BILL'S HOME TECH

Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

AN EXTENDED GUIDE · NO. 2170

Updated November 2026

Printing From Your Phone or Tablet (AirPrint & Mopria)

How to print a photo, email, or web page straight from your phone or tablet — no computer needed

Plain-English printer help from:
Bill's Home Tech
Portage County, Ohio

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

Your phone or tablet can print straight to your printer over Wi-Fi — no computer needed. iPhones and iPads use AirPrint; Android phones use Mopria; both are built in and free. The one rule is that the phone and the printer must be on the same Wi-Fi network — watch for “guest” and “-5G” names, which are separate.

To print, open what you want, tap Share or the menu, choose Print, pick your printer, and go. If the printer won't appear, it is nearly always a Wi-Fi mismatch; for very old printers, use the maker's app instead.

1 The Short Version

Modern phones and printers speak a common language for printing over Wi-Fi. On an iPhone or iPad it is called AirPrint; on Android it is called Mopria. Both are built in, both are free, and both need just one thing to work: the phone and the printer must be on the same home Wi-Fi. Once they are, printing is a matter of tapping Share, then Print, then picking your printer.

- iPhone/iPad use AirPrint; Android uses Mopria — both are built in and free.
- The one rule: phone and printer must be on the same Wi-Fi network.
- To print, open what you want, tap Share or the menu, and choose Print.
- If the printer does not appear, it is almost always a Wi-Fi mismatch, not a fault.

TIP

The single most common reason a printer does not appear on your phone is that the phone is on a different Wi-Fi — a “guest” network or the faster “-5G” band — than the printer. Putting the phone on the same network name as the printer fixes it nearly every time.

2 What AirPrint Is (iPhone and iPad)

AirPrint is Apple's built-in printing system. Any reasonably modern printer that supports AirPrint — and the great majority do — will simply appear on your iPhone or iPad with no app to install and no driver to set up. Apple built it in so printing would just work.

You do not turn AirPrint on; it is always ready. As long as the printer supports it and shares your Wi-Fi, your iPhone or iPad will find it whenever you choose Print. Most printers made in the last decade support AirPrint.

GOOD TO KNOW

AirPrint needs no app, no account, and no setup — that is the whole point of it. If you have ever been told to download something to print from your iPhone, you usually do not need to; the built-in Print option is simpler and works with most printers.

3 What Mopria Is (Android)

Mopria is the Android equivalent — a built-in printing standard that most Android phones and most printers support. Like AirPrint, it needs no setup for supported printers; the printer simply shows up when you choose Print.

On some Android phones the feature is called the “default print service” or “Mopria Print Service.” It is usually already on; if not, it can be enabled in the phone's settings, and the free Mopria Print Service app from the Play Store adds it to any Android phone that lacks it.

GOOD TO KNOW

If your Android phone will not find any printer, check that a print service is turned on in Settings (search the settings for “print”). Installing the free “Mopria Print Service” app is the quick fix for an older Android that has no printing built in.

4 The One Rule: Same Wi-Fi

Everything about phone printing comes back to one requirement: the phone and the printer must be on the same Wi-Fi network. They find each other by looking around that network, and if they are on different ones they simply cannot see each other.

1. On your phone, open Settings and check which Wi-Fi name it is connected to.
2. Make sure that matches the network the printer is on (check the printer's screen or network report).
3. Watch for “guest” networks and names ending in “-5G” — those are separate networks.
4. Move the phone onto the printer's network if they differ.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> A phone set to a “guest” Wi-Fi, or to the “-5G” band when the printer is on the plain name, will not find the printer even though both are “on the Wi-Fi.” They are really on different networks. Matching the exact name is what matters.

5 Print From an iPhone or iPad

Once your iPhone or iPad shares the printer's Wi-Fi, printing takes seconds. The steps are the same whether you are printing a photo, an email, or a web page.

1. Open what you want to print — a photo in Photos, a message in Mail, a page in Safari.
2. Tap the Share button (a square with an arrow pointing up) or the three-dots menu.
3. Scroll down and tap “Print.”
4. Tap “Select Printer” (or “Printer”) and choose yours from the list.
5. Adjust copies if you like, then tap “Print” in the corner.

TIP

On a photo or document you can pinch to preview the pages before printing, and tap the arrows to choose how many copies. If you only want one page of several, look for a page-range option on the print screen.

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6 Print From an Android Phone or Tablet

Android is just as quick once a print service is active. The exact wording varies a little by brand — Samsung, Google Pixel, and others differ slightly — but the path is the same.

1. Open what you want to print — a photo in the gallery, an email, a web page in Chrome.
2. Tap the three-dots menu (or Share) and look for “Print.”
3. At the top, tap the printer name or “Select a printer” and choose yours.
4. Set copies, color, or paper size if you wish.
5. Tap the print (printer) icon to send it.

GOOD TO KNOW

If “Print” is not in the first menu you open, look under Share, or under a “more” option. On some apps you print by sharing to the printer; on others it is a direct Print choice. Both end up in the same place.

7 When the Printer Doesn't Appear

If your printer does not show up in the list when you try to print, work through these in order — the cause is nearly always a connection, not a fault.

1. Confirm the phone and printer are on the exact same Wi-Fi name.
2. Wake the printer by pressing a button so it is not in deep sleep when the phone looks.
3. Restart the printer, and turn the phone's Wi-Fi off and on.
4. Check the printer actually supports AirPrint or Mopria (most do; very old or very cheap ones may not).

