

Should You Consider Buying a Smart Phone?



Basic Phone vs Smartphone

Why own a second phone?

What can I do with it?

What features should it have?

What will it cost to buy one?

What will it cost to use it?

Bottom Line(s)

Why own another Phone?

- For use when away from a regular home land line

What can I do with a Basic Phone?

1. Power outage, Emergency/essential call while away from your regular phone
2. Holidays away from home
3. Being available to take calls from others when away from home
4. E-mail (?)

What features should a Phone have for Basic Usage?

1. 10 keys for dialing
2. Receive and originate clear calls
3. No need for a screen other than to see dialed number
4. Able to install addition credit on cell phone plan
5. E-mail (?)

What can I do with a Smartphone?

1. All of the functions of a basic phone
2. E-mail
3. Text messaging
4. Audio messaging
5. Navigation
6. Searching for services using text and/or **voice**
7. Personal calendar/reminder/to do
8. Face Time/Duo/Skype
9. Contacts/records
10. Banking, investing, bill paying, etc
11. Entertainment - music/videos/podcasts/games/sports/news/TV/etc.
12. Photography, photos and video
13. TV remote control
14. Monitor/control security
15. Conversions charts for money/measurement etc.
16. Education/information - manuals, instructions, recipes, podcasts, hobbies etc
17. Control/operate - locks, lights, cameras, thermostats, hearing aides, etc
18. Health - operate devices, record results, provide alerts, maintain records,
19. Shopping
20. Translation of text and voice
21. Weather information and alerts
22. Interface with your car - GPS, phone, points of interest, engine maintenance schedule, etc.

What will it cost to buy a Cell Phone?

A Basic Phone

The price can vary from less than \$50 and up

A Smartphone

The price can vary from less than \$80 and up

What features should a Smartphone have?

1. Comfortable over all size
2. A large easy to read, full colour screen. Text viewable in daylight
3. An on screen QWERTY key board (or off screen, e.g. Blackberry)
4. Sufficiently battery capacity to last at least one day of average usage
5. Reasonable quick response to requests for action/information
6. Quality camera to shoot photos and video
7. Ability to record and play sound for audio messaging, music and videos
8. Availability to download, install and use apps for a large number of varied functions
9. Sufficient in phone storage to hold the apps, music, photos, videos, podcasts, etc.
10. Has a recent version of the operating system: iPhone - Version 11 (+), Android - Version 7.0 (+)

What will it cost to use the Phone?

1. The monthly cost to use a Basic or a Smartphone is dependent upon how you choose to use the phone. A minimal cost plan will work on all cell phones and can be \$10/month or lower.
2. If you wish to use most of the features offered by a Smartphone while on WiFi at home or at other locations offering free WiFi, the basic \$10 plan will work fine.
3. If you wish to use most of the features offered by a Smartphone while using WiFi at home or at other locations offering free WiFi, ***you do not need to have any cell plan.***
4. You can use a tablet or a cell phone without a SIM card using WiFi and accomplish most of the functions of an expensive cell phone on an expensive plan - voice, video and text messaging, GPS, downloading/uploading data, etc
5. If you plan to use your phone for calling/texting when WiFi is not available ***in most cases*** you will need a cell phone plan that offers these services. (exceptions: camera, Google Maps, pre-recorded music, videos, books, photos, etc)
6. If you plan to use your phone for accessing data when you do not have access to WiFi, you will need a cell phone plan that includes cellular data.
7. The cost for cellular data varies depending upon the amount of data and can be costly for larger amounts.
8. Most Smartphones, when used with a cellular plan including data will switch automatically to using free WiFi data at home or your favourite coffee shop after you have logged into the site the first time. This will reduce the amount of data needed in your cell plan.
9. When pricing a smartphone be sure to determine whether the price shown is for the phone or the monthly cost of the phone and the service plan.

The Bottom Line(s):

Cost is seen by many people as the reason for purchasing a basic flip or candy bar style of basic phone rather than a smartphone. Although there are smartphones that are extremely expensive, there are some that are almost as cheap as a basic phone.

So, why not make your next cell phone a smartphone?

1. Almost every task that you carry out on a your computer can be done on a smart phone. Examples include word processing, spread sheets, texting, banking, paying bills, browsing the internet, watching movies, listening to music, etc.
2. Additional functions are available on a smartphone that **cannot be done easily** on a computer. Examples include photography, recording audio and video, GPS, using the many and varied apps available, having your calendar and camera with you, etc.
3. The convenience of having information and services immediately available to you through a small device in your pocket rather the having to go to a computer, wait for it to boot up, wait while it searches for the info you want, etc.
4. Bite & Bytes is considering offering support to our members who would like some assistance getting started learning how to benefit from the convenience of a smartphone. Why not give it a try?

