BILL'S HOME TECH
Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

BILL'S COMPLETE MANUALS

YouTube TV

Live and local TV over the internet: plans, recording, sharing, sports, and saving money, step by step

A plain-English guide for every YouTube TV household

Take your time — you can't break it

Written for you by Bill — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com

For YouTube TV on TVs, phones, tablets & computers · facts current November 2026

What's Inside

This is your YouTube TV manual. Read it in any order and at your own pace; there is no test, and you can't fall behind. Every feature comes with what it actually does *for you*, and slow step-by-step directions anyone can follow. YouTube TV looks a little different on a Roku, a smart TV, a phone and a computer, so if your screen doesn't match a step word for word, look for the same words nearby. Prices and plans were checked in November 2026.

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PART 1

Getting to Know YouTube TV

What YouTube TV is, how it differs from regular YouTube and from cable, and what you need before you start.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. Whoever is holding this manual, it was written for **you**. Maybe your cable bill keeps climbing and someone told you YouTube TV could replace it. Maybe a son or daughter already signed you up, and now there's a new remote routine to learn. Or maybe you just want your local news, your ballgame and your evening shows without a cable box. Wherever you're starting, you're in the right place.

I'm Bill. For more than 30 years I've helped people get comfortable with their technology, and these days a lot of that work is helping families here in Portage County figure out live TV over the internet. I wrote this manual the way I'd explain it sitting next to you on the couch: slowly, in plain English, one step at a time. If I use a word you don't know, I'll stop and explain it.

What YouTube TV does, in one sentence

YouTube TV brings live television, including your local channels, news, sports and cable networks, into your TV through the internet instead of a cable wire, with a recorder (a DVR) that never runs out of room.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this manual does for you

By the end you'll know which plan fits the way you watch, how to sign in on your TV, how to find and record your shows, how to share the membership with your household, and how to pause or cancel without surprises. You'll also know how to spot the scams that hang around streaming services.

The big promise: you can't break it

Pressing buttons and exploring will not hurt your TV or your YouTube TV account. The worst that happens is you land on a screen you didn't expect, and the **Back** button on your remote always walks you out again. Recordings don't vanish because you peeked at a menu, and nothing gets charged to your card unless you choose a plan or add-on and confirm it. So relax and look around. That's how everyone learns.

And you're never stuck alone. If you'd like a hand, call me at **(330) 200-8042**. There is no such thing as a silly question.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

What YouTube TV Is (and Isn't)

The name causes a lot of confusion, so let's clear it up first. YouTube TV and regular YouTube come from the same company, Google, but they are two different things.

Name	What it really is
YouTube	The free video website and app full of videos people upload: how-to clips, music, old TV clips, church services, grandkids' recitals. Free with ads.
YouTube TV	A paid **live TV service**. It carries real TV channels like NBC, CBS, ABC, FOX, ESPN, HGTV and FOX News, live as they air, plus a recorder. It's a replacement for cable or satellite.
YouTube Premium	A separate paid add-on for regular YouTube that removes ads from YouTube videos and lets you save them. It is **not** live TV and is not included with YouTube TV.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

How it's different from cable

- **No cable box and no installer.** You use an app on a TV or streaming device you already own.
- **No contract.** You pay month to month and can pause or cancel any time.
- **The recorder lives online.** Your recordings are stored on YouTube TV's computers, so you can watch them on any TV, phone or tablet in your account.
- **It needs your internet.** The picture comes in over your home internet, so a steady connection matters.

GOOD TO KNOW

It still has commercials

YouTube TV carries the same channels cable does, and those channels still have ad breaks. You can't skip ads on live TV, but you can usually fast-forward through them in your recordings. Chapter 19 explains exactly when.

CHAPTER 3

Is YouTube TV Right for You?

YouTube TV is a good fit for a lot of households, but not every one. Here's an honest look at who tends to like it and who might be happier with something else.

It's often a good fit if you...

- want your **local channels** (news, weather, network shows) without an antenna;
- watch **live sports** on network and cable channels;
- like to **record** shows and want plenty of room for them;
- have a few people in the house who each want their own recordings and suggestions;
- are tired of renting cable boxes and arguing about the bill.

You might want something else if you...

- mostly watch a few shows on Netflix or Prime Video and rarely watch live TV (a cheaper streaming app may do);
- only want local channels (a TV antenna gets those for free);
- have slow or unreliable internet at home;
- want to watch while traveling outside the United States (YouTube TV doesn't work abroad).

FROM BILL

A quiet tip before you switch

Before you call the cable company to cancel, try YouTube TV alongside your cable for the free trial. Watch your usual shows, check your local news and your team's games, and see how your internet holds up in the evening. If it all works, then cancel cable. If not, you've lost nothing.

CHAPTER 4

What You'll Need

Three things, and you probably have them already.

You need	Details
Home internet	YouTube TV recommends a connection of at least 3 Mbps. For HD on more than one TV at once, more is better. Most home broadband plans today are far faster than that.
Something to watch on	A smart TV with the YouTube TV app (many Samsung, LG, Vizio, Hisense, Roku and Google TV sets), a streaming device such as a Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV or Chromecast with Google TV, a game console, a phone or tablet, or a computer's web browser.
A Google Account	The same kind of account you'd use for Gmail. If you have Gmail, you already have one. If not, you can make one while signing up.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

YouTube TV's own page lists phones and tablets running Android or iPhone and iPad devices running iOS 15 or later, the Chrome or Firefox browser on a computer, and the YouTube TV app on select streaming players, smart TVs and game consoles. You can also send it to a TV with Chromecast or AirPlay.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

TIP

Not sure your TV has the app?

