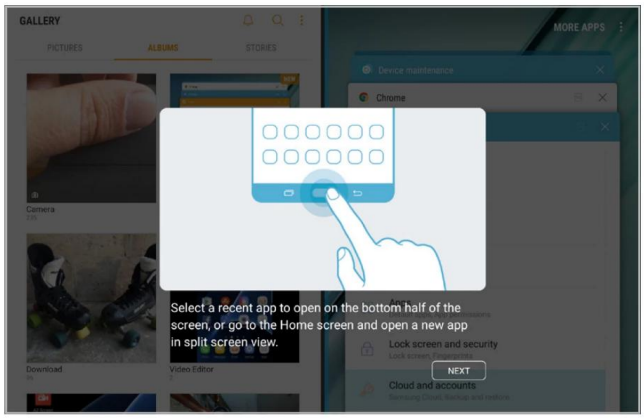
Using Smart Capture

Sharing what is being displayed on your Samsung Galaxy screen is now easier than ever, with the addition of Smart Capture tools to most devices.

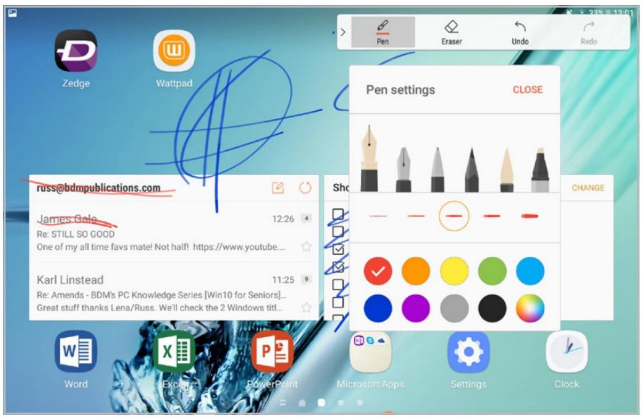
1 If you didn't already know, you can capture a screenshot of your device by pressing and holding the Home key and the Power key simultaneously. You can view captured images in Gallery. You can also capture screenshots by swiping your hand to the left or right across the screen.



2 With Smart Capture switched on, you can capture the current screen and scrollable area. You can also immediately crop and share the captured screenshot. If this feature is not activated, open Settings > Advanced features > Smart capture and tap the switch to activate it.



3 Once activated, the Smart Capture tools appear along the bottom of the screen in a transparent bar for a few seconds each time you take a screenshot. You need to be fairly quick to choose the Smart Capture tool you want to use, so it is good to know what each tool does.



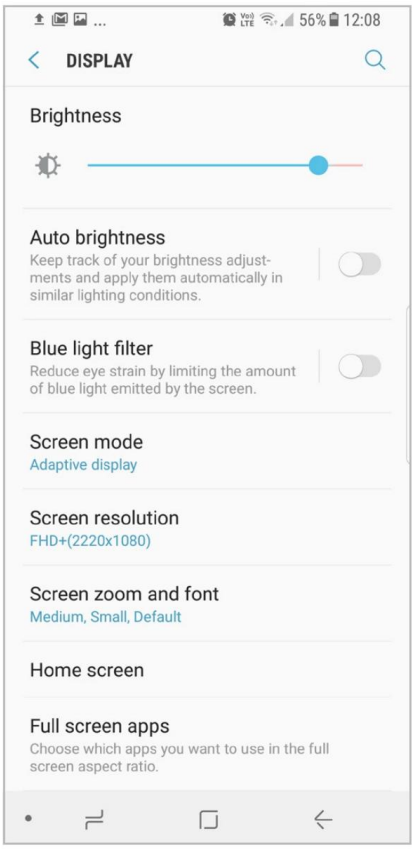
4 On the far left is Scroll Capture. Next to that is the drawing option, which brings up a selection of drawing tools, as well as crop, save and share buttons. Crop lets you trim your screenshot down immediately, rather than making you open it in Gallery. Share lets you share the image.

