



BIG Launcher User Manual

Version 5.9.0 | For Seniors and People with Vision Problems



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Part 1 — Getting Started

What Is BIG Launcher?

BIG Launcher replaces the complicated home screen of your Android phone with a simple, easy-to-read interface. Instead of small icons and confusing menus, you get **large buttons with big text** that are easy to see and press.

 **Watch:** [BIG Launcher Promo \(English\)](#)

Who is BIG Launcher for?

- Seniors who find smartphones too complicated
- People with vision problems or blindness
- People with motor difficulties, Alzheimer's, or Parkinson's disease
- Anyone who wants a simpler, stress-free phone experience

The BIG Apps Suite

BIG Launcher works together with two companion apps:

App	Purpose
BIG Launcher	Your new home screen with large buttons
BIG Phone	Handles phone calls with an enlarged call screen
BIG SMS	Sends and receives text messages with big text

You need to install BIG Phone and BIG SMS separately (required by Google Play Store rules since March 2019).

Free vs. Full Version

 **Watch:** [Free version limitations](#)

Feature	Free Version	Full Version
Customizable buttons	Right column only	All buttons

Feature	Free Version	Full Version
Additional screens	5 maximum	Unlimited
Password protection	Not available	Available
Call log items	5 recent only	Unlimited
SMS threads	5 recent only	Unlimited
Keypad during call	Disabled	Available
Ads in messages	Link added after 20 SMS	No ads

Installation

 **Watch:** [How to install BIG Launcher](#)

1. Open the **Google Play Store** on your phone
2. Search for "**BIG Launcher**"
3. Tap **Install** and wait for the download to finish
4. Tap **Open** to run the app

Installing BIG Phone

1. On the home screen, tap the **Phone** button
2. Choose "**Download and install the phone app**"
3. Tap **Install** on the Google Play Store page
4. After installation, tap **Open**
5. Grant all requested permissions (calls, contacts, call logs) — the app won't work without them

Installing BIG SMS

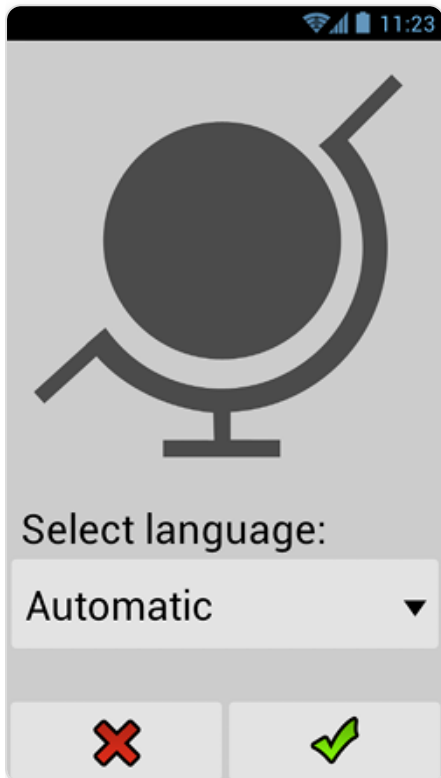
1. On the home screen, tap the **Messages** button
2. Choose "**Download and install the messages app**"
3. Tap **Install** on the Google Play Store page
4. After installation, tap **Open**

5. When prompted, set **BIG SMS** as your default SMS app — tap **Yes**

Setup Wizard

The first time you open BIG Launcher, a setup wizard guides you through basic settings:

Step 1: Language



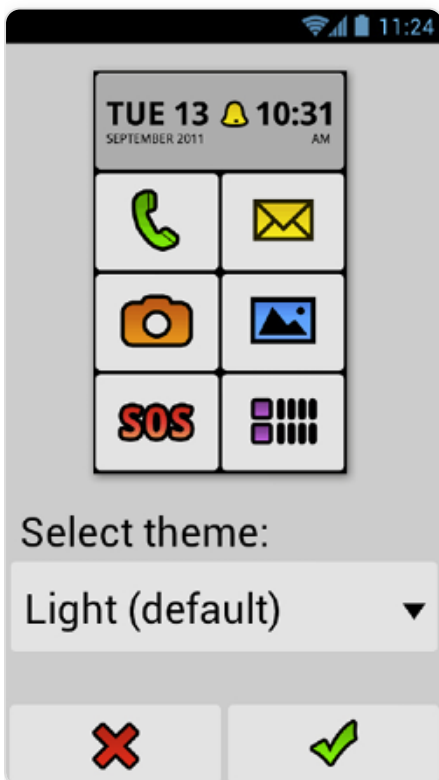
- Your phone's language is selected automatically
- You can choose from over 40 languages manually
- Some special characters may not display on older phones

Step 2: Text Size



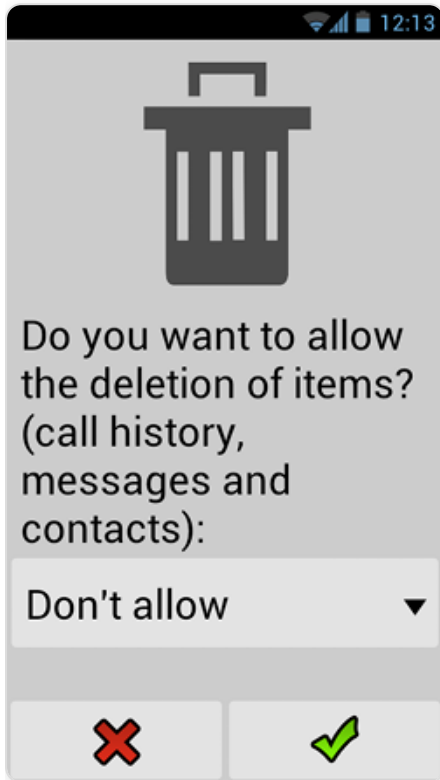
- **Default** — Standard size (recommended for most users)
- **Bigger** — Larger text for better readability
- **Biggest** — Maximum size (for serious vision problems)

Step 3: Color Theme



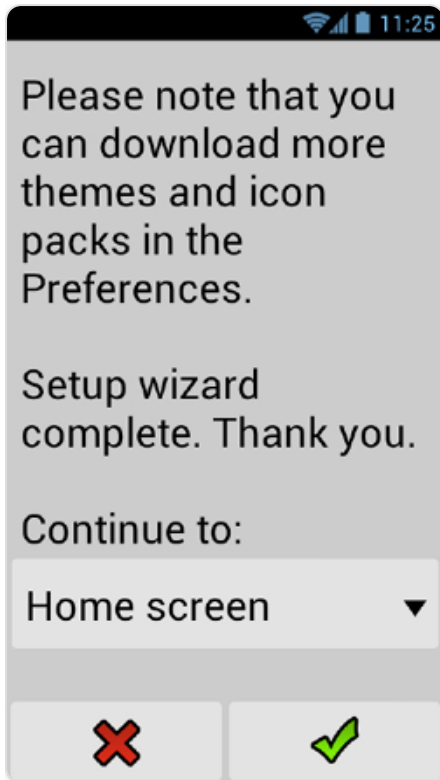
- **Light (default)** — White background, black text
- **Dark** — Black background, white text (easier at night)
- **Blue** — Light blue theme (also suitable for color-blind users)

Step 4: Deletion Permissions



- Enable or disable deletion of call history, SMS messages, and contacts
- For safety, **disable deletion** for users who might accidentally remove important info
- Tap the box under each option and choose "**Allow**" or "**Don't allow**"

Step 5: Complete



- Tap the green checkmark to finish
- BIG Launcher will ask for permissions to access contacts, calls, and messages
- Your data is **never** collected or sent online

Setting BIG Launcher as Default

 **Watch:** [How to set BIG Launcher as default](#)

When you press the **Home** button, you'll be asked to choose a launcher:

1. Select **BIG Launcher** from the list
2. Tap "**Always**" or "**Set as default**"

If this menu doesn't appear: 1. Open **System settings** → **Apps** → **Default apps** → **Home screen** 2. Select **BIG Launcher**

Setting Default Phone & SMS Apps

 **Watch:** [How to set default phone/SMS app](#)

BIG Phone as Default Calling App


Automatic: Open BIG Phone → tap **Yes** when asked to set as default.

Manual: 1. Go to **System settings** → **Apps** 2. Tap the three dots (:) → **Default apps** 3. Tap **Calling app** → select **BIG Phone for Seniors**

BIG SMS as Default Messaging App

Automatic: Open BIG SMS → tap **Yes** when asked to set as default.

Manual: 1. Go to **System settings** → **Apps** → three dots (:) → **Default apps** 2. Tap **Messaging app** → select **BIG SMS for Seniors**

 **Important:** Only the default phone app can show incoming call screens and access call history. Only the default SMS app can send and receive messages.

Purchasing the Full Version


 **Watch:** [How to purchase](#) | [Price info](#)

Checking the Price

1. Tap the three dots (:) next to the clock → **Preferences**
2. Tap **"Buy the full version"**
3. The price appears in your local currency
4. Each app (BIG Launcher, BIG Phone, BIG SMS) must be purchased **separately**

Buying

1. Tap the three dots (:) → **Preferences** → "**Buy the full version**"
2. Select the app you want to unlock
3. Follow the payment process
4. If completed successfully, tap the **Home** button and all features will be unlocked

 **Important:** An order receipt will be sent to your email. **Don't delete it** — it contains your order number. If you encounter any problems with your license in the future, you can use this order number as proof of purchase.

Remember: You need to repeat this process for **each app separately** — BIG Launcher, BIG Phone, and BIG SMS.

Restoring Your License

 **Watch:** [How to restore license](#)

If you already purchased but don't see the green checkmark: 1. Make sure you're connected to the internet 2. Tap **Refresh** in the Buy section 3. Restarting your phone may help

When replacing your phone: - Use the **same Google account** as the original purchase - The license should restore automatically - If not: **Preferences** → "**Buy the full version**" → look for the green checkmark

 **If nothing works:** Contact contact@biglauncher.com with your Order ID.

Purchasing for Someone Else

 **Watch:** [How to add a credit card to another account](#)

To buy BIG Launcher on someone else's phone (e.g., your grandmother's) with your credit card:

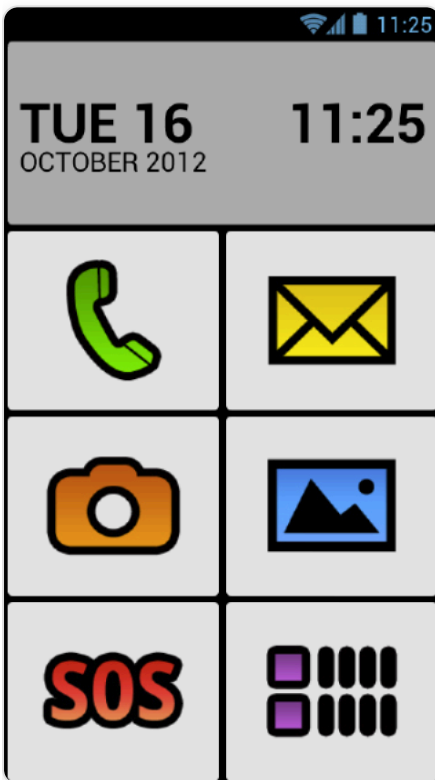
1. On their phone, open **Google Play Store** → menu (☰) → **Payment methods**
2. Tap "**Add credit or debit card**" and enter your card details

3. Purchase BIG Launcher through **Preferences** → "**Buy the full version**"
4. After purchasing, go back to **Play Store** → **Payment methods** → **More payment settings**
5. **Remove your card** from their account

The licenses remain active even after removing the card.