Press **Home** on your TV remote, open the app store (it may be called Apps, Channel Store or Google Play), and search for **YouTube TV**. If it shows up, you're set. If it doesn't, an inexpensive streaming stick plugged into the TV will add it.

HEADS UP

A cable or phone company's box may not count

Some internet companies give you a streaming box of their own. Many work fine, but not all of them carry the YouTube TV app. Check the box's app store before you count on it.

PART 2

Plans & Prices

The main plan, the newer genre plans, the free trial, and the extras you can add, with honest prices as of November 2026.

CHAPTER 5

The Main YouTube TV Plan

For years YouTube TV had one package, called the Base Plan. It's now simply called the **YouTube TV** plan, or the main plan, and it's still the most complete choice.

The main plan	What you get
Price	**$82.99 a month** (before any new-member offer). Taxes may be added depending on where you live.
Channels	More than 100, including your local ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC stations in most areas, plus ESPN, TNT, HGTV, Bravo, FOX News, Disney Channel and many more.
Recording	Unlimited DVR space. Each recording is kept for 9 months.
Sharing	One membership includes up to 6 accounts for people in your household.
Screens at once	Up to 3 streams at the same time on one membership.
Contract	None. Cancel, pause or switch plans any time.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

GOOD TO KNOW

What "no hidden fees" means here

YouTube TV says there are no box rental fees, DVR fees, local channel fees, installation fees, broadcast fees or cancellation fees. That's a real difference from many cable bills, where those charges can add up. You still pay your internet company for internet, of course.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

HEADS UP

Prices change

YouTube TV has raised its price several times over the years. When it does, it tells members ahead of time by email. The prices in this manual were current in November 2026; check **tv.youtube.com** for today's price.

CHAPTER 6

The Genre Plans: Paying for Less

In 2026 YouTube TV began offering smaller, cheaper plans built around the kinds of channels you actually watch: **Sports**, **News**, **Entertainment** and **Family**, alone or in combinations. Every one of them includes your local channels.

Plan	About how many channels	Regular monthly price
YouTube TV (main plan)	100+	$82.99
Sports + Entertainment + Family	90+	$77.99
Sports + News + Family	60+	$77.99
Sports + News		$71.99
Sports + Entertainment		$71.99
News + Entertainment + Family	80+	$69.99
Sports	30+	$64.99
News + Entertainment	70+	$62.99
Entertainment	50+	$54.99

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

YouTube TV says every plan, big or small, gets the same features: unlimited DVR, Multiview, up to 6 personal accounts, and access to add-ons and premium channels. You can't build a plan channel by channel, though. You pick from the combinations offered.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

Which kind of channels are in each group?

Group	Examples from YouTube TV's lineups
Sports	ESPN and ESPN2, FS1, TNT, TBS, USA, NFL Network, Golf Channel, the Big Ten and SEC networks and more, plus your locals.
News	FOX News, CNN, MS NOW, CNBC, FOX Business, Newsmax, NewsNation and others.
Entertainment	HGTV, Food Network, Hallmark Channel, Bravo, Discovery, TLC, FX, AMC, TCM and others.
Family	Disney Channel, Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network and similar kids' channels.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

TIP

How to pick

Make a quick list of the channels you watched in the last two weeks. If none of them is a sports channel, a plan without Sports is the biggest money saver, since sports channels are the most expensive part of any TV bundle. If you can't live without HGTV and the Hallmark Channel and you don't watch cable news, the Entertainment plan may be all you need.

HEADS UP

Lineups vary by area and can change

YouTube TV marks its lineups "subject to availability," and channel deals sometimes change. Always enter your ZIP code on tv.youtube.com to see the exact list for your home before you choose.

CHAPTER 7

The Free Trial and Signing Up

YouTube TV usually offers a short free trial, and new members are often offered a lower price for the first few months. In November 2026 the plans page showed a **2-day free trial**. The size and length of the new-member discounts change often, so read the offer on the screen before you agree.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

Signing up on a computer or phone

1. Go to **tv.youtube.com** in your web browser. (Type it yourself rather than clicking an ad.)
2. Click **Try it free** or **Explore plans**, and sign in with your Google Account (your Gmail address and password).
3. Enter your home ZIP code when asked, so you see your local channels.
4. Choose a plan. You'll see any add-ons offered next. You can skip them all and add them later.
5. Enter a payment card. YouTube TV requires a payment method even for a free trial.
6. Confirm. You can start watching right away on that device.

HEADS UP

Mark the trial's end date

When a free trial or discount ends, you're charged the regular price automatically. Write the date on your calendar. If you decide it isn't for you, cancel before that date (Chapter 28 shows how).

GOOD TO KNOW

Signing up on an iPhone

On iPhones and iPads, Apple sometimes doesn't let apps take new sign-ups or change plans the same way. If the app sends you to a web page, that's normal. Sign up at tv.youtube.com in Safari instead.

STAY SAFE

Use your own account

Sign up with an email address and card you control. If a helper sets it up for you, ask them to use your Google Account, not theirs, so you can manage, pause or cancel it yourself later.

Right after you sign up

- Write down which **Google Account** (email address) you used. You'll need it to sign in on each TV.
- Note the **date** your trial or discount ends, and the regular price that follows.
- Sign in on your TVs (Chapter 10) and check your **local channels** (Chapter 12).
- If others in the house will watch, invite them to **family sharing** (Chapter 13) so each person gets their own recordings.

