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10 Things Your Android Phone Can Do You're Missing

Ten free, built-in tricks that make your Android phone easier every day

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Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

Your Android phone is packed with free tricks. Make everything bigger under Display and Font size. Point Google Lens at text to copy or translate it, or circle anything on screen to search it.

Have pages read aloud with Select to Speak, scan paper to a PDF in Google Drive, and type by talking with the keyboard's microphone. Turn on spam filtering in the Phone app, set quiet hours under Sound, and switch on Find My Device so you can locate the phone if it ever goes missing. Brands word menus differently — use the Settings search box to find anything.

1 The Short Version

This is a tour of ten features already living on your Android phone that most people never find. Each one fixes a real everyday annoyance — small text, a page you wish would read itself, a photo full of words you want to copy. Pick the ones that sound useful; skip the rest. You cannot break anything by trying them.

- Everything here is free and already on the phone — nothing to buy or install.
- Android comes in several brands, so a menu may be worded a little differently — the feature is still there.
- Each trick is a few taps and completely safe to try.
- Start with bigger text — it is the fastest win and makes everything else easier to read.

> **TIP**
>
> The surest way to find any setting is the search box. Open Settings and tap the magnifying glass at the top, then type a word like "font size" or "flashlight." This works on every brand of Android.

2 Why Your Phone Looks a Little Different

Android is made by Google, but each company — Samsung, Google, Motorola, and others — adds its own look on top. That is why a friend's Samsung and your Pixel can have the same feature under slightly different names. It is nothing to worry about; the feature is there, just dressed differently.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Throughout this guide, if a menu name does not match your phone exactly, look for a word that means the same thing — "Display" and "Screen," or "Sound" and "Audio," for example. When in doubt, use the search box in Settings and the phone finds it for you.

3 1. Make the Text and Everything Bigger

If you are squinting, Android can enlarge both the writing and the buttons and icons around it, so the whole screen is easier to use.

1. Open Settings and tap Display (on Samsung, it may be "Display" then "Font size and style").
2. Find Font size and drag the slider up until it is comfortable.
3. Look for "Display size" or "Screen zoom" as well, and nudge it up to enlarge buttons and icons too.
4. Turn on Bold font if your phone offers it, for heavier, clearer letters.

> **TIP**
> If the slider does not go far enough, search Settings for "high contrast text" or "large display" — Android has extra accessibility options that push the size and clarity further.

4 2. Point Your Camera to Copy or Translate Text

Google Lens, built into your Camera and Photos, can read text through the camera. Point it at a page, a label, or a sign and it copies the words — or even translates a foreign menu into English on the spot.

1. Open the Camera and look for a Lens or Google Lens icon, or open the Google app and tap the camera icon in the search bar.
2. Point it at the text you want.
3. Tap the text on screen, then choose Copy, Listen, or Translate.
4. Paste the copied words wherever you like, or read the translation right there.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Lens also works on photos you already took: open a photo in Google Photos and tap the Lens icon to pull text, phone numbers, or web links out of it.

5 3. Circle Anything to Search It

Many newer Android phones have a feature called Circle to Search. Instead of typing, you circle something on your screen — a word, a product, a plant — with your finger, and the phone looks it up without leaving what you were doing.

1. Press and hold the home button or the bottom bar of the screen until the screen shimmers.
2. Draw a circle around the thing you want to look up, or tap a word.
3. Read the results that slide up from the bottom.
4. Swipe down or tap back to return to what you were reading.

> **TIP**
>
> If holding the bottom of the screen does nothing, your phone may not have this feature, or it may need turning on. Search Settings for "Circle to Search" to check — it is on most Samsung and Pixel phones from recent years.

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6 4. Have the Phone Read to You

Android can read web pages, articles, and messages aloud in a natural voice — a gentle way to rest your eyes. The feature is called Select to Speak.

1. Open Settings, then Accessibility, then Select to Speak, and turn it on.
2. A little person-shaped button appears on screen.
3. Tap that button, then tap the text you want read, or drag across a paragraph.
4. Use the play and speed controls that appear to pause or slow it down.

GOOD TO KNOW

Many brands also have a "Read aloud" option right inside the web browser or a news app — look for a headphones or speaker icon near the top of an article for the quickest start.

7 5. Scan Paper to a PDF

You can turn a paper document into a clean PDF without any extra app. Google Drive, which is on nearly every Android phone, has a scanner built right in.

1. Open the Google Drive app and tap the plus (+) button.
2. Choose Scan (the camera icon).
3. Hold the phone over the page; it captures and straightens it automatically.
4. Tap to add more pages if needed, then Save — it becomes a PDF you can share or email.

TIP

Samsung phones also have a scanner inside the Camera app — point it at a document and a "scan" or document button appears. Either way, the result is far cleaner than a plain photo.

8 6. Silence Spam and Screen Your Calls

Robocalls are relentless, but Android fights back. On Pixel phones, Call Screen can answer unknown callers for you and show you what they want before you pick up. On most phones, you can filter suspected spam straight to voicemail.

1. Open the Phone app, tap the three-dot menu, and go to Settings.
2. Look for Caller ID & spam, or Spam and Call Screen, and turn on spam filtering.
3. On a Pixel, turn on Call Screen so the phone can answer unknown numbers and ask who is calling.

WATCH OUT

A genuine caller — a new doctor's office or a repair person — might show as "unknown." Spam filtering still leaves a voicemail and a missed-call note, so you can always see who tried. If you are expecting an important call, you can pause filtering for the day.