Part 2 — 🏠 The Home Screen

Home Screen Layout



The home screen shows:

- **Top bar:** Clock, date, battery level, signal strength
- **Main area:** Six large buttons for the most important functions
- **Menu:** Three dots (:) next to the clock for settings

The Six Default Buttons

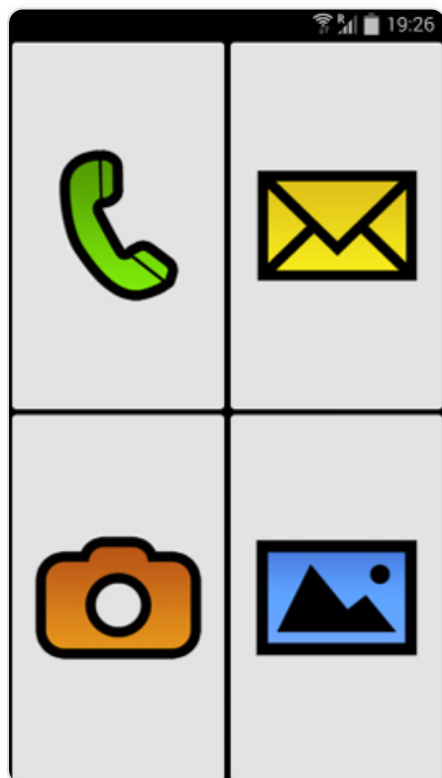
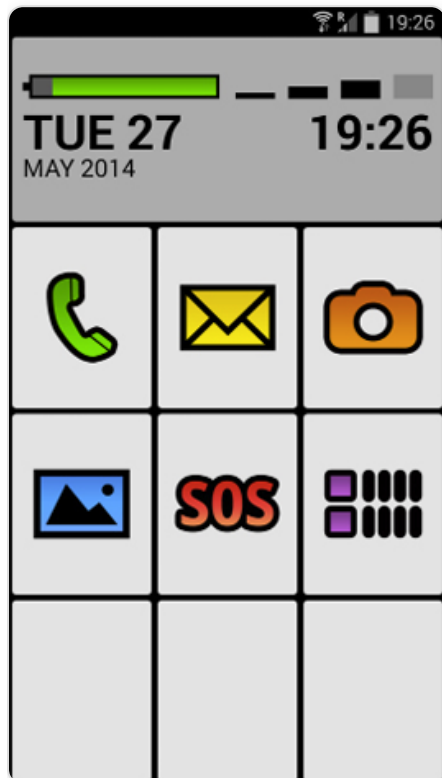
Button	Icon	What It Does
Phone	Green	Access contacts, dialer, call history
Messages	Yellow	Read and send text messages
Camera	—	Take photos
Gallery	—	View your photos
SOS	Red	Emergency calling and texting
Applications	—	Access all other apps

Screen Layout Options



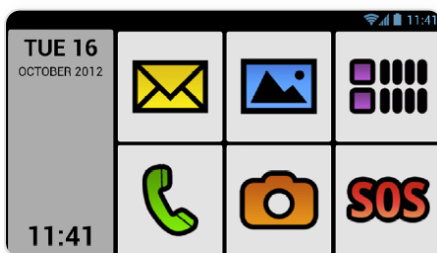
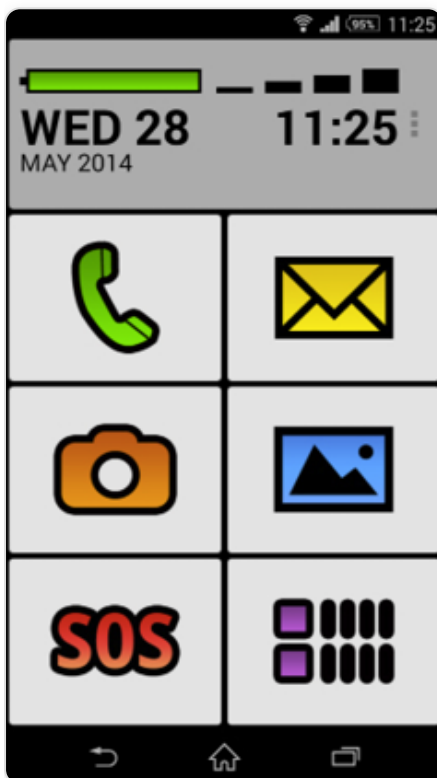
Layout	Buttons	Best For
3x4	12 buttons	Standard use
3x3	9 buttons	Larger buttons
2x4	8 buttons	Bigger text

Layout	Buttons	Best For
2x2	4 buttons	Very poor vision
1x1	1 button	Single-function mode



⚠ Warning about 1×1 and 2×2 layouts: The three dots menu is hidden in these layouts. The lower-left button (2×2) or single button (1×1) automatically becomes a Preferences shortcut. If you change it, you may lose access to settings. **Emergency access:** Hold the top-left button for **30 seconds**.

Portrait and Landscape




Blinking Buttons

When a button blinks, it means there is something new. Phone and Messages can blink for missed calls or unread messages. Other app shortcut buttons can blink when the linked app posts an Android notification.

- **Phone blinking** — You have missed calls
- **Messages blinking** — You have unread text messages
- **Other apps blinking** — That app has a notification (e.g., WhatsApp, Gmail)

App-notification blinking is enabled in **Preferences** → **Screens' options** → **Blinking button when an app shows a notification**. If BIG Phone, BIG SMS, or another BIG Apps Suite shortcut blinks incorrectly, see **BIG Apps Suite apps are privileged** in the Preferences Reference.

Setting an Alarm

1. Tap the **clock** or **date** on the home screen
2. Your phone's alarm app opens
3. Set your alarm as usual
4. When an alarm is set, a small bell icon () appears next to the clock

Accessing Preferences

Preferences can be opened from the three-dot menu, from the Applications list when the Preferences item is enabled, or by emergency access from the home screen. Caregivers can protect access in **Preferences** → **Preferences menu** → **Protect menu**.

 **Watch:** [How to show Preferences](#)



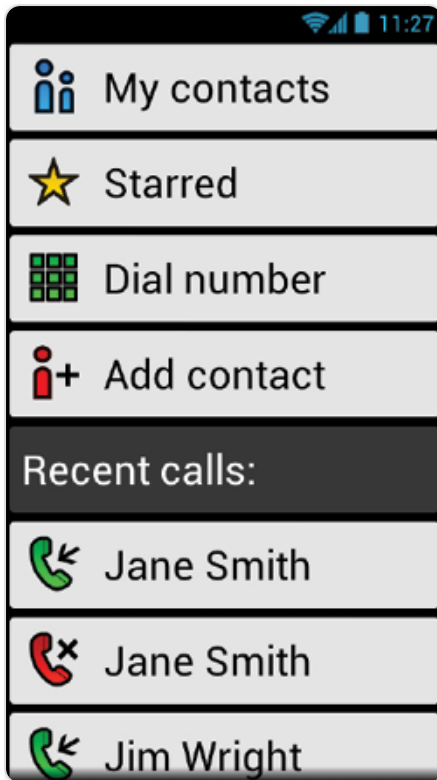
Method 1 — Three Dots (easiest): - Tap the three dots (:) next to the clock → **Preferences**

Method 2 — From Apps List: - Open **Applications** → find "**BIG Launcher Preferences**"

Method 3 — Emergency Access: - Hold the top-left button on the Home screen for **30 seconds**

Part 3 — Phone & Calling

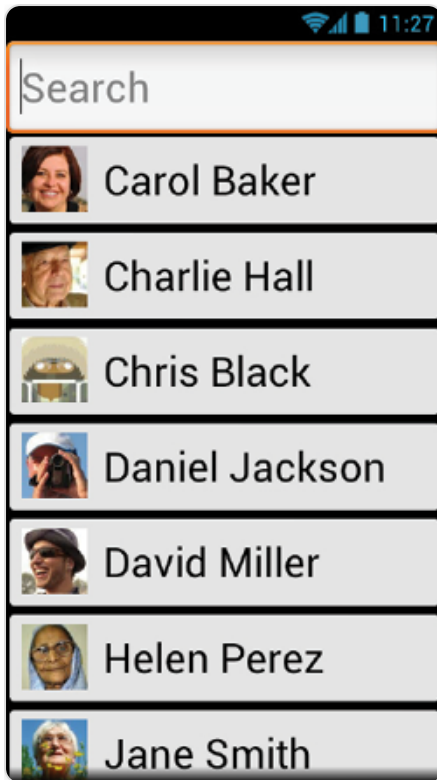
The Phone Screen



Tap **Phone** on the home screen to see:

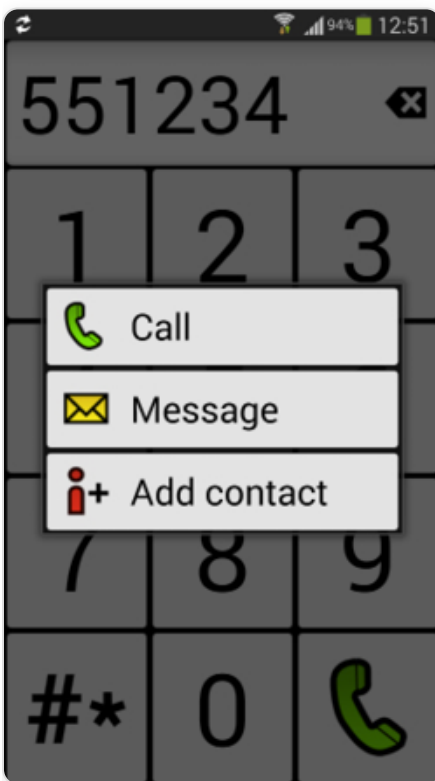
1. **My Contacts** — All contacts with phone numbers
2. **Starred** — Your favorite contacts
3. **Dial Number** — Keypad for manual dialing
4. **Recent Calls** — Call history

Making a Call from Contacts



1. Tap **Phone** → **My Contacts** (or **Starred**)
2. Scroll or use the search box at the top
3. Tap the contact you want to call
4. Tap the phone number
5. Choose "**Call**" from the menu

Using the Dialer



1. Tap **Phone** → **Dial Number**
2. Tap the numbers on the keypad
3. To delete the last digit, tap the number display at the top
4. To clear all, hold your finger on the number display
5. Tap the green phone button to call

During a Call

The active call screen can be simplified in **Preferences** → **Phone**. You can hide Keypad, Hold, Mute, Audio switcher, Duration, and other buttons. For accidental-touch protection, use **Ask to end the call**, **Confirm all the actions on a call screen**, or **Empty space at top of the Active call screen**.



Available buttons during a call:

- **End Call** (red) — Hang up
- **Speaker** — Speakerphone on/off
- **Mute** — Microphone on/off
- **Keypad** — Number pad (for automated phone systems)
- **Hold** — Put the call on hold
- **Bluetooth** — Switch to Bluetooth headset

Call Screen Safety Features

- **Collapse/Expand button** — Hides all buttons except End Call
- **Empty space at top** — Prevents your ear from pressing buttons
- **Confirm to end call** — Optional confirmation before hanging up


Simplifying the Call Menu

 **Watch:** [How to simplify the call menu](#)

When you tap a contact, a menu appears with call and SMS options. You can simplify this:

Remove SMS option: 1. **Preferences** → **Contacts** → disable "**Show message option in call dialog**" 2. Now only the "**Call**" option will be shown — this works as a confirmation and prevents accidental calls

Direct dial (no menu at all): 1. **Preferences** → **Contacts** → enable "**No menu when calling the contact**" 2. Tapping a contact will immediately start the call

 We don't recommend disabling the confirmation menu — otherwise random calls can be triggered anytime when handling the phone.

