

App stores



Using an “app” (short for application) is a good way of using technology on a smartphone. In order to use an app, you need to download it from an app store. Imagine a library – you can choose from a range of books and pick the ones that interest you. An app store is a bit like that – choose from a range of apps and pick the ones that interest you.

To use an app store you need a smartphone. This will differ slightly depending on whether you have an ‘Android’ phone or an ‘iPhone’. The best way to tell is to look at the back of the phone – if you see an apple then you have an iPhone. On an Android phone it’s called the ‘Play Store’ and on an iPhone it’s called the ‘App Store’.

Accessing either app store is easy and will be on your phone as a default. Use the search function on your phone (it usually says ‘search’ or has a magnifying icon in the box) to look up ‘App Store’ or ‘Play Store’ (depending on your phone). Once you have opened the relevant app store you will be able to search for new apps or browse recommended ones and genres.

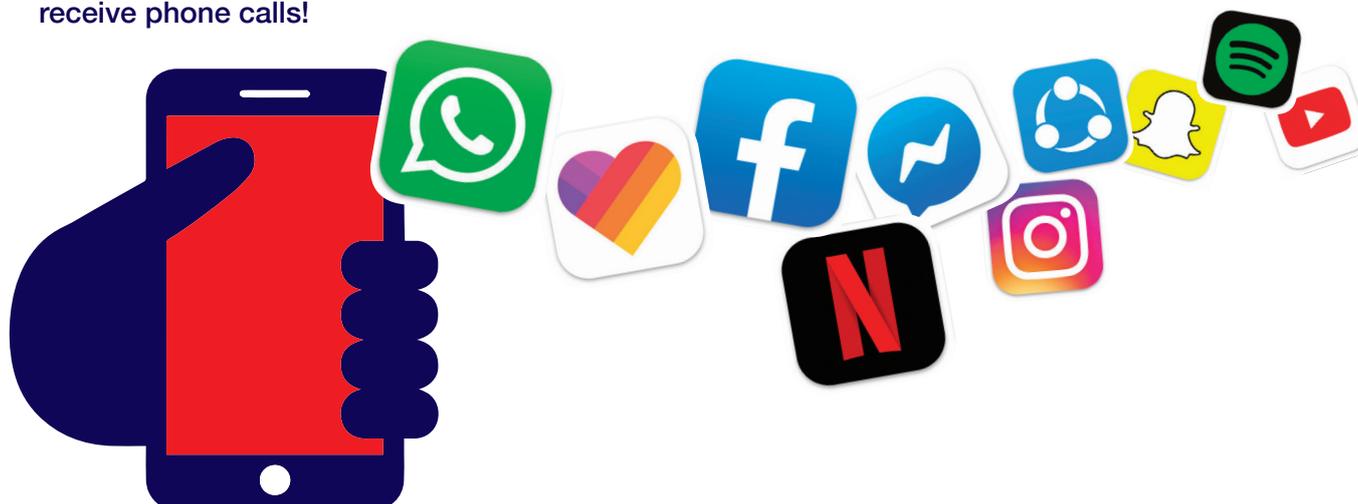
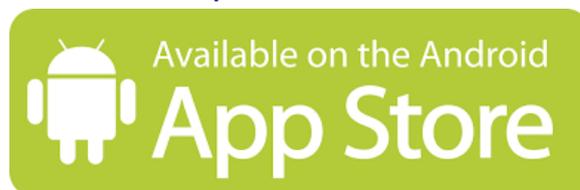
There are thousands of apps in the library from maps to money management via anything else you can think of!

There are apps for pill reminders, apps for short sighted people, apps to report faulty street lights and identifying bird songs – you name it, there’s probably an app for it!

Once you have found an app that you like you need to download it. This is similar to taking a book off the shelf to read it – downloading it is putting the information on to your phone. Depending on your internet speed (i.e. 3G/4G vs WiFi) and size of the app, download time can vary. It is generally a good idea to download an app when you have WiFi as it could be costly to download using 3G or 4G and may use up your data allocation for that month. You can also limit which apps use 3G or 4G from the mobile data settings on your phone’.

Some apps charge you to download and some are free. If you do want to pay for an app, you will need to pay for it using a debit or credit card.

Downloading an app is a great way to build confidence and to get to know how to use a mobile phone and its functionality. Phones are now designed to do a lot more than take and receive phone calls!



Checklist



Follow our simple Do and Don't checklist

Do

- *Start simple. Think about searching for 'newspaper', 'weather' or 'cooking' and seeing if you like them*
- *Have a go! If you have an idea there is probably an app for it so have a look*
- *Try different apps that do the same thing. There may be an app you prefer so try a few different ones to see if there is one you like more.*
- *Read the description of the app beforehand – if it doesn't read well or has spelling mistakes don't download it.*

Don't

- *Feel pressured into paying money for an app. Some apps ask for a fee because they are high quality. However, if you don't want to pay for an app don't, there are lots of free apps out there.*
- *Download an app from an unofficial store. Always use the official Play Store or App Store.*
- *Download an app that has no reviews – check to see what other people say before downloading*