Always On and Night Clock

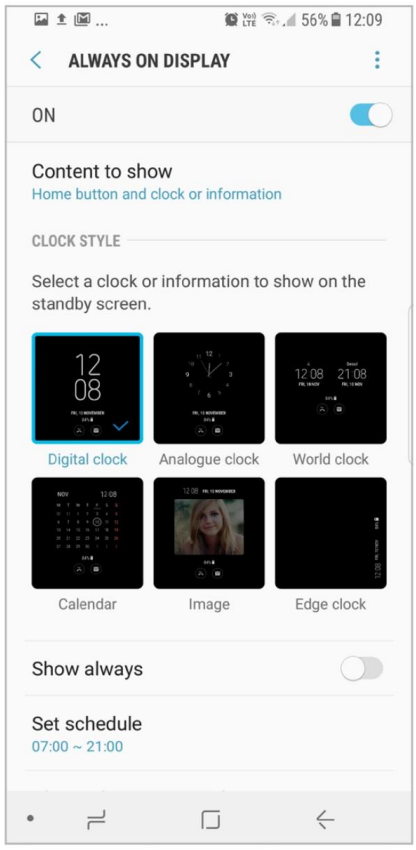
The Always On Display (AOD) feature of the Galaxy S7 and S7 Edge allows users to check the time and date with ease and also keep an eye on missed calls and message alerts, even when the phone is not in use and just on standby. The Always On Display can be customised to include clocks, images or calendars of different styles. Let's take a look at some of the ways you can use and adapt the Always On Display on your Galaxy S7 smartphone.

Always on Display

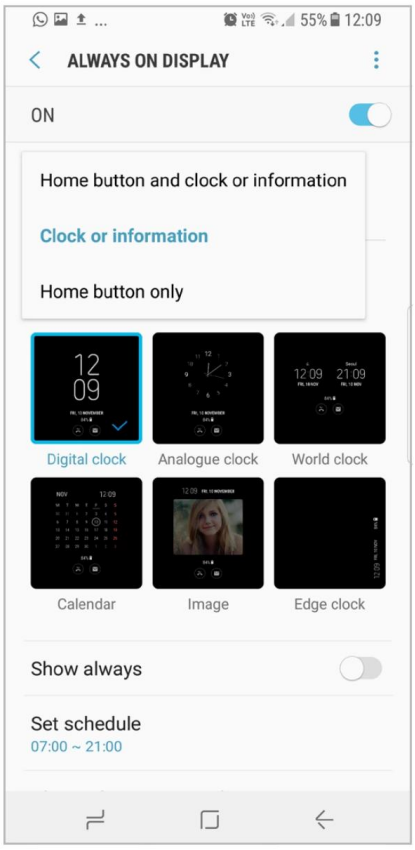
AOD displays information in a very low power way, using less than 1 per cent per hour. If the battery drops below 5 per cent, the display turns off.



1 Head into the main Settings app on your S7 or S7 Edge and look for the Display settings. About halfway down the list of settings you will see 'Always on display'. Below this option is 'Night clock', which we will be looking at later in this guide. For now, click Always on display.



2 Tap the slider at the top of the screen to activate Always on display if it isn't already on. The image below the slider shows what the display will show when the screen goes black (sleeps). If this looks okay to you, that's all you need to do. If you want to change the content, tap Layouts.



3 The layout options change depending on whether you choose to display a clock layout, calendar layout or image layout; this you choose by tapping 'Content to show' at the top of the screen. For now, we will stick with a clock layout as this gives us the biggest range of options.

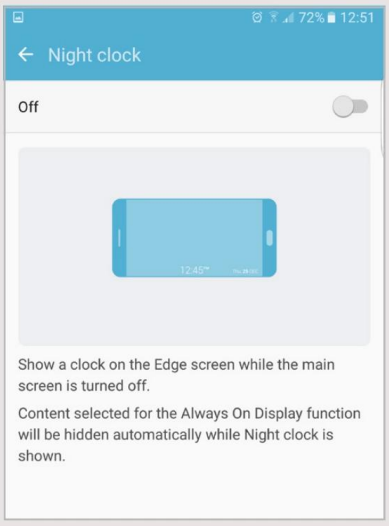
4 Scroll down through the layout options and you will see different styles of clock, both digital and analogue style, some with dual clocks and even some with other information like a signature or image. Tap on the style you like the look of and a further options screen will open.

5 The exact options here will vary depending on the layout you tapped, although most will have a Colour and Background picker. Colour changes the colour of the clock numbers or face and the background picker lets you choose from a selection of different background patterns.