CHAPTER 8

Add-Ons: Premium Channels and 4K Plus

On top of any plan you can add extras for an extra monthly charge. You never have to; the plan works fine without them.

Premium channels

YouTube TV offers premium networks such as **HBO Max**, **Paramount+ with SHOWTIME**, **STARZ** and **MGM+**, each with its own monthly price. Many offer a free trial to new subscribers. You add them from the **Membership** section of Settings.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

1. In the YouTube TV app or at tv.youtube.com, select your **profile picture**.
2. Choose **Settings**, then **Membership**.
3. Look through the add-ons. Each one shows its price and whether a free trial is offered.
4. Select the one you want and confirm.

> **TIP**
>
> **Already pay for HBO Max or Paramount+ somewhere else?**
>
> If you already subscribe to a service directly, don't add it again through YouTube TV, or you'll pay twice. Pick one place to pay for each service.

4K Plus

4K Plus is a features bundle rather than a channel. YouTube TV says it gives you:

- select live and on-demand programs in **4K** (extra-sharp picture) on compatible TVs and devices;
- **unlimited streams at home**, instead of 3 at a time;
- the ability to **download recordings** to a phone or tablet to watch offline, such as on a plane (some programs and devices are excluded).

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

Pricing guides in November 2026 listed 4K Plus at about **$9.99 a month**. Check the exact price in **Settings > Membership** before adding it.

FROM BILL

Do you need 4K Plus?

For most homes, no. Only a small share of programs are shown in 4K, and you need a 4K TV to see the difference. It's worth it mainly for big households that regularly need more than 3 screens going at once, or for someone who wants recordings on a tablet for long trips.

Standalone networks

YouTube TV also lets you subscribe to a few networks by themselves, without a full live TV plan, from a short list that includes HBO Max and Paramount+ with SHOWTIME. It's a niche option; most people who want those services sign up for them directly.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 9

NFL Sunday Ticket

NFL Sunday Ticket lets you watch Sunday afternoon NFL games that aren't shown on your local channels (called "out-of-market" games). It's the package for the fan whose team plays in another city.

- It's sold by YouTube, as an add-on to YouTube TV or on its own in the regular YouTube app.
- It covers out-of-market **Sunday** games. Your local team's games are on your local CBS or FOX station, which your YouTube TV plan already includes.
- It's sold by the season, often with a payment plan, and a lower price for people who sign up early.
- YouTube says Sunday Ticket excludes digital-only games.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

For the 2026 season, news reports put the price at about $240 for new YouTube TV customers and $378 for returning customers, with promotions changing through the season. Check the current price in the YouTube TV app under **Settings > Membership** before buying.

GOOD TO KNOW

Watching Browns games here at home

If you live in Northeast Ohio and you mainly follow the Browns, you don't need Sunday Ticket. Their Sunday afternoon games air on your local CBS or FOX station, and prime-time games air on NBC, ESPN, Amazon Prime Video and other national outlets. Sunday Ticket is for following a team from somewhere else.

HEADS UP

Recording NFL RedZone

If you have RedZone, adding a team to your Library won't record RedZone. To record it, add the NFL RedZone channel itself to your Library.

PART 3

Getting Set Up

Signing in on your TV and your phone, making sure you get your local channels, and sharing the membership with your household.

CHAPTER 10

Signing In on Your TV

Typing a password with a TV remote is slow and frustrating. YouTube TV has an easier way: the TV shows you a short code, and you type that code on your phone or computer instead.

First, get the app on your TV

1. Press **Home** on your TV or streaming device remote.
2. Open the app store. On a Roku it's **Streaming Store** or **Channel Store**; on Fire TV, search with the magnifying glass; on smart TVs it's usually called **Apps**.
3. Search for **YouTube TV** (the red icon that says "TV"). Make sure it's YouTube TV, not plain YouTube.
4. Choose **Add**, **Get** or **Install**. It's free to download.

Then sign in with a code

1. Open the YouTube TV app on the TV and choose **Sign in**. A code appears on the screen.
2. On your phone, tablet or computer, open the web browser and go to **tv.youtube.com/start**.
3. Sign in with the same Google Account you used to sign up, if asked.
4. Type the code exactly as it appears on the TV, and confirm.
5. In a moment the TV switches to YouTube TV. You're in.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

TIP

If the code stops working

Codes expire after a little while. If yours won't work, back out of the sign-in screen and open it again for a fresh code. You can also choose to sign in with the remote and the on-screen keyboard instead.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

SCAM ALERT

The only real address is tv.youtube.com/start

Search for "YouTube TV activate" and you'll find many look-alike websites with official-sounding names, some with phone numbers to call for "activation help." They are not Google. Type **tv.youtube.com/start** yourself. Activating YouTube TV never costs anything and never requires a phone call.

CHAPTER 11

Phone, Tablet and Computer

Your membership works on more than the living room TV. Anywhere in the United States with an internet connection, you can watch on a phone, tablet or computer.

