

Set up duo on my phone

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Android is the most popular operating system for smartphones worldwide, and that's unlikely to be an Android model. So, if you buy a new phone, it's likely to be an Android model. And, in general, it's a good thing: Android is one of the most versatile and intuitive mobile OS options on the market. At the same time, Android's open-ended nature means that setting up your phone isn't always the foolproof affair it can be with the iPhone. In the time between taking your Android phone out of the box and making your first phone call, you'll have to make a series of decisions: which Wi-Fi network to use, how to safeguard your phone, whether to import your old phone's settings and so forth.The setup process on Android is pretty straightforward, but if you're wondering how to narrow down the options at your disposal, follow our step-by-step guide. And remember: You can always reset and try again.Before you beginBear in mind that every Android phone is slightly different from all the others, and manufacturers often add their own steps to the setup. For simplicity's sake, the steps listed here cover stock Android (which is what you'll get with a Google Pixel 2), with a few added sections on Samsung-specific steps for Galaxy smartphones. Don't be alarmed if your screens look a little different from those shown here; just follow the prompts, and your phone will walk you through the rest.When setting up your phone, you'll sometimes see screens that ask you to agree to Terms and Conditions, or you can simply click Next to advance. If you see one of these screens, just follow the instructions and click through it; there's no real decision-making required on your part.MORE: Galaxy S9 vs Pixel 2: What's the Best Android Phone?If possible, you should keep your old phone around until you're done with the setup. This way, you can automatically transfer all of your accounts and apps. Whatever you do, make sure you take your SIM card out of your old phone if you plan to keep the same wireless carrier and phone number.1. Insert your SIM card.Whether you're starting over with a new phone number or transferring over your old one, you'll have to insert a SIM card into the phone. (If you're buying a brand-new phone directly from a wireless carrier, the device may come with a SIM preinstalled; in this case, ask a store representative whether it's easier to use the old or new card.) Consult your new phone's instruction manual to find out how to pop out the SIM slot, then insert your card in the correct configuration. But don't worry; if it's not in the proper position, you'll know right away, as it will fall out.2. Connect to a Wi-Fi network.This step isn't strictly necessary, but considering that getting the phone up and running will take at least a few hundred megabytes of information, you're better off not wasting your precious mobile data. Use a Wi-Fi connection instead. Choose your network, input your password — you know the drill.3. Import your backup data — or don't.There's something to be said for getting a fresh start with your new phone, but there's no denying that it's a lot easier to start life with your accounts already set up, your text messages recorded and your photos in place. I feel that it's a lot cleaner and simpler to start from scratch, in which case you should select "Set up as new." But if you prefer to transfer data, you have some options.Select a backup: The Pixel 2 lets you transfer data via a specialized cable; everyone else will have to transfer data wirelessly. Some phones let you transfer data from an Android phone only; others also offer options for cloud backups and transfers from iPhones. Whichever option you choose, select the appropriate prompt and follow the on-screen instructions.The most common scenario is transferring data wirelessly from another Android phone. This process involves using the Google app on your old phone to parse a "Set up my device" command. (You can say this to your phone or type it in; the app will know where to go from there.) Although the process may sound complicated, all you really need to do is follow prompts on two screens to match codes and shapes. If your new phone doesn't detect your old one at first, simply try it again; it may take a few attempts.4. Sign in to your Google account.If you loaded a backup into your new phone, the device will already have your Google account information. However, you'll still have to enter your password. Otherwise, enter your Gmail address first. Remember: If you use two-factor authentication, you'll still have to confirm your login on your old device. If you've already ditched your previous phone, request a backup code via text — assuming you kept your old SIM card, of course. (If both options fail, you can verify your identity in other ways on Google's 2FA site, but some of the options get pretty involved.)5. Set up security options.Like many other aspects of setup, the way you protect your phone will vary considerably depending on what kind of handset you have. The Pixel wants you to use a fingerprint scanner; the Galaxy S9 recommends facial-recognition technology. You can go with the default choice or set up a more traditional option, like a PIN or password. Whatever you do, I recommend that you set up some kind of security measure. You can always program your phone to bypass these protocols on trusted networks, but if your phone falls into the wrong hands, a simple screen swipe is not going to stop anyone from mining your data.6. Activate additional services.At this point, your phone will probably ask whether you want to set up the voice-activated Google Assistant. You do not have to do this now (or ever), but it takes only a few seconds, so you might as well. Depending on your handset model, you may also be able to choose some initial apps to install, or your preferences for notifications. Don't sweat this step too much, because you can always go back and do it later.7. (Optional) Go through your manufacturer's setup process.If you have a stock Android phone (or a phone that emulates stock Android), your setup process ends here. But if you have a phone from Samsung, Motorola, HTC or another manufacturer that likes to put its own spin on the OS, you'll