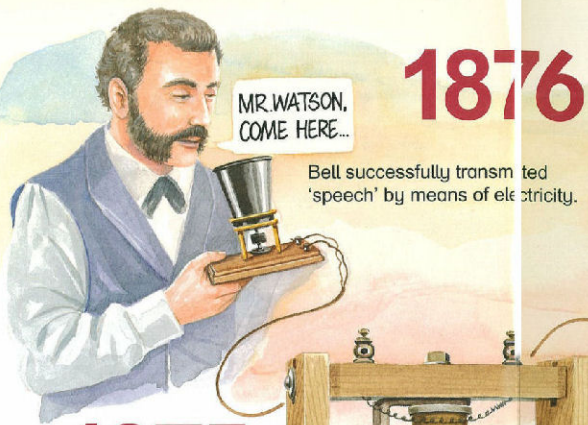


The history of the Telephone



The invention of the telegraph enabled electric messages to be sent along wires.

Great Britain developed the telegraph system all over the Empire.



1876

Bell successfully transmitted 'speech' by means of electricity.

1875

Alexander Graham Bell's device could transmit 'sound'.



1877

Bell's telephone was used both as transmitter and receiver.



1880

Callers spoke into the fretwork front of this telephone.



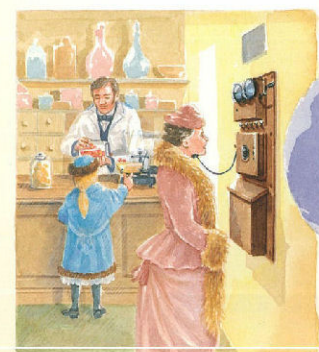
1879

A better telephone resulted when Bell's telephone was combined with a carbon transmitter.



1884

The telephone proved to be successful but many people were still wary of this 'magical' instrument.



Before 1900

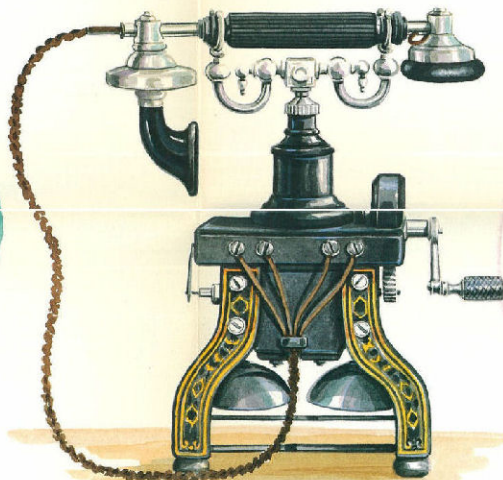
Payphones were normally in shops.

Courting by telephone was predicted!



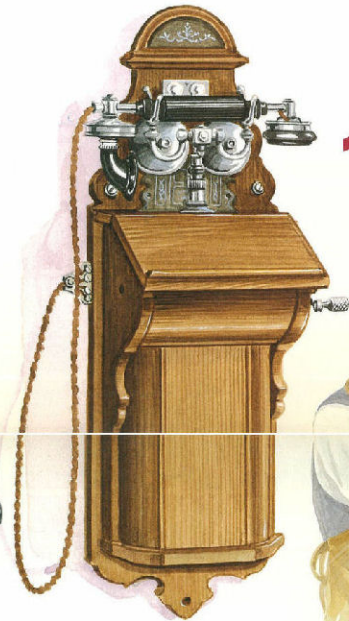
1895

Many Victorian handsets were beautiful, elegant and functional.



1900s

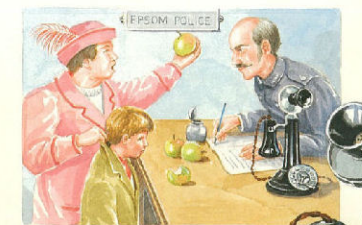
Telephones were often made in wood, usually by hand.



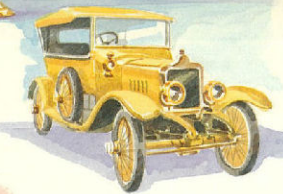
Handsets gave some freedom of movement to telephone users, but early handsets proved unsuccessful as the exchange system grew.



Called 'candlestick' telephones because of their shape, these were used from the 1900s for over half a century. Later models had dials.



1905



1924



1930

The use of plastics changed the shape of many things. A new microphone made the handset practical once again.



During World War 1, field telephones proved invaluable.

1950s

Wall phone with handset.



The lightweight plastic telephones had improved circuitry and a clean functional shape.



1980s

The Slimtel 10 one-piece telephone.



Payphones cater for all sectors of the community.



1990s

The latest portable telephones are small enough to fit into a pocket, briefcase or bag whilst video phones bring callers right into the home or office.



Early 20s

This is a simple functional design made in wood.



Gas drill at the Inland Revenue Trunk Exchange, World War 2.

1940s

Telephone with internal bell.



1960s

The trimphone marked the end of the idea of a 'standard' telephone.

The cordless telephone gives mobility a short distance from base.



Push-button telephone for home or office use.

