

How2 film yourself vlogging

A moving selfie

You really don't need to have fancy video equipment to create vlogs – you can do it easily with a smart phone.

In fact, the BBC has a great video about '[smartphone journalism](#)' that is well worth a look. It explains how you can use a smart phone, just like BBC correspondents do, to record really good video.

Here are some tips for filming yourself, that will help you capture some great video.

- Get yourself a very cheap, small tripod that will hold your phone. You can get these for less than £5 online or in the high street. Ones that can grip around things are useful as then you don't always need a flat surface for it to sit on.
- Clean your camera lens – because phone camera lenses are at the back of the phone they can be forgotten and often get quite dirty. Give it a wipe with a lens cloth to make sure you're getting the best images.
- Turn your phone to airplane mode when you are ready to film so that you're not interrupted by calls and texts coming in.
- Check you have enough space to add video to your phone – you will find this in the Settings menu on your phone.
- Hold your camera in landscape mode – on its side – to get the best footage. The BBC video explains this in more detail.
- Check the lighting around you by taking some test footage – make sure you're not too dark and if so, move to a lighter location or turn the light on!
- Always film yourself in a quiet location as the phone will pick up background sound.
- A vlog is really a moving selfie but you could find that selfie sticks don't work that well because you will get camera shake – the phone will move as you speak and it will be obvious on the video.
- Newer smartphones often have good video editing software pre-installed as part of the camera, so check out what yours can do by taking some footage and playing with it. The BBC video has some information about editing video which could be helpful.
- Practice filming yourself with a script, and work out the best way to display the script so you can read it. Fixing it above the phone would work well so you can read it whilst you're looking at the phone. You could also use an autocue app on another device – you can download them free of charge, and then insert your text and get it to scroll as you read it. But you will need a tablet or laptop to display it and then it could get complicated!
- Have fun! The more you practice, the more confident you will be!

