

PRINTABLE GUIDE

Watch aerial channels with Freeview

Freeview supplies free-to-air channels through an aerial using compatible equipment. Reception depends on your location and aerial. Internet catch-up features are a separate part of the experience and may need broadband and individual service accounts.

TV or Freeview receiver | 2 min read | 5 steps

Before you start

- ☐ Have a compatible TV or Freeview receiver and a connected aerial.
- ☐ For UK live viewing, check that you have the required TV Licence coverage.

1. Check the viewing equipment

Look in the TV's instructions for Freeview support. If using a separate receiver, connect it as its manual directs and choose the corresponding input on your television.

- ☐ Done this step

2. Connect the aerial

Insert the aerial cable securely into the correct socket. For a shared building aerial or suspected reception problem, check with the building manager or an appropriate installer.

- ☐ Done this step

3. Tune through the settings

Follow your TV or receiver's initial channel scan. Select the correct region when requested. Available channels differ by location; repeated scanning does not fix a damaged aerial.

- ☐ Done this step

4. Use the programme guide

Open Guide or EPG on the remote. Move through channels and programme times, then select something currently on. Practise returning to the channel list.

☐ Done this step

5. Add catch-up only if wanted

Freeview Play features need supported equipment and internet access. Follow each player's registration instructions. UK TV Licence rules also apply to BBC iPlayer, including on-demand programmes.

☐ Done this step

Try it for yourself

Find the programme guide and choose a channel you recognise.

☐ I tried the task.

My notes

Must I subscribe to receive ordinary Freeview channels?

Freeview itself does not require a paid subscription for aerial channels. You still need suitable equipment, reception and any required TV Licence.

Official help and the online guide

Freeview equipment and account requirements - <https://www.freeview.co.uk/help/sign-up-to-watch-freeview>

TV Licensing live and online viewing rules -

<https://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/check-if-you-need-one/topics/watching-live-online-and-on-mobile>

Read online: <https://plaintech-guides.pages.dev/guides/watch-aerial-channels-with-freeview/>