

Android for Beginners

When you pick up your Smartphone if it has been idle for a short time then the screen is turned off.

Page | 1 A tap on the Home button (usually on the bottom in the middle) will bring the device to life and the first screen you see is the Security Lock Screen.

Mine looks like this – notice it has a security set whereby I have to run my finger over the dots in order to select a particular pattern.

There are some other Security methods you might encounter including a four digit PIN code, a Password and a simple Swipe. These can be chosen from the Settings app on the phone.

Meanwhile on my phone when the correct pattern is performed I get to the Home screens on my phone.

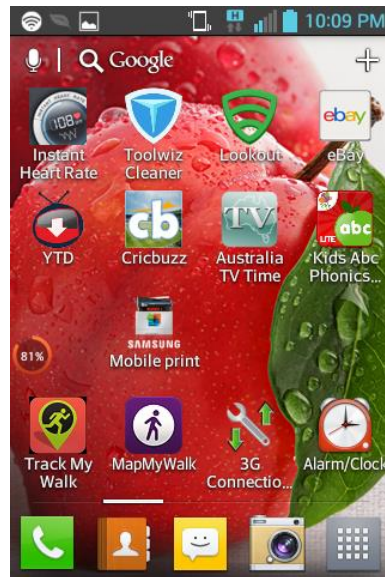
On Android phones there can be a number of Home screens, the number of screens is usually an odd number of 3, 5 or 7. The middle screen is normally Home (the first one to open) although on some phones the leftmost screen is Home.

The first home screen to appear is the one that was last accessed before the phone went to sleep (to save the battery).

My phone has five screens and here is a set of screenshots showing each one:



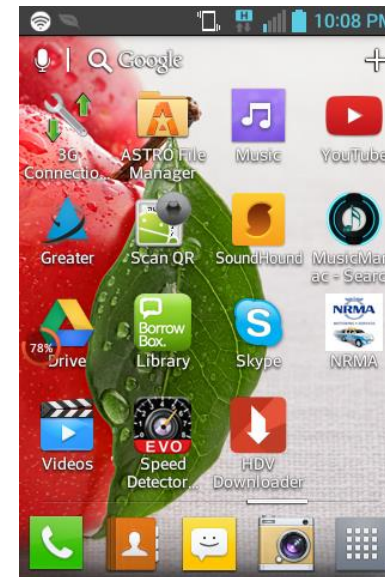
Second screen to the left



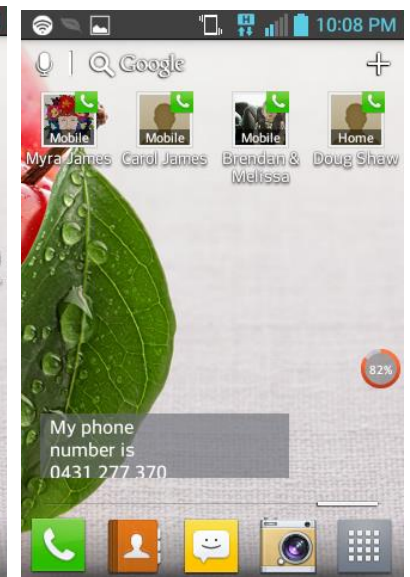
First screen to the left



Main Home Screen



First screen to the right



Second screen to the right

If the main Home screen is not showing then another tap on the Home button (on the bottom of the phone in the middle) will bring it up.

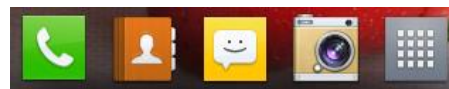
To get to the other screens from the main Home screen you have to use the Swipe action – touch and hold the middle of the screen and move your finger to the right or left.

On some smartphones when you get to the leftmost or rightmost screen you need to reverse the swipe action, on others you can continue swiping and the screens rotate continuously.

The icons on these screens can be moved about or removed and new ones can be added. On my phone; on the main Home screen I have the app icons I use most. I keep the rightmost screen for shortcuts to the numbers I phone most along with a reminder (to me) of my own phone number.

At the bottom of each screen you will notice a set of (not so easily changed) icons which offer access to the main functions of the phone i.e.

The Phone, Contacts, Messages, Camera and All Apps



Tapping the Phone icon will open the Phone app with the Dial screen showing ready for you to tap in a phone number,.

At the top of the Dial screen there are tabs be for various options, tap each one to see the results:

‘Dial’ is the tab now open, it is where you enter a phone number

‘Call logs’ will bring up a list of recent calls from and to the phone, you can redial from this window

‘Contacts’ opens a list of the contacts that have been saved on the phone, your Google contacts are here too

‘Favourites’ gives a list of the people most Frequently Contacted from the phone

‘Groups’ shows the contacts that have been set up in groups like Friends, Family, work, etc.

At the bottom of the screen you can tap the phone icon to dial the number or tap the smiley face button to send a text message, another window opens for typing a message in before tapping the Send button

