



Video Phone

Computer phones that send voice calls along the Internet are cheap to use. But they are also adaptable. They can also send text messages, instant messages, and photographs.

But they really come into their own with video calling.

Firstly, computer screens make a very good place to display video, much better than mobile phones.

Secondly, the call can be sent great distances without any costs being incurred other than for connection to a broadband line.

Thirdly, stills from the conversation can be saved, as can the whole video call. It's more practical to keep a record.

Skype has a video calling service. Its restricted to them, but there are a lot of Skype users after all. Other systems are more cooperative. Still, its still early days for video calls, and they are still the preserve of the early adopters.

But that doesn't mean its tricky. A simple web camera and a microphone will do, and many laptops have both built-in. Skype is free to download, and while you will need an account to be able to use the service, you won't have to enter credit card details or give any cash.

Making contact with others is easy. If they have given you their Skype name and you have it in your address book, Skype will tell you when they are on line and available to speak. Press the green button and start calling.

COMPUTERS IN PRACTICE



Free video calls from your computer are here, and almost as easy as voice calls.

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Some mobile phones can make video calls. But its expensive, and not many yet have suitable phones, or a fast enough connection.

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