

Mobile Phone Introduction



There are 2 basic types of mobile phones:-

Older type - Have a keyboard and small screen - *not recommended now.*

Can make phone calls

Can send text messages, but difficult and very slow.

Smartphone type - no physical keyboard, larger screens

These are full computers, have a huge range of functions

Can be setup for one tap calls/text to favorite contacts and emergency numbers.

Their functions are being expanded continually.

Basic operation

Both types of phones use a SIM card provided by the mobile phone network provider such as Telstra, Optus, TPG, etc. The SIM card is in effect an electronic "key" which identifies your phone on the mobile network.

Your phone "talks" to the nearest mobile phone tower. Sometimes walls or other obstacles can block or restrict access. There is a small icon on the phone which shows the strength of signal. If the signal is weak or non-existent move to another location.



Battery

The battery needs to be charged regularly, again a small icon shows the battery charge level. Charging may take several hours (or overnight).

Most phones will operate for 1 to 2 days on a full charge.



Smartphone operating systems

There are 3 common operating systems:-

iPhone - by Apple only available on iPhone branded phones.

Android - by Google, widely available on many different brands.

Windows - by Microsoft, used by Microsoft, and a just few other brands.

All phones provide very similar services, but "look and feel" somewhat different.

Main functions

- Phone calls and text messages. Text messages are the lowest cost to use.
- Photos and videos - both taking and playing. Most of the better smartphones take and display photos and videos of very high quality. Can be comparable good quality cameras.
- Calendar/diary
- Emailing
- Contacts listing of phone numbers, email and other information.
- Accessing the Internet

Some other common applications

Torch	Navigation and maps
Recording medical notes	Storing and reading books
Playing games	Transport timetables
Banking, paying bills	Contacting services ie Centrelink
Booking appointments	News and weather
Facebook and other social links	Skype and other audio visual communication

Applications (APS for short)

All functions on mobile devices are called APPS.

Most smartphones have around 15 to 30 APPS already installed. Most of these are essential or useful, but others may be of limited use and often called "bloatware".

You can install additional APPs of your choosing through the APPs store applicable to your phone operating system.

For iPhones it is "iTunes"



For Android it is "Play store"



For Windows it is "Store"



Apps can be free, these are often with advertising, or they can be purchased. Generally quite low costs, from as little as \$1.00 to \$20 or more.

Caution: only download APPs from your respective store (as above). APPs downloaded from the general Internet may have malware.

Your accounts

To fully operate your smartphone you need at least 2 accounts.

Your mobile phone network provider. Provides your phone number and SIM card.

Bills you for the services

Your APPs store. Your place to obtain additional APPs.

You may have the option of an account with the smartphone maker (eg Samsung).

Each account will require a User name (can be your email address), and a Password.

Most now also require one or more "secret questions" which you can choose.

They may also require your mobile phone number. These are all needed for security.

You will need to supply your credit/debit card number to make purchases or receive your bills.

Caution: *You must keep this information in a secure place. It can be very difficult to operate or retrieve your account information if you lose this information.*

Basic operation

These instructions are similar for most phones. There could be some differences for some types or makes.

To start, press and hold the start button near the top LH or RH side.

This button is also used to close the phone.

The phone may be set for security and may require a pin number, password or swipe pattern to open.

The phone is usually set to go to sleep after 1 or 2 minutes to save the battery. The screen is the item which uses most battery. To wake the phone press the start button briefly.

Actions can be activated by tapping once.

Some people find using a special tipped stylus is handy.



Tap and sweep to the left or right in one motion swipes or moves, the screen to the next screen. There can be several screens available. Tap and sweep up or down scrolls the screen in some applications.

Tapping with 2 fingers and spreading them apart zooms in for some applications (like photos). Tapping with 2 fingers and bringing them together Zooms out.



Tap and hold allows the icon to be selected and moved.

The screen can be set to adjust the brightness to suit the ambient conditions, or it can be fixed to a particular brightness. The location of these setting can be different for each type of phone.

The volume level is adjusted by pressing the top or bottom of a long switch, usually on the opposite side to the start button.

Many users prefer to have one or more icons set on the main screen to phone or text their favorites also emergency numbers. This means a tap selects that person and you can then tap on phone, text or email.

There are many other actions which are best referred to your particular phone.