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Best animation creator app for android

Animator Alan Becker imagines what happens when apps on an iPad come to life, in this animation created exclusively forAnimator Alan Becker imagining what happens when apps on an iPad come to life, in this animation created exclusively for Reader's Digest's December 2011/January 2012 iPad edition. Download the Reader's Digest iPad app for a free preview problem. Plus: See more of Alan Becker's animation work here. Originally published: October 29, 2011Originally Released in Reader's Digest Source: Marco Miranda Our phones are pocket-sized supercomputers with professional quality cameras and battery for days, but without the best Android apps to take advantage of it, what would be the point? There are millions and millions of Android apps that transform our phones from shiny glass plates to productivity powerhouses, and over the past year it's the apps that have gripped the day and made our lives easier, faster and better. So now that you have one of the best Android phones of the year, be sure to download all the best Android apps. Source: Nick Sutrich/Android Central Who needs a personal assistant when you have services like Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa available wherever you go? These types of apps aim to help alleviate the stresses and pressures of your daily life to make things easier. From automation to smart home products and everything in between, these apps let you get the job done with a little help. From Assistant Routines in Google Watch to the large expansion of Assistant-compatible smart home devices, to visual response overhauls, it's been a busy year for Google Assistant. It feels like a century ago when Android Auto added Google Assistant, but that simple addition made millions of drivers safer, especially during these long, frustrating holiday drives. Free on Google Play Tasker stagnated slightly in previous years, but since new owner João Dias - maker of autoapps plugin suite and Tasker's most ardent fan - took over, the automation app has seen a UI overhaul and major updates. With TaskerNet and improved export/import, it's never been easier to share, tweak, and create amazing profiles and tasks for Android (and beyond). $3.49 on Google Play Amazon is no longer the top place to go to your very online shopping needs, as the company continues to expand its grip on the world. With Alexa, you get a personal assistant in your pocket, along with integration with Echo devices and the ability to stay connected wherever you are. You can even make calls or send messages to other Alexa-enabled devices without paying a dime. Free on Google Play Have you ever wanted to know what type of flower you see while you're hiking? Well, with Google Lens you can find out quickly just by holding your camera up to the flower. Lens will even translate foreign languages or save contact faster than ever before. Free at Google Play IFTTT allows you to create different automations between apps and that are not already available. With more than 630 different integrations, you can create your own recipe and get a warning when this item on your Amazon wish list finally goes on sale, for example. If you don't want to create your own, there is a community and library of different recipes to choose from and create. Free on Google Play Whether you need to control your lights, smart plugs, thermostats, or assistant speakers/screens from the heat of the bed or the far corners of the globe, the new Home View in the Google Home app makes it easy. Being able to add home members to use what you've already created is a big step forward to making smart homes more accessible to all skill levels. Free on Google Play The Best Keyboard Apps Source: Android Central Keyboard on your smartphone is one of the most used apps daily. It's the first thing to show up when your friend sends you a message, if you need to reply to an email, or if you just need to get your thoughts out. But the great thing is that there is a keyboard app that works for everyone, no matter what something basic, or if you want to go to the extremes of customization. Gboard's keyboard continues to dominate the market with an ever-growing array of features on Android, iOS and soon on Chromebooks. Some of this year's additions, which include options like making your emoji pack or gifs, may seem trivial, but Gboard has also added support for dozens of new languages, as well as the latest fluent keyboard mode that makes filling out forms a breeze. Free on Google Play Instead of dealing with the basic stock themes on the keyboard, Chrooma gives you a keyboard with so many customization options that your head will spin. This is in addition to featuring smart AI to provide much better contextual predictions in relation to the competition. You also get the added benefits of the movements you already know and love. Free w/IAP on Google Play SwiftKey is creeping on the four million download mile marker and with good reason; This custom keyboard gives you complete control. The app itself has more than 100 different themes, and you can even create your own theme with a photo you've taken or downloaded as a background. SwiftKey also supports more than 300 languages, and you can enable up to five different languages at once. Free in Google Play Many keyboard apps just focus on whether your spelling is wrong. Grammar takes things to the next level with smart predictions, and even the ability to choose from synonyms if you want to sound fancy. Not only can you expand your vocabulary, but your writing will sound professional. Free w/IAP on Google Play The best browsers Source: Android Central While the Google app makes it easy to quickly search for something, your mobile browser handles much of the heavy lifting. Some of these mobile browsers have become so effective that you can install while others provide the most private browsing experience browsing experience And hey, one of our picks even allows its users to make some dough while surfing. While ads help keep the lights on for some, they can be a real nuisance when you're just trying to check out the latest article. With a browser like Brave, you are guaranteed to get the best Adblock browser while getting a fast and secure browsing experience. There is also the added benefit of Brave paying you to surf the web at your pace and how you want. Free w/ads on Google Play Samsung's browser finally made its Play Store debut a few years back and are far more robust than almost