

The History of Telephones

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Introduction

- This telephone history describes the evolution of the electrical telephone.
- In the 1870s, two inventors Elisha Gray and Alexander Graham Bell both independently designed devices that could transmit speech electrically
- Both men rushed their respective designs to the patent office within hours of each other, Alexander Graham Bell designed his telephone first.
- Elisha Gray and Alexander Graham Bell entered into a famous legal battle over the invention of the telephone, which Bell won.



Telephone

EVOLUTION



1914
Candlestick
rotary phone



1920s
Desktop rotary
dial phone



1960s
Touch tone pad
phone



1970s
Wall touch tone
pad phone

How does it Work ?

The telephone consists of two circuits that work together:

To talk circuit and the dial circuit.
Basically what the phone does is transform sound into electrical signals that are then transported by cables to the other person's phone.



Has this invention change the world ?

This invention changed the world. It enables you to have communication. In the past, individuals had to rely on mail, which could take weeks, months, or even years depending on where they resided. When the telephone was initially introduced, only the wealthy could afford it. Eventually, the middle class could have them installed in their homes. It kept families together. When an emergency occurred, residents would be unable to communicate outside of their homes.

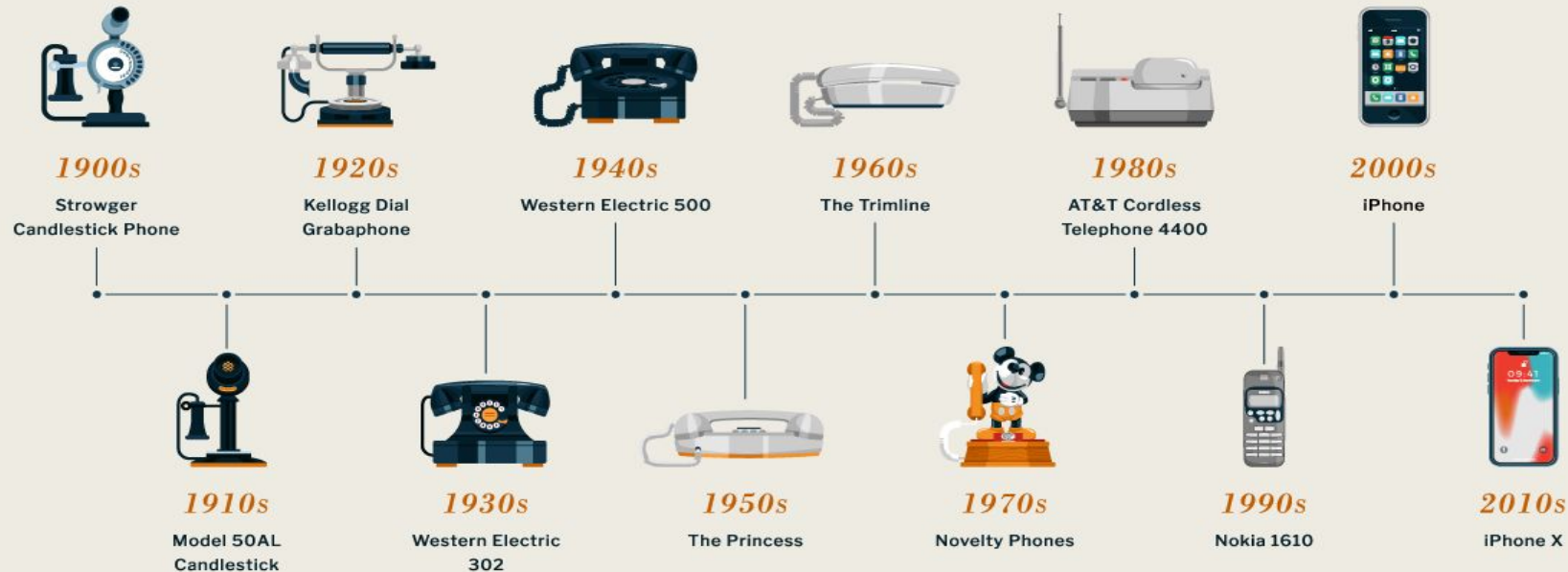


Businesses could now communicate with each other more easily thanks to telephones. It shortened the time it took for messages to be sent back and forth. Businesses were able to reach a wider audience as the telephone network grew. Telephones were first used by businesses to link offices and expand their customer base. Communication between people was transformed by the invention of the telephone. The improvements in communication helped a lot of businesses.



TELEPHONE

Phones evolved to be smaller and lighter, until going fully mobile with the creation of cell phones.