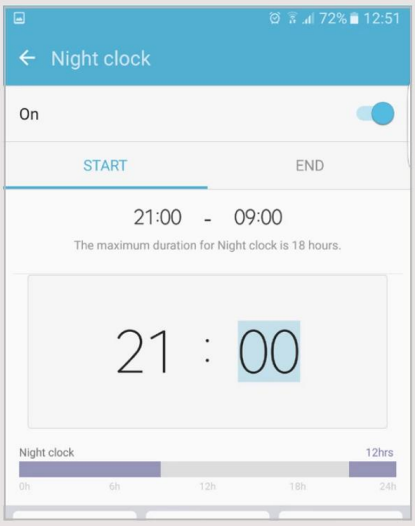
6 The final thing to choose, once you have applied the changes to the layout colour and background and you are back on the layout screen, is whether you want notification icons to appear on the Always on display. The layout thumbnail will change as you activate this option.

Samsung Night Clock

The Always on display, once activated, will be on screen all night. If you prefer a smaller night clock display, you can activate Night Clock to replace it.



1 Again, as with Always On, the Night Clock is accessed through the main Display settings. The Night Clock will need to be activated using the slider at the top of the options screen. Once activated, several new options will appear on the screen to be customised.



2 The maximum duration of the Night Clock is 18 hours but other than that limitation, you can set the timer to any period. For example, you can set the Night Clock to appear at 22:00 and turn off at 8:00. If Always on Display is activated, Night Clock will replace it on screen during those hours.

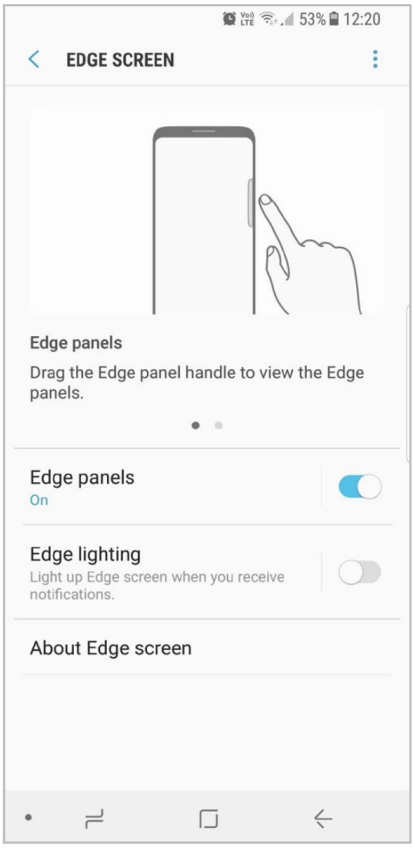
3 The Night Clock is designed to be easily read from a position beside your bed, on a night stand. To make it as easy as possible to read during the night, the time is displayed along the edge of the screen. You can choose whether it is displayed along the right or left edge.

Using Galaxy Edge Tools

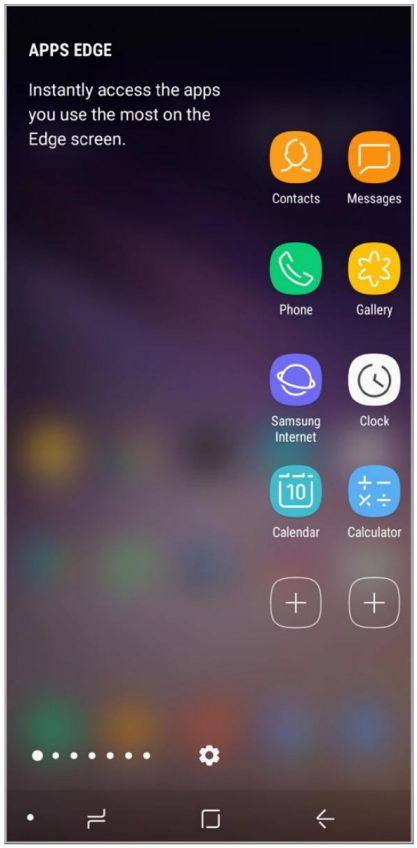
Samsung is brilliant at introducing new and innovative features to its latest devices. The curved edge on the Galaxy S7 Edge isn't just about making the phone look cool, the curve is actually used as additional screen space, adding several new and unique tools to the Galaxy arsenal. The tools shown here are on a Galaxy S7 Edge, running Android 6.0.1. They may also be available on the S6 Edge if running the same version of Android and later.

Edge Panels

Edge panels are designed to give you quick access to different types of phone data and tools with just the swipe of a finger or thumb at the edge of the screen.