anything else you'll find. In addition to built-in privacy features, Samsung also allows you to download third-party applications that act as extensions. And if you already have a Samsung device and use this browser, you'll get even more features that aren't available anywhere else, such as integration with the Gear VR and more. Free on Google Play Google Chrome is the de-facto choice for many and for good reason: it just simply works. Google has worked tirelessly to bring new features to the app along with a fresh and sharp design. When you use Chrome, you get almost all the same features as the app on your computer, including sync features, so you can start reading something on your phone and pick it up on your PC. Free on Google Play Firefox is already a fan favorite for desktop browsing, so why not check out its mobile browser? There's built-in ad tracker blocking, enhanced privacy controls, and extensions that give you all the tools you need. Free on Google Play The Best VPN Apps Source: Harish Jonnalagadda/Android Central Virtual Private Networks (VPN) are used for a variety of reasons, including allowing you to hide your online identity. Another popular use for a VPN is to stream some TV shows while traveling abroad. These apps are all free, but there are subscriptions to consider if you want to safely browse everywhere. With over 3,000 different servers in more than 90 countries, it's easy to understand why ExpressVPN provides a great experience. It's easy to get started, and then all your web browsing is encrypted and you can surf safely. Once you've signed up for the service, there's no limit to the number of devices that can be connected, and it will even protect your text and instant messages. Free w/IAP on Google Play NordVPN is one of the best in the business because of the way that it handles your data. The data passes through the original server, and then send the same encrypted data to another server for an extra layer of protection. In addition, there are more than 5,500 servers spread across more than 50 countries. Free w/ IAP on Google Play Surfshark excels with speed and because it can be used with an unlimited number of servers at the same time. It will be to almost everything you want to do with your devices, but you won't be able to use Surfshark with streaming apps as it is located outside the U.S. Free w/// On Google Play With IPVanish, you will be provided with a secure environment to surf the web, watch videos, and manage your bills. The service allows access to move over 1,400 different servers across 75 countries, along with 24/7 support. In case you don't want to stick with this service, you have 30 days to change your mind. Free on Google Play The Best File Management Apps Source: Andrew Myrick/Android Central Although many of us have changed the way we use our phones, there's one thing that will never change – we download a lot of things. I'm talking not only about programs, but also music files, documents, PDFs or even new backgrounds. It's important to keep your files organized so you know where everything is, or get rid of these outdated memes. If you tend to download a boatload of files to your smartphone, you need simple File Manager Pro to keep them organized. This app offers an intuitive experience to access your root files while providing access to microSD cards or USB devices. Plus, there are plenty of customization options to create a theme that suits your wishes. $1.19 on Google Play Some want a simplistic file manager, but for those who want something a little more complex, the X-Plore File Manager is perfect. This app has an old-school Windows look and feel while giving you all the features you could want. You can even set the app to access and manage the files on your Android phone from your computer's web browser. Free w/IAP on Google Play Files by Google started as an experimental app, but it has become an easy way to keep your storage space from being filled up. With features like Smart Recommendations, files will suggest junk files that you can download and get rid of with ease. Free on Google Play Astro has been available on the Play Store for more than 10 years and it continues to be one of the best file management options. The app makes it easy to access your files, along with opening the annoying Zip and RAR files, right from your smartphone. In addition, you can manage your cloud storage services directly from Astro, making it an all-in-one storage option. Free on Google Play The Best Social Media Apps Source: Android Central Social Media is a fickle sister. It can be a great source of news and information and an easy way to stay in touch with your friends, but it's also frustrating when the latest trends and memes clog your timelines. Fortunately, there are many different platforms to share your voice with like-minded people or create a great community. I've been a third-party Reddit lurker for years, but this year the official Reddit app breezed past Relay, Boost, and the rest for the top app option. Reddit's new website look has been a source of a lot of little debate, but I've rather enjoyed both the new website looking at the continued improvements on the Android app. Now if /r/Writing Prompts don't suck up all my dinner breaks... Free on Google Play Instagram's popularity continues to rise it seems that there is simply nothing that any competitors can do to stop it. This app is one of the best and easiest ways to share your favorite photos, whether you're tracking your life or just like editing goofy photos. Plus, you get features like IGTV from some of your favorite creators, and the app makes it easy to find even more people/brands to follow. Free on Google Play Let's face it. There are a lot of Twitter apps on the Play Store, and while many of them are pretty good, none of them compete with Fenix 2. From multiple account support to a super-useful mute system, Fenix 2 aims to be the best Twitter client available. It doesn't even count the customization options that allow you to adjust your layout while allowing you to create a theme that makes Twitter more fun to use. $4.99 on Google Play Almost everyone you know is on Snapchat and for good reason as it makes sharing your life easier than before. You get private messages, free cloud storage, and a lot of different ways to make your photos and videos perfect. Free w/ Ads on Google Play The Best Photography Apps Source: Andrew Martonik/Android Central After years of potato shots from mobile devices, we're finally at a point where our smartphones can take