

Which Plan Should You Get?

Comparing cell phones and carrier plans is getting more and more complex






It used to be that you could get a new phone free as long as you agreed to a 2-year contract with a carrier.

Then you could get a new phone for \$200 if you again signed a 2-year contract with a carrier.

Now you can get a new phone if you pay \$200 and trade in your previous newish phone (in good working order) for the upgrade and agree to a 2-year contract with the carrier.

I found this so confusing and I didn't know which deal was the best. I know that I want the iPhone 7 to be my phone and I want unlimited data so that I don't have to worry about using my phone for everything.

Here's what I've found: Note: I have included options for buying the phone up front, paying for the cost of the phone per month overtime, or signing a 2-year contract. As the customer you choose one of those options.

	 Unlimited freedom plan			 Uses Sprint network		 Uses Sprint network		 No annual contract		 No annual contract	
Phone	\$649.99 Upfront	\$27.09 per month for 18 months	\$199.99 with 2-year contract	\$649.99 Upfront	\$27.09 per month for 24 months	\$549.99 Upfront	Per month not offered	\$649.99 Upfront	\$10 Per month for \$24/month	\$650 Upfront	\$25 Per month for \$24/months
			+ SIM Starter Kit = \$20.00 once			+ \$35 first month		+ \$10 activation fee once		+ Initial phone payment of \$50.00, once.	
Data	Unlimited			Unlimited		Unlimited		Unlimited		Unlimited	
Voice	Unlimited			Unlimited		Unlimited		Unlimited		Unlimited	
Cost	\$60/month			\$70/month		\$50/month		\$80/month		\$80/month	

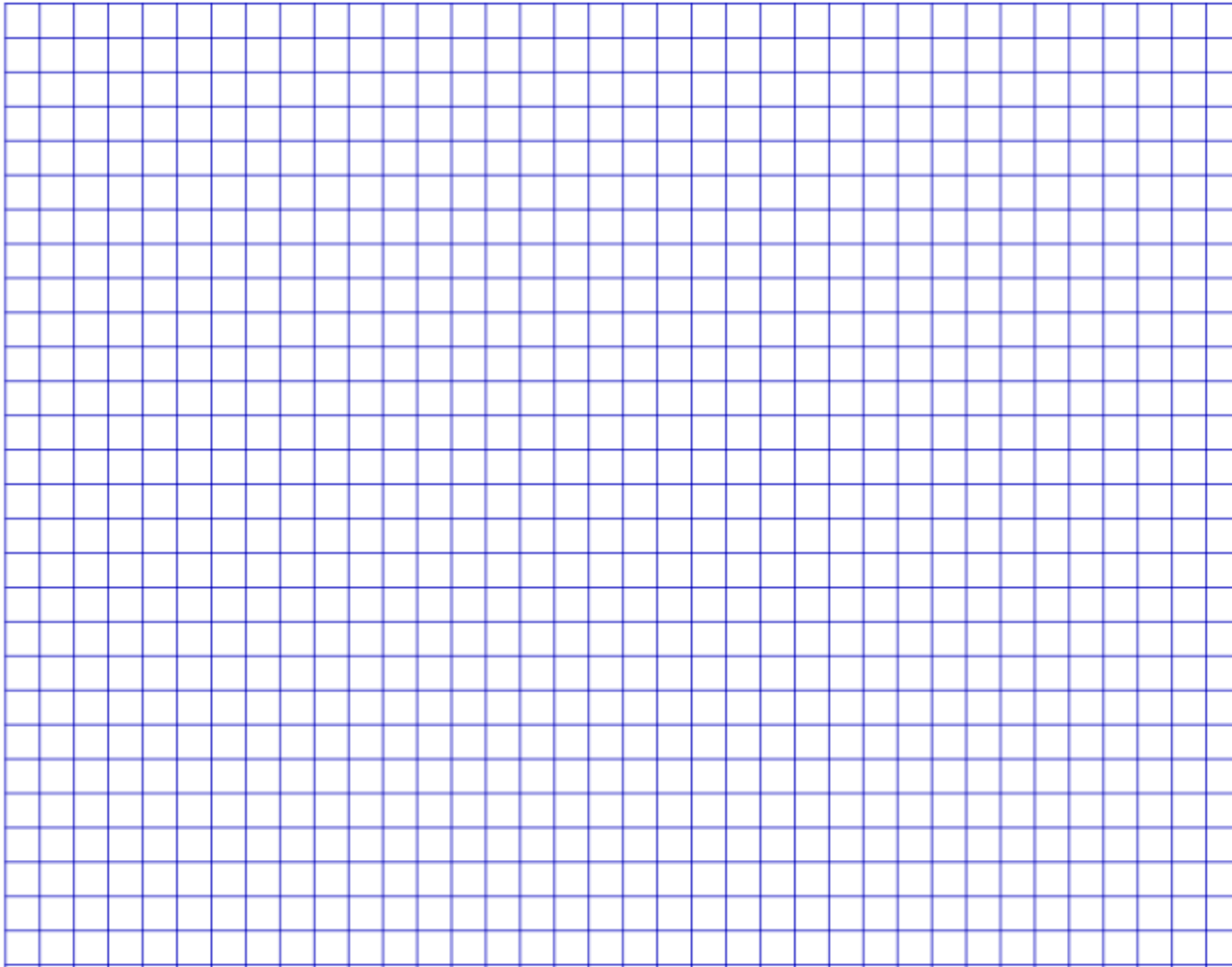
1. Pick a plan for your iPhone 7. Find your cost for the phone and service over time. Be sure to find the cost for the first several months, as well as after one, two and three years. You might find it useful to organize the costs over time in the table below (we have started it for you).

