



QUALITY WIRELESS HEADPHONES

at four different price points

Wireless is the future of headphones and no amount of scepticism is going to stop that from happening. The headphone market is currently filled with quality wireless headphones, that too at different price points. So if you're gearing up to gift a brand new pair of wireless headphones to your loved ones or perhaps even yourself, then look no further than the list we've got for you.

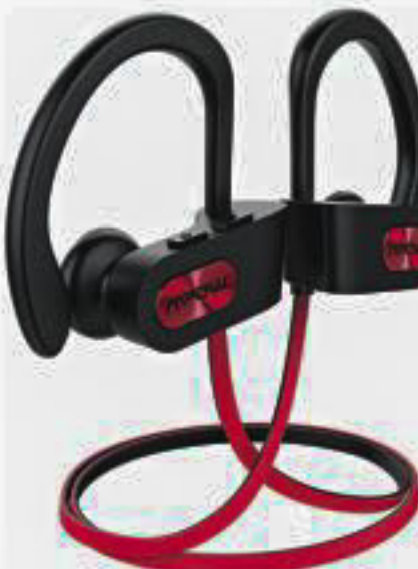
ASIF AYON

THE BUDGET OPTIONS – BASICALLY \$25

Quality headphones within the budget category are difficult to find on account of questionable durability or middling audio profiles. So if you're planning to stay under \$25, it's best to go for headphones which give you the overall bang for your limited bucks.

MPOW FLAME Price: \$19.99 (Tk. 1,490)

The Mpow Flame is an in-ear headphone and it comes with IPX7 water resistance meaning that it can take a good dunking in 1 meter of water for thirty minutes. The battery life is impressive with 7 to 9 hours of playtime. The highs and mids come through very clearly on but the bass is however a little low on these headphones. The Mpow Flame is made for avid runners, sporting a flexible rubber grip above the earpiece for support, with all of the buttons fashioned on the earbuds.



ANKER SOUNDBUD SLIM Price: \$24.99 (Tk. 2,999)

The Anker Soundbud Slims sound solid when even comparing against the giants of the industry. It comes with IPX5 water resistance making it fully sweat resistant. The headphones come with Bluetooth 4.1 and a 7 hour battery life. While the Anker Soundbud Slims have a very minimal look to them, there is nothing minimal about the sound profile. There is a good amount of bass and the highs and mids are clean with minimal distortion. It is hard to recommend them to those who want to pair them with high intensity sports however. The headphones have the tiniest in-ear hooks which provide very minimal support compared to the Mpow Flame's large over the ear hooks.

BUDGET PREMIUMS – \$50 TO \$100

A rather murky territory this one – goliaths like Sony, Sennheiser or Bose won't tread here nor will Chinese budget kings Meizu or Mpow. But there are a couple of great headphones to be had at this price point.

SKULLCANDY CRUSHER Price: \$99.95 (Tk. 13,900)

Now the Skullcandy Crushers are infamous for the heavy bass sound profile, going as far as having a manual slider for bass on one of the earcups. The design of these headphones is very industrial with an all black look with a white model with gold earcups available as well. Skullcandy claims that the headphones have a battery life of 40 hours with 2.5 hours needed for a full charge. The bass is very noticeable on these headphones and do sometimes end up muddling up the overall texture as well. But these headphones are an acquired taste and they shine through with hip-hop or rap music.



JAYBIRD X3 Price: \$89.00

One of the best Bluetooth headphones of 2016, the Jaybird X3 is still relevant if not more popular. The headphones feature a small rubber hook on each earbud which will provide you with a nice grip when you're out for a run. The Jaybird X3 has the distinct Jaybird sound – nothing sounds too overpowering and all the instrumentations sing out individually and the bass doesn't feel too heavy. Its biggest drawback is the proprietary charging dock which you can't ever lose or forget to bring with you on trips.



TAOTRONICS BH22 Price: \$68.99

The TaoTronics BH22 is very portable for a beefy pair of headphones. It has 25 hours of battery life and Bluetooth 4.0 on board. There is a little audio video desync sometimes, but nothing too noticeable. The sound is balanced with the bass being not too overpowering. The mids and highs don't have any searing effects to them either.