better photos than some DSLR cameras. Play Store opens the door for many different apps to take, edit and store these photos, which in some respects act as a digital memory bank. ProCam X unlocks the potential for what your smartphone camera is capable of, which is quite a lot today. The app allows you to control different aspects of your image by providing professional controls like ISO, white balance, and even geo-tagging. With this app, you can even take RAW images, which open up even better image editing after the fact. $5 in Google Play Once you've taken a photo, you're likely to edit it. With Adobe Lightroom, you can make easy edits or make things tick and edit like a professional directly from your smartphone. Adobe even has a built-in pro-level camera, so Lightroom becomes your all-in-one solution for your mobile photography needs. Free w/IAP on Google Play For those who care more about backing up their photos and less about pro-level editing, so the only real choice is Google Photos. The app itself provides users with some basic photo editing features, while occasionally giving you stylized images with how Google thinks your image should look. In addition, you get Smart Auto albums, photo books and can create shared albums in seconds. Free on Google Play Our smartphone cameras are more powerful today than ever before and we're not just talking about taking photos. With an app like FiLMiC Pro, you can take videos at a professional level and take full control of the editing process. Them already familiar with recording video on a DSLR will feel at home, without having to lug around the camera bag. $15 at Google Play The Customization Apps Source: Joe Maring/Android Central The biggest advantage of Android, compared to competitors, is the ability to customize almost every aesthetic aspect of your device. From the widgets you use to the way your app's drawer looks, and even the settings menu, there's a way to customize everything. These are the best apps that you can use to get the exact look you want on your smartphone. If at the beginning of the year you told me that the launcher I would use the most was the Smart Launcher, I would have laughed in your face. So Smart Launcher 5 arrived and I fell in love. The flexibly categorized app drawer is better than ever, and with the integration of Icon Pack Studio and a gridless widget system, the SL5 makes building and switching themes a breeze. Free w/IAP on Google Play Lawnchair 2 gives you that Pixel Launcher feeling, with all the customizations that you would find in other third-party launchers. There is support for Adaptive Icons, along with new Drawer Category features, and more. You can use Lawnchair to create the most complex or basic launcher on your mobile device. Free on Google Play Big Brother for Kustom Widget maker KWGT, Kustom Live Wallpaper's one-stop theme has grown on me significantly this year. While SL5's gridless widgets are nice, nothing beats the locate, edge-to-edge widget and item location in KLWP. The formulas and menus can be daunting, but KLWP's robust community, especially on Reddit, helps make any theme possible. Free/$4.49 on Google Play It can be frustrating when you've found an icon package that you love, but there are a few apps that aren't included. Sure, you can submit a request to the developer and wait for the update to come, but there is a better solution. With Icon Pack Studio, you can create your own icon pack while customizing all icons to your liking, and it will work with almost any third-party starter. Free or $4.49 (Pro) on Google Play Changing wallpapers has been fun as long as we've been able to do that, and Wallpaper has been right there with us for quite some time. With Wallpaper, you can either select a wallpaper on your own or set the app to automatically generate a new one for you every hour or once a day. In addition, the app automatically detects the resolution of your smartphone so that the wallpaper looks sharp and doesn't spot your home screen. Free w/IAP on Google Play Some of us don't have time or want to dive through the thousands of icon packages but just want something that looks good. Whicons aren't flashy (on the surface), but doing the job gives you a nice icon pack for your Android phone. There are more than 5,500 custom icons, along with included backgrounds to match, and support for Dynamic Calendar Icon to show your calendar the right date. Free w/IAP on Google Play Source: Ara Wagoner/Android Central In addition to customizing your phone to your heart's content, you can take advantage of to quickly digest digest bits of information. Whether you just want to see what the weather forecast looks like or you need to see what's on the agenda for today, there's a widget for everything. So other apps allow you to create your very own widget with a piece of information you can think of. The Best Password Managers Source: Joe Maring/Android Central Absolute, positively, under no circumstances should you have a note on your smartphone with passwords listed. Hackers are better than ever today, and your personal information may be revealed more easily than you think. However, if you have a password manager, these passwords can be analyzed and then you will be informed whether the password has been compromised. Then, the app can help create a secure and almost unbreakable password so your information doesn't fall into the wrong hands. 1Password hasn't always been the best option on the Play Store, but recent updates have upped the ante and pushed it to the top of the charts. The service gives you a short trial before you need to sign up for a subscription. And your vaults will remain protected while allowing you to keep important personal information safe but at the ready. Free w/IAP on Google Play LastPass does a great job of keeping all your passwords safe even if you want to stick to a free account. Then there are premium options for either a single user or you can have your whole family protected with a specific plan. The service even offers Security Challenges, which helps keep your passwords up to date and secure and out of the hands of the crooks. Free w/IAP on Google Play When it comes to Dashlane, you get access to up to 50 passwords stored on a single device with the free version, but Premium gives you even more. The Premium subscription gives users access to a personal VPN along with credit monitoring and identity theft protection. This is all in addition to being a great place to keep your passwords secure and make it easy to update them. Free w/ IAP on Google Play Stop using the same password every time you create a new login on the web. Enpass is a simple password manager that works whether you are connected to the Internet or not, as the data is stored on your device and not on the company's servers. But you can easily sync all your passwords across your devices using popular cloud services like Dropbox, Google Drive, and more. Free w/IAP on Google Play The Best Messaging Apps Source: Android Central Let's Be Real, messaging is the primary way that almost everyone communicates. Thanks to the various apps and services, it's much easier to shoot your mom a text message than to call her and sit on the phone for an hour or more. Not everything requires a phone conversation, and these messaging apps open the doors for easier communication with friends, family, colleagues and others. Dark theme! Messages to the Internet! has been a big year for Google's SMS app, SMS app, while I still miss Mood Messenger and Textra's themes, on the only third-party SMS app that can compete with Messages for the web is Pulse's paid SMS sync service, which is compatible with multiple platforms and browsers. Messages' theme may be missing, but the dark theme is a welcome addition. Free on Google Play Android Central has slacked for years because Slack is one of the best chat apps on the market today, for either business or personal purposes. Threads allow us to enter minutiae without spamming the main chat, and anyone can upload custom slackmoji for extra flair. All it needs now is a dark theme so I don't blind my bosses when I ping them at 2 a.m. Free on Google Play SMS Organizer started as a fun project from the Microsoft Garage team, but has turned into one of the smartest apps you can download. While you can still send SMS and MULTIMEDIA messages, SMS Organizer generates automatic reminders from your conversations and even makes it easy to pay your friend back to dinner directly from the app. You can even easily block spam messages, along with customizing messages and setting specific ringtones for your contacts. Free on Google Play Telegram was already one of the fastest and most popular third-party messaging clients available, but Telegram X turns things up a notch. With the X version of the app, interacting with the app is even faster, and there are even more features along with an improved interface and a host of gestures to use. Free on Google Play Discord is designed with gamers at heart, but more and more are switching to the messaging platform thanks to its integrations and ease of use. You can quickly build a community of users with easy community management, while setting up member roles and inviting links. Free in Google Play If end-to-end encryption is the name of the game, then Signal Private Messenger is the best choice. This service guarantees that every message you send is secure, and you can even set the app to function as the default SMS client on your Android device. You can even make audio and video calls that are guaranteed to remain private no matter what. Free on Google Play The Best Weather Apps Source: Harish Jonnalagadda/Android Central No one wants to get caught in a rainstorm at the wrong time and it's important to know if you'll need your coat or if it's shorts and sandals time. There are so many weather applications in the Play Store that it is quite difficult to find the diamond in rough. Fortunately, there are a few apps that stand alone from the package while offering something unique. AccuWeather is an easy proposition for a great weather app thanks to its MinuteCast functionality. This gives you the most up-to-date weather warnings so you know if there's a surprise storm that you don't need to get caught up in. Plus, the app includes a live radar in your area that shows you where the nearest storm system so you can get prepared. Free w / IAP at Google Play Play can be annoying, so it's important to have an app that makes the weather forecast manageable. Today Weather excels in this regard with its beautifully designed application and access to various bits of information you could want. Plus, it can be customized so you can either see or hide what you want to know and what you don't. Free w/IAP on Google Play Instead of relying on an app to tell you when bad weather could be coming your way, why not see it for yourself? RadarScope gives you a radar view of what's going on around you, with up-to-the-minute updates along potential storm warnings from the National Weather Service. Free w/IAP on Google Play Yahoo Weather has come a long way over the years and now sports a beautiful design that shows you all the information you need. You can keep track of up to 20 cities at the same time, or play with the interactive maps to see where the storm system is expected to pass through. Free w/ Ads on Google Play The Best News Apps Source: Andrew Myrick/Android Central World is moving at a faster pace than ever and you don't want to miss that relevant news being talked about around the office. There are news apps from dedicated sources, but having an aggregator analyzes the non-essential news from the essentials. You can use an app that lets you gather the news you love from trusted sources in a clean layout. It's important to have a news app to bring together what's important to you while getting an idea of what's going on in the rest of the world. Google News does this with quick access to the top five daily headlines and the For You tab, so you can read the news you love. Google has even included a Full Coverage feature, which compiles a list of sources and more for great stories. Free w/ads on Google Play Feedly are for those who want to have a news app that is tailored to their interests in the world. The app makes it easy to organize your favorite sources with the power of RSS while integrating with other apps like IFTTT and Zapier. The Find section lets you browse different news categories to learn about different topics you wouldn't normally see. Free w/IAP on Google Play If you want to keep track of what's going on in your area, and not necessarily the rest of the world, then SmartNews is perfect. The app provides a section that shows your local news while giving you the necessary notifications and even a widget you can throw on your home screen. In addition, you get access to some of the best news sources in one place for quick access. Free w/ads on Google Play It can be difficult to choose through overwhelming news headlines from different sources. So why not use an app like Inoreader to