

PRINTABLE GUIDE

Understand common phone status symbols

Status symbols show conditions such as battery level or a network connection. Their shape and location vary between phones. Treat this as a reminder for common meanings, then use your model's help for any unfamiliar symbol.

iPhone or Android | 2 min read | 5 steps

Before you start

- ☐ An unlocked phone
- ☐ Access to the phone's quick controls or Settings

1. Check the battery symbol

Look for the battery outline and any displayed percentage. A charging indication means the phone has detected charging; colour conventions differ by device and mode. Read any charging warning rather than judging by colour alone.

- ☐ Done this step

2. Compare mobile and Wi-Fi indicators

Signal bars relate to the mobile network, while curved Wi-Fi lines indicate a wireless-network connection. Neither alone guarantees a website will load. Test a fresh page if you need to confirm working internet access.

- ☐ Done this step

3. Recognise Airplane mode

An aeroplane symbol usually indicates Airplane mode. This changes wireless connections, although Wi-Fi or Bluetooth can sometimes be enabled separately. Open the quick controls or Settings to read the actual switch state rather than guessing.

☐ Done this step

4. Look for quiet and orientation controls

A moon or quiet-mode symbol can indicate Focus or Do Not Disturb on some phones. A lock with a circular arrow may mean screen-rotation lock, not your account password. Open the labelled control to confirm its meaning on your device.

☐ Done this step

5. Check unfamiliar or privacy indicators

Small microphone/camera indicators can show access by an app on supported phones. Check the control panel or privacy settings for details. Write down the symbol and model, then consult official help before changing a setting you do not recognise.

☐ Done this step

Try it for yourself

Identify battery and network symbols, then confirm one label in Settings.

☐ I tried the task.

My notes

My phone has a different symbol. Is something wrong?

Not necessarily. Manufacturers and software versions use different designs. Check your exact model's status-icon reference.

Official help and the online guide

Apple: status icon meanings -

<https://support.apple.com/guide/iphone/learn-the-meaning-of-iphone-status-icons-iphef7bb57dc/ios>

Google: quick settings controls - <https://support.google.com/android/answer/9083864?hl=en>

Read online: <https://plaintech-guides.pages.dev/guides/phone-symbols-reference/>