



1833	Samuel Morse developed a new way of communicating by sending signals using the telegraph, a type of long-distance line that preceded the telephone. It became known as the Morse Code.
1876	Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.
1920	The first commercial radio station called WWJ made its first broadcast from Detroit, USA. Regular news broadcasts followed two years later.
1935	The first telex network was set up. More advanced than the Morse Code, it could send long distance messages at low cost.
1942	The first electronic-digital computer was designed at Iowa University, USA.
1947	Gordon Bell invented the transistor, and the first theories about digital communications were developed.
1954	The first pocket transistor radio powered by a battery was introduced.
1959	Robert Noyce invented a way of putting an entire electronic circuit onto one tiny silicon chip.
1966	NASA launched Telestar, the first telecommunications satellite. In the same year, the first facsimile (fax) machine went on sale even though the Scottish mechanic, Alexander Bain created the first fax machine before the telephone back in 1842!
1971	Marcian Hoff invented the first microprocessor, and IBM introduced the 'memory disk', or floppy disk. The first floppy disks were 20 cm in diameter!
1977	Ericsson created the first mobile telecommunications network in Saudi Arabia. In the same year email was invented, and AT&T and GTE introduced the first fibre optic communication system. As thin as a human hair, fibre optic cables could transmit much more data and digitised voices further and faster than copper telephone wires.
1979	The first computer modem was used.
1981	IBM introduced the first personal computer, costing the equivalent of £2,200 in today's money.
1983	Mobile phones came on the market for the first time, even though they were first invented in 1947!
1984	Macintosh introduced Apple computers and the first models of laptops went on sale.
1990	Windows 3.0 became available - the first really user-friendly version for PCs.
1991	A British physicist called Tim Berners-Lee developed the idea of a 'World Wide Web' and put up the first website to share with other scientists.
1995	Although the US defence department had its own Internet in 1968, a small Californian company called Netscape created the first Internet browser, opening up the Internet to millions, and 'Windows '95' made it easier to do so.
1996	Text messaging (SMS) through mobile phones became a new way of communicating.
1997	WAP was introduced. The spread of wi-fi technology began.
2000	Mobile phones with cameras came on the market.
2002	Third generation (3G) phones provided a much wider range of multimedia on one handset, including video calling.