pay only attention to the sources you know and trust? This RSS reader allows you to curate a personalized newsfeed so you only the news you care about. Free on Google Play The best reading Apps Source: Andrew Myrick/Android Android There's something special about holding a physical book in your hand and turning the pages while diving deeper and deeper into a story. But in this day and age, you can have a whole library of books stored directly on your phone. Whether you want to read a book during your lunch break or follow a cartoon, these apps make it easy. Amazon's Kindle app is simply great for giving users access to a library of books, magazines and more in their pockets. If you subscribe to Amazon Prime, the company gives members access to over 1,000 different titles for free. If you don't have time to read, there's built-in Audible narration for many books. Free w/ ads on Google Play Don't you have time to sit and read? Let Audible read you these audiobooks. The app provides recommendations based on your library and preferences, while keeping your first audiobook free after signing up. Audible is even allowing users to earn $20 in Amazon credit if they have completed three titles by March 3. What more could you want? Free on Google Play It's fine and dandy to read comics in boring ebook readers, but Comixology gives you all the comics you could want in a clean interface. There are over 100,000 comics, graphic novels and manga to choose from, and you can buy them right in the app. Now you can start catching up with your favorite comics on the go. Free on Google Play While some e-book readers only allow you to read books purchased directly through their app or in only one format, Moon+ Reader is much more open. The app supports more than 10 different formats, including EPUB, HTML, and PDF. As your library grows, you can customize it and create collections while using a single app to read everything. Free w/IAP on Google Play The Best Sports Apps Source: Andrew Myrick/Android Central Much of the world is consumed by their favorite sports, from football to the NFL and all that is. Thanks to the selection of apps in the Play Store, you can follow them all. Whether you want to know if your top fantasy pick got injured or if you want to capture the highlights from last night's game, these apps make it possible. Gone are the days of needing separate programs to track your various favorite sports. With TheScore, you can follow a variety of sports, statistics, and more without switching apps. You can even create a personal feed to follow specific teams, leagues, or even your favorite player. Free w/ads on Google Play ESPN have been Worldwide Leader in Sports for more than 40 years, and the company continues to bring the best sports content on the go. The app itself makes it easy to stream games from your favorite teams along with giving you highlights for the West Coast game you fell asleep during. Free w/IAP on Google Play Yahoo Sports is one of the few sports apps that not only lets you read the latest headlines for your favorite teams, but You watch the games as well. If you missed the game, catch catch The highlights of a central hub or play some fantasy pick-em games if you want to have fun. With Yahoo Sports, you will be able to follow all your favorite teams, along with the likes of MMA, boxing, or racing. Free w/IAP on Google Play The best Video Streaming Apps Source: Ara Wagoner/Android Central Streaming services are the way of the future, and these days, there's a streaming service available to everyone. While the old sitcoms and movies are great, these streaming companies are pushing new and original content that takes advantage of 4K HDR playback and tells some of the best stories. So others give you a platform to make your own videos and share them with the world. Disney+ is the new boy on the streaming service block and it is an extremely welcome addition to the arsenal. The app gives you quick access to your favorite Disney classics, along with new shows like The Mandalorian for those who want more Star Wars in their lives. The app allows you to create a profile for everyone and you can download titles directly to your device for easy offline viewing. Free w/IAP on Google Play Netflix kills the game in original content, providing some of the best movies, documentaries and TV shows. The company is even working to reboot some classic series while being the primary source for some of the older sitcoms and movies. Free on Google Play Can you go wrong with the YouTube app? Simply sign in to your account and watch the videos from your subscriptions or create playlists so you can watch them later. You can even get started as YouTube Creator by editing and uploading videos directly from the app. Free w/ads on Google Play It's no secret that Warner Media has a huge library of videos, shows and original content. With HBO Max, you can now access a wealth of content under its umbrella, including things from HBO, TBS, Cartoon Network and more. You can create up to five different profiles and download some movies for offline viewing if you have a trip on the way or just don't want to handle streaming. Free w/IAP on Google Play The Best Music Apps Source: Ara Wagoner/Android Central Whether you're on a road trip or just trying to hunker down and get some work done, music makes the world go 'round. These music streaming services give you the largest library of songs that you can imagine and make products like iPod look like a faint relic of the past. Just open the app, choose the song that's stuck in your head, and belt out the lyrics like there's no tomorrow. Spotify seems to be trying to take over the world of music, but that's for good reason. The app offers some of the most personalized recommendations and playlists so you can find new music that you would otherwise never have heard on a smooth interface. If you just want a basic music streaming player, the free version works fine with some limitations. Free w / IAP on Google Play Slowly, but YouTube Music he er what we expected from Google Play Music and it continues to get better. With The Hotlist you can get an idea of what the most popular songs are, or find something that is trending before it hits the airwaves. But the biggest advantage is that you get access to YouTube Music if you already subscribe to either Google Play Music or YouTube Red. Free w/ ads on Google Play Apple Music has made great strides since the beginning to try to take on the giant in Spotify, and it's pretty much succeeded. With more than 60 