

CS 193A

The Action Bar

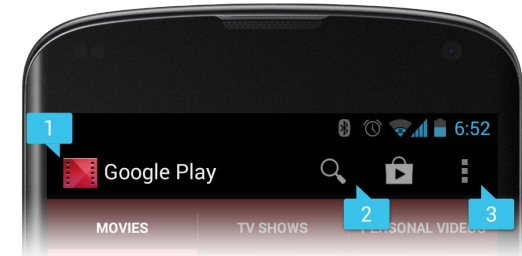
Action Bar ([link](#))

- **action bar:** top-level menu of app functions
 - replaces older "Menu" button (which is now discouraged in Android 3+)
 - identifies current activity/app to user
 - make common actions prominent and available
 - make less common actions available through a drop-down menu



Support for action bar

- make activity class extend **ActionBarActivity**
 - write methods: **onCreateOptionsMenu**, **onOptionsItemSelected**
- declare the menu items in `res/menu/menu_activity.xml`
 - decide which items have icons, which have text, which should appear in main menu, which in "overflow" submenu
 - need to place **icon image files** in **res/drawable** folder
- handle events
 - write code in **onOptionsItemSelected** to check what option was clicked and respond accordingly



ActionBarActivity

```
public class MainActivity extends ActionBarActivity {  
    ...  
  
    @Override  
    public boolean onCreateOptionsMenu(Menu menu) {  
        MenuInflater inflater = getMenuInflater();    // reads XML  
        inflater.inflate(R.menu.menu_main, menu);      // to create  
        return super.onCreateOptionsMenu(menu);       // the menu  
    }  
  
    @Override  
    public boolean onOptionsItemSelected(MenuItem item) {  
        // TODO: handle clicks on the menu items  
        return super.onOptionsItemSelected(item);  
    }  
}
```

Menu bar XML data

```
<menu
  xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
  xmlns:app="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res-auto"
  xmlns:tools="http://schemas.android.com/tools"
  tools:context=".MainActivity">

  <item android:id="@+id/action_send" android:title="Send"
        android:icon="@drawable/iconsend"
        app:showAsAction="always" />
  <item android:id="@+id/action_archive" android:title="Archive"
        android:icon="@drawable/iconarchive"
        app:showAsAction="always" />
  <item android:id="@+id/action_open" android:title="Open"
        android:icon="@drawable/iconopen" />
</menu>
```

- showAsAction can be always, never, ifRoom, withText, ...

onOptionsItemSelected

```
public class MainActivity extends ActionBarActivity {  
    ...  
    /* Handles presses on the action bar items. */  
    @Override  
    public boolean onOptionsItemSelected(MenuItem item) {  
        if (item.getItemId() == R.id.action_send) {  
            // do something;  
        } else if (item.getItemId() == R.id.action_archive) {  
            // do something;  
        } else if (item.getItemId() == R.id.action_open) {  
            // do something;  
        }  
        return super.onOptionsItemSelected(item);  
    }  
}
```