Device	How to start
iPhone or iPad	Open the **App Store**, search **YouTube TV**, tap **Get**, open it and sign in with your Google Account. YouTube TV lists iOS 15 or later.
Android phone or tablet	Open the **Play Store**, search **YouTube TV**, tap **Install**, and sign in.
Computer	Go to **tv.youtube.com** in Chrome or Firefox and sign in. No download needed.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

Putting your phone's picture on the TV

If a TV in the house doesn't have the app, you can send YouTube TV to it from your phone. On a TV or device with Chromecast built in, tap the **Cast** button (a small rectangle with curved lines) in the YouTube TV app. With an Apple TV, you can use **AirPlay** from an iPhone or iPad.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

GOOD TO KNOW

It all counts toward your 3 screens

A phone, tablet, computer and TV each count as a stream while something is playing. With the regular membership, 3 can play at once. Paused or closed apps don't count.

CHAPTER 12

Your Local Channels and Your Home Area

One of the best things about YouTube TV is that it includes your local stations, the ones that carry your local news, weather warnings and network shows. To give you the right ones, YouTube TV needs to know where home is. It calls this your **home area**.

Checking your local channels

YouTube TV says it has complete local network coverage in over 98% of U.S. TV households. To see exactly which stations you get, enter your ZIP code on **tv.youtube.com** before you sign up, or look at the **Live** guide once you're a member.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

GOOD TO KNOW

For us in Northeast Ohio

Portage County is part of the Cleveland-Akron-Canton TV market, so YouTube TV's local channels for most of us come from the Cleveland stations. Look in your Live guide for your ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC stations by name. If one is missing, check that your home area is set to your real home address (below).

How the home area works

- The person who manages the membership (the **family manager**) sets the home area.
- Everyone sharing the membership needs to primarily live in that same household.
- Members need to use YouTube TV at home now and then to keep access. YouTube TV asks you to sign in from home at least once every 3 months.
- The home area can only be changed a limited number of times, and you must be physically at the new home to change it.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

To check or update your home area

1. While at home, open YouTube TV and select your **profile picture**.
2. Choose **Settings** and look for the **Area** section, which shows your home area.
3. If home is wrong and you're there now, follow the on-screen choice to update it. If you don't see one, the family manager (the person who pays) has to make the change.

HEADS UP

Moving between two homes

If you spend winters in Florida and summers in Ohio, YouTube TV is meant to have one home area, and you can only change it a couple of times a year. When you're away, you'll see the local stations for wherever you are (Chapter 31 explains). Don't keep switching back and forth; you can run out of changes.

CHAPTER 13

Sharing with Your Household (Family Sharing)

One YouTube TV membership can be shared with up to **5 other people in your household**, for 6 accounts in all. Each person signs in with their own Google Account and gets their own recordings, their own suggestions and their own place in shows. Your husband's westerns won't crowd out your cooking shows.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

Family sharing	How it works
Who can join	People who live in your household, ages 13 and up.
What they get	Their own login, their own Library (DVR), and their own recommendations.
What they share	The same plan and add-ons, and the same limit of 3 screens at once.
Who pays	Only the family manager. Members don't see your payment details.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

Inviting someone

1. Open YouTube TV on a phone or computer and select your **profile picture**.
2. Choose **Settings** and look for **Family sharing**.
3. Follow the prompts to set up your family group and invite the person by email address or phone number.
4. Send the invitation. They accept it from the email or text, and sign in to YouTube TV with their own Google Account.

GOOD TO KNOW

It's a Google family group

YouTube TV uses your Google **family group**, the same one used for sharing other Google services. If you already have a Google family group, those people may already be able to join. A person can only switch family groups once every 12 months, so choose thoughtfully.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

HEADS UP

Sharing with family in another house

It's tempting to share with a grown child across town. YouTube TV's rules say family members must live in the same household as the manager, and members who rarely watch from the home area can lose access. If a relative lives elsewhere, they need their own membership.

PART 4

Everyday Watching

Finding your way around, using the live guide, pausing and rewinding live TV, finding shows, and turning on captions.

CHAPTER 14

Finding Your Way Around: Home, Live and Library

YouTube TV is built around three main tabs across the top of the screen (or the bottom, on a phone). Once you know these three, you know the whole app.

Tab	What it's for
Home	Suggestions picked for you: shows you've been watching, new episodes of things you record, games starting soon, and popular programs.
Live	The **live guide**, a grid of every channel and what's on now and later. This is the closest thing to cable's channel guide.
Library	Everything you've recorded or added, organized by show, plus sports teams you follow and movies you've saved.

Moving around with a remote

- Use the **arrow buttons** to move the highlight, and **OK** or **Select** to choose.
- Press **Back** to go back one screen. Press it a few times to return to the top tabs.
- Press **up** from the rows of shows to reach the tabs and the search magnifying glass.
- Your **profile picture** (top right) opens Settings, your accounts and the membership.

TIP

Make the guide your starting place

If you're used to cable, it can help to go straight to the **Live** tab when you turn the TV on. It looks and works much like the channel guide you're used to.

CHAPTER 15

The Live Guide

The Live tab shows a grid with channels down the left and times across the top, like a TV listings page. Highlight a program and press OK to start watching it live.

Using the guide

1. From the top tabs, choose **Live**.
2. Press **down** to move through channels and **right** to see what's on later.
3. Highlight a program that's on now and press **OK** to watch it.
4. Highlight a program that's coming up later to see details, and choose to add it to your Library to record it.

Changing the channel while you watch

While watching live TV on most TV devices, you can press **up** or **down** on the remote, or open the guide again, to jump to another channel. The exact button varies a little between devices, but the guide always works.

TIP

Too many channels you never watch?

You can hide channels and put your favorites at the top of the guide. It's one of the handiest features in YouTube TV. See "Ways YouTube TV Can Make Life Easier" near the start of this manual for the steps.