million songs in the catalog, along with exclusives like Beats 1 Radio, Apple Music appeals to anyone and everyone, even if you don't own a single Apple product. Free on Google Play When it comes to streaming music, the big names have limits on sound quality, but that's no problem with TIDAL. This streaming service is designed for audio enthusiasts offering up to 9216Kbps, which is the same quality you'd get from listening in the studio. Plug in your favorite headphones, adjust the EQ, and turn up the music. Free w/IAP on Google Play The Best Podcast Apps Source: Andrew Myrick/Android Central Radio Stations can be annoying with the ads that come up every few minutes, often lasting longer than the show you're listening to. Podcasts give you access to radio shows that you care about and do so so you can either sit back and enjoy a simple conversation or listen to an immersive story that spans multiple episodes. Pocket Casts is simply the best all-in-one podcast player program that you can get on the Play Store. The app provides easy access to your subscriptions, a variety of customizable playback options, and you can find new podcasts easier than ever. Plus, you'll never miss a podcast episode with the different notification options you can set up from the app. Free w/IAP on Google Play If you want a simple, no-nonsense podcast player, Google has you covered with its Podcasts app. Google Podcasts makes it easy to just start listening to your favorite podcasts without a lot of extra frills. And you can use the Google Search app to find different podcasts and podcast previews as you play them as soon as you find them. Free on Google Play Podcast Addict does so much more than just give you a beautiful interface to interact with your favorite podcasts. The app includes more than 100,000 radio stations and 20,000 audiobooks, while providing personalized recommendations based on your subscriptions. You can even set up RSS news feeds and follow YouTube/Twitch channels from the app. Free w/ads on Google Play Castbox are a bit different than other popular podcast players thanks to unique features like Zen Mode and listening time. Zen Mode allows you to use Castbox as the source for your meditation sessions, while listening time gives you an overview of what your favorite podcasts really are, along with how much time you spend to listen. Castbox even makes it possible to connect with podcast listeners with its awesome community feature. Free w/IAP on Google Play The Best Sleep Tracking Apps Source: Andrew Myrick/Android Central With all the devices booted around you and the screens that are always ready to turn on, it can be hard to get a good night's sleep. However, play store includes some programs that can help you fall asleep while analyzing how you sleep and provide ways to improve. It can be hard to wake up on time, let alone trying to analyze your sleep unless you have an app like Sleep Cycle. The app will coach you to have a better night's sleep regularly while gently waking you up at the right time so you feel fresh. With the analysis tab, you can see how you slept the night before, check if you have snoring, and get recommendations for sleeping even better. Free w/IAP on Google Play Waking up on time is a tough task, but falling asleep can be just as tough. With Sleep Sounds, this is made a bit easier. The app contains 12 different natural sounds, works offline and allows you to set a timer so the app doesn't run all night. Free w/IAP on Google Play Sleep Time combines the benefits of a sleep journal, alarm clock, and sleep analysis all in a beautifully designed program. Different background algorithms will help you get the best night's sleep that you've had in years. Then you can wake up the next day to see how well you slept and for how long. Free w/IAP on Google Play Sleep tracking can be frustrating as you almost never get the same results when using a smartwatch or your phone. Sleep as Android does a great job of giving you all the tools you need to get a good night's sleep with the ability to connect with your favorite wearables. Then, your data can be easily viewed from Sleep as the Android app, or you can take advantage of Google Fit and Samsung's healthcare professionals. Free w/IAP on Google Play The Best Dating Apps Source: Andrew Myrick/Android Central Breakups are hard to get through for everyone, but there comes a time when you want to buckle on your boots and get back in the saddle. These dating apps make it easier than ever to meet new people, and whether you want to find a new friend or build a new relationship, these apps help you get started. OkCupid excels at giving its users in-depth information about potential matches, along with making it easy to get a conversation started. The app even includes various questions so you know if you're compatible with your matches or not. There are a few ads to deal with unless you upgrade to the premium subscription, but they are not too intrusive. Free w/IAP on Google Play Tinder helped to kickstart the trend for mobile dating apps with its simple profile display and whole swipe right wave. The app excels in just getting a conversation going after being matched, getting you even closer to the perfect date. There are even more features to take advantage of you sign up for Tinder Gold as unlimited likes, Super Likes and more profile checking. Free on Google Play Bumble is unique as it is not only designed to help users get a date, but can also be a great source to meet some friends in a new city. On the dating side of things, users create a profile and can just swipe through. Once a match is made, the conversation can start or the match expires within 24 hours if nothing is said. Free w/IAP on Google Play Instead of just trying to throw yourself out to everyone, Hinge offers another way to meet new people. There's more focus on creating better matches with other Hinge users who answer unique questions so the app can learn your type. Free w/IAP on Google Play The best apps for finances Source: Android Central For many, stock trading can be cumbersome and overwhelming, but Robinhood makes things easy and you don't have to throw down a boatload of cash. The Robinhood app allows you to invest in a variety of stock options, and you can even delve into the world of cryptocurrency if you're feeling adventurous. Free on Google Play Some people need to operate on a budget, and Monefy makes it easy to track your daily expenses with just a few taps. Then you can see where all your money goes, along with how close you are