Hello, I'm Sarah. I'm here to help you get started with your mobile device, such as your smartphone or tablet.

Today's mobile devices can do many of the same things that traditional computers can do. You can go on the Internet, send email messages, and much more.

Mobile devices are also great for taking photos on the go and some can even give GPS directions!
In this course we will focus on the way smartphones work. We will also look at tablets, a different type of mobile device.

These devices look and work similarly. Instead of using a keyboard and mouse, the main way you control them is by touching the screen. A keyboard appears when you need to type something. There are also a few buttons around the edge of the phone that perform specific functions.
Every tablet or phone comes with an Operating System, just like computers often come with a version of Microsoft Windows. The operating system is the underlying piece of software that manages everything the device does.

The two most popular mobile operating systems are Android and iOS. Android is developed by Google and runs on many different brand name devices. iOS only runs on Apple devices, like the iPhone and iPad.

Android and iOS devices can do all the same tasks, but look a little bit different. For this course, we will look at the Android operating system.
Your mobile device will have a few ports and buttons around the edges. It may have a headphone jack and a place to plug in your power cord. Some devices have slots to insert an SD memory card for saving photos or contacts or a SIM card used to allow you to make prepaid phone calls.

Your device will have a few buttons to control the device, which may adjust the volume and perform other functions. It will also have some type of Power Button. Holding down the power button will turn the device on or off.

Devices often go to “sleep” to save power when they are not being used. You can press the power button to wake the device back up.
Let’s take a tour of an Android device. This is the Lock Screen, our starting point. Once we unlock the phone, we are taken to the Home Screen.

From the Home Screen we can open apps, which are applications that run specific tasks. These commonly used apps are included at the bottom of the home screen so you can access them more quickly. These apps are set when you start your phone for the first time, but can be changed later if you change your mind.

We can also use the search box to open other apps or search the web. At the bottom of the home screen is the Navigation Bar, or “Nav Bar”. The navigation bar will appear at the bottom of each screen, and includes controls to open all active apps, return to the home screen, and go back to the previous screen.

Along the top is the Status Bar. It tells us important information, about the Wi-Fi Internet Connection, cell phone signal, battery level, and current time.
To control a mobile device, you touch the screen of the device with your finger. Specific motions of your finger will produce different results. Instead of a click, just tap the screen with your finger, like this.

You can also press and hold to unlock special menu options, like this. Swipe the screen by dragging your finger across it, like this.

Use both fingers to zoom in or out and change the size of the graphics on the screen. Pinch your fingers together to make it appear smaller, or spread your fingers apart to make it appear bigger, like this.

Some Android devices and apps also allow you to use your voice to control them with simple commands.

You can practice using these controls on your own mobile device.