

Changes in mobile phones

Information report

The Motorola DynaTAC 8000X

Many people have a mobile phone now, but this was not always true. The first mobile phone call was made in 1973 by Dr Martin Cooper, who was an engineer at Motorola. The phone was very heavy and took ten hours to charge! Read on to find out how mobile phones have changed over the last fifty years.



1983

Nokia 1011



1992

Sony Ericsson T68i



2002

iPhone 7 Plus



2016

What was the first ever portable mobile phone?

In 1984, eleven years after his first call, Dr Cooper's ideas helped Motorola release the first portable mobile phone. It was called the DynaTAC 8000X and it was very expensive! Not many people could afford the \$4,000 price tag (around £10,000 today!). People who owned one were seen as very important. They were usually business people.

The phone allowed people to call each other, but that was it! It had a long antenna and a battery

When did more people start to use mobile phones?

By 1992, more mobile phones were being made, so they were cheaper to buy. Phones were smaller and easier to hold and they could now send texts. This made them popular with teenagers. The digital screens showed numbers and words, but there was no colour yet.

When could mobile phones connect to the internet?

The 1990s were a time of big change for mobile phones. In 1996, some phones could connect to the internet. In 1997, much loved games like 'Snake' were added along with colour screens! By 1999, some phones even had cameras to take photos, but they were only available in Japan to begin with.

How are phones different today?

From 2007 onwards, mobile phones became very popular. Instead of pressing lots of buttons, you could swipe and scroll the screen. The first Apple iPhone launched in 2007 and there has been a new one every year since then!

Mobile phones can do so much more than before. They can send emails, make video calls, stream films and music, track sleep, monitor your heart rate and even charge wirelessly!

Mobile phones continue to improve! The internet is faster, the cameras are clearer and the batteries last longer. Some phones can even turn on lights and start vacuum cleaners. What do you think the next phones will be able to do?