What did people do before this ?

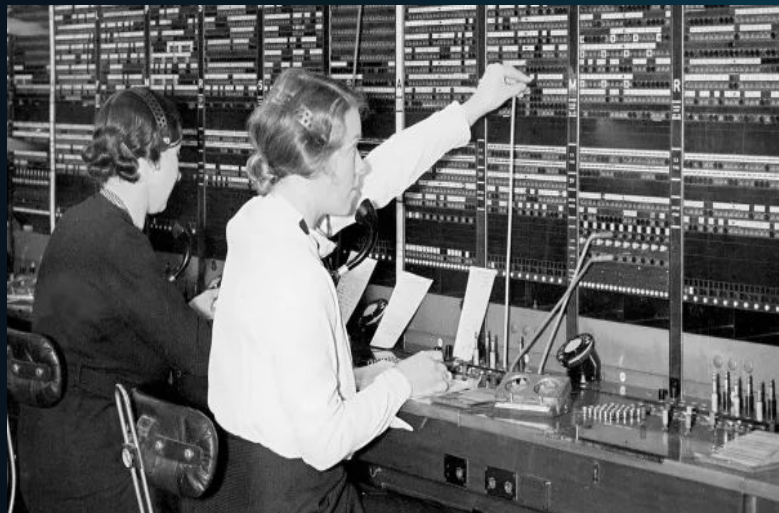
When telephones did not exist, people communicated through:

-) Fire signs.
-) Postcards.
-) Carrier pigeons.
-) Telegrams.
-) Messages in the bottle.
-) Wild noises.
-) Pay phone.



Switchboard operators

The initial telephone operators were untrained and unsupervised telegraph boys, but were quickly replaced by young ladies who were more trustworthy and pleasant. The growing number of callers also altered the occupation. AT&T employed nearly a quarter-million switchboard operators by 1946. The first all-automatic exchange opened in 1921 in, Nebraska. Manual exchanges are no longer used in the United States. All telephone subscribers are served by automated exchanges run by computers that perform the functions of a human operator.

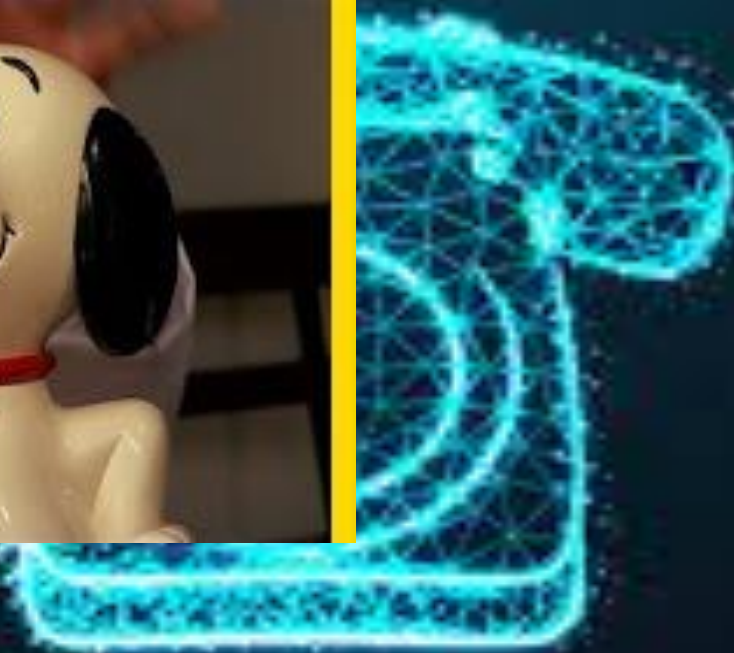


The evolution to the telegraph to the telephone

- The telegraph and telephone are both wire-based electrical systems.
- Alexander Graham Bell's success with the telephone came as a direct result of his attempts to improve the telegraph.
- When Bell began experimenting with electrical signals, the telegraph had been an established means of communication for some 30 years.
- Although a highly successful system, the telegraph, with its dot-and-dash Morse code, was basically limited to receiving and sending one message at a time.
- His "harmonic telegraph" was based on the principle that several notes could be sent simultaneously along the same wire if the notes or signals differed in pitch.



Interesting facts



Resources

<https://www.thoughtco.com/history-of-the-telephone-alexander-graham-bell-1991380>

<https://www.history.com/topics/inventions/alexander-graham-bell>

[The-complete-history-of-the-telephone](#)

<https://historycooperative.org/history-of-phones/>