9 7. Type by Talking

If the keyboard is slow going, talk instead. Android's voice typing writes down what you say in texts, emails, searches — anywhere you can type.

1. Tap where you want to type so the keyboard appears.
2. Tap the microphone icon, usually in the top row or bottom corner of the keyboard.
3. Speak naturally; say "period" or "comma" for punctuation if you like.
4. Tap the microphone again when you are finished.

GOOD TO KNOW

Voice typing is often faster and more accurate than thumb-typing a long message. If one word comes out wrong, just tap it and retype that single word.

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8. Set Up Quiet Hours

Android's Do Not Disturb can hush your phone at night or during a meal, while still letting chosen people ring through if it is truly important.

1. Open Settings, then Sound (or Notifications), then Do Not Disturb.
2. Set a schedule, for example 10pm to 7am.
3. Allow calls from Starred or Favorite contacts so loved ones still get through.
4. Turn on the option that lets a repeat caller ring — a simple safety net for real emergencies.

WATCH OUT

Swipe down from the top of the screen to find the Do Not Disturb button in the quick settings, so you can switch it on any time — during a nap, a meal, or a movie — not just on schedule.

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9. Let the Phone Remember Your Passwords

Android, through your Google account, has a secure password manager that remembers your website and app logins and fills them in for you. No more sticky notes, and it warns you if a password shows up in a known leak.

1. Open Settings and search for "passwords," or open the Google app, tap your picture, and choose Password Manager.
2. Review your saved passwords (you will be asked for your fingerprint, face, or PIN).
3. Let the phone fill in logins automatically, and accept its offer to save new ones.

WATCH OUT

Never enter a password from a link in a text or email, even an official-looking one. Open the real app or type the website address yourself. If a login screen ever looks off, stop and ask me before you type anything.

12 10. Find a Lost Phone — and Lost Things

If your phone goes missing, Android can show you where it is on a map, make it ring even on silent, and lock it from afar. You can also attach a small tracker tag to keys or a wallet and find those the same way.

1. On any computer or another phone, go to the Find My Device page or app and sign in with your Google account.
2. Pick your phone from the list to see it on a map.
3. Choose Play Sound to make it ring, even if it is on silent, so you can hear it in the couch cushions.
4. If it is truly lost, choose Secure Device to lock it and show a message with a callback number.

GOOD TO KNOW

Set this up BEFORE you need it: on your phone, search Settings for "Find My Device" and make sure it is turned on. It costs nothing and is the single best insurance against a lost phone.

13 Bonus: A Tidier, Simpler Home Screen

You can clear the clutter from your home screen so the apps you actually use are easy to find, and make the clock and icons larger. A calmer screen is far less confusing.

1. Press and hold an empty part of the home screen.
2. Drag away or remove apps you never use (this does not delete them — they stay in the app drawer).
3. Drag a couple of similar apps on top of each other to make a folder.
4. Look in the home-screen settings for a grid or icon-size option to make everything bigger.

> **TIP**
>
> Removing an app from the home screen only hides it from view; you can still find it in the app drawer by swiping up. Nothing is ever lost by tidying.

14 Keeping These Working After an Update

When your phone installs an update, your settings stay as you left them — bigger text, quiet hours, and spam filtering all carry over. Now and then a menu gets renamed, which can make a feature seem to disappear when it has only moved.

- Your tricks and settings survive updates — no need to set them up again.
- If something seems gone, search for it by name in Settings before worrying.
- Install updates when offered — they close security gaps that scammers exploit.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Because Android brands word things differently, the search box in Settings is your best friend after any update — type the feature's name and jump straight to it.

15 When to Call Bill

None of this is a test, and there is no prize for struggling. Most of these tricks take a minute once you know where to look, and this guide gets you there. But if a setting hides somewhere new on your version, or you would simply rather have someone set it up with you and show you once, that is exactly the kind of visit I make.

I come to you here in Portage County, sit down beside you, and set these up on your own phone or tablet so they work the way you want. I will show you each one slowly, write down the few steps that matter, and make sure you can do it yourself afterward. No rush, no jargon, and no question is too small.

- A feature is worded differently on your brand of phone and you cannot find it.
- You want spam filtering, quiet hours, or Find My Device set up and tested.
- You would like a patient walk-through of the three or four tricks most useful to you.
- You would simply rather have it set up correctly the first time, with someone showing you how.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this handy. Each row is one trick — try one at a time.

I want to…	Do this…
Make text bigger	Settings Display Font size (and Display size / Screen zoom)
Copy or translate text	Open Google Lens in Camera or the Google app point at the text
Look something up fast	Circle to Search: hold the bottom of the screen, circle it
Have it read aloud	Settings Accessibility Select to Speak
Scan paper to PDF	Google Drive plus (+) Scan
Stop spam calls	Phone app Settings Caller ID & spam / Call Screen
Find a lost phone	Go to Find My Device, sign in, Play Sound or Secure Device
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

You don't have to remember all of it — just that a friendly, patient person is one call away, whenever you'd rather have a hand.

KEY SPECS

In your home — $99 flat for the first visit, no contracts and no surprises, with a 30-day come-back-free follow-up. In-home visits cover Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities.
Outside the area? Remotely — $49 for a screen-share session (free for Support Plan members, $39/mo), refundable if I can't fix it — and credited toward a visit if you'd rather have me in person. Book either at billshometech.com/book.

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

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