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We have come a long way since the early days of mobile phones. All the way back in the prehistoric times of 1997 mobile phones more closely resembled a brick than the sophisticated piece of technology we are own of today. It was amazing to see a phone that did not need to be wired up in a building. Even more amazing that the early adopters who used them, which we saw more often in films than in real life, acted as though it was completely normal.

These days everyone wants the latest model and smartphones are fast becoming the standard choice of mobile phone. However, there are some people who believe that phones should just be for making phone calls, who do not see a need to be able to check Facebook, emails or play games on the move. Whatever your view point, you have the choice to buy a handset with or without a sim card, here are some points to consider when making that choice.

Cost

Cost is often the single most important factor for people looking to choose a new phone. If you are lucky enough for money not to be an option, you can skip this point - otherwise keep reading. If you buy a contract phone, the cost of the handset is bundled up into the monthly cost along with calls, texts and downloads. This is often the most convenient option for people, since in effect it is paying in instalments. However, you are going to end up paying a good deal more than what the handset is worth. Buy sim free and you get the phone itself more cheaply.

Choice

If you choose to go sim free, sometimes called "unlocked" you get the choice of whatever network provider you like. If you buy a phone through a provider, whether via a contract or pay-as-you-go, you are going to be restricted to using that network, unless you go through the awkward process of transferring it to another network yourself. Although they shouldn't, networks often give better deals to new customers to try and tempt people away from their contracted provider. If you go sim free, you're free to snap up these deals.

Charges for Roaming

We have all enjoyed the giddy thrill of landing in our holiday destination and discovering the exotic new network provider we have temporarily been placed with. However, despite the fact that new laws mean charges are more limited than they used to be, you can get a better deal locally and with an unlocked mobile phone you can buy a local sim card to use. If you are spending a lot of time abroad this is a good option.

Convenience

There's little argument to the statement that contract phones are more convenient. Rather than having to sort everything out separately and pay out one big lump sum, you have fixed outgoings for a certain amount of time. If you buy a handset from an unlocked phone provider, bar the initial service, there may not be as much customer support. Insurance is usually offered with contract phones, which means that you don't have to fork out all over again should you lose the handset or wait a long time for it to be delivered.

Those are the initial factors to consider when choosing a phone. Consider what disposable cash you

have straight away along with how important convenience & speed is to you. Then get focused on picking out a handset youâ€™ll love.

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Article by Adam Cross on behalf of Unlocked Mobiles.com â€™[Sim free mobile phones](#).

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