



## Make Your Own Telephone

The ways in which people have communicated with one another have changed drastically throughout history. One of the biggest shifts in how we communicate occurred with the invention of the telephone.

### Who invented the telephone?

Alexander Graham Bell is credited with inventing the telephone because he was issued a patent for the invention in 1876 before anyone else.

### How does a telephone work?

A telephone uses electricity flowing through wires and it sends sounds. When you speak into a telephone, the receiver changes your voice into an electric current and then changes the current back into a voice again at the other end.

It took Bell and his partner Watson many tries to make a working telephone. In fact, many other scientists and inventors were also experimenting with ways to make a telephone work. There were many products and ways to build the telephone to be tested and tried. Now it's your turn!

### Objective:

Use the materials in your kit and try to make your own toy telephone. You can even make more than one and see which works best!

### Materials:

2 Tin cans  
2 Plastic Cups  
2 Paper Cups  
Yarn  
Scissors  
Pencils



### Instructions

- Out of the materials given, pick the type of cup (tin can, plastic cup or paper cup) that you believe will make the best telephone.
- Use one piece of yarn and thread one end of it through the hole on the bottom of one of the cups.
- Tie a knot in the end of the string inside the cup and then pull the string tight so the knot rests on the bottom of the cup.

- Thread the other end of the string through the hole on the bottom of the other cup and tie a similar knot to that of the first.
- Now that your toy telephone is complete, you can test it out by holding one of the cups and having another person hold the other, pulling the string taut between you. Then, either you or the other person can hold your cup up to your ear while the other talks into their cup.

You can repeat this process using the other materials in your kit and try to find the combination of materials that makes the best toy telephone!

Why do you think certain materials work better than others?

### Bibliography

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