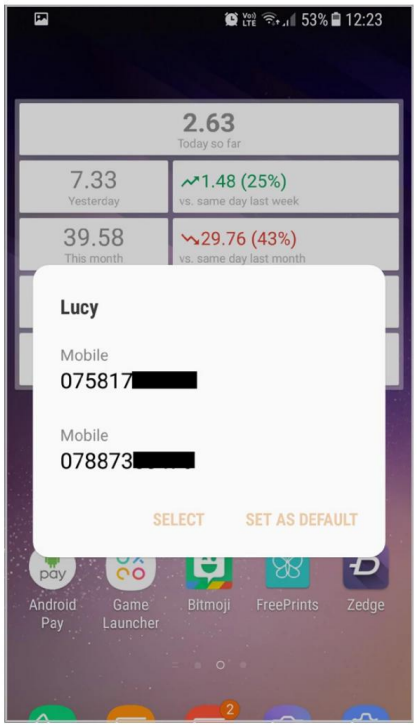


1 Edge panels should be enabled by default on your new Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge, so you should see a thin tab on the right-hand edge of the screen when you wake and unlock your device. If you don't see the tab, open the main Settings > Edge Screen > Edge Panels and turn On.

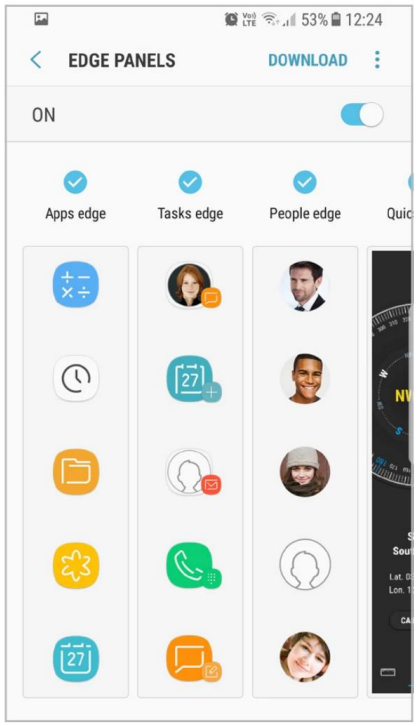


2 Once switched on, the edge panels are always accessible, despite what else is on the screen (apart from when playing some games). To open the panels, swipe over the tab inwards from the edge of the screen. The first of your currently enabled panels will then open.

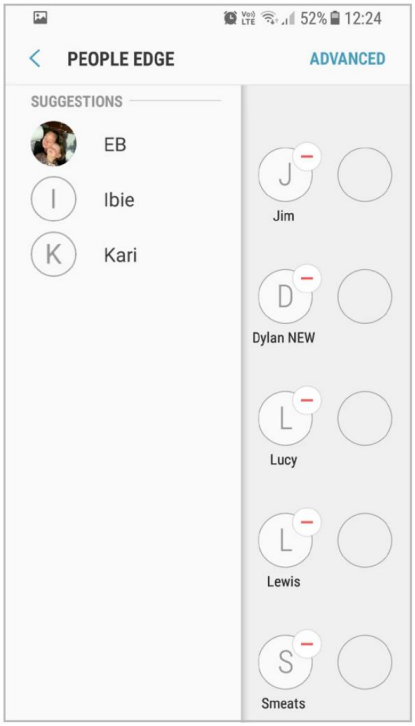
3 Several different panels will be enabled by default. You can swipe left and right through the different panels to see the data or tools they each contain. Many of the panels have additional options in them, such as adding new shortcuts to the Tasks panel (tap the + icon).



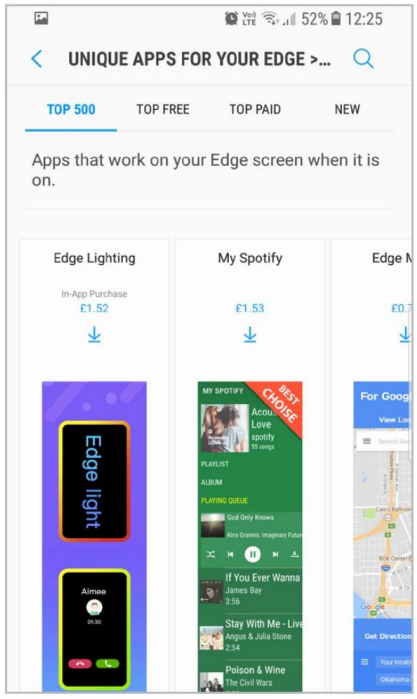
4 Interacting with the panels varies depending on which one you are looking at. On the People Edge Panel, tapping any of the named icons will open a call or message screen; on the Samsung Music Panel, you will be able to select music and play or skip tracks.



