

Getting set up for video calling

Here are some top tips for making video calls over the internet.

What is video calling?

One of the great things about the internet is that it lets you make video calls, for free, at just about any time you want.

A video call is just like a phone call, but you can also see the face of the person, or people, you're speaking to.

What you need

You probably already have everything you need to make video calls.

The key things you need are:

- A camera, or 'webcam', for capturing video.
- A microphone for talking into.
- Speakers for hearing the person you're calling.

All these things are built into most computing devices, including desktop computers, laptops, tablets and smartphones. Some desktops might not have web cameras, however. If this is the case, you can buy a separate webcam and plug it into your desktop computer.

You will also need the right application.



What you'll need to make video calls

Getting set up for video calling

Video calling applications

There are a number of video calling applications. Some of the best known are:

- Skype
- WhatsApp
- FaceTime



Each of these applications can be downloaded for free from official App stores. FaceTime and Skype actually come already installed on many devices.

When you video chat with someone, they have to be using the same application as you. If you're using Skype, you can't call someone using WhatsApp, for example.

How much it costs

Most video calls are free. You can talk for as long as you want.

There are some exceptions. Skype, for example, lets you make voice calls from your computer to a normal phone line, but this is not free. Calling another person who's also using Skype is totally free, however.



Most video calls are free!

Using the camera

The camera on your device is usually located just above the screen. To use it, just follow these guidelines:

- If you're calling from a computer, sit and use your laptop or desktop computer from a normal, comfortable typing position.
- With a smartphone or tablet, you hold it at a comfortable distance from your face. Usually you will be holding it tall-ways.



Sit in a normal, comfortable position

Getting set up for video calling

Using the microphone and speakers

When talking during a video chat, just speak normally. You don't need to shout.

The voice of the other person will come out through the speakers on your device.

If you have trouble hearing them, you can turn up the volume using the volume buttons on your device.



Time to call

Lots of people use video calls, and it is now very easy to do. Usually you just choose a person's name from the contact list on your device and press the video call button. The other person's device will ring, and when they pick up you can start talking.

It's that easy!