GOOD TO KNOW

Why the order may look strange

The guide can be sorted in more than one way, such as by YouTube TV's suggestions or your own custom order. If your channels suddenly seem shuffled, check the sort setting at the top of the Live tab.

CHAPTER 16

Pause, Rewind and Catching Up

Live TV doesn't have to rush you. You can pause a live show to answer the door and pick up right where you left off.

- **Pause:** press the play/pause button on your remote (or OK on many devices). The show waits for you.
- **Resume:** press play again. You're now a little behind live.
- **Fast-forward to catch up:** after pausing live TV, you can fast-forward until you reach the live point again, skipping ads along the way.
- **Rewind:** on most channels you can rewind to see a play or a line you missed.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

GOOD TO KNOW

Starting a show from the beginning

If you tune in 10 minutes late, look for a **start over** or **watch from beginning** choice in the program's details. Whether it's offered depends on the channel. If the show is in your Library, the recording has it from the start.

CHAPTER 17

Finding a Show or Game

There are three easy ways to find something to watch.

1. Search

1. Press **up** to reach the top of the screen and choose the **magnifying glass**.
2. Type a show, movie, actor, team or channel name with the on-screen keyboard. Results start appearing after a few letters.
3. Choose the result to see when it's on, any on-demand episodes, and the option to add it to your Library.

2. Your voice

Many remotes have a microphone button (Roku, Fire TV, Google TV, Apple TV and many smart TVs). Hold it and say the name of a show or channel, such as "HGTV" or "Cleveland Guardians." It's much faster than typing.

3. Browse

The Home tab offers rows of suggestions, and YouTube TV also has on-demand sections where networks post recent episodes and movies you can start any time.

> **TIP**
>
> **On-demand episodes have a catch**
>
> On-demand episodes (ones you didn't record) usually come with ads you can't fast-forward through. If you want to skip ads, record the show instead. Chapter 19 explains.

CHAPTER 18

Captions and Easier Listening

Closed captions put the spoken words on the screen. They're a big help if voices are hard to make out, if someone's sleeping nearby, or if the actors mumble.

Turning captions on while you watch (on a TV)

1. While a program is playing, press **down** or **OK** on the remote to bring up the controls at the bottom of the screen.
2. Look for the **CC** button (sometimes under a **More** or three-dot button) and select it.
3. Choose captions **on**. To turn them off, repeat the steps.

On a computer

At tv.youtube.com, move the mouse over the picture and click **CC** in the lower right.

GOOD TO KNOW

Why captions are sometimes missing

YouTube TV can only show captions the network provides. If a channel doesn't supply them for a program, they won't appear even with captions turned on. Captions also don't show in the small mini-player on a phone or a collapsed player in a web browser; make the picture full size.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

TIP

Bigger or easier-to-read captions

Your TV or streaming device usually has its own caption style settings (size, color, background) in its Accessibility menu. Those settings often apply to YouTube TV too. If captions turn off each time you change channels, try turning them on from your device's Accessibility settings instead.

FROM BILL

Hard-to-hear dialog

If the music is loud but the voices are soft, the fix is usually on your TV or soundbar, not in YouTube TV. Look in the sound settings for a "dialog," "voice" or "clear voice" mode. It's one of the most common things I help folks set up.

CHAPTER 19

Commercials: What You Can and Can't Skip

YouTube TV carries regular TV channels, so you'll see regular TV commercials. Here's when you can fast-forward through them.

How you're watching	Can you skip ads?
Watching live	You can't fast-forward through ads. But if you pause first, you can fast-forward until you catch up to live.
Your recordings	You can usually fast-forward through ads once the program has finished airing live.
On-demand episodes	You usually can't fast-forward through ads.
YouTube videos inside YouTube TV	Ads appear unless you also pay for YouTube Premium.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

HEADS UP

When your recording plays the on-demand version

If you recorded something that's also available on demand, YouTube TV sometimes plays the on-demand version instead of your recording, and that version may not let you skip ads. If fast-forward stops working, that's usually why.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

TIP

A simple way to skip most ads

Start your favorite evening show about 15 minutes after it begins (pause it live, or play it from your Library). By the time you catch up to live, you've fast-forwarded through most of the breaks.

PART 5

Recording Your Shows

YouTube TV's recorder has no storage limit. Here's how it works, how to record a show, a movie or a whole team's season, and how to watch and tidy up your recordings.

CHAPTER 20

The Unlimited DVR: How It Works

A **DVR** (digital video recorder) records TV so you can watch it later. With cable, the DVR is a box under the TV with a hard drive that fills up. YouTube TV's DVR is different: your recordings are stored online, and there's no storage space limit.

The DVR	The rules
How much you can record	As much as you want, including several programs at the same time. No storage limit.
How long recordings last	Each recording is kept for **9 months**, then removed automatically.
Where you can watch them	On any device signed in to your account, anywhere you have internet in the U.S.
Whose recordings	Each of the 6 household accounts has its own Library.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

You never have to choose between recording one show or another, and you never get the dreaded "DVR full" message. Record every episode of the shows you love, and watch them when it suits you, even on a tablet in the kitchen.

GOOD TO KNOW

Recording isn't quite like cable

On YouTube TV you don't record a single airing at a set time. You **add a show to your Library**, and YouTube TV records its airings for you from then on. It's simpler once you get used to it.

CHAPTER 21

Recording a Show, Movie or Team

Everything you record goes into your **Library**. To record something, you add it. That's the whole idea.

