



# Tired of constant low battery warnings on your smartphone?

According to recent research, 92% of British people would feel stressed if the battery in their smartphone ran out, highlighting the increasing dependence we place on technology. Additionally, with the recent confusion over whether a device running low on battery will be allowed on UK flights, nobody wants to be caught short.

So, to keep stress levels at bay, here are our top tips for making your smartphone battery last that little bit longer. Some you may already know, others you may not... unless you're a self-confessed mobigeek!

## DIM YOUR SCREEN BRIGHTNESS

...Or at least use the auto brightness setting. A bit like a bulb, the brighter the light, the more power it uses and it's the same for your mobile phone screen.

**Top tip** - use a dark theme or wallpaper, and stay clear of animated or dynamic themes.

## TURN OFF SOME OF THE RADIOS YOU DON'T USE

Not the radio you listen to music with! Each of your phone's wireless functions uses a 'radio' to connect. If you're not using them, turn off your bluetooth, GPS, WiFi and NFC.

**Top tip** - if you don't want to take or make a call, turn off all cellular radios by selecting flight mode.

## TURN IT DOWN!

If your phone is always beeping and ringing, try reducing the volume on key alerts and ringtones and disable the sound on others. You can also turn off vibration and haptic feedback.

**Top tip** - turn off unnecessary alerts; it will stop you from checking your phone so often and lighting up the screen.

## LOCK YOUR SCREEN

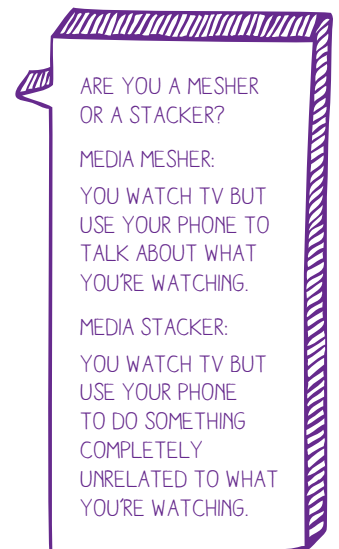
When you're not using your phone, make sure it's locked. Not only good from a security perspective, but it will help your battery too.

**Top tip** - if you rely on the autolock / timeout function to lock it for you, reduce the delay time.

## REBOOT YOUR DEVICE

If you've ever suffered from 'sudden battery drain syndrome', then you'll know how frustrating it is to be left high and dry. The culprit tends to be one of the many apps that use online services to stay up to date. Some apps get stuck trying to do their job, which can result in big power drains.

**Top tip** - there are lots of battery monitoring apps available that show you which apps are eating into your battery life, allowing you to close the ones you don't use.





## UPDATE YOUR SOFTWARE

Updates aren't always about the latest features and functionality. More often than not, your phone's software update (or firmware update, as it's sometimes known) may include any number of fixes and updates that will make your phone work better, including battery optimisation.

## DISABLE PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Where you can, change your push notifications to manual, i.e. pull down the messages when you need to. Alternatively, reduce the frequency of the push notification.

**Top tip** - also consider setting your app updates to manual, and only update them if you use them.

## USE WIFI, NOT CELLULAR

WiFi has been proven to be better on battery life, so when you need to access online content try to use a WiFi connection as much as possible.

**Top tip** - check what hotspots are available for your network.

## ARE YOU USING THE RIGHT CHARGER?

More and more devices are using the same micro USB connector for charging, and many chargers appear to be interchangeable, but this isn't always the case. If you ask a manufacturer, they'll always advise you to use the OEM charger for your phone.

**Top tip** - if you need to 'fast charge' your phone, charge from a normal AC wall socket with your phone switched off or in flight mode.

## TAME YOUR USE OF DEMANDING APPS

Playing Candy Crush for 6 hours a day? Watching endless YouTube videos? These are surefire ways to drain your battery, so try restricting your use.

### *And finally...*

- Disable 4G if you don't need it
- Turn off motion and proximity sensors
- Keep your phone out of direct sunlight
- Buy a second battery for those extra busy days (although this isn't an option for Apple users as the battery is enclosed in the case)
- Consider buying a 'power case' to increase the battery capacity. You can also buy portable battery chargers; there are loads to choose from. Perhaps you need a powerful charger which you can really rely on, or a mini version, which is ideal for a super-light, quick backup charge