

Wi-Fi on the go

Here are some great tips for connecting to Wi-Fi when away from home.

Home Wi-Fi v public Wi-Fi

Your home Wi-Fi network is only for use in and around your home. If you go to the local shops, for example, you won't be able to stay connected to it.

- The good news is that there is usually free public Wi-Fi in shopping centres, libraries, cafes and government buildings.
- Look for signs that say **Free Wi-Fi** or **Public Wi-Fi Hotspot**.
- Most public Wi-Fi is not very fast, but it should be okay for viewing web pages and maps, but not for watching videos.



Most libraries, cafes and government buildings offer free public Wi-Fi

Why would I want Wi-Fi on the go?

There are a few reasons why you might want to use public Wi-Fi.

- If you use your mobile phone when you are out and about, you are using up your expensive mobile data allowance. But, if you connect to free Wi-Fi when you are shopping, you can save your mobile data allowance and save your money.
- Or, if your favourite cafe offers free Wi-Fi, you could take your laptop or tablet and read the news or some of your favourite websites while you enjoy a cup of coffee.
- Do remember though, there are some precautions to take when using public Wi-Fi. See the **How can I stay safe?** tips below for staying safe online.



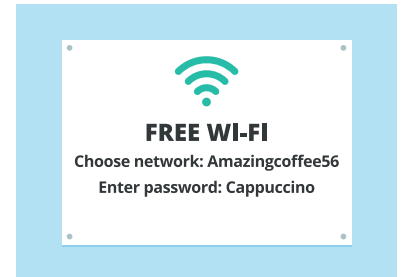
Connect to free Wi-Fi when shopping to save on your mobile data allowance

Wi-Fi on the go

How do I connect to public Wi-Fi?

Connecting to a public Wi-Fi network is similar to connecting to your home Wi-Fi network.

1. Look for a sign saying something like **Free Wi-Fi** or **Free Hot-Spot** – they are often displayed on large billboards in shopping centres.
2. If you're not sure, ask at the counter or concierge desk.
3. Many places have a **How to Connect** card available. It will be at the counter or on the tables in cafes.
4. The card will give step-by-step instructions for connecting. If the card is missing or the instructions are unclear, ask at the counter.
5. With the instructions to hand, open up the **Wi-Fi Settings** of your device.
6. Find the name of the venue's Wi-Fi network and click or tap on it.
7. Enter the password if asked.
8. Many locations will open up a web page giving information on the venue or rules about the use of the connection. This page only appears when you connect to that network.
9. Check the terms and conditions. They may say that you're giving permission to receive advertisements.
10. Sometimes this page, if it appears, will ask for the password. Enter it if asked and press the page's **Connect** button.



Look for Free Wi-Fi or Free Hot-Spot signs in public areas



**Home
Wi-Fi**



**Public
Wi-Fi**

Remember that free public Wi-Fi is not as secure as your home Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi on the go

How can I stay safe using public Wi-Fi?

It's important to be careful using public Wi-Fi. Here are some tips.

- Public Wi-Fi networks are usually less secure than your own private home Wi-Fi network.
- But some are more secure than others. There are two main types of public Wi-Fi networks.
- **Open Wi-Fi** networks don't use a password. They are commonly offered in shopping centres and transport centres.
- **Semi-open** Wi-Fi networks ask for a password when you select them the first time. They ask straight away, not later on a web page. They are commonly offered in smaller venues, such as cafes and libraries.
- **Semi-open** Wi-Fi networks are safer than **open** Wi-Fi networks. However, neither is as safe as your home Wi-Fi network.
- Semi-open and open networks are safe for checking normal websites, listening to internet radio, reading the news, looking up recipes and so on.
- Neither semi-open nor open is safe for logging into any personal account you have on the internet – especially not your bank account.
- You should never enter any information from your credit card when using a public network. Never fill in any form that asks for any personal information either.
- Prefer websites that display **https://** on the address bar and show a padlock. Those sites offer greater security.
- If you think something unusual is going on, switch off Wi-Fi in your device, or switch off the device completely.

The infographic is a vertical rectangle with a thin black border. It is divided into two main sections. The top section has a dark teal header with the word 'SAFE' in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below the header, on a white background, are three bullet points: 'Checking the weather' (with sub-bullet 'Reading the news'), 'Listening to internet radio' (with sub-bullet 'Watching TV'), and 'Looking up recipes'. The bottom section has a red header with the word 'UNSAFE' in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below the header, on a white background, are four bullet points: 'Logging in to your bank' (with sub-bullet 'Paying a bill online'), 'Typing in the three numbers on the back of your credit card' (with sub-bullet 'Logging on to a government services site'), and 'Filling in a form that asks for personal information'.

Safe and unsafe things to do on public Wi-Fi