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High school parking spots

Image: Shutterstock Are you the person who parks in the first open space you find, or the person trying to find the space closest to where you're going? It turns out that both methods are inefficient ways to navigate through a parking lot and there is a mathematically better option. As Jennifer Ouellette explains, in *Ars Technica*: Paul Krapivsky of Boston University and Sidney Redner of the Santa Fe Institute decided to build their analysis around an idealized single-row parking lot (a semi-infinite line), and they focused on three basic parking strategies. A driver who uses a meek strategy will take the first available spot, preferring to park as soon as possible, even if there are open spaces closer to the entrance. A driver using an optimistic strategy will go straight to the entrance and then backtrack to find the nearest possible spot. Finally, drivers who implement a prudent strategy will divide the difference. They might not grab the first available spot, figuring there will be at least another clearing a little closer to the entrance. If there isn't, they will backtrack to space a meek driver would have claimed immediately. After doing the math, the two physicists came up with this conclusion: Entering the back of the lot and parking in the first place you see is inefficient, because it requires a lot of walking. Trying to find the best possible place is inefficient because it requires a lot of driving. Driving to the entrance, skipping any open spots at the end of the line and parking in the first gap between cars minimizes both your driving time and your walking time. G/O Media can a commission anchor Nebula Solar Projector Don't believe me? Here's a visual: Why does this strategy work? Krapivsky and Redner explain it in terms of how molecules attach to microtubules, but here's a version the rest of us can understand: If you're driving in a parking lot (assuming you're approaching from the back), you'll pass a bunch of cars parked in the first spot they found. You drive to the front of the party and look for the best spot, but that wastes time. Instead, look for the first open space between the existing parked cars. These are the parking spaces that neither the meek nor the optimistic drivers consider, which means they are the most efficient option for the cautious driver. Little is more miserable than getting off a six-hour flight; spend an extra hour in the airport... Read more Of course, these kinds of mathematical problems don't always translate well into the real world (and it's worth noting that this particular model represents a parking space that from a single straight line, instead of the circular or rectangular structures that exist more often). Sometimes you want the best possible spot because of the weather, or because you or your passengers can't walk long. Sometimes every parking lot is full, and your only option is to circle the lot until something opens. Sometimes you grab a space in the first gap that you see and walk past some better places you could have taken. But if you're looking for a quick parking strategy that can save time on walking, driving and wondering if it's better to park in the first available spot or circle the lot for a better one, this tip can work often enough to make it worthwhile. Updated 10/3/2019 at 3:30 p.m.: The original version of the article misstated Krapivsky and Redner's findings, suggesting that drivers are parking in the first multi-space gap between cars. We have confirmed with Sidney Redner that cautious drivers should park in the first gap between cars, whether that gap consists of a single parking space or multiple parking spaces. There are two types of parking apps. The first helps you find a parking space in a busy city or city. The second helps you find your car in a large parking lot. Fortunately, our list includes both types of apps. Apps like this are especially useful if you're in huge areas like cities, amusement parks, shopping malls, shopping malls and other different areas. Parking is a real pain in the most crowded cities most of the time. Hopefully these apps help! These are the best parking apps for Android! For the sake of simplicity, we have divided this list into two sections. The first five apps help you find your car after you park. Meanwhile, the second set of apps helps you find a real parking space for your car. Google Maps Parkily Parked Car Locator Manufacturer apps The Parking Spot Parkopedia Parking ParkWhiz SpotAngels SpotHero Google Maps Price: Free Google Maps is a surprisingly decent option to find your car. You use the app to mark your location as your parking lot and then return to it as needed. Of course, it acts as a navigation app with all the features that come with it. The process to save your location as your parking lot is not difficult. Here are instructions to do this for Android devices and iOS devices here. Parkily Price: Free/Up to \$5.99 Parkily is a decent option for finding your car. It uses a Bluetooth connection to detect when you're running away from your car and marks your location for future reference. However, you also manually set the location if the Bluetooth thing doesn't work for you. This allows you to save as many parking spaces as is needed and even lets you share the location of your car in case you need a friend to get it for you. The reviews tell of some bugs here and there, but nothing too serious. Parking Price: Free/\$6.49 Park is another simple, but mostly parking app. It offers a simple user interface, a one-tap save for your parking location, and it can automatically detect your parking space as well. The automatic detection is a bit buggy and worked half the time in our our. However, my car also has absurd Bluetooth range so that may have been the cause of the problems. Some other features include support for Wear OS, a widget on the home screen, and it also has features for indoor and underground parking. The full version is a bit expensive, though. Parked Auto Locator Price: Free (with ads) Parked Auto Locator is a very simple app that does a simple thing. You pint your location when you get out of your car and then follow the marker back to find your car later. The app has a few different map modes, a location history, and it will measure your distance to your car as best as possible. It got it right within 50 feet during our testing and that's pretty decent compared to some of the low rent parking apps we've tested. It's a free app with ads and it's really very simple. Manufacturer apps and physical car GPS trackers Price: Varies Hardware is also a solution for those who want to go the hardcore route. Many automakers now have apps, including Chevy, Ford and others. Many of those apps come with a vehicle locator feature in case you lose your parking space. In addition, physical GPS trackers are useful for finding your car in parking lots as well. Of course, the main use for them is to find your car if it's stolen, but that doesn't mean you don't use it to find parking spaces in the meantime. We've paired FordPass, but you'll basically go with one of them as long as they have an Android app for phone control. The Parking Spot Price: Free The Parking Spot is one of many decent parking apps. This will help you find parking spaces. You consult a map to find a parking space in the area you want to go to. In addition, you use the app to make parking reservations, actually pay for it and go in without any hassle. However, that feature only works on some parties. Some other features include a TPS Shuttle finder and some other fun stuff. There really isn't much to complain about. It does what it says it does. Parkopedia Parking Price: Free/Up to \$5.49 Parkopedia Parking is another somewhat popular, decent option for parking apps. The app uses crowd sourcing to show you as many parking spaces as possible. It has a library of more than 70 million parking spaces in 15,000 cities. It also tries to show you prices for parking spaces when it can. However, due to the crowd sourcing aspect, some of these prices come out wrong. However, it can help identify what kind of payments many receive and that information is usually good. It's usually a good one. ParkWhiz Price: Free ParkWhiz looks a lot like The Parking Lot. The you where you can find a bunch of parking. However, it also gives you access to parking reservations and you pay in advance if you wish. It offers thousands of locations in the US and Canada and there is a price comparison tool if you really need it. The app hits most major cities Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles and even Toronto. It won't show you the hidden gem parking lots, but it's good for what it does. SpotAngels Price: Free SpotAngels is another crowd sourcing parking app. We actually dealt with this when it launched a long time ago and it has grown up a lot since then. You will find a variety of parking spaces, including paid parking spaces. In addition, the app can help you avoid parking tickets, street cleaning and help you find alternative side street parking if necessary. Believe it or not, SpotAngels also has a car locator feature to help you find your car in large, crowded parking spaces. This is probably the best all-in-one option for parking apps, as long as you don't mind helping contribute some info from time to time. SpotHero Price: Free SpotHero is a decent app to complete our list. It works very much like The Parking Spot or ParkWhiz. You can find and reserve parking spaces in larger, big cities. With the app, you can pay with Google if you want to (and we recommend that). In addition, there are tools for people who use the app for business purposes and the GEUSKers interface is actually quite nice. This is not something we would recommend if you park in the zoo, but if you are traveling to Chicago, you can try this one. If we missed a great parking app, tell us about them in the comments! You also click here to view our latest Android app and game lists! Lists!

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