



Getting Started with Video Chatting

The holidays are all about connecting with friends and family, near and far. The following applications can help you feel like you were truly able to see your loved ones this holiday season. Please note that these applications require a webcam on your computer in order to see your friends and family and so they can see you. If you do not have a webcam, you can still voice call others, or you can purchase an external webcam. All of these applications also work on mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets.




Skype

Skype is a web-based service allowing users to make calls, have video conferences and instant message over the Internet. Skype is accessible via a free download to a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone. Calls, video conferences and instant messaging with other Skype users are free, while calls made from a Skype account to landline phones or cell phones requires a fee, which applies to domestic and international calls. Money can be added to a Skype account easily. Get started below:

1. A computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone with a microphone and web camera are required.
2. Skype is a free download. Access the Skype website or mobile app store to download the application:
 - a. <https://www.skype.com/>
 - b. [Go to Downloads](#) → Select your device → Download the application and follow the installation instructions.
 - c. After the installation is complete launch Skype.
3. Click on "Create an account". Follow the instructions to create your account and Skype name (username), then log in.
4. After logging in, Skype will prompt a microphone and camera check. Follow the on-screen prompts. You will need to allow your computer, smartphone, or tablet to have access to the microphone and camera.


Finding People and Making Calls:

1. Click search  and type the name, Skype name or email address of the person you want to find.
2. Click "Search Skype."
3. Select the person from the search results list and click "Add to Contacts."

4. When you want to call a contact, simply click or tap on their contact, and either the video camera icon, or the phone icon, depending on if you want to video or voice call.
5. To end the call, tap on the red "End Call" button.



Skype also allows free group or conference calls for up to 25 people. To call multiple people:

1. Locate the "Chat" function in the Skype app.
2. At the top, you'll see a "New Chat" icon: 
3. When creating a new chat, you can select a "group chat" (text messaging) or select "new call." Then simply tap on all the contacts you'd like to add to that call. Then tap on "Call" in the top right corner.
4. On a desktop computer, simply hold down the control key to select multiple contacts, then click "Call."

FaceTime:



If you have an iPhone, iPad, or other Apple device, FaceTime is a built in video chatting feature. It's very easy to use, and is set up with your Apple ID. You can both video call and voice call using FaceTime. Android users can see below for other alternatives to FaceTime. This app is free to use when connected to WiFi, but will use data if you allow it.

Using Facetime:

If you do not have FaceTime set up on your iPhone or iPad, you can do so by simply tapping on the icon and signing in with your Apple ID. You can add multiple email addresses to use when placing calls on a Mac or iPad. FaceTime automatically uses your phone number on an iPhone. To call:

1. Select a contact you wish to call (FaceTime should automatically sync contacts).
2. Tap on the Phone or Video camera icon to make a voice or video call.
3. Tap on the red button to end the call.

You can also FaceTime contacts from the Contact app on your iPhone (this is sometimes easier!). When in Contacts, find the person you want to call, and tap on the "video" icon.



You may also receive a FaceTime call from someone else. Answering a FaceTime call is as easy as selecting "Decline" or "Accept."



FaceTime also allows you to group call up to 32 people. To add multiple callers with iOS 11 or later, simply tap on the "+" sign in the top right corner and select all contacts you wish to

call. For iOS 10 and older, call the first contact, then use the plus sign to add callers one at a time.

Google Duo:



Google Duo is Google's version of FaceTime. It is also very simple to use and is built for use on a mobile device. Simply download the free app from your device's app store. However, Google Duo is only for mobile devices. See below regarding Google Hangouts if you wish to use your computer to video chat.

To get started:

1. Open the app and allow access to your device. This is necessary so that your microphone and camera will work within the app. You can also sync your contacts from your phone or tablet into the app.
2. Log into your Google Account and type in your mobile phone number. The app will then send you a six digit code to verify your number.
3. That's it!

To call:

1. Simply locate the contact you wish to call. Then choose either the video camera or the phone icon to place a video call or voice call.
2. Tap on the red button at the bottom to end the call.
3. To answer a call on Google Duo, swipe up on the screen to answer the call. Swipe

Google Hangouts:




Google has another app that allows you to video chat with friends and family. The main difference with Google Hangouts and Google Duo, however, is that Google Hangouts allows you to text chat, as well as video call multiple people at once.

To Get Started on a Mobile Device:

1. Download the app and log in with your Google account.
2. Any contacts already added to your Google account should automatically sync with the app. The app will also ask you to sync with the contacts on your device.

To Call or Chat on a Mobile Device:

1. Tap on the contact you wish to talk to.
2. Tap on either the video camera icon or the phone icon in the top right.

3. For text messaging, you will see a message window at the bottom of the screen where you can type a message.
4. To add more people to a call or a message, select the "add" icon during a current call to incorporate more people. 

To Use Google Hangouts on your Computer:

1. In a web browser, simply go to hangouts.google.com.
2. Log in with your Google account.
3. You will see contacts on the left, and the ability to call or chat in the middle of the screen.

Facebook Messenger:




Did you know you can use Facebook to video chat with friends and family? This is a great option if you are already on Facebook and connected via the Facebook platform. Video calling works through the Facebook Messenger app, not the Facebook app.

To get started:

1. If you do not have Facebook Messenger set up, simply download the app from your device's app store.
2. Log in to your existing Facebook account to easily sync with friends on Facebook. If you do not have a Facebook account, you can register with Facebook Messenger separately using your phone number.

To call:

1. Start a chat with a friend or family member by selecting the "new chat" icon in the top righthand corner. 
2. Within a chat, you can then select the video camera icon for a video call or the phone icon for a voice call.
3. Voice and video calls will also connect with the entire group involved in a group chat!

These directions also work on Facebook on your computer! Simply start a chat with a Facebook friend and you'll see the same icons that allow you to chat or call using your computer and webcam.