

## Free apps for keeping in touch – video, audio, text



There are many apps for connecting with others using your WiFi, with both audio and video calling on smartphones, tablets and PC or MAC (your device must have a camera or webcam).

Calls are free to anywhere in the world when you are using Wi-Fi – calls using mobile data will come out of your allowance.

Calls can be one to one or you can talk as a group. Some are device brand-specific like Apple's FaceTime; others like Microsoft Skype can be used downloaded and used on most devices. Some also include text messaging. Here is a selection of the most popular apps for getting and staying in touch.



**FaceTime**

**Audio✓ Video✓**

FaceTime can only be used between two Apple devices, and comes pre-installed. It can be used for audio and video calls on iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch and Mac. You can use your Apple ID to sign in on any device, and your email on iPad (iPhone uses your phone number). You can switch between audio and video on a call, and group calls can have up to 32 people - the tile of the person speaking enlarges automatically, so it is easier to keep track of the conversation.



**WhatsApp**

**Audio✓ Video✓ Text✓**

WhatsApp was designed for use on smartphones so it isn't easily available for tablet or PC/Mac (it needs a mobile number and sim card). It uses Wi-Fi or data so will save your usual text and call allowances on your mobile network. It's great for individual and group chats – and you can add up to 8 people in a video call. You can also send photos, video, links and documents.



**Skype**

**Audio✓ Video✓ Text✓**

Skype is available on smartphone, tablet, PC and Mac – download from the app store on your device. You need to create a Microsoft account if you don't have one already. Calls are free to other Skype contacts only – you can invite others to join in the app. Group calls can include up to 50 people.

**Messenger****Audio✓ Video✓ Text✓**

Although owned by Facebook, Messenger is a separate app available on smartphone, tablet, PC and Mac – you download and sign in with your Facebook account. It's simple to use for text messaging, and has some fun filters and stickers – you can disguise yourself while chatting! There is also a new feature called Rooms, which lets you have a group call of up to 50 people at once.

**Zoom****Audio✓ Video✓**

Zoom is a popular way for groups of friends and family to 'get together' for chats, games and quizzes. It is also used by many business and workplaces. The app is available for smartphone, tablet, PC and Mac.

The meeting **host** sends a meeting ID to all participants (*via* email, message or from your contacts) who can then join in – only the host needs to create an account which is easily done with email or using a Facebook account. Meetings can be audio or video, include up to 100 participants and last for 40 minutes.