To record a show

1. Find the show with **search** (the magnifying glass) or in the **Live** guide.
2. Open the show's page.
3. Select **Add** (a plus sign, or the words "Add to Library").
4. That's it. YouTube TV will record current and upcoming airings and put them in your Library.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> **Started late?**
> If you add a show while an episode is already airing, the recording begins from that moment, not from the beginning of the episode.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

To record a sports team's games

1. Search for the team, such as **Cleveland Guardians** or **Ohio State Buckeyes**.
2. Open the team's page and select **Add** (the plus sign).
3. Every upcoming game on a channel in your plan will now be recorded automatically.

To stop recording

1. Open the show's or team's page.
2. Select the check mark or **Added** button (it changes back to **Add**).
3. Future airings stop recording. Episodes already in your Library stay until they reach 9 months old.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

HEADS UP

Changing plans can remove recordings

If you switch to a smaller plan that doesn't include a channel, your recordings from that channel are removed. If you switch back within 21 days, YouTube TV restores them. Chapter 26 has more on switching plans.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 22

Watching and Managing Your Recordings

To watch something you recorded

1. Go to the **Library** tab.
2. Choose the show, team or movie.
3. Pick an episode or game and press **OK** to play.
4. Use fast-forward and rewind as you like. YouTube TV remembers where you stopped.

Tidying up

Because space is unlimited, there's no need to delete recordings to make room. Old recordings remove themselves after 9 months. If you no longer want a show at all, stop recording it (Chapter 21) and it will drift out of your Library over time.

GOOD TO KNOW

Recorded versus on demand

Sometimes when you press play on a recording, YouTube TV plays the network's on-demand version of the same episode instead. It looks the same, but you may not be able to skip the commercials. This is set by the networks, not by anything you did.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

HEADS UP

If you cancel, recordings don't last

After you cancel, the recorded programs in your Library expire after 21 days. If you just need a break, pausing keeps your recordings (Chapter 27).

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

Recordings on the go

You can watch your Library on your phone or tablet anywhere in the U.S. with internet. To download recordings and watch them with no internet at all, such as on a plane, you need the 4K Plus add-on (Chapter 8), and some programs can't be downloaded.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

PART 6

Sports on YouTube TV

Which channels carry the games, how to follow your teams, and watching several games at once.

CHAPTER 23

Where the Games Are

Sports are a big reason people choose YouTube TV. The main plan and the Sports plans include the channels that carry most national games.

Channel family	Examples on YouTube TV	Typical games
Your local stations	ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC	NFL Sundays, college football, major events
ESPN networks	ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, SEC Network, ACC Network	College sports, Monday Night Football, NBA
FOX sports	FS1, FS2, Big Ten Network	College football and basketball, MLB, soccer
Warner Bros. Discovery	TNT, TBS, truTV	MLB, NHL, college basketball, NASCAR
NBC sports	USA, Golf Channel	Premier League, golf, other events
League channels	NFL Network, NBA TV	Extra games and highlights shows

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

HEADS UP

Your local team's own channel may not be here

Many baseball, basketball and hockey teams have games on a regional sports channel. YouTube TV doesn't carry many of them. If you follow the Guardians or the Cavaliers closely, check where their games air this season before you cancel cable. Some teams now sell their own streaming service directly.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some games are only on other streaming services

A growing number of games stream only on services like Amazon Prime Video, Peacock, Netflix or Apple TV. YouTube TV can't show those. A separate Bill's manual, "Watching Sports Without Cable," maps out which service carries which games.

CHAPTER 24

Following Your Teams

Team pages pull everything about a team into one place: upcoming games, which channel they're on, recorded games, and highlights.

1. Use **search** to find your team.
2. Open the team page to see the schedule and channels.
3. Select **Add** to record every game that airs on a channel in your plan (Chapter 21).
4. Recorded games appear in your **Library** under the team.

TIP

Don't want to see the score?

If you're saving a game to watch later, you can ask YouTube TV to hide scores for that team or league so the result isn't spoiled. "Ways YouTube TV Can Make Life Easier" near the start of this manual shows how.

GOOD TO KNOW

Out-of-town NFL games

To watch Sunday afternoon NFL games that aren't on your local stations, you need the NFL Sunday Ticket add-on (Chapter 9).

CHAPTER 25

Multiview: Several Games on One Screen

On a busy Saturday of college football or the first days of March Madness, **Multiview** lets you watch up to four live programs at once, each in its own box on the TV screen. It's included with every plan.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

Multiview works best on a TV with a streaming device or smart TV app. The short version: while watching an eligible game, bring up the options and choose Multiview. The full steps are in "Ways YouTube TV Can Make Life Easier" near the start of this manual.

GOOD TO KNOW

Only one sound at a time

You hear one box at a time. Move the highlight to a different box to switch the sound to that game. Choose a box to make it full screen, and press Back to return to all four.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

PART 7

Money Matters

Comparing YouTube TV with your cable bill, switching to a cheaper plan, taking a break, canceling cleanly, and what happens when a channel disappears.

CHAPTER 26

YouTube TV vs. Your Cable Bill

Whether YouTube TV saves you money depends on what you pay now and what you'd keep. The only honest way to know is to compare your own numbers. Get out your latest cable or satellite bill and fill in this little worksheet.

