

# How to Find New Apps for Dementia

## Greetings everyone!

Do you need more choices for recreation at home or while waiting somewhere or even in the car with your loved one with dementia? There is always a time or two that a little diversion by a smart phone or a tablet will save the day and your stress level.

But now you must find the right app and that is not an easy task. We read articles in senior magazines and family members or friends recommend a game that is just the best only to discover it might be the best for someone else but NOT your family member. The app adds to your stress and their frustration because they need constant help to use it. At times like this we want to give up and never try again!



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Here comes Superman! Oh, sorry, wrong superhero! Here comes **ActoDementia!** Can you hear the trumpets and the fanfare? No, well just wait, if you need some good options for dementia apps, you will be cheering when we are done!

This website, [www.actodementia.com](http://www.actodementia.com) is out of the United Kingdom and they have some great choices in how they present the apps they have chosen. Two things first, sometimes they spell their words the British way and that's ok. The other thing is sometimes the apps you want to download aren't available in the USA. Sorry, it just happens sometimes.

But here is the feature that is the best! The list at the right side of their website screen. These are great choices when searching for that perfect game. I am very fond of the **Failure-Free** option. That means your person will never fail and the activity is simple to do. They will be interacting with the screen through touch. Please note that they review Android and Apple apps.

### By feature

- Android apps
- Apple (iOS) apps
- Failure-free
- Free apps
- Multilingual
- One player games
- Pick-up and play
- Two player games

Let's look at a game and see the many pieces of information on the page. I chose Bubble Explode:

## Bubble Explode

**Pros**

- Large, clear design of objects & text
- 'Failure-free'
- No previous knowledge of rules required to play
- Simple, fun gameplay
- New auto-prompt to support gameplay
- Can change animation speeds
- Various options to improve accessibility



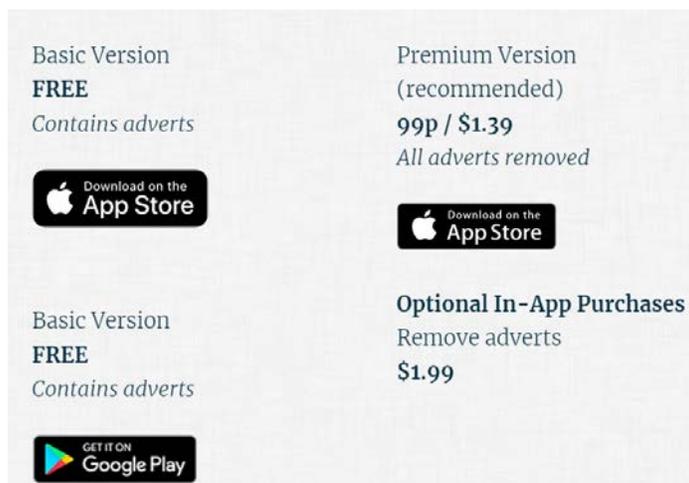
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As you can see, they show you a screen shot of what the game looks like during play – it is

colorful and has good contrast. Beside that illustration is a list of pros and cons which can help you decide if this game will possibly work for you. And this game is a Failure-Free style. Also, no rules to memorize and the speed of the animation can be changed – how great is that? And in the cons section that explain some viewing issues and the dreaded “in-app purchases”. You should consider removing any payment methods or use another method for payment that removes purchases that you don't want. Another point, not all apps will play or even play well on a smart phone. The size of the screen makes a huge difference in game play.

Here is another section of the Bubble Explode review screen:



The screenshot shows two columns of information. The left column lists the 'Basic Version' as 'FREE' and 'Contains adverts', with a 'Download on the App Store' button. The right column lists the 'Premium Version (recommended)' as '99p / \$1.39' with 'All adverts removed' and another 'Download on the App Store' button. Below this, the 'Basic Version' is again listed as 'FREE' and 'Contains adverts' with a 'GET IT ON Google Play' button. To the right of the Google Play button, it says 'Optional In-App Purchases Remove adverts \$1.99'.

Right away we know this is a **free game** but there is a premium version. Most times the premium version eliminates the ads that play during game play. I like to try the game for awhile to see if I really like it and if it will be

worth keeping for the long haul before I purchase the premium version. Some games are fun for the first few times I play but just aren't fun after a week or two. Be sure to watch your loved one play the game including their eyes. If they look content or happy while playing, you may have a winner to add to your list of good activities. The nice thing is, if your loved one doesn't engage with it, you can just delete it.

The ActoDementia site doesn't have oodles of games reviewed but the information they share is worth its weight in gold.

And if you know someone with little children, share this site because it works just as well for little ones who aren't reading yet.



So, are you cheering for our **ActoDementia Superhero**? Great website!

That's it for this time. Enjoy!

Share this resource with your friends, they don't have to be a caregiver!

Have questions? Please contact us by phone or email (see below).

[For those of you reading this outside the Lower Shore of Maryland – please contact your local Area Agency on Aging for assistance.]

Be well. Take care of you!



Give us a call or email and we will be glad to answer questions about the resources we have. **Please call** and ask at 410-742-0505, ext. 118 – Cindy Robinson **Or, email** Janet Parke at [jparke@macinc.org](mailto:jparke@macinc.org)

Let us know if you would like to receive this Information Newsletter in your email. We will be glad to send it to you. Send an email to [llewis@macinc.org](mailto:llewis@macinc.org)

Janet Parke, has over over 25 years' experience working with people with disabilities

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