

Smart TVs

What is a Smart TV

- ▶ A smart TV, also known as a connected TV (CTV), is a traditional television set with integrated Internet and interactive Web 2.0 features that allow users to stream music and videos, browse the internet, and view photos.
- ▶ Smart TVs are a technological convergence of computers, televisions, and digital media players.
- ▶ Besides the traditional functions of television sets provided through traditional broadcasting media, these devices can provide access to over-the-top media services such as streaming television and internet radio, along with home networking access.
- ▶ Smart TV features can also be accessed/provided via a set-top box connected to a standard TV

Setting up your Smart TV

- ▶ First things first: unbox your TV and plug it into a power source. Your new TV might be smart, but it's not *work-without-power* smart. Turn it on and go through the on-screen setup. You'll probably be asked to choose a language, tweak your picture settings and connect to the internet.
- ▶ There are two ways to connect your TV to the internet: a wired or wireless connection.
- ▶ Wired connections are typically more reliable, but you'll need a good Ethernet cable. Plug one end into the correct port on your TV, and the other into your broadband router.
- ▶ If you're going wireless, head to the next page to find out how to connect your smart TV to WiFi.

How to connect your Smart TV to WiFi

- ▶ Smart TVs get their smarts from the 'net. To enjoy all those super-cool smart features like streaming, you'll want to connect to WiFi. You'll probably be asked to do this in the initial setup process, but if you skipped it or want to change your WiFi settings, follow these simple steps:
 - ▶ Turn on your TV and head to the 'Network' or 'WiFi' section of the settings menu.
 - ▶ Select your WiFi network from the list of available networks.
 - ▶ Enter your WiFi password and click connect.
 - ▶ Wait for your TV to connect to your WiFi network.

How to set up streaming services on a Smart TV

- ▶ Now that your TV is connected to the internet, you're free to set up all your favourite streaming services. We're talking Netflix, Prime Video, BBC iPlayer, YouTube and more. Most modern smart TVs come with these apps pre-installed, so your only job will be popping the popcorn.
- ▶ Noticed one of your favourite streaming apps is AWOL? Don't panic! Just like your smartphone or tablet, most smart TVs have app stores where you can find loads of top streaming apps. For example, if you're a Disney fan who's wondering how to get Disney+ on your smart TV, follow these steps:
 - ▶ Turn on your TV and head to the app store.
 - ▶ Search for the Disney+ app and download it.
 - ▶ Open the Disney+ app and sign in with your Disney+ account and credentials.
 - ▶ Follow the on-screen instructions to set up your account and customise your preferences.

How to set up a Smart TV without internet

- ▶ Internet isn't *everything*. If you're missing an internet connection, you can still use your smart TV for watching digital TV, DVDs or connecting your gaming console. Here's how to get your smart TV up and running without an internet connection:
 - ▶ Plug your TV into a power source.
 - ▶ Connect your TV to your preferred video source, like a Blue-ray player, Freeview box or gaming console using the correct cables.
 - ▶ Turn on your TV and select the input for your chosen video source. There's probably a handy button on your TV remote for this labelled 'Input' or 'Source'.
 - ▶ Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the initial setup, including selecting your language and screen resolution.

How to get Freeview on a Smart TV

- ▶ Good old Freeview. If you just want a simple live telly watching experience that includes popular stations like BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and more, Freeview has your back. You won't have to pay for a monthly subscription to a streaming service and if you've got an aerial, you won't need to connect to the internet either. Here's how to get Freeview on your smart TV:
 - ▶ Make sure that your smart TV has a Freeview tuner. Most smart TVs come with a built-in Freeview tuner, but if yours doesn't, you can buy a separate [Freeview box](#) and connect it to your TV.
 - ▶ Connect your TV aerial to your TV or Freeview box.
 - ▶ Use your TV remote to tune in to Freeview channels.
 - ▶ If your TV doesn't automatically detect the channels you're after, you might need to do a channel scan or tune to get more channels.
- ▶ If you're using an indoor [TV aerial](#) for Freeview, make sure you position it correctly for the best signal. You might need to move your indoor aerial around a few times to find the best positioning. Still struggling to get a good signal? You can use a [signal booster](#) to improve the quality.