BUDGET WITH BENEFITS – \$25 TO \$50

Once you cross the \$25 threshold you'll start to notice how there are a lot of headphones which hit the right markers but with an added bonus, making them good for their price points.

AVANTREE AUDITION

Price: \$44.99

This over-ear headphone has around 40 hours of battery life on a full charge. The Avantree Audition comes with a clear treble profile and a rich bass sound which doesn't muffle the other octaves. If wireless isn't your game then the headphones also have an input for a cable with 3.55mm headphone jack support.



MEIZU EP52

Price: \$40.99 (Tk. 3,450)

The Meizu EP52 comes with magnetic earbuds where you can stop the music, hang up the phone call and initiate automatic shutdown after 5 minutes, just by bringing the earbuds together. It comes with aptX audio enhancement technology meaning that the sound quality will be very rich when compared to its competitors at this price point. The in-ear EP52 has a tiny clasp on top of the earbuds which can fit into your ear unobtrusively as opposed to the hooks on the Mpow Flame or Hussar Magicbuds. Its only downside would be the bulky volume controls and the unattractive neckband.

THE TRUE PREMIUMS – \$100 TO \$200

While the headphones listed above get the job done and have some quality of life features, headphones above a \$100 are made for the purest of audiophiles. If you've got the money or the enthusiasm, then perhaps it's time you pair your new flagship smartphone with these headphones.

BANG & OLUFSEN BEOPLAY H4 Price: \$199.00 (Tk. 26,500)

Now if you're looking for headphones in this price range, then you are already aware of the Sony WH-1000XM2 or Bose QC25 or QC35s. But it is definitely worth taking a look at Bang & Olufsen's Beoplay H4 because of its standout audio profiles. The H4's low end responses are tight as opposed to the thumping feeling you get from most headphones. The vocals sound crisp and the overall sound is bright and balanced. And if you want to play around with the textures yourself, then you can do so from the Beoplay app for Android and iOS. It comes with four preset sound profiles and it will adjust the highs and mids accordingly. The headphones come with 19 hours of battery life. These headphones however don't come with a carrying case nor does it have Active Noise Cancellation like the Sony and Bose headphones.



SENNHEISER HD 4.50BTNC

Price: \$179.95

The Sennheiser HD 4.50BTNC's are one of the cheapest headphones out there to include Active Noise Cancelling. While the noise cancelling isn't as powerful as the ones you would find on other higher end headphones, the Sennheiser's can block out most environmental noise and drown out conversation or music playing in the background. It comes with 19 hours of battery life with Bluetooth and Noise cancellation activated. Another neat feature is that it features NFC, meaning that you can connect your smartphones via NFC.

*All prices listed are approximate and may vary.



FUCHSIA

BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA?

Fuchsia at first glance comes off as a weird little word. While it sounds almost similar to the Chinese word Fengshui, Fuchsia is actually derived from modern Latin meaning a purplish-red flower. So why did Google name its upcoming OS after an exotics tubular flower and not a dessert?

Firstly, Fuchsia is a completely new project: it is not an extension of Android. Rather it is Google's cloak and dagger Real Time Operating System which will probably be platform agnostic. You can run it on Mobile, PC or even smart devices. There's very little info available publicly but one thing is for sure – Google is partnering with several tech giants to develop Fuchsia.

Technologically, Fuchsia is also much different compared to Chromium and Android, Google's current two most popular OS. For starters, it is not based on Linux. Rather it is based on Zircon Kernel and can be written in an array of languages such as, C, C++, Dart, Go, LLVM, Python, Rust, Shell, Swift, JavascriptCore etc. Fuchsia is based on a new microkernel called "Zircon".

Zircon was derived from a small operating system called "Little Kernel", intended for embedded systems. But the big news broke when Fuchsia was updated with a user interface, along with a developer writing that the project was not a "dumping ground of a dead thing", prompting everyone to speculate about Google's intentions with the OS, including the possibility of it replacing the entire Android ecosystem.

