

How to

# Film on your phone like a pro

*alive*



# Filming on your phone like a pro

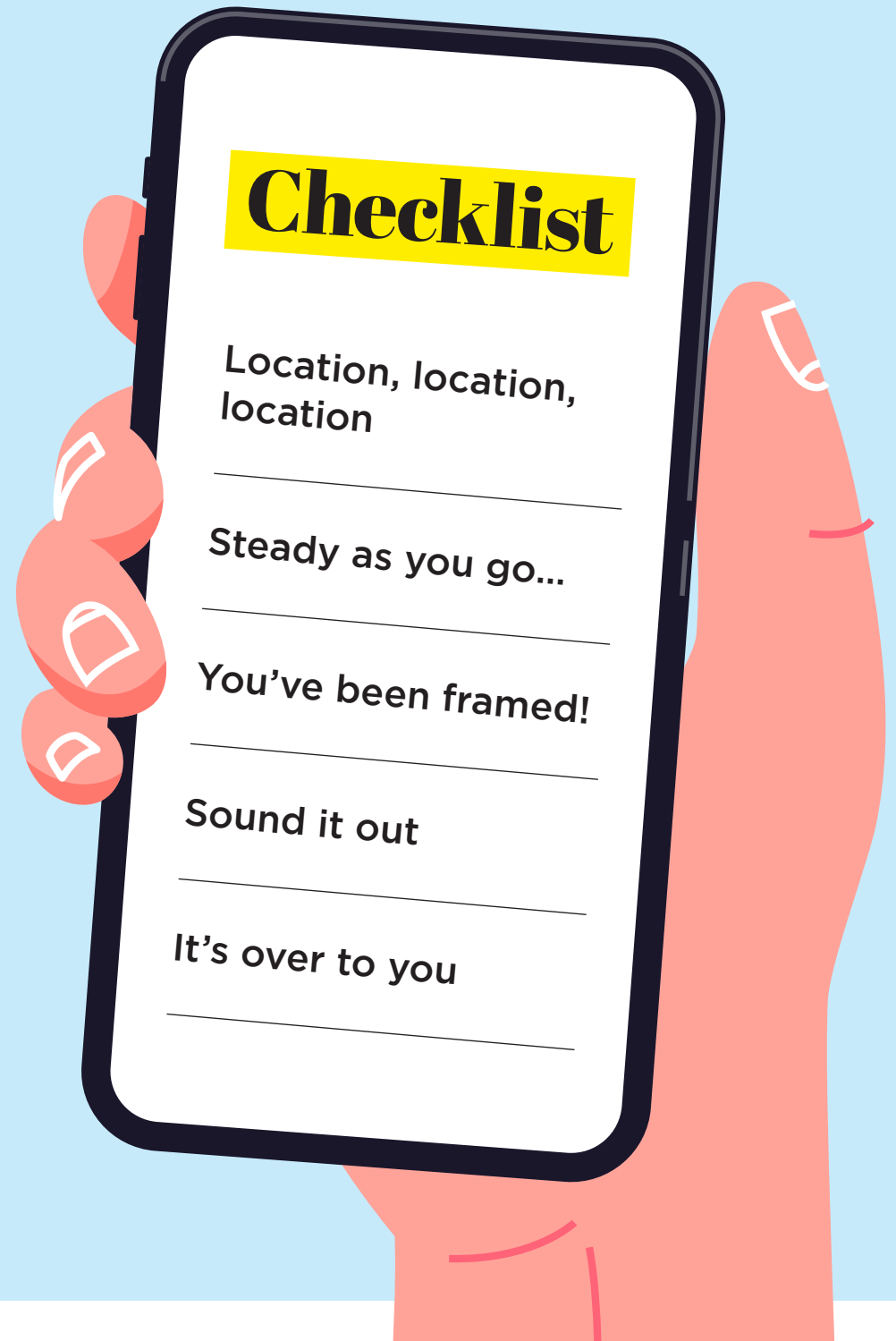
So, you're making a video using your phone. But you want it to look half decent to avoid embarrassment and retain a certain level of professionalism.

Well, the good news is, it's possible. Filmmakers sometimes make news, documentaries and even feature films using their phones.

It's all in the technique. Yes, it helps to have a smartphone with an amazing camera. But, as they say, what matters is how you use it.

By following our advice, you can shoot footage that looks and sounds fantastic. Before you know it, you'll have created a masterpiece!

(We've focused on filming yourself, but the principles apply to filming other people too - because it's not always about you! And most tips are relevant if you're using a laptop or tablet.)



# TOP TIP #1

## Location location location

### Give me space

Nobody wants to look at your clutter. Create a clear space with a plain background. It might be as simple as taking a picture off a hook, tidying away a clothes airer or shifting your school trophies (no matter how proud you are of them).