> **TIP**
>
> A printer in deep sleep sometimes answers too slowly for the phone's quick look-around. Pressing a button to wake it fully, right before you tap Print, often makes it appear when it would not a moment earlier.

8 Choose Copies, Color, and Paper Size

The print screen on your phone lets you adjust the basics before sending, so you are not stuck with whatever the default is.

- Copies: tap the plus or minus to print more than one.
- Color: switch between color and black-and-white to save ink.
- Paper size: choose Letter (the usual US size) or another size if needed.
- Double-sided: if your printer supports it, a two-sided option may appear.

9 Printing Photos Well

Photos print best with a couple of small choices — the right paper and the right size — and your phone handles the rest.

1. Load photo paper if you want a glossy print; plain paper is fine for a quick reference copy.
2. Open the photo, tap Share, then Print, and pick your printer.
3. Choose the paper size that matches your paper (such as 4x6).
4. Preview, then print.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> For a photo worth keeping, real photo paper makes a dramatic difference. For a quick print to stick on the fridge, plain paper and the default settings are perfectly fine — you do not need to fuss.

10 Printing Emails, Web Pages, and PDFs

These everyday documents all print the same simple way, and the phone turns them into a clean printed page for you.

- Email: open the message, tap the reply or three-dots menu, and choose Print.
- Web page: use the browser's Share or menu, then Print — it tidies the page for printing.
- PDF (a boarding pass, a statement, a ticket): open it, tap Share, then Print.
- Text message: take a screenshot and print the picture if there is no direct print option.

> **TIP**
> Boarding passes, appointment confirmations, and tickets usually arrive as PDFs or in an app — open the PDF or use the app's share option and choose Print. If all else fails, a screenshot of the screen prints just as well.

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11 Save Ink When Printing From Your Phone

A few small choices on the phone's print screen stretch your ink and paper, which matters because phone printing is so quick and easy that it is tempting to print more than you need.

- Choose black-and-white instead of color for anything that does not need color — it saves the pricey color ink.
- Print only the pages you need by setting a page range, rather than a whole long document.
- Preview before printing so you do not waste a page on the wrong thing.
- For a quick reference copy, plain paper and normal quality are plenty — save photo paper for keepsakes.

> **TIP**
> When you print a web page or email from your phone, glance at how many pages it will produce before tapping Print — a long page can quietly become five or six sheets. Trimming the range to the part you actually want saves paper and ink every time.

12 Scan From Your Phone, Too

The same phone that prints can also scan, turning a paper document into a PDF without the printer's scanner at all — handy when you need to send something back.

- iPhone: in the Notes app, tap the camera icon and choose “Scan Documents.”
- iPhone: in the Files app, the three-dots menu also offers “Scan Documents.”
- Android: Google Drive's plus button has a “Scan” option that makes a PDF.
- The maker's printer app can also scan from the printer straight to your phone.

13 When the Phone Print Comes Out Wrong

Now and then the printer is found and prints, but the result looks wrong — cut off at the edges, tiny in a corner, or the wrong orientation. These are quick setting fixes on the print screen, not faults.

- Cut off at the edges: choose “fit to page” or a slightly smaller scale on the print screen.
- Printed sideways: switch between portrait and landscape orientation.
- Tiny in a corner: the paper size is likely wrong — set it to Letter.
- Extra blank page: a web page often adds one — set the page range to skip it.

> **TIP**
>
> Printing a web page straight from the browser sometimes drags in ads and menus. Look for a “reader” or “print-friendly” view first, or save the page as a PDF and print that, for a clean result.

14 Older Printers Without AirPrint or Mopria

A very old or very basic printer may not support AirPrint or Mopria at all. You can still print from your phone — you just go through the maker's own app instead of the built-in Print option.

1. Install the maker's app — HP Smart, Canon PRINT, Epson Smart Panel, or Brother Mobile Connect.
2. Add your printer in the app.
3. Print from inside the app, or share a document to it.
4. If even the app will not support it, the printer is likely too old for phone printing.

WATCH OUT

If your printer is too old for both the built-in printing and the maker's app, phone printing may simply not be possible on that model. That is worth knowing before you spend time trying — and a sign the printer may be due for replacement if phone printing matters to you.

15 When to Call Bill

Printing from a phone is one of the easier things in this whole library once the phone and printer share a network — and this guide gets most people there. But Wi-Fi band mismatches, guest networks, and older printers can make it frustrating, and there is no need to wrestle with it.

I will get your phone and tablet printing reliably to your printer, sort out any Wi-Fi mix-up behind the scenes, set the printer up so it always appears, and show you the quick taps for photos, emails, and PDFs. Once it is set up right, it simply works every time.

- Your printer never appears on the phone no matter what you try.
- You are not sure whether your printer supports phone printing at all.
- The Wi-Fi band or guest-network tangle is beyond where you want to go.
- You would like it set up and demonstrated so you are confident using it.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this by the printer. The one rule: phone and printer on the same Wi-Fi.

I want to...	Do this...
Print from iPhone/iPad	Open it Share Print pick your printer (AirPrint, built in)
Print from Android	Open it menu or Share Print pick your printer (Mopria)
Printer not showing	Put the phone on the SAME Wi-Fi name; wake the printer
Print a PDF/boarding pass	Open the PDF Share Print
Scan with the phone	iPhone Notes camera Scan Documents; Android Drive Scan
Very old printer	Use the maker's app (HP Smart / Canon / Epson / Brother)
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

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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.

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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.
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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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