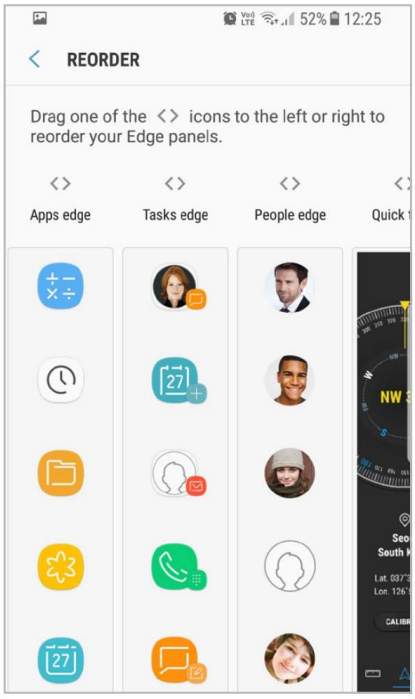
5 There is a page or panel indicator at the bottom left of the panels, to show you which panel you are on and if there are more of them to the left and right. Next to this is a settings icon. Tap this to go straight to the edge panel options screen; you can also get here through the main settings app.



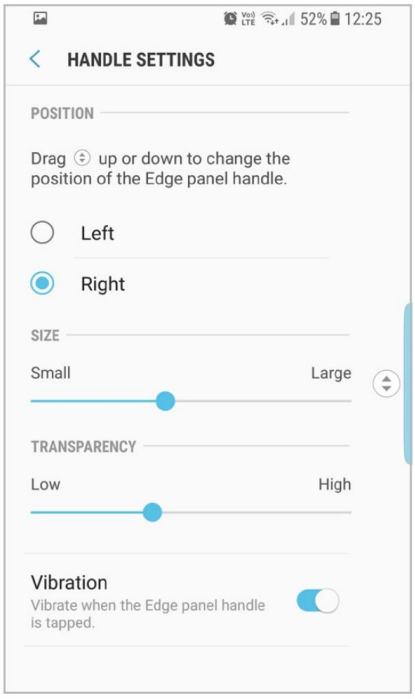
6 Here you will see which panels are enabled (those displayed with a tick) and which are available to be added to the panels tab. Many of the panels shown will have a pencil (edit) icon at the bottom. Tap this to set up that panel here rather than from the panel itself.



7 You can add new panels by tapping the Download button on the panel options screen: first ensuring you are connected to a Wi-Fi/data network. There are lots available, some paid-for and some free, ranging from simple note panels to those created specifically for apps.



8 Tap the More button and you can reorder the panels, how they appear when you open the tab, and uninstall panels that you have downloaded (not the default panels). To reorder panels, tap the option and then simply tap and drag the panels into the order you desire.



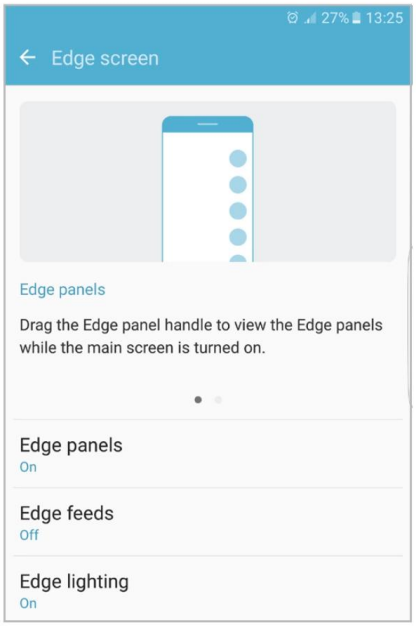
9 Sometimes, particularly if you have big fingers, the tab to open the panels can be a bit fiddly to use. The options screen allows you to customise the edge panel handle. You can change the position on the screen by moving the tab up or down, the size of the tab and the level of transparency.