Default Audio Device

 **Watch:** [How to change default audio device](#)

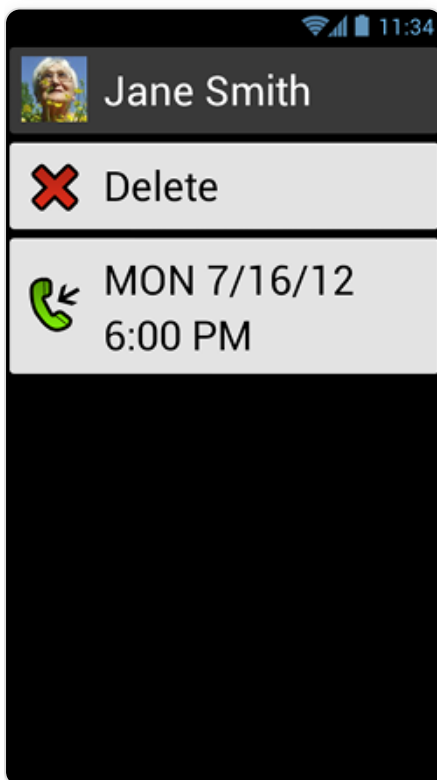
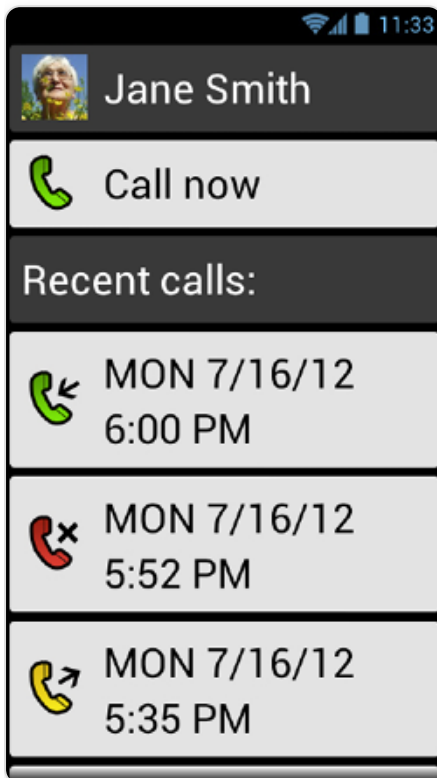
1. **Preferences** → **Phone** → "**Default audio device for calls**"
2. Choose from:
3. **Default** — Phone's normal behavior
4. **Earpiece** — Small speaker at your ear
5. **Bluetooth** — Connected Bluetooth headset
6. **Wired Headset** — Headphones with a cable
7. **Speaker** — Loudspeaker

Switching during a call: During an active call, you can see the active audio device on the second button. Tap it to cycle between all available devices (earpiece, speaker, Bluetooth, wired headset).

Dual SIM Phones

If your phone has two SIM cards, you'll be asked which SIM to use when making a call.

Call History

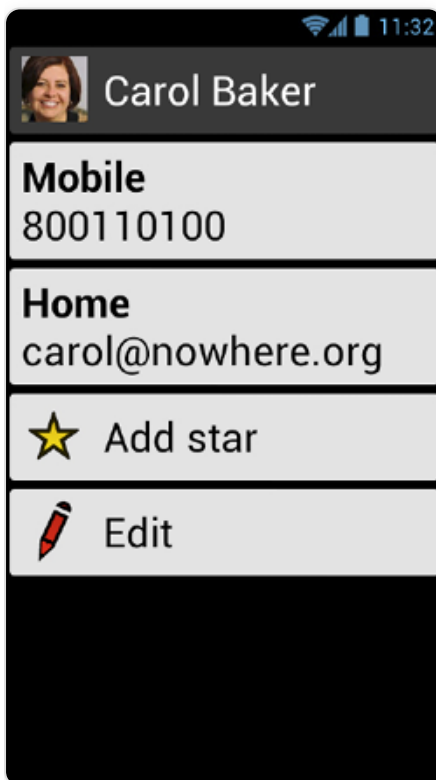


1. Tap **Phone** → **Recent Calls**

2. Icons indicate call type:
 3. **Green arrow** — Outgoing (you called)
 4. **Blue arrow** — Incoming (they called)
 5. **Red arrow** — Missed call
 6. Tap any entry to call back
 7. Tap **Delete** to remove an entry (if deletion is enabled)
-

Part 4 — Contacts

Viewing Contacts



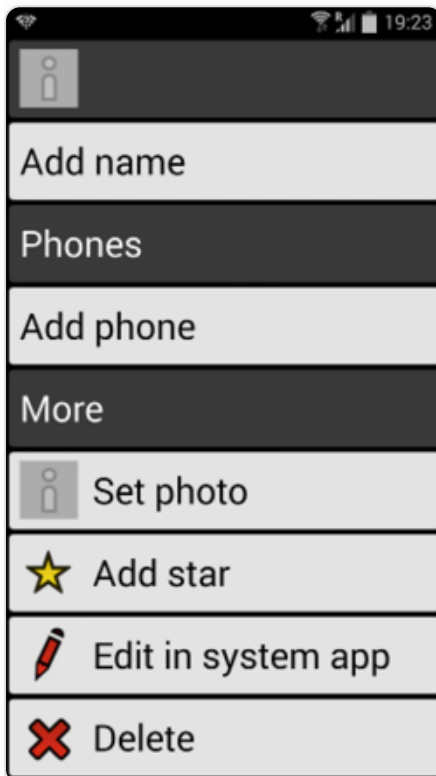
1. Tap **Phone** → **My Contacts**
2. Scroll through the list or use the search box
3. Tap any contact to see their details

Contact details may include: - Phone numbers — Tap to call or send SMS - Email addresses — Tap to send email - Websites, notes, birthday/anniversary

Starred (Favorite) Contacts

1. Open a contact's details
2. Tap **Add star** — the contact appears in the **Starred** list
3. Tap **Remove star** to undo

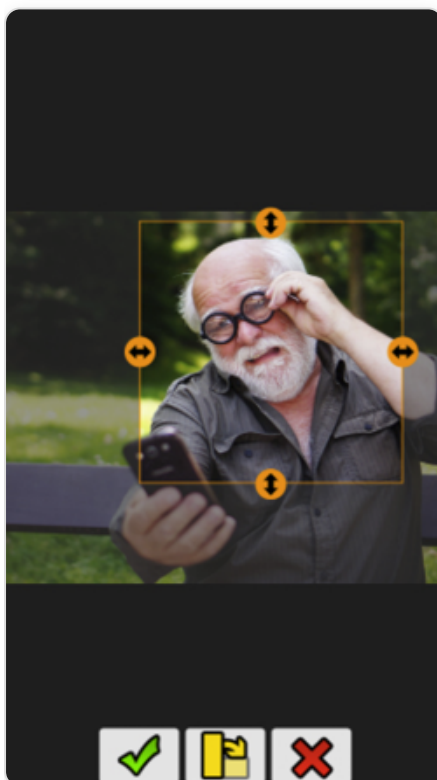
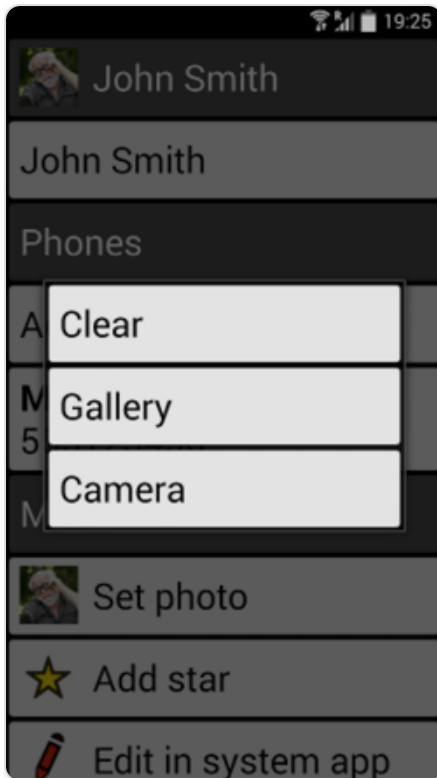
Adding a New Contact





1. Tap **Phone** → **Add Contact**
2. Enter the contact's **name**
3. Tap **Add phone** and enter the phone number
4. You can add multiple numbers (Home, Mobile, Work)
5. Tap **Add email** for email addresses
6. Tap **Save**

Adding a Photo to a Contact

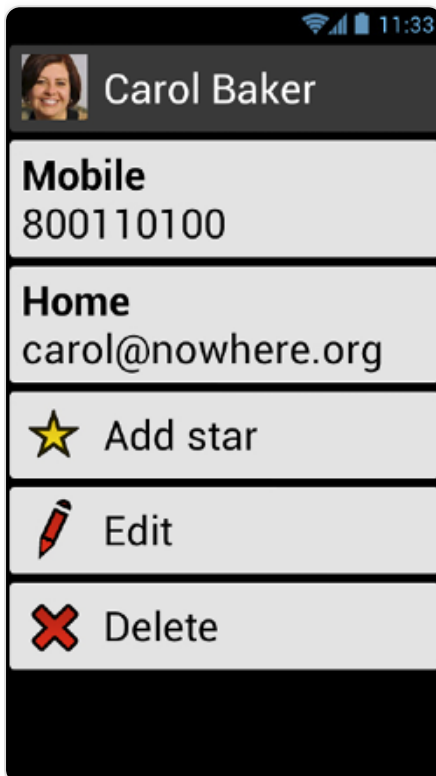


1. Open the contact → tap **Set photo**
2. Choose **Gallery** (existing photo) or **Camera** (take new)
3. Use the crop tool to select the area you want
4. Tap the green **Save** button

Editing a Contact

1. Open the contact → tap **Edit**
2. Make your changes
3. Tap **Save**

Deleting a Contact

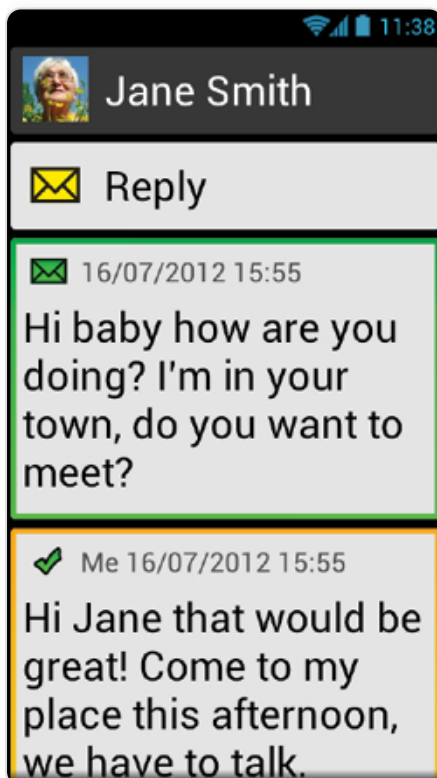


 **Watch:** [How to delete history/SMS/contacts](#)

Deletion is **disabled by default** to prevent accidents. To enable: 1. **Preferences** → **Contacts** → enable "**Add contact delete option**" 2. Or re-run the **Setup wizard** and change deletion permissions

Part 5 — Messages (SMS)

