

Android for Beginners 2

In this Android for Beginners article we'll explain step-by-step how to set up your new smartphone. You will see: it's easy!

Each phone is different, and each manufacturer gives its own devices little extras that make it stand out from the crowd of competitors. But deep down Android devices are ultimately quite similar. Here's what you need to do to get going:

1 Select Wi-Fi network

Click the Settings app and then tap Wi-Fi

If Wi-Fi is off then tap the switch to turn it on

If you find yourself within range of a wireless network, you can now make the connection. Simply select the appropriate network from the list

Enter the password if it asks for one.

Then tap on Connect.

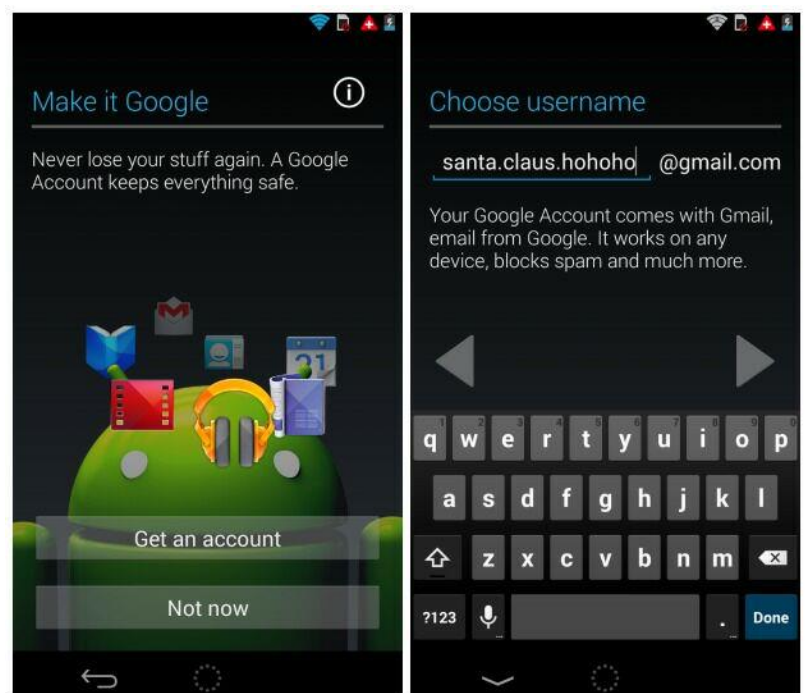


2 Set up/login to Google account

In order to use your smartphone with Google's apps and services, you need a Google account. For example, if you want to download apps from the Google Play Store.

If you already have a Google account, you can enter those details now. Then you will be asked to agree or disagree to some Google services like sharing location data and backing up your information.

If you don't already have a Google account, but would like to set one up, just follow the steps to choose a user name and set a password. Be sure to remember your password, but make sure it's not easy to guess. Remember, you don't need to have a Google account to use the phone, but you will have less functions open to you if you don't.



Some manufacturers such as Samsung ask you during the registration whether you want to create an extra account. This is only necessary if you want to use some special services. You can simply skip this step if you don't want an additional account.

3 Sign into other services (optional)

Many smartphones come with pre-installed software, such as [cloud storage services](#) like Dropbox, Box or Google Drive. If you use these services you can now log into them with your existing account, or you can set up an account with them and sign in with that. When you sign up with a cloud service, you'll usually get a few gigabytes of free storage space in the cloud. If you don't use these services, now might be a good time to start because they offer a great way to easily secure valuable content like photos and emails in the cloud, ready for instant access whenever you need them, even if you don't have your phone with you.



The Google Play Store is the place to get all your Android apps.

4 Download apps from the Google Play Store (optional)

The initial setup of the smartphone is now complete.

Many smartphones have some simple tutorials to help get you oriented on the phone. For an overview of the apps that have already been installed on your phone, have a look at the app drawer.

The app drawer is a sliding list of icons for all the apps on your phone. Chances are you'll find it at the bottom of the home screen (the first screen you come to after setup is complete)

Look around the app drawer, and if there's any apps you don't have that you want, you can go to Google's Play Store to download them – it will be installed your phone already.

Installing apps is a simple process that will walk you through anything you need to do (like signing in).

4 Personalize your phone



Got a favorite picture? Make it the wallpaper for your new phone or tablet! / © Google

If you do not like the background image that came with your phone, do not despair - every smartphone offers a selection of different backgrounds from which you can choose.

The way to do this changes with manufacturer, but look for a Display or Wallpaper option in the Settings Menu.

Quite often, if you press on the home screen anywhere for a couple of seconds, a window will appear that lets you change your wallpaper. You can even choose a live wallpaper that moves (and consumes more battery!). You can also add your own images or use photos taken with the camera: perfect for reminding you of the moment you unwrapped your new smartphone!

On some devices, you can also change the font and style of symbols. If none of the options are to your liking, you could try out a new icon pack or test some other backgrounds - of which there are a lot on the net. And if even that is still not enough for you, you could try out an alternative launcher.

How do you like your new Android smartphone? Have you got it set up just right yet?

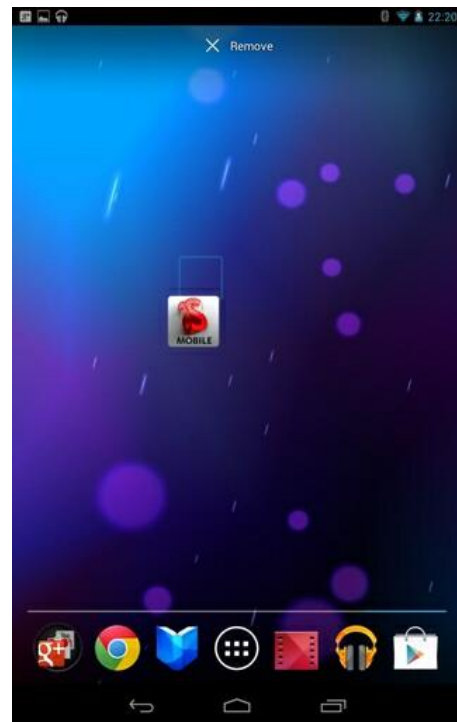
Rearrange your home screens

Long-press on any icon or widget on your homescreen and you can move it around, and other icons and widgets will shift out of the way to fit it in. Bigger widgets can also be resized by long-pressing and releasing them, and then dragging the circles that appear on the edges. It's actually quite fun and satisfying. We just spent three hours doing nothing but this.



Fling to remove

Homescreen app clutter (surely the worst of all types of clutter) can be quickly and easily defeated. Long-press an icon or widget, then fling it upwards and it'll ascend into shortcut heaven. This won't uninstall the app, though - it'll still reside in your app drawer.



Owner info

Wait! Put down that blunt rock you were about to use to chisel your contact details into the back of your Android device! Jelly Bean includes the ability to display a few lines of contact details on the lock screen, such as your email address, name and phone number. You'll need to enable a screen lock from Security, and then you'll see the Owner info option appear. This information is mirrored across all Jelly Bean devices, too.

