

Communication

Nothing beats sitting around a campfire with your grandkids chatting about sports, politics, and the latest TV craze. This is communication at its best—when you can see expressions, share a roasted marshmallow and just relax and talk. Ahhh...

Unfortunately, you can't have a campfire every night. And even if you could, you certainly couldn't expect your kids and grandkids to be available every night, or to be as enthusiastic as you are about maintaining a deep relationship seasoned by the smell of campfire. People have their own interests, their own free-time activities. That's what makes them interesting.

Campfires are great. So are family dinners, reunions, and trips to the Grand Canyon. But these won't satisfy all of your basic communication needs. Fortunately, there are new technologies for staying in touch and developing relationships with friends and family.

New modes of communication are predicated on the old modes. We still connect through speaking, writing and looking; but technology has added a new flavor and immediacy to these “conversations.”

The following technologies offer a very real opportunity to connect with more loved ones more often—even if they live on the other side of the planet. These are not substitutions for face time. They are supplements. We can't be together all the time, but we can stay much closer by using the new communication technologies.

Chapter 6

In this chapter you will investigate:

- **Phones**
 - ◆ Cell Phones
 - ◆ Phones over the Internet
 - ◆ Senior Phones
 - ◆ Smart Phones
 - ◆ Texting
- **Online Communication**
 - ◆ Email
 - ◆ Instant Messaging
 - ◆ Social Network Websites
 - ◆ Twitter
 - ◆ Video Chat

Background Check

It's hard to believe that 150 years ago the only way to get a message across the country was by giving a letter to a guy on a horse. This is how our great-grandparents communicated with distant relatives. A lot has changed since then.

1850	1856 Western Union Telegraph Company begins operations.
1876	1876 Alexander Graham Bell invents telephone and sends the message "Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you." It is the first message sent over his new telephone system.
1889	1878 First Commercial telephone switchboard.
1915	1887 The USA has 150,00 phones lines; UK 26,00 and France 9,000.
1956	1892 The first direct dial phone goes into service in La Porte, Indiana. (Fifth Information Revolution)
1972	1950 Bell Labs and Western Electric create the first telephone answering machine.
1991	1969 ARPANET, precursor to the Internet, goes online at UCLA, Stanford, and the University of Utah.
2002	1977 Fiber-optic telephone cables are installed.
2004	1995 America Online, CompuServe, and Prodigy begin offering dial-up internet service.
2006	1997 Camera phone is invented.
2007	2003 MySpace is created (later sold in 2005 for \$580 million)
2010	2005 Skype offers free video conferencing across the internet using webcams.
	2007 Apple releases the iPhone.

Phones

Yes, I realize that you already know what a phone is. You call someone, you have a conversation, you hang up, you pay your bill. And that's all there is to it. Right? Not by a long shot.

Modern phones are complex electrical devices, which often incorporate a number of non-phone features like cameras and Internet browsers. Phones also have different ways of making calls—some home phones use the phone line, some use an Internet connection, some use wireless cell towers, and some even use satellites.

Let's take a look at the different flavors of modern telephone.

Cell Phones

Portable. Wireless. Fantastic.

The modern cell phone began in the late 1970's as a large wireless car phone that could send and receive signals to nearby cell towers. As electronic components shrank and batteries became more powerful through the following decades, so did the cell phone. By the early 1990's cell phones were small and light enough to carry around on your person. Since then phones have gotten smaller, lighter, and are jam packed with additional features.



Wireless bluetooth device connects to your phone, sits in ear and frees your hands for other “fun” activities.



There are many options when shopping for a cell phone.