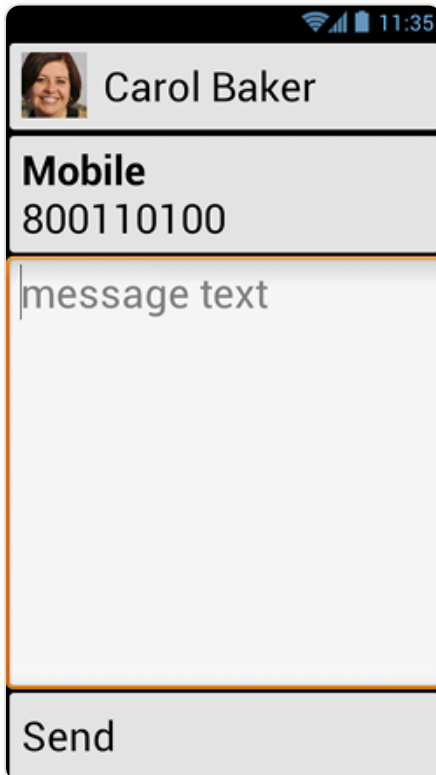
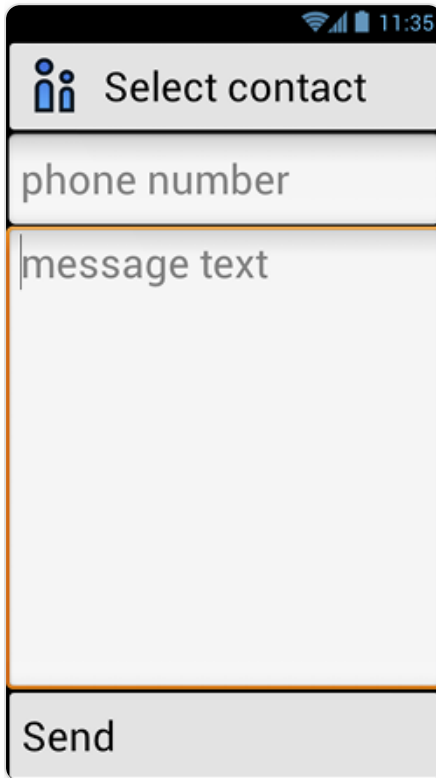
Reading Messages



1. Tap **Messages** on the home screen
2. You'll see recent conversations with contact names and last message
3. Tap a conversation to read all messages


Message colors: - **Green border** — Messages you sent - **Yellow border** — Messages you received -
Checkmark — Message was delivered

Sending a New Message





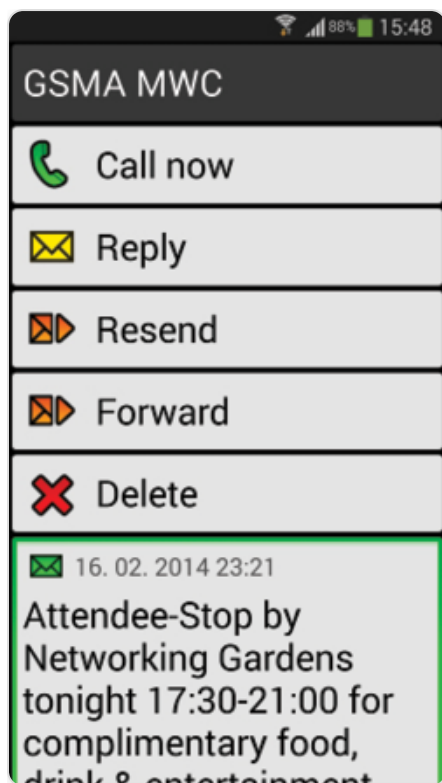
1. Tap **Messages** → **Write new**
2. Choose a contact or enter a phone number manually
3. Type your message
4. Tap **Send**

 **Character limit:** One SMS holds 160 characters (70 with emoji/special characters). Longer messages are split into multiple SMS.

Replying to a Message

1. Open the conversation
2. Tap **Reply**
3. Type your message → tap **Send**

Message Options



Long-press a message for options like forward, copy, or delete.

MMS Messages (Pictures)

If someone sends a picture or video: 1. The message shows "**This is MMS**" 2. Tap **Download** to get the full message 3. Tap again to view

SMS Templates

Create message templates for quick responses: 1. In the message editor, tap **Templates** 2. Tap **Create** → type your message → save 3. Next time, tap **Templates** and select your saved message

Dual SIM Support


If your phone has two SIM cards, you'll be asked which SIM to use when sending.

Deleting Messages

 **Watch:** [How to delete history/SMS/contacts](#)

Deletion is **disabled by default**. To enable: 1. **Preferences** → **Messages** → enable "**Show delete button**"

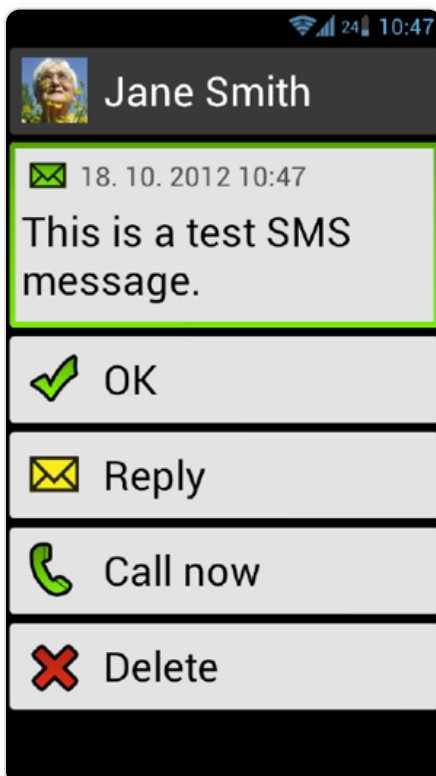
You can delete: - Individual messages - Entire conversation threads - All messages at once

 **Warning:** Bulk deletion cannot be undone!

SMS Notifications

Message notifications are controlled both by BIG SMS and by Android notification channels. Use **Preferences** → **Messages** → **System Message notification** and **Sound and visual configuration**. Full-screen display over the lock screen may require Android full-screen notification permission.

 **Watch:** [SMS notifications on Android 10+](#)



Notification Types

- **Blinking button** — Messages button blinks on home screen
- **Sound** — Notification tone plays
- **Vibration** — Phone vibrates
- **Screen popup** — Message appears on screen
- **LED light** — Phone's notification light blinks

Configuring Notifications on Android 10+

Method 1 — Through notification bar: 1. Pull down the notifications bar 2. Long-tap the "**BIG SMS for Seniors**" notification 3. Tap **Details** → **Incoming message** 4. Set notification style and sound

Method 2 — Through system settings: 1. **System settings** → **Notifications** → **See all** → **BIG SMS for Seniors**

Vibration Duration

- None (0s) | Short (0.5s) | Optimal (1s) | Long (2s)

Repeating Notifications

Set notifications to repeat every 5, 15, 30, or 60 minutes until you read the message.

Fixing SMS Button Blinking Issues

 **Watch:** [Fix SMS blinking](#)

On some devices, the SMS button blinks constantly even when there is no unread SMS message. To fix it, use the normal Preferences options:

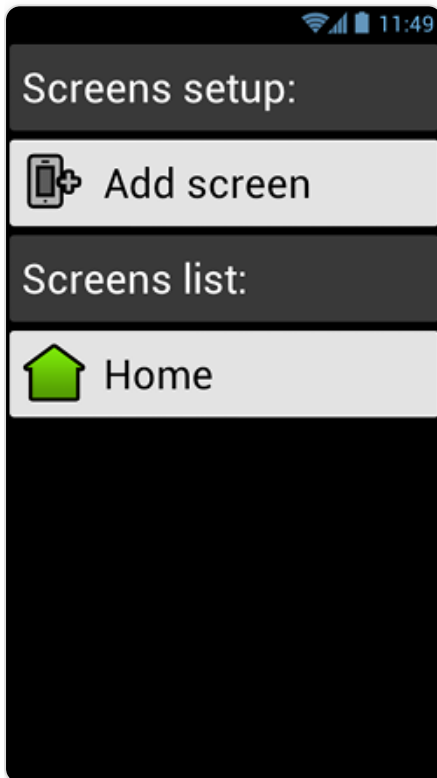
1. Tap the three dots (:) → **Preferences** → **Screens' options**
2. Enable "**Blinking button when an app shows a notification**"
3. Enable **Notification access** for BIG Launcher → tap **Allow**
4. If BIG SMS still blinks incorrectly, disable "**BIG Apps Suite apps are privileged**"
5. Go back to the home screen → tap the three dots → "**Set buttons**"
6. Tap the SMS button → choose "**App**" → select "**BIG SMS for Seniors**"

The button should now behave normally.

Part 6 — Screens & Buttons

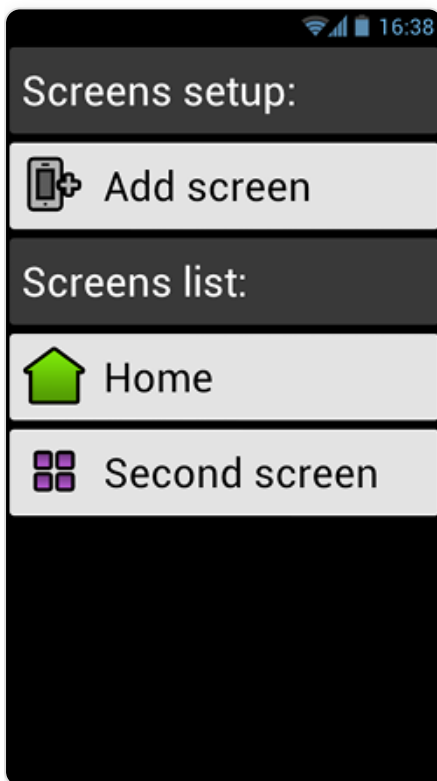
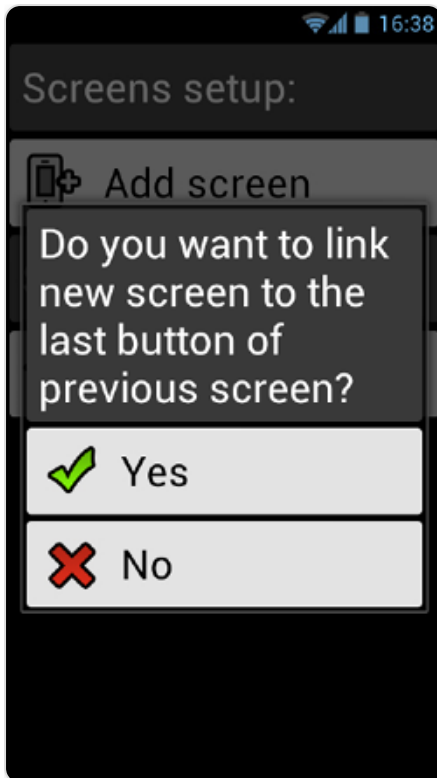
Understanding Screens

Think of screens like **pages in a book**. The Home screen is page 1. You can add more pages with different buttons.

