

# This weird trick can free up gigabytes of space on your iPhone

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Try  
this



## iPhone hack if you're out of storage space

This simple iPhone trick may add gigabytes of extra storage space to your maxed-out iPhone.

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It seems like iPhone storage is always at a premium, especially if you have an entry-level model with just 16GB (an economic necessity for many an iPhone owner). It's the rare user who doesn't know the pain of trying to download a new app or snap a few more photos and seeing the dreaded "not enough storage" message.

You've probably heard all the usual "free up space" tips, but I'm willing to bet you haven't heard this one. It's an honest-to-goodness magic trick, one that may fill you with joy while simultaneously making you a little mad at Apple.

Your iPhone doesn't need to be jailbroken, and this doesn't void your warranty or involve any kind of risk. Try it, and see what happens. Here's the drill:

**Step 1:** Tap the Settings app and then tap **General > About** to see how much storage is available. Note that as the "before" number.



Here's how much space an iPhone 5C had before the trick.

Screenshot by Rick Broida/CNET

**Step 2:** Open the iTunes Store app, head to movies, and find any really large title. "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" is a good choice at 6.83GB. (You just need to find a movie that requires more space to download than you have available on your phone.) Tap the **Rent** button twice, keeping in mind you won't actually end up renting it (and therefore won't be charged anything).

lord-of-the-rings-cannot-download.jpg

Screenshot by Rick Broida/CNET

**Step 3:** Once you see the message that there's not enough space available to download your rental, tap Settings. Then navigate back to General > About and you should see a couple hundred megabytes' worth of additional available storage -- possibly even more.

iphone-5c-after-trick.jpg

And just like that, an extra 400MB.

Screenshot by Rick Broida/CNET

**Step 4:** Repeat the process! (That is, go back to the iTunes Store app and try renting the movie again.) Each time, you should wind up with another chunk of freed-up storage. Keep going until you either have too much free space (meaning you'd actually be able to download the movie) or the available space stops rising.

What. The. Heck? It's not immediately clear why this works, but it does. I just tested it on an iPhone 5c (running iOS 9.1, just for the record) that had 4GB of available space. Result after the first attempted rental: 4.4GB.

Alas, that was as far as I got. Repeated attempts yielded no more space. But if you check [the Reddit thread devoted to this topic](#), you'll see that many users tacked on hundreds of megabytes numerous times, and some were able to reclaim *gigabytes* of space. The best news of all: There doesn't appear to be a downside to this. It's not like iOS is secretly wiping out your photos or something.

Instead, it's probably clearing out caches that shouldn't be full in the first place -- suggesting this is a storage issue (if not outright bug) Apple should investigate.

Let's crowdsource it a little further. Once you've tried the trick, hit the comments with your results!