Line on your bill	Cable or satellite now	With YouTube TV
TV package	Your amount	$82.99 (main plan) or a smaller plan
Box or receiver rental (each TV)	Your amount	None (use your own TVs or streaming sticks)
DVR service	Your amount	Included
Broadcast TV / regional sports fees	Your amount	None listed by YouTube TV
Internet	Your amount	Still needed; may change if it was bundled
One-time costs	None	A streaming stick for TVs without the app (often $30.00 to $50.00 each)

HEADS UP

Watch out for the bundle discount

If your internet and TV are bundled, dropping TV can raise your internet price. Before canceling, call your provider and ask: "What will my internet cost by itself?" Put that number in the worksheet.

FROM BILL

The usual result

The households who save the most are the ones paying for several cable boxes and lots of fees. A smaller genre plan (Chapter 6) can save even more if you don't need sports or news channels. And if you only watch local channels, an antenna is free after you buy it.

Switching to a smaller plan

You can move between YouTube TV's plans any time. You're charged the new plan's price, minus a credit for unused time on your old plan, and any add-ons carry over.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

1. Select your **profile picture**, then **Settings**, then **Membership**.

2. Look for the option to change or switch your plan.
3. Choose the new plan and confirm. If the app on your phone doesn't offer the choice, use tv.youtube.com on a computer.

HEADS UP

Recordings from channels you drop

Recordings from channels that aren't in your new plan are removed. Switch back to a plan that includes them within 21 days and they're restored.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 27

Taking a Break: Pausing Your Membership

Going away for the winter, or just taking a break from TV? Instead of canceling, you can **pause** YouTube TV. You stop paying, and your recordings and settings are saved for when you come back.

Pausing	What to expect
How long	From a few weeks up to 6 months. You choose the length.
When it starts	At the end of your current billing period. You keep watching until then.
While paused	You can't watch, and nothing new is recorded.
When it ends	Your membership restarts automatically at the regular price, and that day becomes your new billing date. You can also resume early.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

To pause (on a computer)

1. Go to **tv.youtube.com** and sign in as the family manager (the person who pays).
2. Select your **profile picture**, then **Settings**, then **Membership**.
3. Select **Manage**, then **Pause or cancel membership**.
4. Choose **Pause**. Use the slider to choose how many weeks to pause.
5. Select **Pause** to confirm. YouTube TV shows the date your pause begins and ends.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

TIP

Write down the restart date

A pause ends on its own and billing starts again. Put the date on your calendar. You can't extend a pause, but you can resume and then pause again if you need more time.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

GOOD TO KNOW

Pausing from an iPhone or Android phone

The phone app has the same choice under **Settings > Membership**, then **Manage**. If you signed up through Apple's App Store billing, you may be sent to Apple's subscription settings instead.

CHAPTER 28

Canceling YouTube TV

You can cancel any time, with no cancellation fee. You keep watching until the end of the period you've already paid for. YouTube TV doesn't give refunds for partial months.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

To cancel (on a computer)

1. Go to **tv.youtube.com** and sign in as the family manager.
2. Select your **profile picture**, then **Settings**, then **Membership**.
3. Select **Manage**, then **Pause or cancel membership**.
4. Choose **Cancel membership**. If you're offered a pause instead and still want to cancel, keep going.
5. Select **Cancel** to confirm, and look for the confirmation on screen.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

HEADS UP

Recordings expire 21 days after you cancel

If there's anything in your Library you want to finish watching, do it before you cancel or within 21 days after. If you rejoin within that time, your Library is still there.

Checked against YouTube TV Help on November 13, 2026.

GOOD TO KNOW

Cancel add-ons separately if you only want to drop those

If you just want to stop an add-on, like a premium channel or 4K Plus, you can remove only that add-on in **Settings > Membership** and keep your plan.

STAY SAFE

Deleting the app doesn't cancel

Removing the YouTube TV app from your TV or phone does not stop the billing. You have to cancel the membership itself, as above.

CHAPTER 29

When Channels Disappear: Carriage Disputes

Every few months you may read that YouTube TV might "lose" a group of channels. Here's what's going on.

YouTube TV pays the companies that own TV channels for the right to carry them. When those contracts come up for renewal, the two sides haggle over price. If they don't agree by the deadline, the channel owner can pull its channels. That's called a **carriage dispute**, and it happens with cable and satellite companies too.

A recent example

In late October 2025, Disney's channels, including ABC and ESPN, went dark on YouTube TV when the two companies' contract ran out. YouTube TV offered affected members a credit, and the channels came back in November 2025 after a new deal. Earlier in 2025, disputes with other channel owners were settled without a blackout or ended with some channels removed.

What you can do

- **Don't panic.** Most disputes are settled before the deadline or within days or weeks.
- **Watch your email.** YouTube TV usually emails members about what's happening and about any credit.
- **Keep an antenna as a backup.** Your local ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC stations are free over the air.
- **Remember you can switch.** With no contract, if a channel you can't live without is gone for good, you can pause or cancel and try another service.

HEADS UP

Recordings during a blackout

When a channel leaves YouTube TV, its recordings in your Library may become unavailable too, at least until it returns.

SCAM ALERT

"Your channels are being removed: call now"

Scammers use carriage-dispute headlines to send fake emails and texts asking you to call a number or pay to "keep your channels." YouTube TV never asks you to call a phone number or pay a fee to keep a channel. Check your membership yourself at tv.youtube.com.

PART 8

Staying Safe, Fixing Problems, Getting Help

The scams that target streaming customers, using YouTube TV away from home, quick fixes for the most common problems, and when to call Bill.

CHAPTER 30

Scams to Watch For

Popular services attract scammers, and YouTube TV is no exception. Nearly every scam falls into one of these patterns.