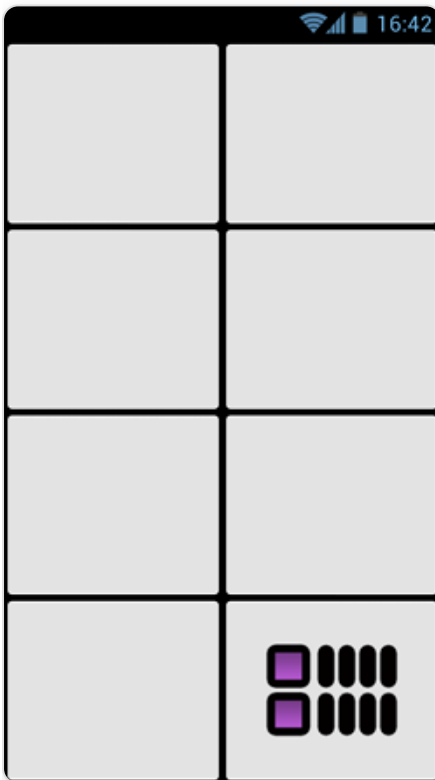
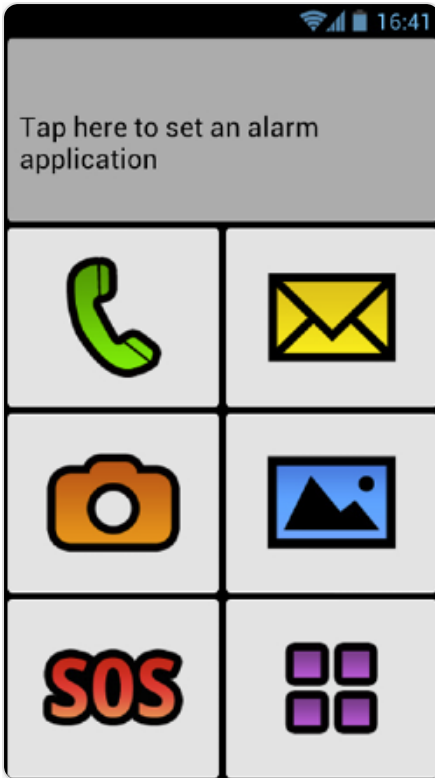


Adding a New Screen

 **Watch:** [How to add screens & customize buttons](#)



1. Tap the three dots (:) → **Preferences** → **"Customize buttons and screens"**
2. Tap **"Add screen"**
3. Tap **Yes** to link the new screen to the last button of the previous screen
4. The previous last button (usually Apps) moves to the new screen



Swipe Navigation Between Screens

Instead of tapping buttons to switch screens, you can swipe left and right. Swipe navigation has two modes: **From home to right** and **Loop**.




Remove from
swipe at position
2



Add to swipe at
position 3

1. **Preferences** → **Screens' options** → enable "**Use swipe to navigate screens**"
2. **Swipe types:**
3. **From home to right** — Home → Screen 2 → Screen 3 (stops at end)
4. **Loop** — After the last screen, swiping goes back to Home

 **Memory warning:** Swipe navigation uses more phone memory. If BIG Launcher becomes slow, turn off swipe or reduce the number of screens. When swipe navigation is enabled, buttons are not accessible by keyboard, so keyboard or switch users may need it disabled.

Customizing Buttons

 **Watch:** [Customize buttons](#)







1. Tap the three dots (:) → **"Set buttons"**
2. Tap the button you want to change
3. Choose from the available options:

Option	What It Does
Application	Opens any app
Contact details	Shows a person's info

Option	What It Does
Direct call	Immediately calls a person
Direct SMS	Opens message editor to a person
Go to screen	Links to another screen
Website shortcut	Opens a website
SOS	Opens emergency screen
Wi-Fi toggle	Turns Wi-Fi on/off (green=ON, red=OFF)
Bluetooth toggle	Turns Bluetooth on/off
Airplane mode	Turns airplane mode on/off
Applications	Opens the full apps list
Preferences	Opens BIG Launcher settings
External widget	Adds a mini-app (calendar, weather) to a button
External shortcut	App-specific shortcuts from other apps
Revert	Restores the button's original functionality
Clear	Removes button functionality (makes it empty)


 **About External Widgets:** The space on a button is limited — we recommend using **smaller widgets** to maintain readability. The parent app usually launches when you tap the widget on the home screen.

 **Running out of space?** You can add more screens or change the layout to include more buttons.

Assigning a Contact to a Button

 **Watch:** [Assign contact to button](#)


1. Three dots (:) → **"Set buttons"** → tap the button
2. Choose:
3. **Contact details** — Shows the contact's info when tapped; photo appears on button
4. **Direct call/SMS** — After choosing a contact, you must select which phone number to use. The contact's photo will appear on the button.

 To prevent accidental calls, a confirmation dialog is shown when you tap a contact button. You can disable this in Preferences, but **we don't recommend it** — otherwise random calls can be triggered when handling the phone.

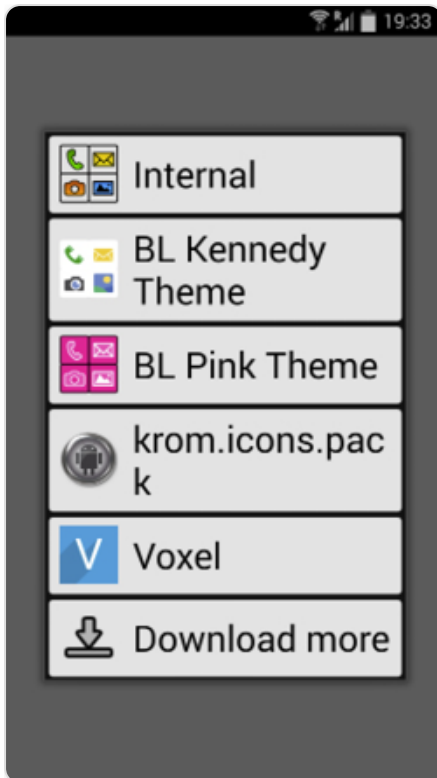
Assigning a WhatsApp Contact

 **Watch:** [Assign WhatsApp contact](#)

1. Three dots (:) → **"Set buttons"** → tap the button
2. Select **"External shortcut"**
3. Find **WhatsApp** in the list
4. Select the contact

 As of 2020, WhatsApp only allows shortcuts to text conversations, not direct audio/video calls.


Changing Button Icons



1. While editing a button, tap **Change icon**
2. Choose from: **Internal** icons, **Icon packs**, **Themes**, or **From app**
3. Tap **Download more** to get additional icon packs

Button Text Labels

1. While editing a button, tap **Set label**
2. Type a short name (e.g., "Son", "Doctor", "Weather")
3. Configure in Preferences: position (top/center/bottom), size (50%–110%), color


 Enable **automatic labels** in Preferences to auto-name buttons when you assign functions.

Button Blinking for App Notifications

Make buttons blink when apps like WhatsApp or Gmail have notifications. For BIG Apps Suite apps, the privileged internal link can use better icons and different blinking data. If blinking does not match the app shortcut, disable **BIG Apps Suite apps are privileged** and create a normal shortcut manually.

 **Watch:** [Button blinking setup](#)

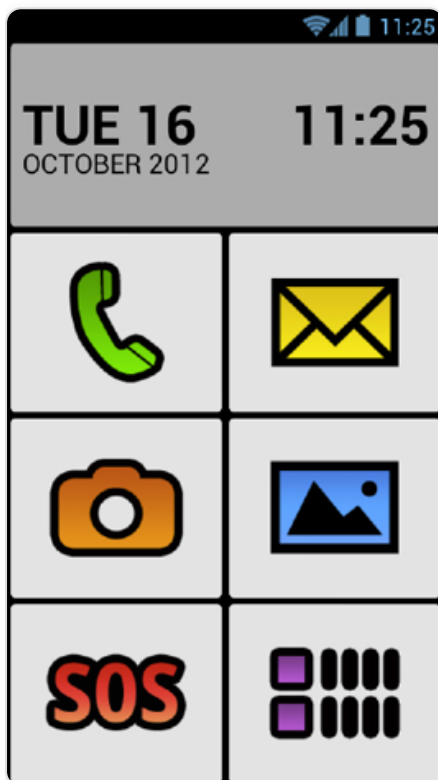
1. First, create an app shortcut on a home screen button:
2. Tap the three dots (:) → **"Set buttons"**
3. Tap the button you want to customize
4. Select **"App"** and choose the desired app (e.g., WhatsApp)
5. Go back to the home screen → tap the three dots → **Preferences**
6. Tap **"Screens' options"**
7. Enable **"Blinking button when an app shows a notification"**
8. A system screen will appear — enable **Notification access** for BIG Launcher and tap **"Allow"**
9. Go back to the home screen — when the app receives a new notification, the button will start to blink

 Want to enlarge all notifications on your phone? Try our app **BIG Notifications**.

Part 7 — Themes & Appearance

Built-in Themes

Theme	Description
Light (default)	White background, black text — good for bright rooms
Dark	Black background, white text — easier at night
Blue	Light blue — alternative appearance



To change: Preferences → Appearance → Select theme

To download more: Tap "Download more" in the theme selector.

Text Size

Preferences → Appearance → Text size

- **Default** — Standard
- **Bigger** — Larger
- **Biggest** — Maximum

Screen Orientation

Preferences → **Appearance** → **Select screen orientation**

- **Automatic** — Rotates with your phone
- **Horizontal** — Always landscape
- **Vertical** — Always portrait

Full-Screen Mode

Full screen hides the Android status bar for a cleaner look. If the user still needs large battery or signal information, enable **Show big battery indicator** and choose **Signal indicator** in Appearance. Full screen can also make accidental access to Android system settings through the notification shade harder.

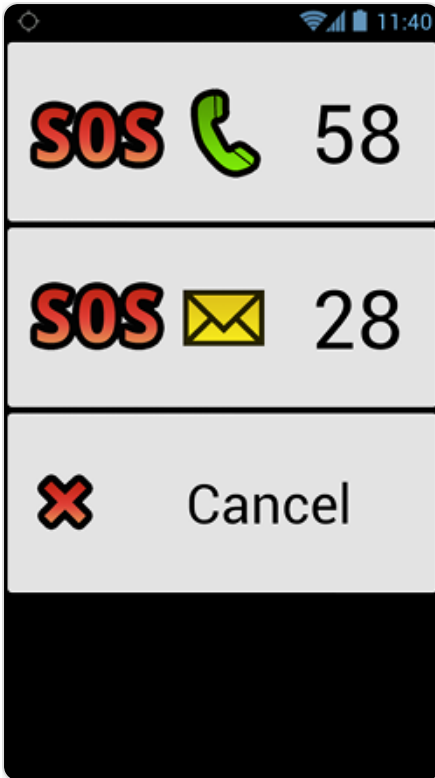
1. **Preferences** → **Appearance** → enable **Full screen**
2. To still see battery and signal, enable:
3. **Show big battery indicator**
4. **Signal indicator**

Safe Borders

Prevents accidental touches on edge-to-edge screens:

Preferences → **Appearance** → **Safe borders size**. Choose a border size from 0% to 15%.

Part 8 — SOS Emergency



The red **SOS** button can automatically: 1. Send an emergency SMS with your location 2. Call a specific phone number

Setting Up SOS SMS

1. **Preferences** → **SOS**
2. Enable **Send SMS**
3. Enter phone numbers in **SMS phone** (separate with commas)
4. Write your emergency message in **SMS text**
5. Set **SMS wait** — seconds before sending (prevents accidental activation)
6. Enable **Add GPS location** to include your location


Example setup: - Phone: +1234567890, +0987654321 - Text: Help me! Emergency! -
Wait: 5 seconds - GPS: Enabled

Setting Up SOS Call

1. **Preferences** → **SOS**
2. Enable **Call**
3. Enter the phone number in **Call phone**
4. Set **Call wait** — seconds to wait after SMS is sent

Using SOS

1. Tap **SOS** on the home screen
2. A countdown appears
3. To cancel, tap **Cancel**
4. After the countdown: SMS is sent, then the call is made on **speakerphone**

 **Limitations:** - You **cannot** use emergency numbers like 911 or 112 (Android restriction) - Use family members' or caregivers' numbers instead - GPS is most accurate outdoors; less precise indoors

Dual SMS Option

Enable "**Send GPS SMS**" to send two messages: 1. First SMS — immediate, with approximate location 2. Second SMS — once GPS gets a more precise fix


Part 9 — Security & Restrictions

Password Protection


 **Watch:** [Password protection](#)

Protect settings so only you or a caregiver can change them:

1. Three dots (:) → **Preferences** → **Preferences menu**
2. Enable "**Protect menu**"
3. Tap "**Password**" and enter your password
4. The password can be blank (just press OK) or a specific code

 **Warning:** If you forget your password, there is **no recovery**. You must reinstall BIG Launcher.


What can be protected: - **Preferences menu** — Password required to open settings - **System settings** — Password required to access Android settings

 **Tip:** Even with System settings password-protected, the user can still access system settings by pulling down the top notification bar (this is an Android function that cannot be disabled). To make this harder, enable "**Full screen**" in **Preferences** → **Appearance** — this hides the notification bar on the home screen, requiring two separate pull-down moves to access it.