to paying off your credit card or saving for a new toy. Free/$2.50 on Google Play Gone are the days to figure out how to split the check. Venmo, backed by PayPal, allows you to easily share the bill with your friends while allowing you to send funny notes on each payment. And if necessary, immediate transfer can happen in seconds with Venmo transferring to your bank account. Free on Google Play You don't have to worry about playing the guessing game for when a package will be delivered if you have the tracking number. Once you've entered the number in the Delivery Package Tracker, you'll get regular notifications when your package travels the country. There's even a widget you can use to look at to see when the package will be delivered. Free w/IAP on Google Play If you want an app that you can view and track your financial life, then you can't go wrong with Mint. Once you've signed up and added your various financial accounts, you'll see all your money, including your bank account, car loan, credit card, and more. The app also lets you create budgets that are easier to stick to while tracking every penny that comes in or leaves your accounts. Free on Google Play Source: Andrew Myrick/Android Central Time is marching on and that new toys that you bought a year ago are starting to collect dust in the corner. Should you reuse it? In some cases that is correct, but as the saying goes, one man's trash is another man's treasure and there is an opportunity to make some money back. These apps allow you to list your old clothes, electronics even cars so they can get put to use and give you some extra green in eBay has been leading when it comes to quickly and easily selling your old devices, clothes, and just about everything else for years now. Once you've created an account and taken some photos, you can create a new listing in a matter of moments. Plus, you get the added benefit of finding some great deals for yourself. Free w/ ads on Google Play With OfferUp, you can already sell your old clothes that don't fit anymore, but now you can even sell the car that has been sitting in the driveway. Plus, you can quickly chat with whoever is interested in your goods without checking emails or giving away your phone number. Free w/ IAP on Google Play Unfortunately there isn't a dedicated app for Facebook Marketplace, but you can still access it from the Facebook mobile app. This gives you a look at items for sale around you, while allowing you to sell to a local person and remove concern about shipping. Free w/IAP on Google Play For years, Craigslist has been the go-to website for so much more than just selling your old goods and clearing out your house. You can find a new home, score a job interview, or even find a car directly from the app. Free on Google Play The Best Mental Health Apps Source: Android Central Mindless YouTube videos and video games do little to keep your mind sharp. At the end of the day, your mind is the most powerful tool that everyone has, and it's important to keep it sharpened. These tools allow you to walk away from your phone or work as an extension to keep your mind comfortable. Launched by the creator of Action Launcher, ActionDash takes digital well-being and turns it up to 11. With this app, you can see a dashboard of exactly how you use your phone, including the average time for your sessions. This gives you all the information you need to spend less time on your phone and more time with those that matter. Free w/IAP on Google Play The idea of journaling every day can be exhausting. Daylio helps change that mindset. It gives you a number of prompts to respond versus just giving you a blank piece of paper. As your days roll by, take a step back and review how your days went with the dashboard that shows your mood chart and more. Free w/IAP on Google Play Habitica takes a unique approach to the habit-building process – that makes it a video game! Habitica is designed to play as an RPG, with quests, unlockable armor, customizable characters and more. You progress through the game and level up by completing your tasks/habits. Free w/IAP on Google Play The Best Workout Apps Source: Joe Maring/Android Central One of the most popular New Year's resolutions is to start hitting the gym to either bulk up or lose some weight. But some apps do so, so you don't even have to step foot in a gym if you want to lose weight at your own pace. And what better way to do it than using some tailored to your needs. Google Fit has slowly become fan favorite for fitness tracking users who want a no-nonsense way to keep an eye on their health. The app offers customized health goals based on recommendations from the World Health Organization and the American Heart Association. There are even personalized coaching tips to help push you closer to being the healthiest that you can be. Free on Google Play Gone are the days of having to worry about paying an arm and a leg for a personal trainer, especially with the Nike Training Club app. The app includes various workouts to help you know what you need to do to improve in different areas. And there are personalized workout recommendations that populate the more you workout. Free w/IAP on Google Play Perhaps the biggest hurdle when trying to lose some weight is your food intake. MyFitnessPal makes it easy as you can quickly search and find the foods you eat with more than 6 million options in the database. Just set your weight goal and the app will calculate how many calories you are supposed to eat per day. Free w/IAP on Google Play Strava is the all-in-one running app that you should at least try. The app tracks not only your running workouts, but also bike rides and swimming as you show you new places to explore. Free w/IAP on Google Play The Best To-Do Apps Source: Andrew Myrick/Android Central It happens all the time. You start adding items to your to-do list, but they still end up being forgotten, and then you have to rush and do everything at once. Or maybe you just need a way to take a quick note for easy access later. These productivity apps help ensure that you keep track of your small tasks or more in-depth projects. Keeping track of your various tasks and projects can be a real pain, but with Todoist, all your worries can be put to rest. The app makes it easy to quickly enter a task, while allowing you to create projects, tags, and more, so your to-do list is always organized. Todoist even lets you integrate with apps like Gmail, Slack and more, so you can add the necessary tasks as soon as they come up. Free w/IAP