probably have a few more steps.For example, on Samsung phones, you have to set up a Samsung account, which will allow you to customize your battery options, create secure folders, alter font size, get weather forecasts and more. Motorola phones will walk you through setting up gesture controls.There's no one-size-fits-all directive to give here, save to fill out whatever information your phone requests and tweak the options until you find a solution that works for you. And that's the beauty of Android, after all: You can customize the OS any way you see fit.Credit: Tom's Guide Set up: Download the app. Enter your phone number and customize the settings.Make video call: Select a contact and tap Video call or enter a phone number and tap Invite.Make group call: Create a group and tap the Start button to call every group member. This article explains how to set up and use the Google Duo chat app on Android and iOS devices. It includes information on how to make a video call, send a message if no one answers, and make a group call. Duo is Google's own video calling app, which comes pre-installed on many Android devices. Duo is like Apple's FaceTime app, but while FaceTime can be used only on Apple devices, Duo is available for iOS, on the web, on your Chromebook, and even on smart display devices like the Google Nest Hub Max. Download and open the Duo app for Android or iOS. Tap Agree (Android) or I agree (iOS) to agree to the Terms of Services and Privacy Policy, then tap Give access to allow Google Duo to access your device's microphone, camera and contacts. Enter your phone number into the given field for verification and tap Next. You'll receive a verification code by text. Enter the verification code into the given field to finish setting up your account. Optionally, to customize your settings, tap the three dots in the top right corner, then tap Settings from the drop-down list. From here you can: Turn Knock Knock on or off. When this is on, people who you call will see a live video of you as you're calling them, before they decide to pick up. Turn low-light mode on or off. Use this setting to optimize your video calls under appropriate light conditions. Limit mobile data usage: When turned on, Duo will lower your connection to 1Mbps when you can't connect to Wi-Fi. Turn notifications on or off: Keep notifications on to take calls. See blocked users: Keep a running list of people you've blocked. Add your Google account: Connect Duo to your Google Account to use the service across multiple devices and help people you're connected to through other Google services (like Gmail) find you on Duo. You can use Duo to have a one-on-one call or a group call, with video enabled in both cases. The following instructions can be followed using the Duo app for both Android and iOS. To make a one-on-one call, open the Duo app and tap Search contacts or dial. Your contacts who are already on Duo will be listed at the top. For the purpose of this step-by-step guide, we'll show you how to call someone from your contacts who's already on Duo. Tap a contact's name to see your calling options. If you want to call someone who isn't yet on Duo, you can enter their phone number in the field at the top or scroll down to see rest of your contacts and tap Invite next to their name to send them an invitation to add you on Duo via text message. Tap Video call in the bottom middle of the screen to call them immediately for a video chat. Your screen will show what your front-facing camera sees as the call rings. When the other person picks up, you'll see them in full screen and you'll see yourself in the bottom left. You can tap the smaller screen in the bottom left to switch who you want to see in full screen. You can also tap and hold the smaller screen to drag it around anywhere you want it to be on the screen. If you want to call someone without going on video, tap Voice call instead. When you want to end a one-on-one call, just tap End call. If you're ending a group call for a group that you just created, you'll be given the option to name the group. Enter a name for the group and tap Save. All members will see the group and group name in their own Groups section. If you try calling someone and they don't answer, Google Duo will say they're unavailable. In this case, you can send them an optional message. Tap Message. Tap the red button to start recording a short message up to 30 seconds. You can also tap the camera flip icon to flip your camera, tap Voice to leave just a voice message, or tap the photos icon to send a photo or video from your device. Once you stop recording, you'll be shown a preview of your message. You can also tap the text or drawing options at the top to add text or draw something over your message. You can also record a message quickly by swiping down from the main tab. After you record your message, you can choose who you want to send it to (up to eight contacts in total). You can use Duo for group calls as well, and it's just as straightforward as a one-on-one call. To make a group call, instead of tapping Search contacts or dial on the main tab, tap Create group. Tap the checkbox beside the contacts you want to add to your group and then tap Done. You can only have up to eight people in a group. The group will be created and you can tap the blue Start button to call every member of the group. When you want to end a group call, tap End call. Google Duo can support up to 12 participants in a group call. If you have more participants than that, use Google Hangouts instead. Hangouts was Google's original video calling app. It's still available, but it's been split into two separate services (Meet and Chat) and is now geared more toward enterprise users. Hangouts Meet is for video calls with up to 100 users; Hangouts Chat is for text chats with up to 150 users. Duo, on the other hand, is designed for having casual one-on-one or small group calls. It's also a completely free service, making it a great alternative to competing paid services like Skype. All you need to use it is an active phone number and access to a device that can receive SMS text messages. Thanks for letting us know! Get the Latest Tech News Delivered Every Day Subscribe Tell us why!

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