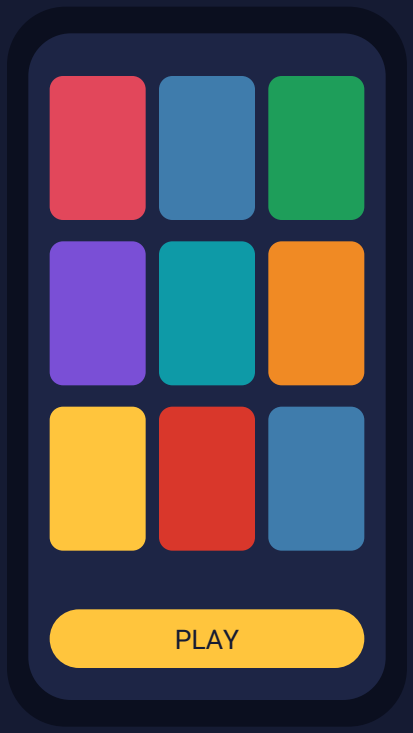
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FREE GUIDE · 2026

16 LEGAL FREE APPS



FREE TV AND MOVIES ON YOUR PHONE

Movies, shows, live channels, kids TV and local news, with no subscription. Only legal apps from the App Store and Google Play, and how to pick the right one.

- 16 free apps checked in November 2026
- Which ones need no sign-up at all
- Best picks for kids, Spanish and local news
- Data use, casting to your TV, parental controls
- How to spot fake and pirate apps

HOW FREE STREAMING WORKS

These apps are free because they show ads, like regular TV, or because your public library pays for them.

1 ADS PAY THE BILL

Free apps show short ad breaks, like broadcast TV. You never need a credit card to watch the free sections.

2 LIBRARY APPS

Kanopy and Hoopla are free with a public library card and have no ads. Many libraries give cards online.

3 LIVE OR ON DEMAND

Live apps work like cable channels. On-demand apps let you pick a title and press play.

4 SIGN-UP OR NOT

Many apps need no account. Some ask for a free one to save your list or resume where you stopped.

5 ONLY LEGAL

Every app here is in the App Store or Google Play and licenses its movies. No piracy, no APK files.

6 LINEUPS CHANGE

Channels and titles come and go every month. If one app lacks a title, check another on the list.

QUICK PICKS

If you want...	Start with
Most movies	Tubi
Channel surfing	Pluto TV
No ads at all	Kanopy (library card)
Kids	PBS KIDS Video
In Spanish	ViX
Local news	Local Now

100% LEGAL
Free with ads or library card

NO CREDIT CARD
For the free sections

16 APPS
Movies, live TV, kids, news

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Independent guide. Not affiliated with any app listed. App names belong to their owners. Features and channel lineups change; check each app's store page.

THE APPS (1-6)

Tubi — Fox

WHAT	Big on-demand library of movies and shows, plus live channels.
SIGN-UP	Account optional: you can skip it.
TIP	Kids Mode and Spanish titles. Casts with Chromecast and AirPlay.

Pluto TV — Paramount

WHAT	Hundreds of live channels in a TV-style guide, plus on demand.
SIGN-UP	No account needed.
TIP	Feels like cable: flip channels in the guide. Has Spanish channels.

The Roku Channel — Roku

WHAT	Hundreds of live channels, movies and Roku Originals.
SIGN-UP	Asks for a free Roku account in the phone app. US only.
TIP	You do not need a Roku device to use it.

Prime Video (free titles) — Amazon

WHAT	The old Freevee library now lives here, with ads.
SIGN-UP	No Prime membership for titles marked free; may ask you to sign in.
TIP	Look for the 'Free' or 'Watch for free' label before you press play.

Plex — Plex

WHAT	Hundreds of free live channels and free movies.
SIGN-UP	May ask for a free account.
TIP	The free movies and channels are separate from Plex's paid server features.

Sling Freestream — Sling TV

WHAT	Hundreds of live channels plus on-demand titles.
SIGN-UP	No account needed.
TIP	Has Spanish channels. Free, not the paid Sling plans.

100% LEGAL — Free with ads or library card

NO CREDIT CARD — For the free sections

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THE APPS (7-12)

Xumo Play

Comcast and Charter

WHAT	Hundreds of channels and thousands of on-demand titles.
SIGN-UP	No login needed.
TIP	Good Spanish-language section.

Samsung TV Plus

Samsung

WHAT	Live channels and on demand.
SIGN-UP	Free.
TIP	Galaxy phones and Samsung TVs only. Not on iPhone or other Android brands.

LG Channels

LG

WHAT	Free live channels.
SIGN-UP	No sign-up.
TIP	Works on iPhone and Android; the phone lineup is smaller than on LG TVs.

Kanopy

Kanopy

WHAT	Films, documentaries and a kids section, with NO ads.
SIGN-UP	Free with a card from a participating public library.
TIP	Ask your library. Monthly limits depend on the library.

Hoopla

Hoopla Digital

WHAT	Movies and shows, plus e-books and audiobooks.
SIGN-UP	Free with a card from a participating public library.
TIP	Your library sets how many titles you can borrow each month.

PBS KIDS Video

PBS

WHAT	Hundreds of episodes from dozens of kids series.
SIGN-UP	Free, no account.
TIP	Made for kids. Only short sponsor messages.

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THE APPS (13-16)

YouTube (free movies) — Google

WHAT	A 'Free to watch' movie section with ads.
SIGN-UP	No account or Premium needed.
TIP	Watch only from the YouTube Movies and TV storefront; random uploads are often pirated.

