



Settings Overview



Often represented as a gear icon on a smartphone or tablet, "settings" is an app that lets you customize your device. In general, a smart device will have settings for wireless connections, device-related options, such as screen brightness, notification sounds, and date and time, and privacy and security controls, such as location services and screen lock set-up.

Most of the apps that you download to your smartphone or tablet also have settings, which often include notifications, sharing options, and app-specific functions.

Here are some of the common settings that you'll encounter on a smartphone or tablet, many of which you'll also find on any number of smart devices.

1. Wireless Connections

Smart devices have to connect to the Internet, and many will have a wireless and networks section in settings where you can connect and disconnect your device from various wireless connections.

You can:

- Set up Wi-Fi to connect your device to your home Internet connection or a wireless hotspot at a coffee shop, airport, or other location.
- Turn on Bluetooth on to connect to other smart devices, such as a keyboard, smartwatch or fitness tracker, or accessories like wireless headphones.
- Put your device in Airplane mode, which automatically disables the device's radios. This will make it impossible to receive incoming and outgoing calls and messages. It also turns off your web connection.
- Connect and disconnect from your mobile network which you might want to do when traveling abroad to avoid roaming charges or to save on data usage.

NOTE: On a smartphone, data refers to any way that you use the web, including email, web surfing, or getting turn-by-turn directions. In this area of settings, you may also be able to view how much data you've consumed for the month and which of your apps are using the most of it.

2. Notifications

Notifications will vary depending on the device and connected apps. Notification settings include:

- The types of alerts you'd like to receive (new email, calendar reminder)
- How you'd like to receive them (text, email, on-phone) and whether you want a sound, vibration, or both or neither.
- Managing the ringtone for different types of notifications is often in a separate section (see below).
- To change these settings, you may have to go into individual apps and make your adjustments.

3. Sounds and Appearance

You can adjust the brightness of a smart device's display (if it has one), volume levels, and the look and feel of the interface.