Edge Feeds

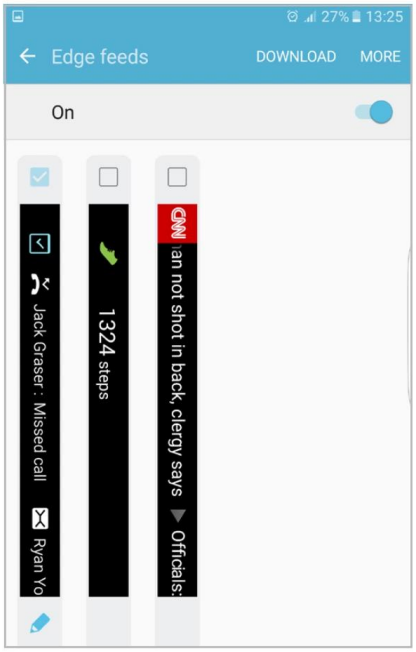
Edge Feeds are another way to view information such as notifications via the edge of the screen. In this case, whilst the screen is off or in sleep mode.

1 To open the edge feeds while your device is idle, touch the corner of the screen and swipe to the middle of the screen and back to the corner without lifting your finger. This is done along the long edge of the screen, preferably whilst holding the phone in landscape orientation.

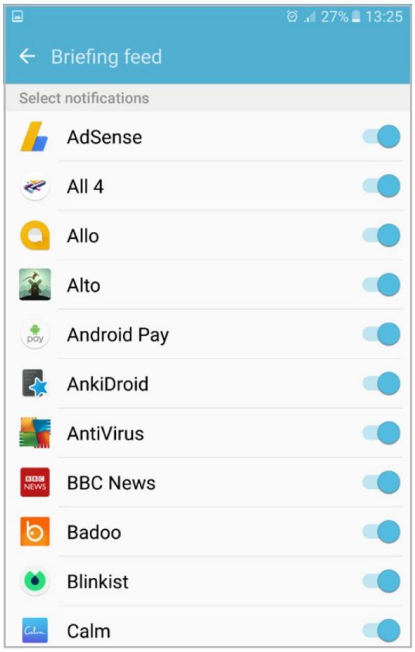
2 The first feed will disappear along the edge, showing any notifications. If you have more than one feed enabled (see below), you can scroll through them by swiping up over the feed that is showing. You can tap on any of the feeds to open an app or website to see more details.



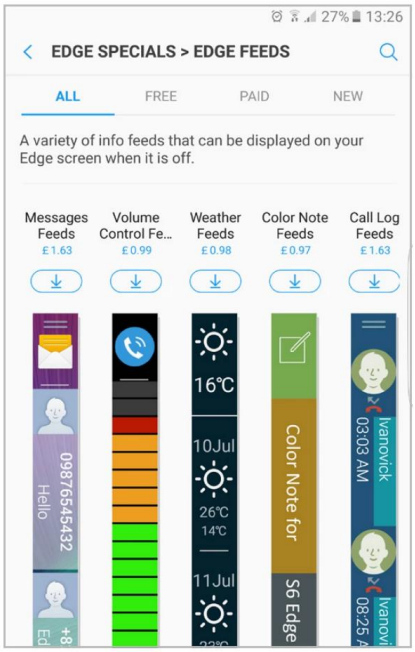
3 If the edge feeds do not display, from the Home screen, touch Apps > Settings > Edge screen. Tap edge feeds and tap the slider to turn edge feeds on. Unlike with edge panels, there is no visible tab or handle to show that you can open the feeds on the edge of the screen when enabled.



4 The default feed enabled is the Briefing Feed, which displays notifications from your applications. You can choose which applications display notifications in the edge feeds settings by tapping the pencil (edit) icon at the bottom of the Briefing feed image.



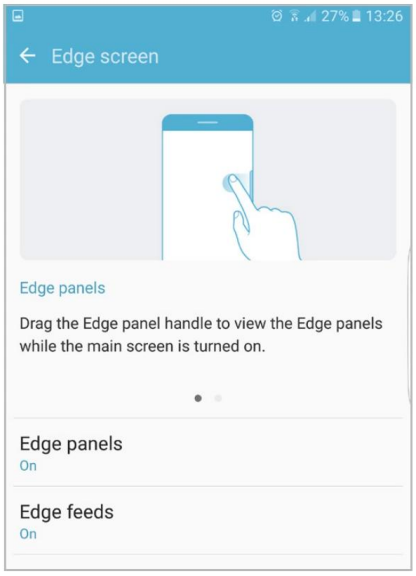
5 Other default feeds include Yahoo! News, that shows breaking news and top headlines, and S Health, that displays your step count when tracking steps with the S Health app. Yahoo! Finance and Yahoo! Sports are also available, each displaying data relevant to their subjects.