The scam	How it works and what to do
Fake "activation" websites	Look-alike sites and ads that claim to help you activate YouTube TV, then ask you to call a number or pay a fee. The only real sign-in page is **tv.youtube.com/start**, and it's free.
"Your payment failed" emails	A message says your membership will end unless you update your card through a link. Don't click. Open tv.youtube.com yourself and check **Settings > Membership**.
Fake support phone numbers	Search results and pop-ups with "YouTube TV support" numbers that connect to scammers who want remote access to your computer or gift cards.
"Free YouTube TV for life" offers	Social media posts and texts promising free service if you click or share. They're after your account password or card number.
Unexpected sign-in codes	Someone asks you to read them a code from your phone or email "to verify your account." That code lets them into your Google Account.

SCAM ALERT

The golden rule

Never call a phone number from an email, text, pop-up or search ad about your TV service. Go to **tv.youtube.com** yourself, or open the YouTube TV app and use Help from your profile picture. Real companies don't ask for gift cards, and they don't need to control your computer.

STAY SAFE

Protect the Google Account behind it

Your YouTube TV membership is part of your Google Account, which may also hold your Gmail and photos. Use a strong password and turn on 2-Step Verification at myaccount.google.com. Never read a Google sign-in code to anyone who contacts you.

FROM BILL

If you think you've been fooled

Hang up or close the page. Call your bank or card company using the number on the back of your card. Change your Google password. If someone got onto your computer, call me at (330) 200-8042 and we'll make sure it's clean.

CHAPTER 31

Watching Away from Home

YouTube TV goes with you anywhere in the United States where you have internet: a hotel, a relative's house, a campground with Wi-Fi.

- **Live channels follow your location.** Away from home, you'll see the local stations for wherever you are, not your home stations.
- **Your Library comes along.** You can watch your recordings anywhere in the U.S.
- **Check in from home.** Sign in from your home area at least once every 3 months to keep your account active.
- **Not outside the U.S.** You can't watch anything on YouTube TV, live or recorded, while traveling internationally.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

TIP

Watching on a plane

Airplane Wi-Fi often can't handle live TV. With the 4K Plus add-on, you can download some recordings to a phone or tablet before you leave and watch with no internet (Chapter 8).

HEADS UP

A TV in a hotel or a friend's house

If you sign in to YouTube TV on someone else's TV, remember to sign out before you leave, so they can't use your account. In the app, select your profile picture and choose **Sign out**.

CHAPTER 32

Fixing Common Problems

Most YouTube TV problems have a simple fix. Try these in order, and the first one fixes a surprising number of them.

The picture keeps freezing or spinning (buffering)

1. Close the YouTube TV app completely and open it again.
2. Unplug your streaming device or TV from the wall for 30 seconds, then plug it back in.
3. Restart your internet modem and router the same way, and wait a few minutes for the lights to settle.
4. If several people are streaming or downloading at once, try again when the house is quieter.
5. If it happens every evening, your internet plan or Wi-Fi may be the bottleneck. A wired connection or a better router position often helps.

"Too many devices" or a stream stops

A regular membership plays on 3 screens at once. If a fourth starts, one will stop. Check whether someone left a TV playing in another room. The 4K Plus add-on allows unlimited streams at home.

Checked against YouTube TV's official plans page (tv.youtube.com) on November 13, 2026.

Local channels are wrong or missing

- Away from home? You'll see the local channels for where you are (Chapter 31).
- At home? Check your home area in Settings (Chapter 12). The family manager can update it.
- On a phone, make sure location access is turned on for the YouTube TV app.

The app won't open or sign in

1. Check that other apps on the same TV work. If none do, the problem is the internet.
2. Update the YouTube TV app from your device's app store, and check for a system update on the TV or stick.
3. Sign out and back in, using a fresh code at **tv.youtube.com/start** (Chapter 10).
4. Make sure your membership is active: on a computer, check **Settings > Membership** at tv.youtube.com.

A show didn't record

- Check that the show is in your **Library** (Chapter 21). If not, add it.
- Was the membership paused at the time? Paused memberships don't record.
- Is the channel in your plan? Smaller plans don't include every channel.

TIP

YouTube TV's own help

YouTube TV offers help around the clock. In the app, select your profile picture and look for **Help**, or go to **support.google.com/youtubetv**. Get help from those official places only, never from a search ad.

CHAPTER 33

When to Call Bill

This manual should carry you through almost everything. But some jobs are easier with a hand, and that's what I'm here for. Folks around Portage County call me for things like these:

- Deciding between YouTube TV, another live TV service and an antenna, using your real bills.
- Setting up YouTube TV on every TV in the house, signing everyone in and setting up family sharing.
- Choosing streaming sticks for older TVs and getting them connected.
- Fixing Wi-Fi that buffers in the evening, or the one room where the TV keeps freezing.
- Setting up captions, a clearer-dialog sound setting, and a tidy live guide with your favorite channels on top.
- Canceling cable cleanly and returning the boxes, without losing your internet discount by surprise.
- Checking a computer after a scam call or a fake "support" website.

How to reach me	Details
What it costs	$49 remote · $99 in your home. Remote help works over the phone and the internet for most YouTube TV questions.
Phone	**(330) 200-8042**. If I can't pick up, Sophie, my AI receptionist, will take your details and get you on the schedule.
Book online	**billshometech.com/book**

There's no such thing as a silly question, and you won't be rushed. Enjoy your shows.

— Bill