So what features will this OS be coming with? So far we have seen the UI which is a card-based UI named Armadillo. The app and UI, written on Flutter, can offer apps with high performance that run at 120 frames per second. In addition, Fuchsia's leaked info indicates that it might be a system that will run apps on the background to deliver you refined information, meaning that you won't need to install apps separately. The app store will find and deliver whatever you need from any specific app without even requiring any installation.

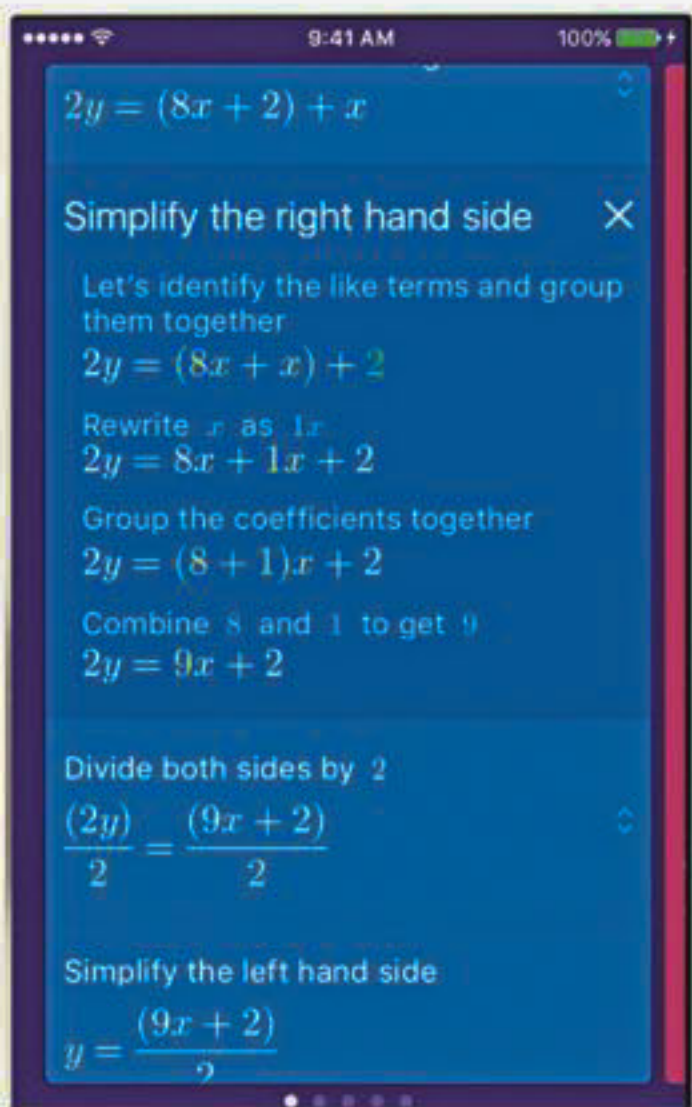
All this information is from nearly a year back so fast forward to last week and Huawei and Google announced that they have been working on making the super secretive OS run on devices based on Huawei's homegrown Kirin 970 processor, starting with the Honor Play.

Collaboration between Google and Huawei isn't new. Huawei's Nexus 6P was a market hit and Google was very happy with the company's performance. So it wasn't surprising when we heard the news of Huawei and Google's collaboration for Fuchsia. Huawei has a lot of Kirin 970 processor-based devices in the market – Mate 10, Mate 10 Pro, P20, P20 Pro, Honor 10, Nova 3, Honor Note 10 and many more upcoming devices just around the corner. According to analysts, the first proper usable glimpse of Fuchsia is expected to be available by mid-2019. So till then, we have to patiently wait for Google's next big announcement.

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

Three apps for last minute exam prep

It's hard to cram everything from your study materials last minute and even more so if you failed to understand a topic in class. But if you can stop panicking for one second and give these apps a try then you might still have a shot at saving your grade the next day.

