

PRINTABLE GUIDE

Read the marks beside a WhatsApp message

Check marks describe message status, not somebody's intentions or availability. Start with a one-to-one text chat; groups and voice messages have additional details.

WhatsApp on iPhone or Android | 2 min read | 5 steps

Before you start

- ☐ WhatsApp set up
- ☐ A one-to-one conversation containing a message you sent

1. Find an outgoing message

Open a conversation and look at a text message you sent. The indicator is normally near its time. Check your own outgoing message rather than one received from the other person; the marks describe your message's status.

- ☐ Done this step

2. Recognise a pending message

A clock-like symbol means the message is waiting to send. Check that the phone has an internet connection and give it time. Sending the same message repeatedly can create duplicates once the connection returns.

- ☐ Done this step

3. Read grey check marks

One grey check mark means sent; two mean delivered to the recipient's phone or linked device. A single mark can persist when their device is offline. It does not, by itself, show that you have been blocked.

☐ Done this step

4. Understand blue check marks

Two blue check marks normally mean read in a one-to-one chat when read receipts are enabled. People can disable read receipts, so grey marks do not prove unread. Group delivery/read indications behave differently.

☐ Done this step

5. Check details only if useful

Touch and hold your outgoing message and look for Info or Message info; it may be inside a menu. Review any delivered/read times shown. If you need an answer urgently, use an appropriate agreed contact method instead of watching the marks.

☐ Done this step

Try it for yourself

Find one message you sent and identify its delivery indicator.

☐ I tried the task.

My notes

Why are the marks grey after someone replies?

Read receipts may be off or not yet reflected. Do not use the colour alone as proof that a person has not read your message.

Official help and the online guide

WhatsApp: read receipts - <https://faq.whatsapp.com/665923838265756/>

Read online: <https://plaintech-guides.pages.dev/guides/whatsapp-message-marks/>