Months	0	1	2											
Cost														

2. What math did you do to find your total cost after 12, 24 and 36 months? What math are you doing over and over again regardless of the number of months?

3. Write a rule that gives your cost for the phone and service after any number of months. Be sure to describe what each variable or number in your equation represents in this context.

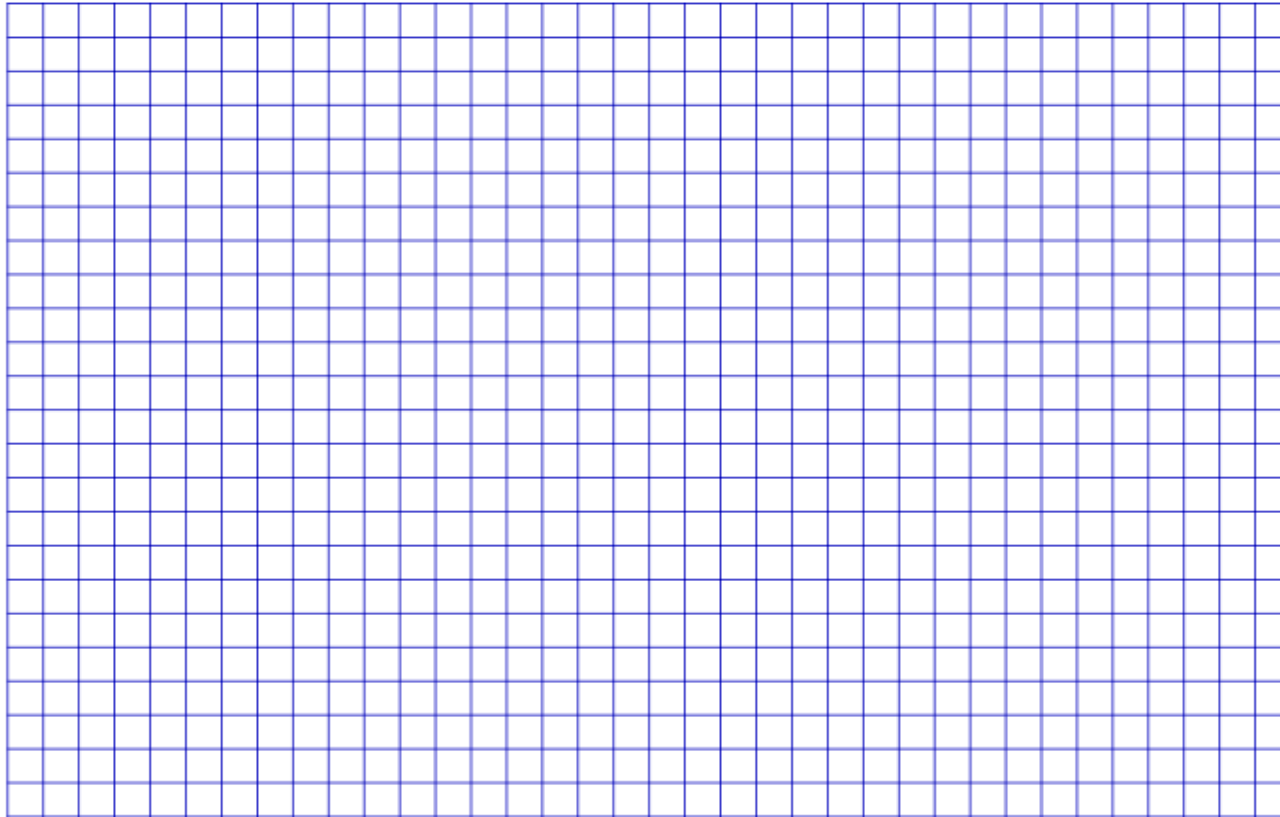
4. Graph the cost of your phone over three years. Consider which variable belongs on which axis and how to set up the scales for each axis.



5. Where do you see the monthly rate of your cell phone plan in your graph? Where do you see the cost of your phone?

If you are trying to decide between Boost as your cell phone provider (where you pay upfront for the phone - at a little lower than usual price), or a Verizon plan where you pay for your phone in 24 \$10 dollar installments, which should you choose?

6. Compare the Boost phone plan and the Verizon monthly pay plan by graphing each on the grid below. Over time which is a better deal? Should you pay full price for the phone at the beginning (with Boost) or just pay monthly for the phone with Verizon? For what number of months is paying for the phone at the beginning a better deal than paying monthly for the phone?



7. Which plan do you think is the best deal? What other factor are involved in determining the best deal and which carrier to use?

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