Fawesome — Future Today

WHAT	Large free on-demand library.
SIGN-UP	No sign-up.
TIP	On the phone it is on demand only (live channels are on TV apps).

ViX — TelevisaUnivision

WHAT	Telenovelas, movies and live channels in Spanish.
SIGN-UP	Free tier with ads, no card.
TIP	The strongest free option in Spanish. Premium is a separate paid plan.

Local Now — Allen Media

WHAT	Local news from hundreds of markets, weather, movies and channels.
SIGN-UP	Free.
TIP	Pick your city to see your local news first.

Gone in 2025: Amazon Freevee closed and its free titles moved into the Prime Video app ('Watch for free'). Crackle shut down too. Any app still using those names is fake: do not install it.

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SIDE BY SIDE

A dash (-) means it is not a main feature or we could not confirm it.

App	Sign-up	Live TV	Kids	Spanish	Phones
Tubi	Optional	Yes	Kids Mode	Yes	iPhone, Android
Pluto TV	None	Yes	-	Yes	iPhone, Android
The Roku Channel	Roku account	Yes	-	-	iPhone, Android
Prime Video (free titles)	May ask	-	-	-	iPhone, Android
Plex	May ask	Yes	-	-	iPhone, Android
Sling Freestream	None	Yes	-	Yes	iPhone, Android
Xumo Play	None	Yes	-	Yes	iPhone, Android
Samsung TV Plus	-	Yes	-	-	Galaxy only
LG Channels	None	Yes	-	-	iPhone, Android
Kanopy	Library card	No	Kids section	-	iPhone, Android
Hoopla	Library card	No	-	-	iPhone, Android
PBS KIDS Video	None	-	Yes	-	iPhone, Android
YouTube (free movies)	None	No	-	-	iPhone, Android
Fawesome	None	No (phone)	-	-	iPhone, Android
ViX	None (free tier)	Yes	-	Yes	iPhone, Android
Local Now	-	Yes	-	-	iPhone, Android

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WATCH SMARTER

Save your data plan, put it on the big screen and keep it kid-safe.

DATA USE PER HOUR (TYPICAL)

Quality	About	10 hours a month
Data saver / low	0.3 GB	3 GB
Standard (SD)	0.7 to 1 GB	7 to 10 GB
HD	about 3 GB	about 30 GB

Typical streaming figures from Netflix's data-use help page; free apps are in the same range. Stream on Wi-Fi when you can, and pick the lowest quality on cellular.

PUT IT ON YOUR TV

- Look for the Cast icon (Chromecast) or AirPlay on iPhone.
- Tubi documents both Chromecast and AirPlay.
- Smart TVs often have the same apps built in: install there instead.
- Phone and TV must be on the same Wi-Fi.

KID-SAFE SETUP

- Use PBS KIDS Video for young kids.
- Turn on Tubi's Kids Mode: it asks for a PIN or age to leave.
- Use your phone's own controls (Screen Time on iPhone, Family Link on Android).
- Watch the first episodes together.

SAVE DATA ON CELLULAR

- In the app settings, set streaming quality to low or data saver.
- Stream long movies on Wi-Fi at home and keep cellular for short shows.
- Turn on your phone's own data saver (iPhone: Low Data Mode; Android: Data Saver).
- Check your data use after the first week in your phone settings.

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SPOT FAKE AND PIRATE APPS

Pirate apps put malware on your phone and can steal passwords. The legal ones never need tricks.

SAFE SIGNS

- Install only from the App Store, Google Play or your TV's app store.
- Check the developer name on the store page (for example, Tubi is from Fox).
- Free sections never ask for a credit card.
- Ads are normal: that is how legal free apps pay for movies.
- Keep the app updated from the store.

RED FLAGS

- Promises new movies that are still in theaters, for free.
- Asks you to download an APK file or a 'player update' from a website.
- Uses the name of an app that closed (Freevee, Crackle).
- Asks for your card 'just to verify' your age.
- Full of pop-ups that open other sites.

Got a 'free movies' app outside the stores? Delete it, change the passwords you typed while it was installed, and run your phone's security scan.

BEFORE YOU INSTALL: 3 QUICK CHECKS

1. Search the app name in your store and open the listing from the real developer.
2. Read the latest reviews: complaints about pop-ups or charges are a red flag.
3. Check the permissions: a video app does not need your contacts or SMS.

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MY FREE TV SETUP

App	Installed	Account?	Favorite channels or shows
Tubi	☐	☐	
Pluto TV	☐	☐	
The Roku Channel	☐	☐	
Prime Video (free titles)	☐	☐	
Plex	☐	☐	
Sling Freestream	☐	☐	
Xumo Play	☐	☐	
Samsung TV Plus	☐	☐	
LG Channels	☐	☐	
Kanopy	☐	☐	
Hoopla	☐	☐	
PBS KIDS Video	☐	☐	
YouTube (free movies)	☐	☐	
Fawesome	☐	☐	
ViX	☐	☐	
Local Now	☐	☐	

WATCH LIST



PICK ONE, PRESS PLAY

Start with two apps: one live (Pluto TV or Sling Freestream) and one on demand (Tubi). Add your library's Kanopy or Hoopla for movies with no ads.

Checked on Nov 17, 2026 at: tubitv.com/help-center, pluto.tv, support.roku.com/article/360007223934, primevideo.com, plex.tv, sling.com/watchfree xumo.com/about, samsungtvplus.com, lg.com/us/lg-channels, kanopy.com, hoopladigital.com, pbskids.org/video, youtube.com/feed/storefront, fawesome.tv, vix.com, localnow.com, help.netflix.com/en/node/87 (data use)

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