

Cellular Phones

Most people use cellular (cell) phones as their main line of communication. When choosing a cell phone, decide:

- Which Carrier Provider?
- Contract or no contract?
- Which System Capabilities?

Carriers

There are many wireless carriers. Choose the one that works best for your needs. Some popular ones are listed below:

Verizon	T-Mobile	Sprint	AT&T
StraightTalk	US Cellular	Cricket	Boost Mobile

Contract or No Contract?

Choose if you want a postpaid contract phone or a prepaid phone. The right choice depends on individual usage habits, budget, and need for flexibility or stability. Most cell phone providers, like Verizon, AT&T, Sprint have both contract options and prepaid options.

Prepaid plans offer pay-as-you-go convenience without long-term commitments

Postpaid plans feature bundled services and predictable billing cycles.

	Prepaid	Postpaid
Description	Pay before using	Pay after using
Duration	Depends on the plan. Can be a day, a week, a month, or until the recharge lasts.	Usually monthly, but can be longer
Invoice	No invoice. use only the service that you pay for upfront	Receive an invoice at the end of the month for the services used
Plans	Fixed as you can only use the plan you have purchased. once you run out you have to recharge.	Variable, as you can use as much as you can. However, you'll be charged a premium when you go over your monthly limit.
Change	Easy. You can change your plan from month to month depending on your usage	Difficult. You usually cannot change your plan, at least not easily. Often, you are tied to
Phones	Have to use a phone that you've already purchased outright	Depending on the region and company, you may or may not be able to use an outright purchased phone. You may also have the option of using a phone provided of the company for the duration of the contract, or using a phone that you get in combination with the plan that you have to pay off during the course of the plan.
Charged	On real time basis	At the end of the month
Credit	Limited	Unlimited
Credit history	No requirement	Utmost Important
Bill	Not Provided	Detailed bill is provided to the customer

System Capabilities

When purchasing a phone, decide if you prefer iOS (Apple) capabilities or Android capabilities. Android is rated better in variety and productivity, while the iPhone is rated a better buy for video creators and MacBook users.

For more detailed info on iOS vs android properties, visit <https://www.tomsguide.com/face-off/iphone-vs-android>

Purchasing A Phone and Phone Activation

You can purchase a phone from the carrier's store or offline. If you buy your new phone from the carrier's store, then it most likely came to you activated. If you buy your phone offline, used or had the carrier ship it to you, then chances are you'll need to activate it. The process is a little different for each carrier. If purchasing a phone offline, make sure the phone is unlocked so you can easily utilize the phone without any contractual issues.

You can activate your phone at a carrier's retail store, through the carrier's website, or by phone call.

Note: You might need a SIM card for your phone. GSM carriers, like AT&T and T-Mobile, use SIM cards. CDMA carriers, like Verizon and old Sprint phones, don't have a SIM card.

Useful Link: [How to Activate a Cell Phone: 3 Ways \(wikihow.com\)](https://www.wikihow.com/How-to-Activate-a-Cell-Phone-3-Ways)