



# Now's the time to

learn how to video call\_



**Video calling your  
friends and family  
is a great way  
to keep in touch  
when you can't  
meet in person.**

**#GetOnlineWeek**

Video calls or using video conferencing software isn't just for professionals anymore. Over the last few years, it's become a lot more popular to video call people you want to stay in touch with. A video call is just like a phone call, but uses the internet to also show you the faces of people in the call as well as letting you hear their voice.



Here are some tips to help ensure you have the best experience when taking part in a video call:

## Choose the right app

There are many different apps that will allow you to hold a video call with your friends or family. Have a chat to the people you want to video call and see what apps they use. They all offer a very similar experience and there are a lot of free apps out there, but the type of device, the age of the device and the software installed on your device (called the operating system) may narrow down your choices.

## Mobile data vs Wi-Fi

Video calling can use a lot of data (upwards of 200mb per hour). If you're planning on using mobile data to video call your friends and family, it's important to be aware of how much data you have on your plan as it can be very expensive. Saving video calls for when you're on Wi-Fi can save you a lot of money.



**Top tip:** If you don't have Wi-Fi at home and don't have much data included on your mobile plan, you could go to a place that offers free Wi-Fi and call people from there (remember your headphones though!).

## Have the right equipment

Depending on what device you're planning on using for video calling, you may have to purchase some extra kit to get everything

running smoothly. Most smartphones and tablets now have built-in cameras to use when video calling or taking a selfie, but if you're using a computer it may be worth checking that that your computer has a camera built in before agreeing to video call someone. If it doesn't, you can buy a plug in camera (known as a webcam) to use when video calling from your computer.

## Check your lighting and surroundings

Checking your lighting and what is around you before you make a video call is important. If it's too dark, the other person won't be able to see you which can be frustrating. If there is a lot of background noise, this will be picked up by the microphone on your device or headphones and won't be pleasant for the person you're talking to.



**Top tip:** Most video calling apps show you a preview of what the other person is seeing. Adjusting how you're holding your device or where it is positioned will help you to keep your face visible in the camera's lens.

## Online courses - Be Connected

The Be Connected website has advice and beginners' courses on various video calling platforms and messaging apps.

Visit [beconnected.esafety.gov.au](https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au) to get started.