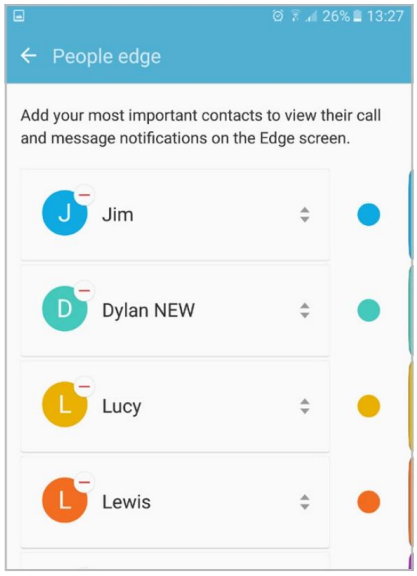
6 Just as with edge panels, you can install new edge feeds by tapping the Downloads button on the feeds options screen. There are both paid and free feeds to download, ranging from messages to weather and news channels. Some of the downloaded feeds may have additional options.

Edge Lighting

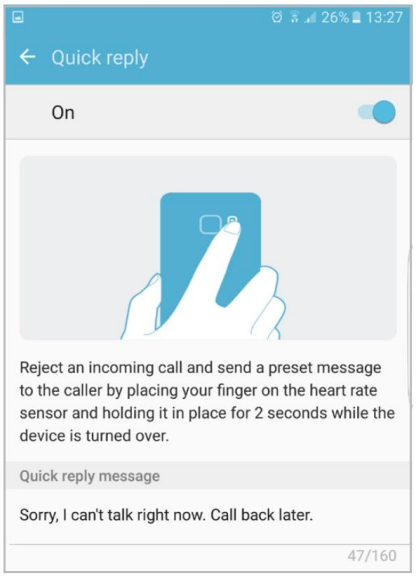
With Edge Lighting turned on, your Galaxy Edge screen will light up when you receive calls or notifications while the device's screen is covered.



1 Once edge lighting is activated in the settings, there is little else you need to do to get it working. If your phone is lying face down on a flat surface, and someone makes a call to it, a coloured light will flash and move along the edge of the screen. This alerts you to the call, without the phone ringing.



2 If people edge is turned on in edge panels, you can assign edge lighting colours to the contacts. This feature lets you decide whether to take a call without even picking up your device. Open the edge panels option, tap the Edit button on people edge and choose the colours you want to use.



3 For calls you don't want to take, you can set up a Quick Reply to automatically respond to the caller. This is activated quickly and easily, by placing your finger over the heart rate sensor. To access Edge Lighting settings from the Home screen, tap Apps > Settings > Edge Screen then tap Edge Lighting.

Samsung Galaxy Edge Cases

To take advantage of the Galaxy S7 and S8 edge tools, it is important to choose a case which properly allows for the curved edge. Here are three of our favourite edge cases.

Ghostek Cloak Case S7

www.mobilefun.co.uk/com

The Cloak protective bumper case in red and clear from Ghostek comes complete with a screen protector. Crafted from anti-scratch TPU and an aluminium frame, the Cloak case protects your device whilst complimenting its sleek aesthetics. If you are looking for something discrete and slim, this is a great choice.

Presidio Clear Glitter Case S8

www.speckproducts.co.uk

If you need your S8 to have a bit of glamour, while keeping it safe from knocks and drops, the Presidio case from Speck is the perfect choice. Featuring a clear polycarbonate body embedded with gold glitter, this pretty case can provide protection from drops of up to 8-feet, all the while keeping edge tools usable.

Official Clear View Stand Case

www.mobilefun.co.uk/com

Aptly named, the official 'Clear View' case for the Galaxy S8 features a semi-transparent front cover that allows you to quickly and easily view incoming calls, messages and battery. This is a fantastic way to keep up to date with your notifications without having to constantly open and close your flip case.

Now you've got the basics down, you can improve and learn more essential skills in our next guide…

SAMSUNG GALAXY

TRICKS AND TIPS

Coming soon!

