

Purchasing a Smartphone

- Checklist
 - New or Used
 - Reliable Seller
 - Price
 - Unlocked
 - Network
 - GSM - only with AT&T, T-Mobile
 - CDMA - only with Sprint & Verizon
 - Newer Sprint & Verizon LTE-enabled phones may work on both GSM and CDMA
 - iPhones 6, 6+, and 6s+: Both GSM and CDMA
 - Google Nexus 5 & 6, and Pixel: Both GSM and CDMA
 - \geq 4G LTE
 - \geq 32 GB RAM Internal Memory
- What makes a **lower-cost** phone
 - Low end hardware = lower performance
 - Poor quality camera
 - 8 GB internal memory
 - Long-term reliability problems
 - OS not likely upgradable
 - Know your carrier – compatibility problems
 - Look for a good phone a couple of years old rather than a budget phone
- “**Free**” phones
 - Lock you into a contract
 - Sold at full retail despite being heavily discounted
 - Phone cost + admin fee + loan interest are added to a plan
 - May not be unlockable
 - Limited selection

- Buying **used**:
 - GSM network
 - Research seller
 - Not local or won't meet
 - No specifics
 - Suspicious payment methods
 - 3rd party – Escrow Service
 - Too good to be true
 - Return policy
 - Return w/o penalty
 - Don't expect more than 30 days
 - Check condition
 - Run the IMEI number at <http://www.imeipro.info>
 - Can get number directly from person at store or a private seller
 - Check for water damage (remove battery)

- Consider a **refurbished** phone
 - Apple offers free shipping, free returns, and a 1-yr warranty on its refurbished iPhones

Then **negotiate** a lower cost plan with a carrier, **without** a contract