Plans for Voice, Text including Picture and Video message, and Data Fido, Virgin & Koodo

- Unlimited Talk & Text Canada wide + 2GB of LTE Data - \$45/Month

7 Eleven

1. 7 Eleven plans are known for being economical cell phone plans and can include texting and data as well.
2. The most basic plan provides voice calls for .35 cents/minute

Other Plans

1. The “big three” service providers Rogers, Bell & Telus have their own cell towers
2. They also provide similar geographic coverage and quality of service
3. Providers such as Fido, Virgin, and Koodo are owned by the “big three” and generally offer cheaper plans
4. 7 Eleven, Chatr, Wind, Virgin, etc. lease space on the towers of the “big three”
5. They may be able to offer adequate service at a lower price

Phone Plans

Rogers

The following ***Pay by the Month Plans*** include Voice Mail, Call Display, Call Forwarding and Call Waiting:

\$10/month: Talk + Text

- 50 anytime local calling minutes (overage .30cents)
- .30 cents for Canadian/US per message

\$15/month: Unlimited Canadian Text, Picture and Video messaging

- .30 cents/minute for local calls

\$20/month: Talk & Text

- Unlimited Canadian text, picture & video messages
- 50 minutes of anytime local calls (overage .30 cents)

\$25/month: Unlimited Canadian Text, Picture and Video messaging

- 50 minutes of anytime local calls (overage .30 cents)
- Unlimited local Evening Calling, (6:00pm to 7:00am)
- Unlimited local Weekend Calling, (Friday 6:00pm to Monday 7:00am)

\$35/month: Unlimited Canadian Text, Picture and Video messaging

- Unlimited US & International text messages*
- 150 minutes of anytime local calls (overage .30 cents)*
- Unlimited local Evening Calling, (6:00pm to 7:00am)*
- Unlimited local Weekend Calling, (Friday 6:00pm to Monday 7:00am)*

\$45/month: Unlimited Canadian Text, Picture and Video messaging

- Unlimited US & International text messages*
- 500 minutes of anytime local calls (overage .30 cents)*
- Unlimited local Evening Calling, (6:00pm to 7:00am)*
- Unlimited local Weekend Calling, (Friday 6:00pm to Monday 7:00am)*

\$55/month: Unlimited Canadian Text, Picture and Video messaging

- Unlimited US & International text messages*
- Unlimited anytime local calls*

Month to Month Plans

The following ***Month To Month Plans*** include *Roam Like Home*, Unlimited Minutes, Unlimited Text, Picture and Video Messaging, Voice Mail, Call Display, & Name Display:

\$35/month: No Tab Basic Phone Plan
- *Unlimited local calling*

\$40/month: No Tab Basic Phone Plan
- *Unlimited Canada Wide calling*

\$55/month: No Tab Basic Phone Plan - 500MB
- *Unlimited local calling*
- *Wireless internet 500MB (overage \$7/100MB)*

No Plan

1. Free WiFi has become widely available in homes, malls, coffee shops, meeting rooms, restaurants, etc
2. Access to WiFi is and will continue to become even more widely available
3. WiFi can be accessed on the streets in Kitchener and Waterloo although you may have to pay to use
4. Access to WiFi gives you access to data which is costly if accessed from cell towers
5. By using downloaded apps on Smartphones you can have unlimited voice, text and data at no charge
6. You can achieve in most cases the same result using a tablet

Suggested Apps

Voice:

Fongo

1. free calls to most Canadian towns,
2. calls to USA & many other countries for 2 cents/minute
3. a telephone number to receive call,
4. free calls from anywhere in the world to your home area using WiFi or cell data
5. free calls Fongo to/from Fongo from anywhere with WiFi or cell data

Text:

TextMe:

1. free Text & SMS to Canada, USA & Mexico
2. you are assigned a telephone number to receive/send texts and voice calls
3. able to earn points to pay for services

Navigation:

Google Maps:

- 1. free maps that include much of the world in detail*
- 2. provide visual and audible direction assistance*
- 3. shows distance, and time of arrival to destination*
- 4. shows traffic problems and predicts extra time to destination*
- 5. shows alternate/detour routes*
- 6. Can be used without data withy some limitations*

Weather:

Storm Radar

- 1. detailed weather information including prediction charts & graphs, maps,*
- 2. details for specific locations*
- 3. sends weather alerts and warnings*