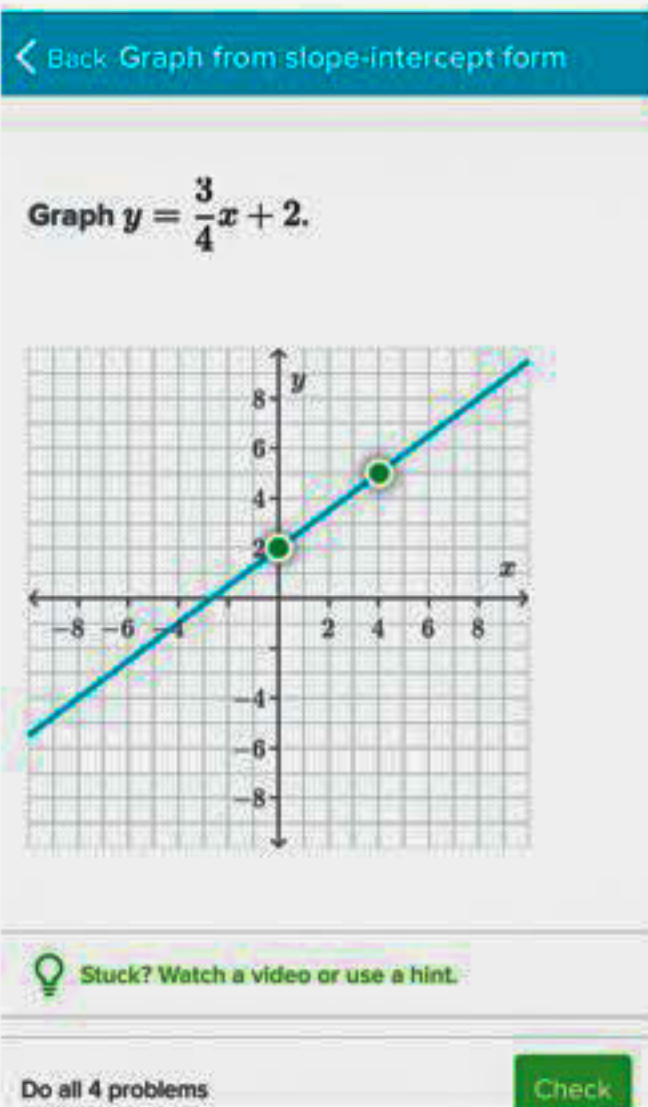


SOCRATIC (FREE)

Platforms: iOS, Android
Socratic is a great tool to have around if you're having trouble with concepts and graphs. The app lets you take pictures of an excerpt from your book or pdf and it searches for the answer from the web. The way it works is that you take a picture of the part of text you want scanned and Socratic gives you the answers it finds from the web. It can however only support a small amount of text that too only in English. But the app's scanning is precise and can typically provide answers in a short amount of time.

KHAN ACADEMY: FREE LEARNING APP (FREE)

Platform: iOS, Android
No student's essential list would be complete without Khan Academy and the smartphone app is a must have as well. The app comes with all the videos you would find on the website. And if you are already familiar with Khan Academy and its vast library then you know that there's nothing that the app can't help you with either. The app has a plethora of quizzes, unit tests and course challenges that you can take and it also comes with a drawing feature which albeit still needs some improvements.



Irregular plural nouns: the base plural

Choose the correct plural noun to fill in the blank in the sentence.
The scrumptious meal consisted of many fresh _____ and bowls of rice.
Choose 1 answer:
salmons
salmon
salmone

GEOTREX GRAPHING CALCULATOR (FREE)

Platform: iOS, Android
Not exactly an app for students who need to cram, but rather an all round great app for engineering students. The app lets you plot functions and solve equations individually or in pairs. There is a website available with similar functionalities as the app. The app is also good for people who want to learn how to graph parabolas, hyperbolas, etc. It includes an Exam Mode which sets the app in full-screen mode with a timer and a red status bar pop-up which will ring out if the student goes out of the app. This feature allows you to carry a full-fledged graphing calculator during your exam but obviously it's up to your teacher and whether he will allow you to use the tool during exams.