Hiding Preferences in BIG Phone / BIG SMS

 **Watch:** [Hide Preferences menu item](#)

1. Open BIG Phone (or BIG SMS) → **Preferences** → **BIG Apps Suite**
2. Uncheck "**Show the Preferences button**"

 You can still access Preferences from BIG Launcher's main menu.

Settings Inheritance Between Apps


 **Watch:** [Settings inheritance explained](#)

Because there are three separate apps, settings can be managed centrally:

- Change a setting in **BIG Launcher Preferences** → it automatically applies to BIG Phone and BIG SMS

- If you change a setting directly in BIG Phone's Preferences, it may override the inherited value

To disable inheritance: 1. Open BIG Phone → **Preferences** → **BIG Apps Suite** 2. Uncheck "**Inherit the settings**"

 **Recommendation:** Keep inheritance enabled so all settings are managed from one place.

Controlling Deletion Permissions

 **Watch:** [Delete history/SMS/contacts](#)

Deletion is **disabled by default** for safety. To enable:

What to Delete	Where to Enable
Contacts	Preferences → Contacts → "Add contact delete option"
Call history	Preferences → Phone → "Allow deleting call log items"
SMS messages	Preferences → Messages → "Show delete button"

Or re-run the **Setup wizard** (Preferences → "Run setup wizard") and change permissions on the trash can screen.

Bulk delete options (when enabled): - Individual entries or entire threads - All history for a specific contact - All call history or all messages

 **Bulk deletion cannot be undone!**

Hiding Applications

1. **Preferences** → **Applications** → **Allowed applications**
2. Tap an app to hide it (shows as "disabled")

3. Use **Disable all** / **Enable all** for bulk changes

Emergency Access to Preferences

If you're locked out: - On the **Home screen**, press and hold the **top-left button for 30 seconds** - This only works on the Home screen

Part 10 — Accessibility

TalkBack (Screen Reader)

BIG Launcher works with Android's TalkBack for blind users: 1. Enable TalkBack in your phone's **Accessibility settings** 2. BIG Launcher reads button names, screen titles, contacts, and messages aloud

Optimizations in Preferences: - **Talkback: don't read app name** — Speeds up reading screen titles
- **Talkback: image buttons** — Use this compatibility fix if TalkBack has problems with image buttons

Speak on Long Press

Even without TalkBack: 1. **Preferences** → **Accessibility** → enable "**Speak on long press**" 2. Hold your finger on any button or text to hear it read aloud

Popup on Long Press

1. **Preferences** → **Accessibility** → enable "**Popup on long press**"
2. Holding a button shows a popup with its description

High Contrast & Large Text Tips

- Use **Dark theme** for maximum contrast

- Set text to **Biggest**
- Set **Safe borders size** to prevent edge touches
- Use **full-screen mode** with the big battery indicator and the selected signal indicator

Large Contact Photos

1. **Preferences** → **Phone** → **Contact photo size**
2. Choose how much space is reserved for the caller photo on the call screen

Haptic Feedback (Vibration)

Preferences → **Accessibility** → enable "**Enable haptic feedback**"

Your phone vibrates slightly with each button press.

Control Options

Mode	Behavior
Short press only	Quick tap activates
Short and long press	Tap = action, hold = description

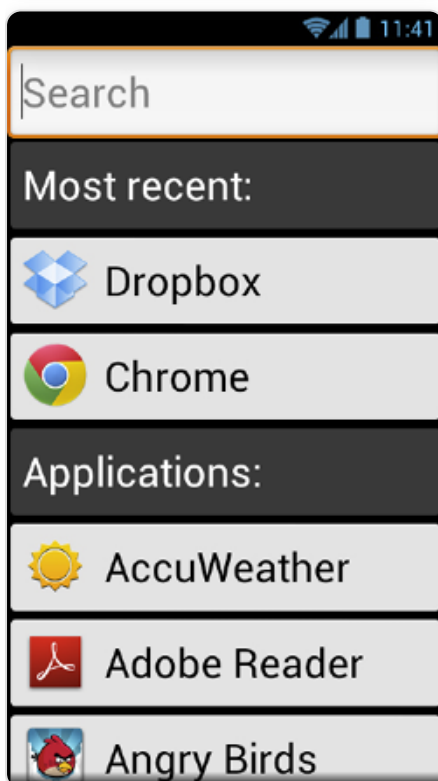
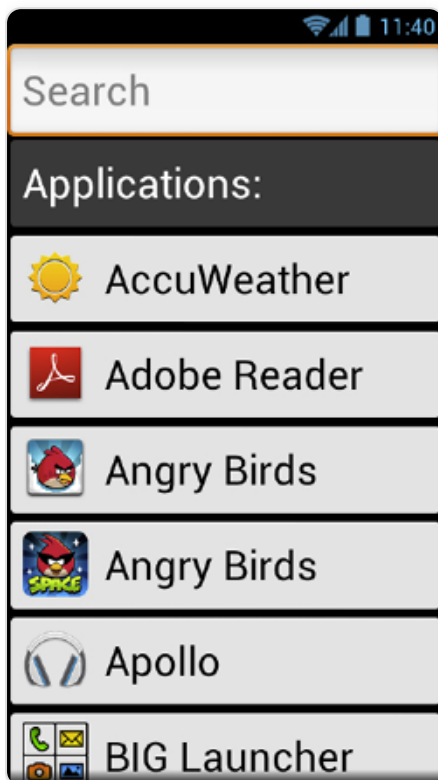
Hardware Keyboard & Accessibility Switches

For keyboard or switch control, disable **Use swipe to navigate screens**, because swipe navigation makes buttons inaccessible by keyboard. Enable **Active button around widgets** when widgets need keyboard focus.

1. **Preferences** → **Screens' options** → enable "**Active button around widgets**"
2. Use arrow keys to navigate, OK/Enter to select, Back to go back

Tecla Shield: BIG Launcher supports external switches, sip-and-puff devices, and joysticks via the Tecla Shield wheelchair interface.

Part 11 — Applications



Accessing Apps


Tap **Applications** on the home screen to see installed apps. The Preferences item can be hidden, placed above apps, or placed below apps in **Preferences** → **Applications** → **Show the Preferences item**.

Recent Applications

1. **Preferences** → **Applications** → enable "**Show recent applications**"
2. Set how many to show with "**Recent applications count**"

Searching for Apps

1. Tap the search box at the top of the apps list
2. Start typing the app name

 Enable "**Better app search**" in Preferences → Applications to search within names (e.g., "book" finds "Facebook").

Showing Preferences in Apps List

If your phone lacks a Menu button: 1. **Preferences** → **Applications** → "**Show the Preferences item**"
2. Choose: **Don't show**, **Above apps**, or **Below apps**

Part 12 — Settings & System

License Transfer

Your license is tied to your Google account. On a new phone: - Sign in with the **same Google account** - Open BIG Launcher → **Preferences** → "**Buy the full version**" → tap **Refresh** - Contact **contact@biglauncher.com** with your Order ID if problems persist

Checking Your App Version

 **Watch:** [How to check your version](#)

1. **System settings** → **Apps** → tap **BIG Launcher** (or BIG Phone / BIG SMS)
2. Scroll to the bottom — version number is shown
3. For Android version: **System settings** → **About phone** → **Software information**

Switching Back to Original Launcher

1. **Preferences** → "**Clear BIG Launcher as default launcher**"
 2. Press the Home button
 3. Choose your original launcher
-
-

Part 13 — Preferences Reference

Important relationships between settings

Some Preferences work together and should be explained before the detailed reference:

- Full screen hides the Android status bar at the top of the display. When it is enabled, the BIG Launcher battery and signal indicators become more useful, because the normal Android indicators may not be visible on the home screen.
- Protect system settings can require a password before opening Android system settings from BIG Launcher. Android itself may still allow access through the notification shade. Full screen makes that harder because the notification bar is hidden on the home screen.
- Blinking buttons for missed calls, messages, and other app notifications depend on notification access and on how the button is assigned. BIG Apps Suite apps can use internal privileged links. If blinking does not work as expected, disable "BIG Apps Suite apps are privileged" and create a normal app shortcut manually in Customize buttons and screens.

- The incoming call screen depends on Android permissions, notification channels, battery management, Focus Mode, and whether BIG Phone is the default phone app. If the full call screen cannot appear, BIG Launcher can fall back to a heads-up notification or a notification-bar-only alert.
- Direct calling options reduce safety prompts. "No menu when calling the contact" and "No menu in the dialer" can make calling faster, but they also increase the risk of accidental calls.
- Deletion is controlled separately for contacts, call history, and messages. Contact deletion is in Preferences -> Contacts, call-log deletion is in Preferences -> Phone, and message deletion is in Preferences -> Messages.
- Swipe navigation between screens is memory-intensive and, when enabled, buttons are not accessible by keyboard. For keyboard, switch, or TalkBack use, consider disabling swipe navigation.
- SMS notification behavior is split between BIG SMS settings and Android notification settings. Sound, vibration, lock-screen display, and full-screen display may require Android notification permissions and channel settings.
- SOS SMS works best when BIG SMS is the default messaging app. If it is not the default SMS app, the SOS message may be copied into the default messaging app instead of being sent automatically.

Open Preferences from the three-dot menu on the home screen, from the Applications list if enabled, or by using the emergency access gesture described in the Security section of this manual.

The exact list can vary by device, Android version, installed BIG Apps Suite apps, and permissions. Some actions open Android system settings.

Main Preferences screen

Item	What it does	Notes
Buy/refresh the full version	Opens purchase or license refresh options.	Each BIG Apps Suite app can have its own license. Use the same Google account used for purchase.
Run setup wizard	Starts the setup wizard again.	Useful after installation or when changing basic settings for a new user.
Select language	Changes the language used by BIG Launcher.	The app can use its own language independently from the Android system language.

Item	What it does	Notes
Appearance	Opens visual settings.	Theme, text size, status indicators, fullscreen, and screen orientation.
Accessibility	Opens interaction and assistive-use settings.	Long press, TalkBack-related options, vibration, and inactive buttons.
Preferences menu	Controls access to Preferences and system settings.	Includes password protection.
Customize buttons and screens	Opens the screen and button editor.	Used to change button functions, labels, icons, layouts, and extra screens.
Screens' options	Opens general screen behavior options.	Swipe navigation, blinking buttons, labels, and menu button behavior.
Contacts	Opens contact list, contact detail, and contact editing options.	Also controls contact deletion and contact popup behavior.
Phone	Opens incoming call, active call, call log, and dialer options.	Many items require BIG Phone to be installed and set as the default phone app.
Messages	Opens SMS notification, message detail, message editor, and filter options.	Many items require BIG SMS to be installed and set as the default SMS app.
SOS	Opens emergency SMS and call options.	Configure phone numbers, wait time, SMS text, and GPS location behavior.
Applications	Opens settings for the apps list.	Recent apps, hidden apps, search, and Preferences shortcut in the apps list.
Compatibility fixes	Opens device-specific fixes.	Use only when the described problem appears. Some fixes may reduce performance.
Disclaimer and Privacy Policy	Shows the legal and privacy information.	The user agrees to these terms by using the app.
Clear BIG Launcher as default launcher	Clears BIG Launcher as the Android default home app.	After pressing Home, Android can ask which launcher to use.
User manual	Opens the online user manual.	Requires a browser and internet access.

