

From Party line to online: The telephone had as big an impact. It changed the way we live, work and play. In the next 10 years we can expect wireless Internet connections in your car or briefcase, phone numbers you keep for life and voice activated dialing at the touch of a button at home, work, or on the go.



1870s-1910s

1876: Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone

1891: First dial phone; 512,000 phones in the U.S.

1887: First coin-operated telephone installed.

1915: The first "official" coast-to-coast call is made from Alexander Graham Bell in New York City to Thomas Watson in San Francisco.



1920s

1929: Herbert Hoover becomes first president of the United States with a phone on his desk.



1950s-1960s

1958: Princess Phone introduced. First phone with a lighted dial.

1960: The first Touch-Tone telephones developed. These telephones had

10 buttons, rather than the 12 buttons of today.



1970s-1980s

1984: First cellular phones



1990s

1991: Caller ID introduced.



2000 and beyond

2000: The "Web Phone" combines a telephone with an LCD touch-screen and a retractable keyboard to let customers use the Internet, check e-mail, make calls and check voice mail.