on Google Play Keep your Evernote and your TickTick, Google Keep is with me to the end of the line and it's 100% free. Keep is yet another Google app to see a visual update this year, and while I'm still waiting for a dark theme, the expanded 12 color options, the addition of subtasks to checklists, and improved Drive integration make Keep the only job list and inspiration board I use. Free on Google Keep Have you ever wanted to grow a tree on your smartphone? With Grow, you can do just that and grow as many trees as you can think of. This habit tracker is simple and straightforward to track and remind you of habits you want to track. Every time you complete the habit, your tree will grow little by little, giving you something to look forward to. Free on Google Any.do is an app that aims to keep you organized through to-do lists, and delivers beautiful experience while doing just that. You can create multiple lists and customize each one with the tasks you need to perform. Free w/IAP on Google Play The Best Learning Apps Source: Andrew Myrick/Android Central Along with keeping your mind sharp, you'll want to keep training your brain and yourself to learn something new all the time. Whether it's learning a new language or trying to figure out exactly what Quantum Physics is, there's an app for that. Or maybe you just want to have an informative book condensed into a 15-minute session that gives you the main points. Duolingo is one of the more powerful apps on the Play Store as it will teach you how to speak and understand a new language in no time. The app is free and offers more than 30 different languages to learn while helping to push the boundaries of what you can already speak. Free w/ IAP on Google Play There is Wikipedia and then there is WolframAlpha. The mobile app provides instant knowledge and even calculation for almost anything you could want to know. The categories range from basic mathematics, all the way to Quantum Physics, and even geology. $2.99 on Google Play Just by taking 5 minutes out of each day you can learn to code faster and more efficiently than ever before. Mimo allows you to learn programming at your own pace while learning a wide range of programming languages ranging from Python to HTML, PHP, CSS and more. Then you can start building your own apps and websites in no time. Free w/IAP on Google Play The best email Apps Source: Daniel Bader/Android Central Emails is simply the worst form of communication. Instead of getting spam flyers in your mailbox, you now get ads and spam in your inbox. But some are so addicted to email that it has become a way of life. And these folks need an app that makes organizing and consolidating emails easy, so you can finally achieve the fabled Inbox Zero. Gmail is one of the best apps, no matter which platform you prefer. Google has figured out how to do email the right way with its Gmail application, and you'll get many different tools at your disposal. And you're not even limited to using just your Gmail account in the app, as there's no support for people like Outlook, Yahoo, or other IMAP/POP accounts. Free w/ads on Google Play Microsoft Outlook were once intended as an afterthought, but no more, as Microsoft has put in time to make this app great. The focused inbox lets you worry about the important things while you include a calendar client and OneDrive file manager in a single app. Outlook makes it easy to keep track of your day and make sure you never miss a thing. Free w/ads on Google Play Newton Mail have had an up and down story after being bought several times, but now it's back with new (and private) owners. The app is great for handling your email with a minimalist approach, and has a share useful features to triage them annoying and and E-mail. Free w/IAP on Google Play Email Inbox has become a way for spam to make it in our lives and prevent us from seeing these important emails. With Spark Mail's email prioritization, these concerns have been removed, and it's easier than ever to reach the always elusive Inbox zero. Free on Google Play The best apps for driving source: Joe Maring/Android Central Unless you've been living in the same place for the last 15-20 years, chances are you can't remember the right path to take to get a new place. Or maybe you need to get a ride from the train station to the hotel and you didn't rent a car and don't want to hail a taxi. These travel apps make it easy to do everything you need to do, and then some. When it comes to getting to your destination, there's no app better to navigate than Google Maps. The service is one of the most accurate mapping apps available and includes additional information such as real-time transit updates. A recent update even lets you book an Uber or Lyft if you need a ride somewhere. Free on Google Play With nearly 7 million downloads, it's easy to understand why Uber has taken over the world of carpooling. The service is available in more than 600 cities and it's easier than ever to get someone to pick you up without driving a taxi or taking the bus. Free on Google Play The biggest benefit of MAPS. ME is not the navigation advantage of the app, but instead the ability to download all your apps for offline use. You won't be able to see real-time traffic flow, but you can get where you're going. Map. ME even works to take public transport in an unknown city. Free w/IAP on Google Play Everyone remembers the old days of having to put up the MapQuest website and print directions. These days may be behind us, but MapQuest is still hanging around with a super useful Android app for all your navigation needs. Free w/ Ads on Google Play The best calendar Apps Source: Android Central No one wants to miss that important doctor's appointment, but if you don't have it written down somewhere, that's an option. Having a mobile calendar makes it possible to quickly and easily organize your day while being reminded of the important meeting. These apps can be tailored to your needs and show you the most important information about how your day is going to go. Google Calendar itself is already a great way to keep track of your daily, weekly, and monthly appointments. Then add integration with Gmail and you'll automatically add events from your email inbox. Google also integrates reminders so you never miss a task, and you can even add personalized goals that will be scheduled automatically. Free on Google Play aCalendar's interface is one of the best and most beautiful you can find. Add it to

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