

Changing a SIM card

A common misconception is that it is illegal to unlock a phone but that is confusing unlocking and unblocking.

Unlocking a phone simply allows you to use it with a Sim card from any network.

Unblocking is enabling a phone that has been rendered inoperative after being reported lost or stolen.

Unlocking a phone is completely legal. *Unblocking* a phone is illegal.

First, you need to ensure that your phone is not locked to one network. The quickest way to do this is to borrow a SIM from a friend who uses a different network and insert it in your phone*. If your phone still works it is not locked and you need do nothing except change the card.

If your phone does not work with the borrowed card you will need to have it unlocked. Moneysavingexpert.com gives detailed information about the procedure or you will find many Internet companies offering an unlocking service, often free but typical charges are £3 to £5. Type “unlock mobile” into Google or any search engine of choice.

Companies supplying international Sim cards unlock phones when necessary as part of their service. Links to such companies are on the [Crete Travel Information](#) web site.

* The SIM card, a microchip approx. 2cm x 1cm, is usually located behind the battery on the back of the phone.