### Are you hearing voices?

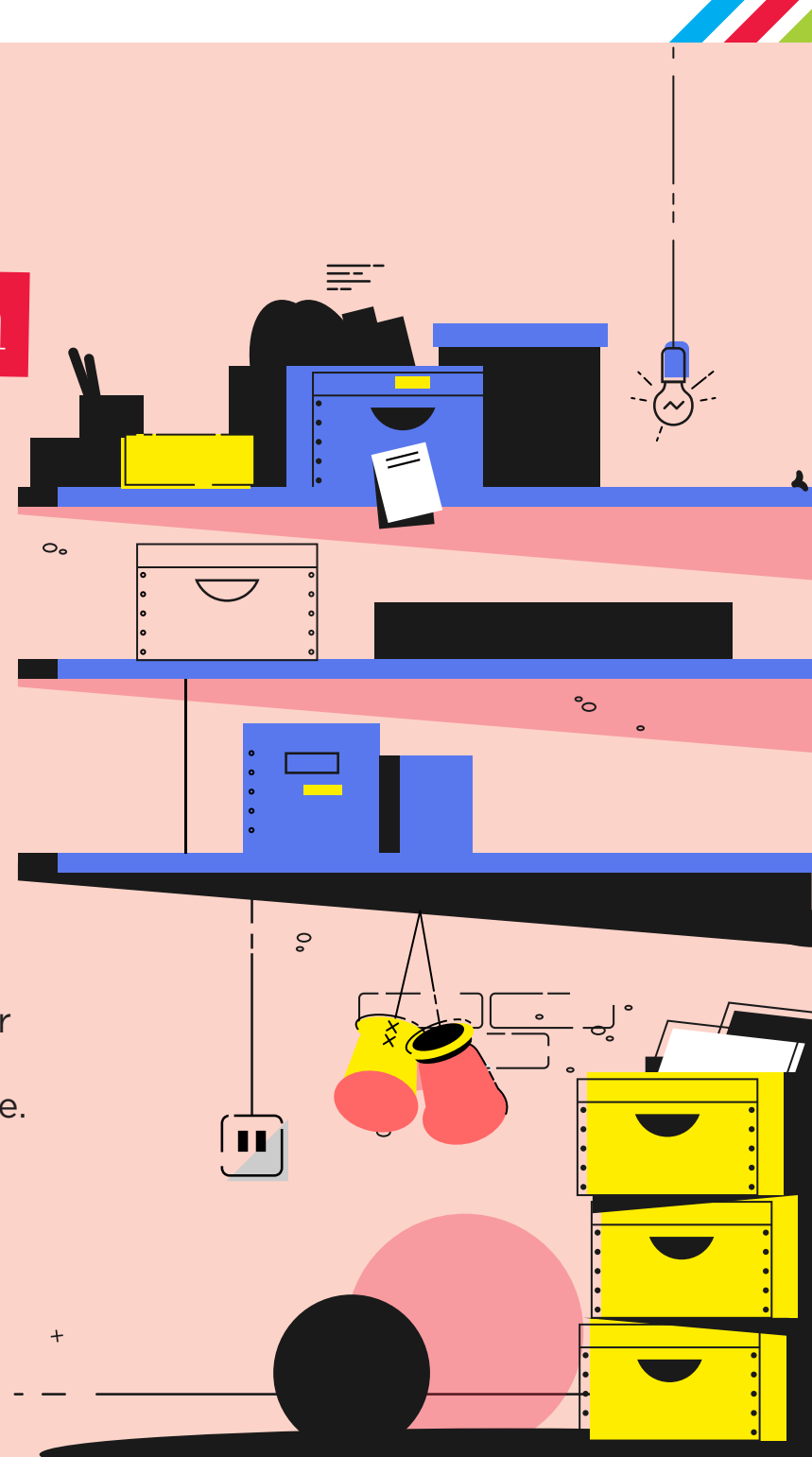
Well, as long as it's just your voice, you have nothing to fear. Make sure the location isn't echoey and there are no distracting noises, like loud traffic, a busy park or your neighbour's 'adorable' new puppy.

### Look into the light!

A video filmed in a bright area whilst you face the light will look far better (and infinitely more flattering!) Adjust your position to be sure there are no ghoulish shadows or shiny highlights on your face.

### Do not disturb

Stick a sign on the door to prevent any unwanted interruptions. We've all seen footage of kids interrupting parents live on TV. But it's far more amusing when it happens to someone else!



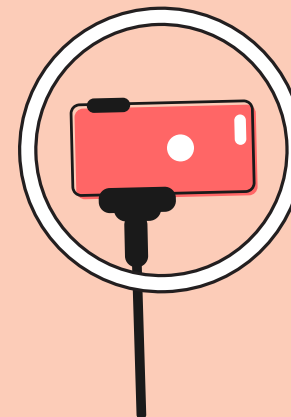
# TOP TIP #2



## Steady as you go...

You can stand your phone on a tripod or use a gimbal (a type of support) to keep it steady and level.