Item	What it does	Notes
Check for updates	Shows the installed version and update information.	Always update to the latest version available.

Appearance

Preference	Options	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Select theme	Light (default), Dark, Blue, installed themes, Download more	Changes the color theme.	Dark can improve contrast at night. Extra themes may depend on installed theme packs.
Text size	Default, Bigger, Biggest	Changes the main app text size.	"Apply text size for preferences" controls whether Preferences also use the selected size.
Select screen orientation	Automatic (default), Horizontal, Vertical	Controls whether BIG Launcher follows device rotation or locks orientation.	Use Vertical for phones used only in portrait. Use Horizontal for fixed landscape setups.
Safe borders size	0% to 15%	Adds inactive margins near screen edges to reduce accidental edge touches.	Useful on edge-to-edge displays and for users with motor difficulties. Larger borders reduce usable button area.
Signal indicator	No signal indicator, Phone, Wi-Fi	Chooses which large signal indicator BIG Launcher shows.	Useful with Full screen, where Android's normal status bar may be hidden.
Show big battery indicator	Yes/No	Shows a large BIG Launcher battery indicator.	Especially useful with Full screen.
Show alarm icon	Yes/No	Shows the alarm icon near the clock.	Disable if the device incorrectly shows an alarm

Preference	Options	What it does	Related settings and cautions
			icon even when no alarm is active.
Full screen	Yes/No	Hides the Android notification/status bar at the top of the screen.	Makes accidental system access harder, but also hides normal Android battery and signal indicators.
Black Navigation bar	Yes/No	Changes the bottom Android navigation bar background to black.	May crash on some Motorola devices listed in the app warning. Use only if needed.
Apply text size for preferences	Yes/No	Shows Preferences using the selected BIG Launcher text size.	Useful for low vision, but very large text can make long preference descriptions take more space.

Accessibility

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Control	Short press; Short & long press	Chooses how buttons react to touch.	Short & long press activates the buttons even when pressed for a long time - suitable for seniors who struggle with touchscreens.
Cancel dialogs when touched outside	Yes/No	Closes dialog windows when the user taps outside them.	Disable for users who often touch outside dialogs accidentally.
Enable haptic feedback	Yes/No	Vibrates when menu buttons are touched.	Depends on device vibration hardware and Android vibration settings.

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Speak on long press	Yes/No	Reads an item description aloud on long press.	TalkBack must be installed. Use with "Enable buttons with no functionality" if empty items should also be discoverable.
Popup on long press	Yes/No	Shows the item description in a popup on long press.	Helpful when a caregiver wants descriptions without changing the button action.
Enable buttons with no functionality	Yes/No	Makes all items interactive even if they do not perform an action.	Useful with long-press speak or popup options, because otherwise inactive buttons may not react.
Talkback: don't read app name	Yes/No	Skips repeated reading of the app name.	Speeds up screen-title reading for TalkBack users.

Preferences menu

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Buttons edit in menu	Yes/No	Adds quick access to screen editor in the menu.	This is the "Set buttons" shortcut used by caregivers.
System settings in menu	Yes/No	Adds quick access to Android system settings in the menu.	Can be protected with "Protect system settings".
Protect menu	Yes/No	Requires the Preferences password before opening Preferences.	Use to prevent accidental or unauthorized changes.

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Protect system settings	Yes/No	Requires the Preferences password before opening system settings from BIG Launcher.	Android may still allow system settings through the notification shade. Full screen makes this harder.
Password	Text/password action	Sets the password used by protected Preferences and protected system settings.	A blank password can be used as a simple confirmation. If the password is forgotten, recovery may require reinstalling or resetting app data.

Screens' options

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Blinking button when an app shows a notification	Yes/No	Makes an app shortcut button blink when the app creates a notification in the top status bar.	Requires notification access. The button must be assigned to the app whose notification should be watched.
Clear blinking buttons cache	Action	Clears stored blinking-notification information.	External apps must create or update notifications again before buttons can blink again.
BIG Apps Suite apps are privileged	Yes/No	Links BIG Phone, BIG SMS, and other BIG Apps Suite apps internally to BIG Launcher.	Gives better icons and special blinking data. Disable if blinking behaves incorrectly and create a normal app shortcut manually.
Use swipe to navigate screens	Yes/No	Allows left/right swipes between screens.	Memory-intensive. When active, buttons are not accessible by keyboard.
Swipe type	From home to right; Loop	Chooses how swipe navigation moves through	Loop returns from the last screen to Home. From home to

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
		screens.	right stops at the end.
Use menu button on all screens	Yes/No	Shows the Preferences menu on all screens instead of only the home screen.	Useful when the user spends time on extra screens.
Active button around widgets	Yes/No	Adds an active/focusable button frame around widgets.	Intended mainly for keyboard control. Pressing the button gives focus to the widget.
Enable automatic text labels	Yes/No	Automatically adds text labels to newly created buttons.	Label appearance is controlled by the label color, size, and position settings below.
Invert text label colors	Yes/No	Uses white text with a black outline.	Useful when labels are placed over icons or photos.
Text size	50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 100%, 110%	Sets text-label size on screen buttons.	This affects button labels, not the main app text size in Appearance.
Text labels position	At the top, In the center, At the bottom	Chooses where button labels appear.	Bottom is usually best for app icons; center can help when the label is the main information.

Contacts

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Search contacts by	All available fields (System); Name; Surname	Controls which contact fields are searched.	Name and Surname search may not work on all devices.

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Show contacts with phone only	Yes/No	Shows only contacts that include a phone number.	Recommended for simple phone use, because contacts without phone numbers cannot be called.
Sort by surname	Yes/No	Sorts contacts by surname.	May not work on all phones.
Show Contacts/Favorites toggle	Yes/No	Adds a toggle to switch between all contacts and favorite contacts in the contact list.	Useful if the user often switches between both lists.
Show all contact items including duplicates	Yes/No	Shows duplicate entries in contact detail.	Disable to hide duplicate contact items.
Show add/remove star	Yes/No	Adds the ability to mark or unmark a contact as starred in contact detail.	Starred contacts appear in the Starred list and can be used by filters.
Add contact delete option	Yes/No	Adds "Delete contact" at the end of contact detail.	Deletion cannot be undone. Disable for users who might delete contacts accidentally.
Add system contact detail	Yes/No	Adds access to the Android system contact detail screen at the end of contact detail.	Useful when a special Android contact function is needed.
Use system contact detail	Yes/No	Uses Android's system contact detail instead of BIG Launcher's contact detail.	Use only if the system contact app has required special functions.
Add edit	Yes/No	Adds access to BIG Launcher's contact editor.	This is the simple editor designed for BIG Launcher.

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Add system edit	Yes/No	Adds access to the Android system contact editor.	Useful for contact fields not supported by BIG Launcher's editor.
Show message option in call dialog	Yes/No	Shows or hides "Send message" after tapping a contact's phone number.	Hiding it simplifies the call dialog, but keeping a dialog still helps prevent accidental calls.
No menu when calling the contact	Yes/No	Directly dials the contact instead of showing options.	Faster, but less safe. Not recommended for users who might tap accidentally.
No menu in the dialer	Yes/No	Directly dials from the dialer instead of showing options.	Faster, but removes an extra confirmation step.

Phone

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Select phone ringtone sound	Action	Opens ringtone selection for incoming calls.	Behavior can depend on Android ringtone permissions and sound settings.
Fix: no ringtone sound	Yes/No	Enables a workaround when incoming calls have no ringtone.	First check volume, Do Not Disturb, and Android notification settings.
Show call screen immediately on ringing	Yes/No	Tries to show the call screen immediately when an incoming call starts ringing.	May not work on all devices because of Android and manufacturer battery restrictions.

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Fix: no call screen immediately on ringing	Help/action	Opens instructions for phones that block the call screen in the background.	Common on devices with aggressive battery management.
Show the incoming call as:	Call screen if Android allows it; Heads-up notification; Notification in the Notification bar only	Chooses how incoming calls are presented.	The full call screen is best for seniors, but Android may require fallback to notification-based modes.
Swipe to reject call	Yes/No	Rejects an incoming call when the call notification is swiped away.	Leave disabled if swiping notifications accidentally is likely.
System settings for Incoming call notification	Action	Opens Android notification settings for incoming calls.	Use for sound, vibration, lock-screen display, and other channel settings.
Default audio device for calls	Default, Earpiece, Bluetooth, Wired Headset, Speaker	Chooses the preferred audio route for calls.	Only available devices can be used during a real call.
Audio device button functionality	Show a dialog with all the devices; Cycle through devices as a list	Chooses how the Audio button behaves during a call.	Dialog is clearer. Cycle is faster for experienced users.
Lock the volume buttons	Yes/No	Prevents accidental volume changes while the call screen is active.	Works only when the call screen is active.
Ask to end the call	Yes/No	Shows an additional confirmation before ending a call.	Recommended to prevent accidental hangups.

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Confirm all the actions on a call screen	Yes/No	Requires confirmation for every call-screen button action.	Strongest protection against accidental touches, but makes call control slower.
Empty space at top of the Active call screen	Off / 0 to 11	Adds empty space at the top of the active call screen.	Helps prevent ear or cheek touches during a call. Larger values leave less room for call controls.
Contact photo size	0 to 11, with fill options for empty/background space	Sets how much space is reserved for the caller photo.	Larger photos help recognition but can move call controls lower.
Show Keypad button	Yes/No	Shows the keypad button on the active call screen.	Needed for automated phone systems.
Show Audio switcher	Yes/No	Shows the audio-device button on the active call screen.	Use with Default audio device and Audio button functionality.
Show Duration button	Yes/No	Shows call duration on the active call screen.	Can be hidden for a simpler call screen.
Show Hold button	Yes/No	Shows the hold button on the active call screen.	Hide if the user might place calls on hold accidentally.
Show Mute button	Yes/No	Shows the mute button on the active call screen.	Hide if accidental muting is a common problem.
Show Active call button	Yes/No	Adds an Active call button to the Phone menu.	Helps return to an ongoing call if the user leaves the call screen.
Show My contacts button	Yes/No	Shows My contacts in the Phone menu.	Hide to simplify the Phone menu.

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Show Starred button	Yes/No	Shows Starred in the Phone menu.	Useful for favorites-only workflows.
Show Dial number button	Yes/No	Shows Dial number in the Phone menu.	Hide if the user should only call saved contacts.
Show Add contact button	Yes/No	Shows Add contact in the Phone menu.	Hide if only a caregiver should add contacts.
Show Recent calls	Yes/No	Shows recent calls in the Phone menu.	Related to call-log deletion and grouping.
Group call log items by	Disabled; Phone number; Phone number and call direction	Groups call-log entries.	Grouping reduces clutter, especially on phones with many repeated calls.
Show Delete button	Yes/No	Shows the delete button for call-log items.	Disable for users who might delete history accidentally.
System settings for Missed calls notification	Action	Opens Android notification settings for missed calls.	Use for sound, vibration, and visibility of missed-call notifications.
Smaller numbers in the dialer box	Yes/No	Makes dialed numbers smaller so more digits fit.	Useful for long numbers.
Long press deletes the whole dialed number	Yes/No	Holding the dialed-number field clears the whole number.	Faster correction, but can erase the full number accidentally.

