

PRINTABLE GUIDE

Understand apps and open one

An app is software for a task such as taking photos. Its icon opens it. Some apps need internet or an account; others work offline.

iPhone or Android | 2 min read | 5 steps

Before you start

- ☐ An unlocked phone
- ☐ A built-in app such as Clock or Camera

1. Choose an app already installed

Start with Clock or Camera rather than downloading anything. Look for its name underneath the icon. If you cannot find it on Home, search your phone's app list or library; an absent shortcut does not always mean an absent app.

- ☐ Done this step

2. Open it with one tap

Tap the icon once and wait. The app's own screen should appear. A tap opens something; touching and holding often opens a menu instead. Close that menu and try a brief tap if you opened it accidentally.

- ☐ Done this step

3. Practise one small task

In Clock, find the current time or Alarm tab. In Camera, look at the preview without sharing a photo. These simple activities help you recognise app controls without creating an account or approving a purchase.

- ☐ Done this step

4. Return Home

Use Home or the bottom-edge swipe appropriate for your phone. Returning Home leaves the app rather than removing it. You can open it again by tapping the same icon; important documents may still need an explicit Save action.

☐ Done this step

5. Recognise account and cost requests

An app may later ask you to sign in, use the camera or subscribe. Read the request and pause if unsure. Installing an app and subscribing to a service are separate actions; removing an app may not cancel a subscription.

☐ Done this step

Try it for yourself

Open Clock, find Alarm, return Home and open Clock again.

☐ I tried the task.

My notes

Is an app the same as a website?

They can offer the same service, but a website opens in a browser. An installed app opens from your device's app list.

Official help and the online guide

Apple: basic touch gestures - <https://support.apple.com/guide/iphone/learn-basic-gestures-iph75e97af9b/ios>

Google: Home Screen apps - <https://support.google.com/android/answer/9450271?hl=en>

Read online: <https://plaintech-guides.pages.dev/guides/understand-phone-apps/>