

How to Shoot Videos with a Mobile Phone

1) Find a quiet place to film.

2) Make sure your Phone has enough storage space.

3) Turn off notifications.

Pro tip: Do Not Disturb is a great way to watch YouTube videos, play games, and sleep uninterrupted, too.

4) Use a tripod.

Your hands are not as steady as you think they are – definitely not steady enough to film a video. A steady video is a good video.

5) Light your video.

You need enough light to give the impression of natural light, which means it's coming from a variety of different light sources, and not just directly overhead. If you don't have the time or budget to purchase a lighting setup, find a room or location with plenty of natural light -- and remember to turn off the overhead lights -- to keep your video subject looking good.

6) Use a microphone.

Make sure you use some sort of microphone to minimize the impact of distracting ambient noise. The expression "the silence is deafening" is real -- especially when it comes to video production. You can use something as simple as a microphone that plugs into your Phone's headphone input to get great audio for your videos.

7) Film horizontally.

When people view videos on mobile devices, the video automatically rotates according to the orientation of the device it's being viewed on. So, it makes more sense to film horizontally so your video can be viewed if the user rotates his or her phone, or is watching on a large tablet or computer screen. If you film vertically and the viewer's screen is rotated, the video will appear more constricted.

8) Don't use the Phone's zoom capability.

Simply put the Phone's zoom will most likely make your video look bad.

We'll elaborate: Unless you have the ultra-fancy zooming capability on your phone, your phone will simply enlarge the image -- it won't get you closer to what you're filming -- so it'll make your final video pixellated and blurry-looking. Instead, physically move your filming setup closer to your subject to eliminate the need to zoom in.

9) Lock your exposure.

The Mobile Phone cameras these days do a fantastic job of finding the subject to focus your camera's exposure -- which is great for taking a photo. But when it comes to filming a video, its super-powered exposure will continue adjusting and readjusting according to movement -- leaving your final video occasionally blurry and out of focus. You can solve this problem by locking the exposure while you're filming.