

PRINTABLE GUIDE

Review what an app can access

A permission allows an app to use a particular device feature or type of information. The app may need it for a specific task, but not every request is necessary. Review one app and test its behaviour.

iPhone or Android | 2 min read | 5 steps

Before you start

- ☐ Your own phone
- ☐ An app whose access you want to review
- ☐ Access to Settings

1. Name the intended feature

Decide which feature you need: video calls use camera and microphone; navigation needs location. Access should fit the task. A familiar app name is not a reason to allow everything.

- ☐ Done this step

2. Open permission controls

Android: Settings, Apps, choose the app, then Permissions. iPhone: Settings, Privacy & Security, then choose a category such as Microphone or Photos to see requesting apps. Recent iPhone versions also offer per-app settings under Apps.

- ☐ Done this step

3. Read the actual access level

Check whether access is denied, allowed only while using the app, or broader. Photos and location can offer limited options. Available choices depend on the permission and device; use the least access that supports your intended task.

☐ Done this step

4. Change one permission

Deny unnecessary access or choose a limited option where offered. Then open the app and test the specific feature. If something needed stops working, reconsider only the relevant permission rather than enabling every request.

☐ Done this step

5. Review again when use changes

An app you no longer use may not need ongoing access. Updates can introduce new requests. Remember that revoking permission limits future access; it does not necessarily remove information the service has already received.

☐ Done this step

Try it for yourself

Review one app's microphone or location access and check whether it matches your use.

☐ I tried the task.

My notes

Can I change my mind after declining?

Yes, usually through Settings. The app may also ask again when you try a feature that needs that permission.

Official help and the online guide

Google: app permissions - <https://support.google.com/android/answer/9431959?hl=en>

Apple: information access - <https://support.apple.com/en-ie/guide/iphone/iph251e92810/ios>

Read online: <https://plaintech-guides.pages.dev/guides/review-app-permissions/>