But if you don't have one, get creative. There are tonnes of ways to do this, like making a stand from building blocks, using sticky-tack, moulding a stand with plasticine or using the trusty gaffer tape.



### Think like a pro!

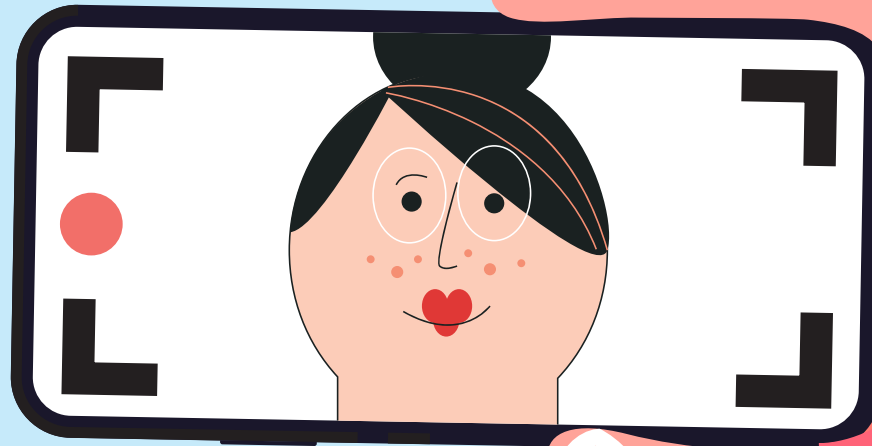
Invest in a 'ring light' that holds your phone steady whilst lighting your face evenly. That way, you'll always be ready for your close-up. And these days, they're as cheap as chips.

# TOP TIP #3

## You've been framed!

Good framing can be the difference between a professional-looking film, and one that looks like a toddler hijacked your phone.

- 1 Film horizontally (the phone, not you!). The video can then be used across various platforms.
- 2 Try and shoot quite close, from the chest up. But make sure your head isn't cropped at the top (even if you're having a bad hair day).
- 3 If you're editing several shots together, make sure the framing is consistent so you don't send your audience dizzy. Adding gridlines to your phone's camera is the easiest way. (Find this either in settings or the camera app itself.)
- 4 Position your phone at eye-level. A face-on shot looks much better than one pointing up your nose or focusing on a bald spot. Stand the phone on a pile of books or a box, raise or lower your seat - whatever works for you.



# TOP TIP #4

## Sound it out

Sound is incredibly important. It can transform an amateur home movie into a slick flick.

First, think about any unwanted background noise. Keep the windows closed, turn the washing machine off and tell the dog/kids to pipe down (we find bribery in food form works a treat).

Then use headphones that have a built-in microphone to capture the audio. This will cut down on background noise, focusing only on your dulcet tones.



# TOP TIP #5



## And finally...

You're almost ready to go. But before you begin, here are a few tips which may seem obvious, but are easily overlooked.

- Start with a full battery. Filming and storing video drains power.
- Check your storage space. It might be time to delete some of your old apps and dodgy holiday snaps.
- Switch your phone to airplane mode. This will silence off-putting calls and alerts.
- Film a test run. Practicing will get you into the groove, so you appear more relaxed on film.
- Watch the test run! This way, you can make any adjustments before your big debut - and check for anything noisy or unsightly (toothpaste on your chin anyone?)

# It's over to you!

**But never fear, we're always here if you need a little extra help.**

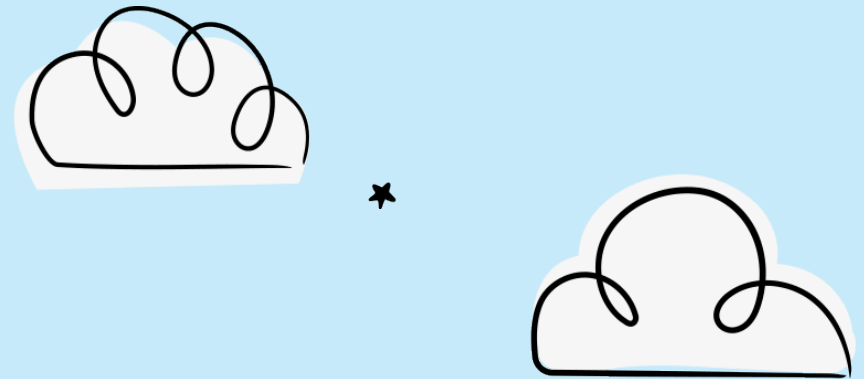
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