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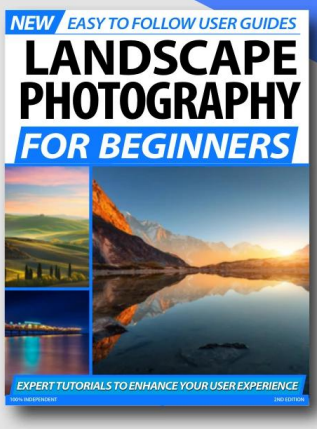

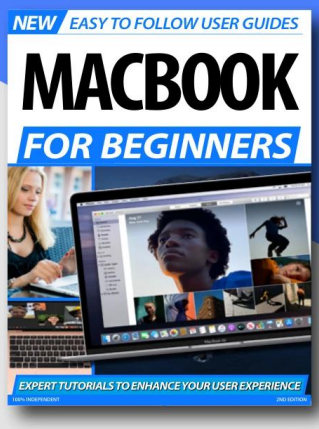

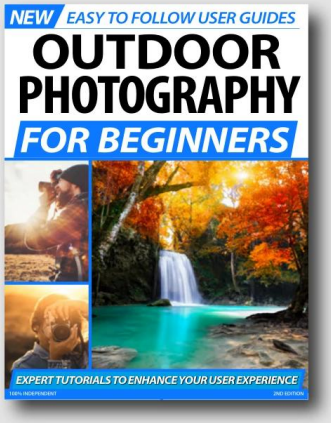

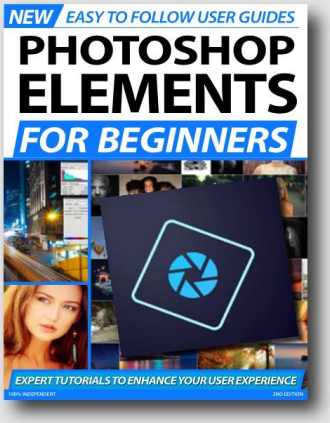

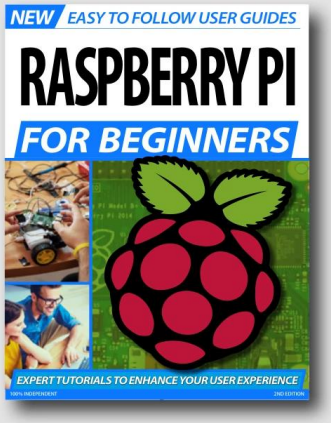

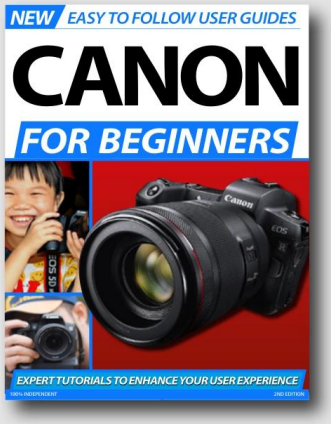

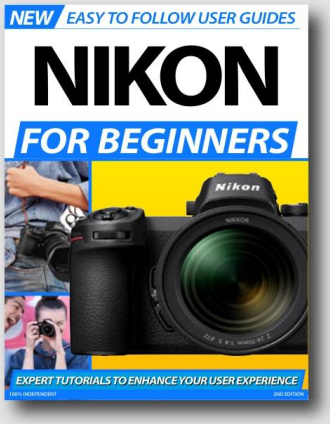

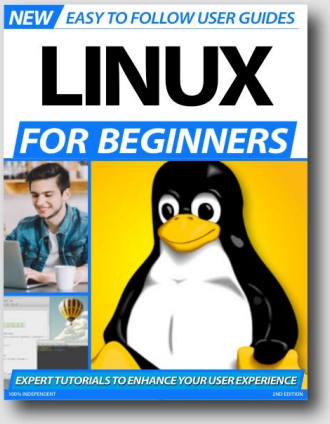

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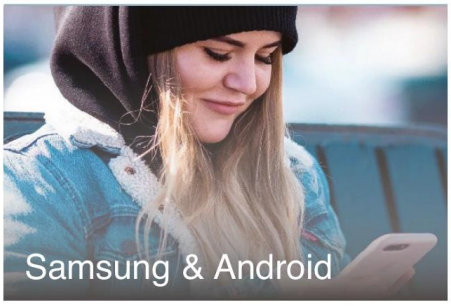

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