# Top tips for filming on a smartphone

## Clean the lens

Before you shoot any video with your smartphone, make sure the camera's view isn't obstructed, and give it a quick swab.

Moistened cleaning wipes are the best (but you can also use quick breath and your shirt).

## Check and set your settings

Most smartphones have a few different resolutions and frame rates to choose from.

On Android phones, these settings are usually right inside the main camera app, either tucked behind the settings gear wheel, or accessible via a toggle button.

Apple, however, has buried these options in the main settings menu. You must back all the way out of the camera app, go into Settings, scroll down to Photos & Camera, and then scroll down to the Camera section.

### Settings

- 1080p

- 4k

- Check frame rate: 30fps or 60fps. The higher the number, the smoother-looking video you'll produce. Most video is shot at 30 fps, although 60 fps will show smoother, less jittery video when depicting action.

- Film in landscape

### Film in slow motion

To shoot in slow motion on an iPhone, open the camera app and swipe right on the modes listed above the shutter button until you get to "Slo-mo." (You can also just tap on it when you see it at the edge of the app.) In order to change how slow your footage is, you'll have to go back out of the camera app to the main Settings page and change the speed there.

With most Android phones, these settings can again be easily changed inside the camera app.

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## Steady Camera

Wherever possible try and keep the camera steady.

However, this doesn't need to be the case if it's an artistic choice you are making.

One simple trick is to tuck your elbows into your side as you hold your phone out in front of you. Use two hands.

You can also place your phone up against something for support. A clean window or piece of glass is handy.

Remember that the camera on your phone is typically not right in the center. This means you can lean your phone up against a heavy object on a flat surface without covering up the camera.

## Lighting

Be aware of where your main light source is.

Try and have the light source on your face and not behind you.

## Lock Focus and Exposure

Tapping on your phone's LCD (on the point you want to focus on), which will lock focus on Google Android devices, or holding your finger in place, which locks focus on the Apple iPhone. Most phones let you also lock or manually adjust the exposure, too.

## Zoom

Most phones have digital zoom. Which means that when you do zoom into something, the image will become pixilated.

If this is an effect you want then use digital zoom.

In order to zoom in while recording without losing the crisp, vivid quality you desire in videos, you'll need a device that offers a decent optical zoom. If you have a smartphone with more than one camera on the back, often one of the extra lenses is a designated "telephoto" lens, designed to give you an optical zoom effect, zooming in without losing detail.

If you don't have a smartphone with optical zoom, you'll need to get closer to your subject or use an accessory. In general, you should always get as close as you can, especially for tight shots on faces.

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## Websites used to collate information

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https://www.pocket-lint.com/phones/news/131351-10-tips-for-recording-better-video-with-your-smartphone

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