

What is Zoom?

Zoom is a popular video conferencing platform that is now more commonly used in schools. It's very similar to [other video conferencing apps](#) like FaceTime, Skype, or Google Meet, except Zoom has cool features that allow for big conferencing groups, virtual whiteboards, and other collaborative resources.

How do teachers use Zoom?

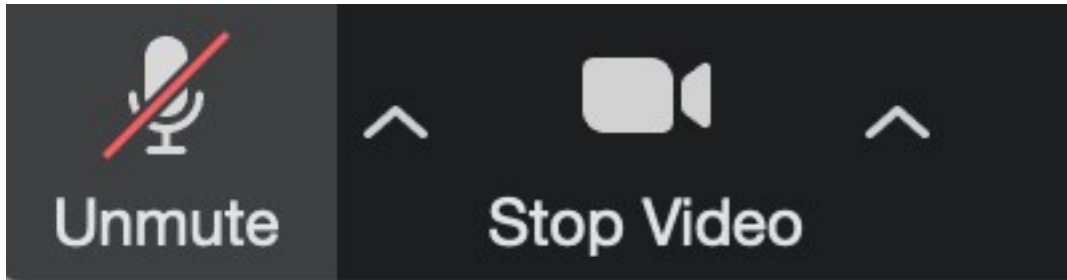
Zoom has many helpful tools that make it pretty perfect for children to use with their teachers. These are the features you can expect your child's teacher to use while teaching them over Zoom.

- **Screen sharing.** Your child's teachers will likely share their screen to present lessons and demonstrate principles. It's the same idea as your teacher using a SmartBoard in class.
- **Whiteboard.** Your child's teacher may use this tool for kids to brainstorm ideas and participate in lessons.
- **Breakout rooms.** Your child's teacher can divide kids into groups, have them work on something, and then bring the class back together afterwards.
- **Special icons.** There are Raise Hand, Clap, Disagree, Speed Up, and Slow Down icons that your child can use to let the teacher know if they have a comment or are going too fast.
- **Group chat features.** Everyone in the Zoom session can send and receive messages to each other. It's like passing notes, but not as fun or challenging. Your child's teacher can productively use this feature to have partners exchange ideas and work together.

Make sure your child understands the mute button

Everyone who isn't actively speaking on Zoom should mute their microphone.

Muting your microphone on Zoom is really easy. Just click the microphone icon on the bottom right or left once your child starts a Zoom call. Make sure it has the red slash through it unless they are participating.



How do I keep my child engaged during Zoom?

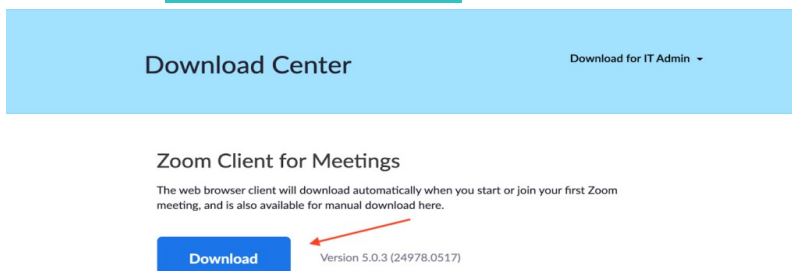
Believe it or not, some children have a hard time focusing on schoolwork while they're on the computer. Hopefully your child's teacher does a good job engaging with students via Zoom, but it might be wise to stay in the room for a couple of teaching sessions to make sure your child isn't surfing the web or actually playing Fortnite or something.

How do I download Zoom for my child?

The first thing you'll want to do is download Zoom on your computer. Here's how:

How to download and install Zoom on your desktop

1. Go to [Zoom's website](#) and hit the Download button.

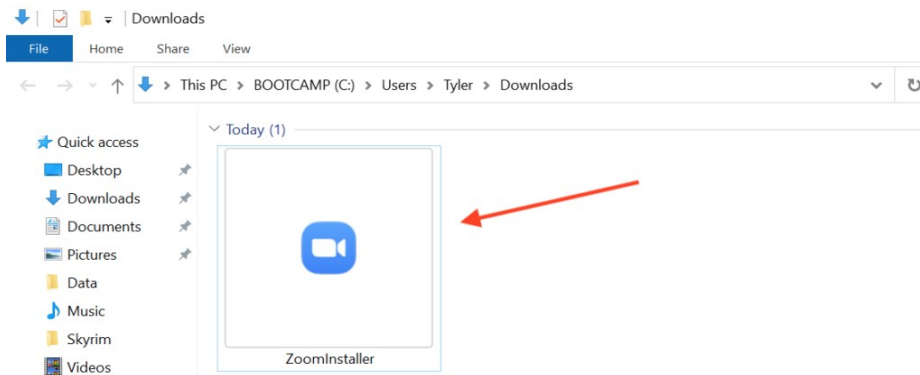


2. Choose where you want to download the app. Your computer will probably default to downloading Zoom to your downloads folder.

