



What is...?

Text messaging or “texting” is sending brief messages via cell phones or tablets. Sending a “text” is a quick and easy way to stay in touch. Text messaging is especially popular with teens and young adults, which makes it an effective way to communicate with your children and/or grandchildren.

Email stands for electronic mail. With email you can send messages from one internet connected device (e.g. smartphone, tablet, or computer) to another. Email is like mail through the U.S. Postal Service that you receive daily, except you can send and receive email 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and the message is received quickly.

Facebook is a social networking service and website with hundreds of millions of active users worldwide. On Facebook you can create a personal profile page to connect with family members, add other users as “friends” and exchange messages. Additionally, you can join common interest groups organized by various characteristics.

Skype allows you to make voice calls over the internet. You can make free calls to other Skype users. There is a fee for calls from Skype to telephones and cell phones. Skype is particularly popular for people making inexpensive/free international calls. You need a microphone and speakers/headset for your computer to use Skype (you can also place video calls if both users have web cameras). www.skype.com.

- **Zoom** <https://zoom.us/> and **FaceTime** are two other video calling methods. To use FaceTime both parties need Apple devices (iPhone, iPad, iMac).

Blog stands for “web log.” Often used like a public diary, a blog is a website or part of a website. Blogs are usually maintained by an individual and offer the opportunity for followers to comment. Various websites offer free, easy-to-use blogs, such as: www.blogger.com, www.wordpress.com, www.livejournal.com

YouTube is a video-sharing website where you can view, upload and share videos. YouTube enables you to upload videos and share them with friends and other users. www.youtube.com.

Instant Messaging (IM) is a form of realtime, text-based communication that enables you to chat with another computer user. Both people must be on a computer at the same time to use IM. Many email providers have IM/chat features, such as: www.gmail.com, www.msn.com, www.aol.com.

Twitter is a social networking website that enables you to post short, up-to-the-minute updates (known as Tweets) and follow others' Tweets, which are text posts of 140 characters or less. Tweets are publicly visible. www.twitter.com

Instagram is a free photo and video sharing site. Users upload short videos or photographs to share with followers or with a select group of friends. Users can like and comment on others' posts.

LinkedIn is a social network specifically designed for career and business professionals to connect. Used for building connections for freelance work, a customer base, potential partners, or simply to keep your job prospects open.

Pinterest is an image sharing and social media service designed to enable saving and discovery of information on the web. On the website you have a “pinboard” so you can post ideas that you want to remember and share with your friends.

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