

# TextNow mobile service explained - Claude

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How does text now sim card work

TextNow is a free phone service that works a bit differently than traditional carriers:

## How it works:

TextNow primarily operates over **Wi-Fi and cellular data** rather than traditional cell towers. When you use their SIM card:

- 1. Data-based calls and texts** - Your calls and texts are transmitted over data networks (Wi-Fi or mobile data) using VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) technology, similar to apps like WhatsApp or Skype.
- 2. The SIM card** - When you get a TextNow SIM card, it connects to partner networks (they use T-Mobile's network in the US) to provide you with mobile data coverage when you're away from Wi-Fi.
- 3. Free with ads** - The service is free because it's ad-supported. You'll see ads in the app, which subsidizes the cost of providing the service.

4. **Phone number** - You get a real phone number that can call and text any regular phone number in the US and Canada.

### Key limitations:

- Since it relies on data, call quality depends on your internet connection strength
- Coverage is limited to where their partner network (T-Mobile) has service
- You need the TextNow app installed to make calls and send texts
- The free plan has data caps, though you can upgrade to paid plans for more data

It's essentially a hybrid between a traditional phone service and an internet-based messaging app, making it a budget-friendly option for basic phone service.

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What plans do they have?

TextNow offers several plans:

### Free Plan

- Unlimited talk and text over Wi-Fi
- Limited data on the cellular network (around 2GB, though this can vary)
- Ad-supported
- Calls and texts work anywhere with Wi-Fi or cellular coverage

### Paid Plans (these remove ads and add more data)

TextNow typically offers a few tiers, though specific pricing can change:

- **Essential Plan** - Around \$8-10/month for more data (usually 2-3GB of high-speed data)
- **Standard Plans** - Usually \$15-30/month range with more data allowances (5-10GB range)
- **Unlimited Plan** - Around \$40-50/month for unlimited data

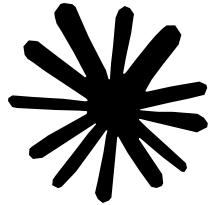
### Add-ons

- You can purchase additional data if you run out
- International calling credits for countries outside US/Canada

### Important notes:

- All plans include unlimited talk and text in the US and Canada
- Data speeds may be throttled after you hit your high-speed limit
- The paid plans also typically remove the lock screen ads
- Prices and plan details can vary, so I'd recommend checking their website or app for current offerings

Since I last had reliable information in January 2025, their exact plan structure and pricing may have changed. Would you like me to search for their current plan options?



[Claude can make mistakes. Please double-check responses.](#)