Messages

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
System Message notification	Yes/No	Shows SMS notifications in the Android notification bar.	Behavior depends on Android version, notification permission, and app activity.
Sound and visual configuration	Action	Opens Android notification settings for message notifications.	Use for sound, vibration, lock-screen display, and channel behavior.
Full-screen display over the Lock screen	Yes/No	Shows an incoming SMS notification as a full-screen window over the lock screen.	Requires Android full-screen notification permission.
Swipe to mark as read	Yes/No	Marks an SMS as read when its notification is swiped away.	Disable if notifications may be dismissed accidentally.
Request delivery notification	Yes/No	Requests SMS delivery information.	Some mobile operators may charge for delivery reports.
Show info popup when message is sent/delivered	Yes/No	Shows a popup when SMS sending or delivery succeeds.	Error popups are always shown. On Android 11 or newer, popup text cannot be enlarged by the app.
Show Call now button	Yes/No	Shows Call now in message detail.	Useful for quickly calling the sender.
Show Reply button	Yes/No	Shows Reply in message detail.	Hide to make message detail read-only.
Show Resend button	Yes/No	Shows Resend in message detail.	Useful after failed SMS sending.
Show Forward button	Yes/No	Shows Forward in message detail.	Hide to simplify message options.
Show Delete button	Yes/No	Allows deletion of messages.	Disable for users who might delete SMS accidentally.

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Show Send button	Above the text; Bottom of the screen; Above the keyboard	Chooses where the Send button appears in the message editor.	"Above the keyboard" keeps Send close to typing. "Bottom of the screen" can be easier to find.
Block numbers	None; Which are not in Contacts; Which are not Starred; All	Filters incoming SMS by sender.	Strong filters can hide important messages. Starred-only is strict and should be used carefully.
Blocked numbers list	Action/list	Always rejects messages from addresses in this list.	Use for known unwanted senders.
Dual SIM card support	Yes/No	Shows SIM selection when sending an SMS.	Use only on dual-SIM devices.
Fix: show missing messages	Yes/No	Uses a slower compatibility mode when not all message threads are visible.	Enable only when messages are missing.
Messaging system permissions	Action	Opens or checks required Android messaging permissions.	BIG SMS must have the required SMS permissions and usually must be the default messaging app.

SOS

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Send SMS	Yes/No	Automatically sends an SMS after pressing the SOS button.	Works automatically only if BIG SMS is the default messaging app. Otherwise the SOS text may be copied into the default SMS app.

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
SMS phone	Phone number text field	Sets the number or numbers to receive the SOS SMS.	Use family or caregiver numbers, not emergency-service numbers blocked by Android restrictions.
SMS text	Text field	Sets the SOS message text.	Keep the message short and clear.
SMS wait	Seconds	Sets the delay before sending the SOS SMS.	Gives the user time to cancel accidental activation.
Add GPS location	Yes/No	Adds GPS location to the end of the SOS SMS if available.	GPS is more accurate outdoors. Indoors it may be approximate or unavailable.
Send GPS SMS	Yes/No	Sends another SMS when a more certain location is available.	Useful when the first message is sent before GPS has a precise fix.
Call	Yes/No	Automatically calls after pressing the SOS button.	Usually used after the SOS SMS is sent.
Call phone	Phone number text field	Sets the number to call.	Use a trusted contact or caregiver.
Call wait	Seconds	Sets how long to wait before the call after SMS sending.	A delay reduces accidental calls and gives SMS time to send first.

Applications

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Show recent applications	Yes/No	Shows recently used apps in the Applications list.	Disable for a simpler fixed apps list.
Recent applications count	Number	Sets how many recent apps are displayed.	Fewer recent apps make the list simpler.
Allowed applications	Action/list	Lets you hide apps from the apps list.	Hidden apps are not uninstalled; they are only removed from BIG Launcher's apps list.
Show search on top	Yes/No	Shows the search field at the top of the apps list.	Can also be toggled by pressing the search button on devices that have one.
Show the Preferences item	Don't show; Above apps; Below apps	Adds BIG Launcher Preferences to the apps list.	Useful on devices without a hardware/menu button or when the home-screen menu is hidden.
Better app search	Yes/No	Searches for the typed text inside app names, not only at the beginning.	Example: searching "book" can find "Facebook".

Compatibility fixes

Use these only when the listed problem appears. Some can make BIG Launcher slower or use more memory.

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Fix: missing icons in menus	Yes/No	Helps when empty squares appear instead of icons in lists.	May make scrolling slower.

Preference	Options or current example	What it does	Related settings and cautions
Talkback: image buttons	Yes/No	Adjusts image-button behavior for TalkBack.	Use when TalkBack announces image buttons incorrectly or confusingly.
Clear cache upon pressing the Home key	Yes/No	Clears app cache when Home is pressed.	Memory-intensive; can help with external theme problems.
DPI of icons	Default, Low, Medium, High, X-High, XX-High, XXX-High	Chooses icon resolution.	Higher DPI looks sharper but requires more memory. Lower DPI can help performance.
Restart app	Action	Restarts BIG Launcher and clears cache.	Use only if other fixes fail.

Part 14 — Troubleshooting

No Ringtone on Incoming Calls

1. **Preferences** → **Phone** → enable "**Fix: no ringtone sound**"
2. Check your phone's volume and Do Not Disturb mode

SMS Messages Not Received

1. Make sure BIG SMS is set as default messaging app
2. **Preferences** → **Messages** → enable "**Fix: alternative SMS receiver**"
3. Restart your phone

Black Screen During Incoming Call

1. **Preferences** → **Phone** → open "**Show the incoming call as**" and "**Fix: no call screen immediately on ringing**"
2. Android Settings → Apps → BIG Phone → Notifications → enable "Show on lock screen" and "Turn screen on"

Missing Messages in Threads

Preferences → **Messages** → enable "**Fix: show missing messages**"

Duplicate Messages

Toggle "**Fix: alternative SMS receiver**" (enable if disabled, or disable if enabled).

BIG Launcher Is Slow or Crashes

1. Reduce the number of screens
2. Turn off swipe navigation
3. Enable "**Clear cache upon pressing the Home key**" in Preferences
4. Lower icon quality (Applications → reduce DPI)
5. **Preferences** → "**Restart app**"
6. Reboot your phone

Battery Draining Fast

- Disable swipe navigation
- Reduce icon quality
- Turn off internal SMS notifications (use system ones)

Forgot Password

No recovery available. You must uninstall and reinstall BIG Launcher (resets all settings). Restore from backup if you have one.

"Don't Keep Activities" Fix

 Watch: [Fix "Don't keep activities"](#)

Some battery guides recommend enabling "Don't keep activities" in Developer options. This **completely breaks** BIG Launcher.

1. **System settings** → **Developer options** → find "**Don't keep activities**"
2. **Make sure it is OFF**
3. If Developer options isn't visible: **About phone** → **Software information** → tap **Build number** 7 times

Notification Problems

If you're not receiving notifications: 1. Check **Android Settings** → **Apps** → BIG SMS/BIG Phone → **Notifications** (enable all) 2. Disable **battery optimization** for BIG apps 3. Check **Do Not Disturb** mode

Device-Specific Issues

Phone Brand	Common Issue	Fix
Samsung	Duplicate SMS	Check Messages notification/system settings; use "Fix: show missing messages" only when threads are missing
Samsung	Black screen on calls	Use Phone → Show the incoming call as, notification settings, and Fix: no call screen immediately on ringing
Sony Xperia	Empty squares instead of icons	Enable "Fix: missing icons in menus"
Motorola	Navigation bar issues	Try black navigation bar option

Phone Brand	Common Issue	Fix
Xiaomi/Huawei/Oppo	Notifications blocked	Add BIG apps to "protected apps" or disable "battery optimization"

Part 15 — Support & Help

Contact Information

- **Email:** contact@biglauncher.com
- **Website:** biglauncher.com
- **YouTube:** youtube.com/@big_launcher

Before Contacting Support

Please provide: 1. Your **phone model** (e.g., Samsung Galaxy S21) 2. **Android version** (Settings → About phone) 3. **BIG Launcher version** (see [Checking Your App Version](#)) 4. **Description** of the problem 5. What you've already tried

Common Support Requests

Problem	Solution
"I bought full version but it's not activated"	Check internet → Refresh in Buy section → same Google account → contact with Order ID
"Incoming calls don't show BIG Launcher's screen"	Set BIG Phone as default → enable notifications → disable battery optimization → use Show the incoming call as / Fix: no call screen immediately on ringing
"Messages show in wrong order"	Enable "Fix: show missing messages" → check phone date/time

Problem	Solution
"BIG Launcher keeps stopping"	Restart phone → clear cache → reinstall as last resort

Appendices

Appendix A: Gesture & Control Reference

Action	What It Does
Single tap	Select or activate
Long press (hold)	Show description, speak item, or alternative action
Swipe left/right	Change screens (if swipe enabled)
Home button	Return to BIG Launcher
Back button	Go to previous screen
Menu button	Open Preferences (phones with physical button)

Appendix B: Supported Languages (70)


BIG Launcher 5.9.0 supports 70 app languages. The app language can be selected independently from the Android system language in **Preferences** → **Select language**.

Language codes: af, am, ar, az, bg, bn, ca, cs, da, de, el, en, es, et, fa, fi, fil, fr, gl, gu_IN, ha, he, hi, hr, hu, hy_AM, id, it, iw, ja, jv, ka, kn, ko, ku, lt, lv, mai, mr, ms, my, nl, no, or, pa_IN, pa_PK, pl, pt, pt_BR, ro, ru, sd, sk, sl, sq, sr, sr_CS, sv, ta, te, th, tl, tr, uk, ur_PK, uz, vi, yo, zh_CN, zh_TW

Right-to-left languages such as Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Urdu use a mirrored interface where appropriate.

Appendix C: Permissions Explained

Permission	Why It's Needed
Contacts	Show your contacts and photos
Phone	Make and receive calls
SMS	Send and receive text messages
Storage	Save photos and backup files
Camera	Take contact photos
Location	SOS emergency GPS
Microphone	Phone calls






 Your data is **never** collected or sent online. Everything stays on your phone.

Appendix D: Android Compatibility

Android Version	Support Level
4.0+ (Ice Cream Sandwich)	Minimum — very old phones
6.0+ (Marshmallow)	Recommended
10+	Best experience

Feature requirements: Modern shortcuts (8.0+), better notifications (10+), full call screen control (9+).

Appendix E: Quick Reference Card

For Seniors: -  Green button = Phone calls -  Yellow button = Text messages -  Red button = Emergency SOS -  Blinking = Something new (message or call) -  Three dots = Settings

For Caregivers: 1. Set up SOS with family phone numbers 2. Enable password protection if needed 3. Install companion apps (BIG Phone, BIG SMS) 4. Set all three as default apps 5. Test everything with the user 6. Disable deletion for safety

Appendix F: Video Tutorials

All videos available at youtube.com/@big_launcher

Topic	Link
Install BIG Launcher	Watch
Set default launcher	Watch
Set default phone/SMS app	Watch
Add screens & customize buttons	Watch
Customize buttons	Watch
Assign contact to button	Watch
Assign WhatsApp contact	Watch
Button blinking	Watch
Fix SMS blinking	Watch
Delete history/SMS/contact	Watch
Show Preferences	Watch
Purchase full version	Watch
Restore license	Watch
Price info	Watch
Password protection	Watch
Simplify call menu	Watch
Hide Preferences in Phone/SMS	Watch

Topic	Link
Default audio device	Watch
Settings inheritance	Watch
Check version	Watch
SMS notifications (Android 10+)	Watch
Fix "Don't keep activities"	Watch
Add credit card to account	Watch
Free version limitations	Watch
Promo (English)	Watch

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