How to get Freeview on a Smart TV without an aerial

- ▶ Don't have an aerial? Some smart TVs come pre-installed with the Freeview app, allowing you to watch live TV and catch-up TV without an aerial. If it's not already installed, here's how to download it:
 - ▶ Make sure your smart TV is connected to the internet.
 - ▶ Look for the Freeview app in your smart TV's app store and download it.
 - ▶ Instead of selecting 'Aerial' during the setup process, choose 'Broadband'.
 - ▶ Open the Freeview app and enjoy your free channels!
- ▶ If you can't get the Freeview app, pick up a Freeview Play box like [this one](#) by Humax. You'll get twelve free channels, up to 250 hours of TV recording plus the ability to pause and rewind live TV.

How to AirPlay to a Samsung TV

- ▶ Knowing how to use AirPlay and/or AirPlay 2 to connect a Samsung TV will let you mirror videos and other content from your Apple device to a bigger screen.
- ▶ Like many of the [best TVs](#), Samsung's latest sets have AirPlay capabilities built in, meaning you can mirror your iPhone or [iPad](#) to your Samsung TV without needing an Apple streaming device like the [Apple TV 4K \(2021\)](#) or [Apple TV 4K \(2022\)](#) as an intermediary. As long as the proper settings are in place, you can AirPlay to a Samsung TV directly from your iPhone, iPad or Mac.
- ▶ AirPlay lets users with an Apple device mirror their device's screen onto another AirPlay-supported device. Whether you're mirroring music, videos or photos, an exact replica of what you see on your primary device should be seen on the secondary one. It's a pretty neat party trick, especially when the secondary device is a brand-name smart TV.

How to AirPlay to a Samsung TV (cont.)

- ▶ **1. Turn on your TV and make sure it's connected to the internet.** See our guide on [how to set up your set up your Samsung TV](#) if you need help getting your set online.
- ▶ **2. Review your Samsung's TV's AirPlay settings.** Go to Settings > General > Apple AirPlay Settings.
- ▶ **3. Turn AirPlay 'On' if it's not already.** Decide whether to require a pairing code every time you want to AirPlay from an Apple device, or just the first time you AirPlay from a given device.
- ▶ Your Samsung TV is now ready for AirPlay. Make sure the TV is turned on when you're ready to AirPlay. And keep in mind that AirPlay will disrupt whatever you're currently watching.

How to AirPlay to a Samsung TV (cont.)

- ▶ 1. Make sure your iPhone or iPad is currently **connected to the same Wi-Fi network as your TV**. AirPlay to a Samsung TV won't work if both your TV and device aren't on the same Wi-Fi network.
- ▶ 2. **Choose and open the content to AirPlay to a Samsung TV**. Any photos or videos in your camera roll will work. You can also **AirPlay audio from [Spotify](#) and Apple Music**.
- ▶ 3. **Tap the AirPlay button**, if there's one available. It's a curved rectangle with an arrow pointing up at the bottom. If there's no AirPlay button, **tap the sharing or casting button**. In the Photos app, it looks like a square with an arrow pointing up at the top.
- ▶ 4. **Select AirPlay from the sharing options**. In a third-party app like Spotify, the AirPlay options might be found alongside Bluetooth options.
- ▶ 5. **Select your Samsung TV from the list**. You might see other AirPlay-compatible devices on the list, so be sure to choose your TV.
- ▶ 6. **Enter the 4-digit AirPlay Passcode displayed on your TV**, if prompted. If you've used this device to AirPlay to your Samsung TV before, you might not need to enter a passcode depending on your set's AirPlay settings.
- ▶ You should now be able to AirPlay to a Samsung TV from your iPhone or iPad.