3. Click the Zoom installer and allow it to run. If you're on a Mac computer, it will look like this:



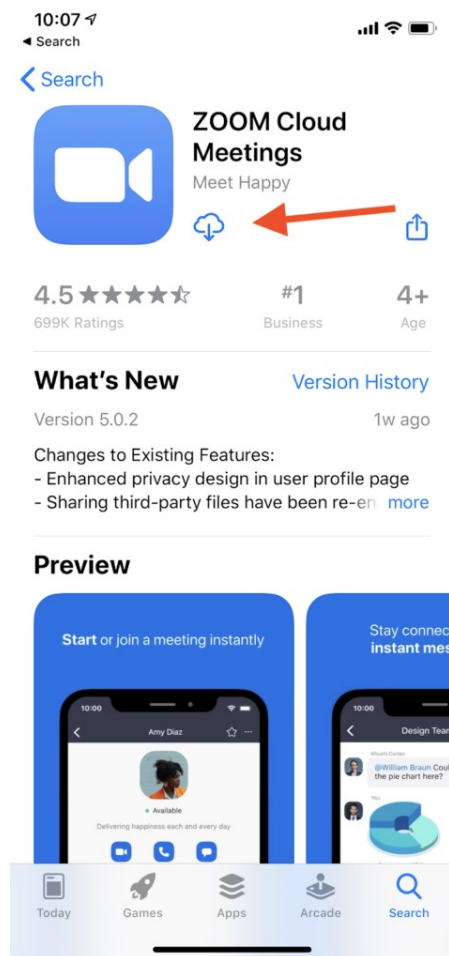
The installer will look like this on a Windows computer:



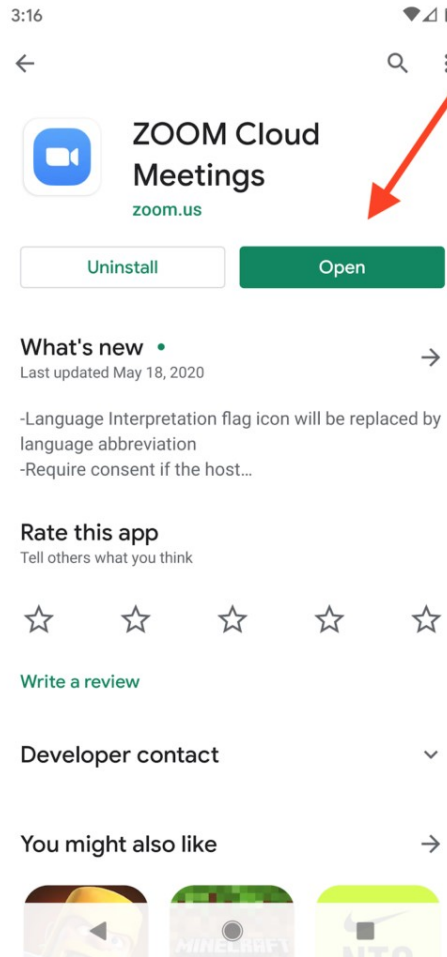
4. Let the installer do its thing, and Zoom should open once everything finishes.

How to download the Zoom app on your mobile device

1. Open your app store.
2. Search for Zoom.
3. Hit download.



This is what you'll see on the Apple App Store. I have the cloud icon instead of the download icon because I already have the app downloaded.



Downloading Zoom will look like this on an Android device. Except yours will probably say Download instead of Open (Zoom was already downloaded on this device)

How do I make a Zoom account for my child?

For school, a Zoom account is not necessary!

If your child will just be joining in with a link that the teacher sends out, then they won't need to make their own account. Students can join Zoom meetings without having an account with an invite link.

