

Keeping in touch: then & now

Four people from the **same family** talk about how they communicated when they were young.


1–10

Read about four people (A–D). On page 2, decide which person says each thing. You can choose each person **more than once**. There is an example at the beginning (0).

A
Rosa, 84

great-grandmother · teenager in the 1950s



When I was young, we didn't have a phone at home, so I wrote letters to my cousin in the city. I was always very careful with my spelling because I didn't want to make any mistakes. A reply took about three weeks to arrive, but getting a letter was the best part of my week. I still have all of her letters in a big box under my bed.

B
Frank, 60

grandfather · teenager in the 1970s–80s



In the 1970s, our only phone was in the hall, next to the front door. My whole family could hear everything I said on the phone! Calls were very expensive, and my dad always got angry when the phone bill arrived. We didn't have contacts on our phones like today, so I kept about thirty phone numbers in my head.

C
Laura, 38

mum · teenager in the 2000s



I got my first mobile phone when I was fifteen. It was small and blue, with big buttons. Text messages had to be short, so my friends and I invented quick ways to write words, like "c u l8r" for "see you later". Our teachers didn't like it at all. They said it was bad for our English!

D
Leo, 13

Laura's son · teenager today



My best friend moved to Canada last year, but we have video calls every weekend, so we're still really close. Last summer my family went camping for a week with no internet. I thought it would be terrible, but I loved it! My great-grandma showed me her old letters, and now I want to write a real letter to my friend too.

Which person...?

Write **A**, **B**, **C** or **D** in each box. **A** Rosa · **B** Frank · **C** Laura · **D** Leo

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>0 EXAMPLE</p> <p>describes what their first phone looked like?</p> | <div style="background-color: #8e44ad; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;">C</div> |
| 1 says other people at home could listen to their calls? | ☐ |
| 2 is still close to a friend who lives in another country? | ☐ |
| 3 tried hard to write without errors? | ☐ |
| 4 says some adults didn't like how they wrote? | ☐ |
| 5 was happy during a holiday without the internet? | ☐ |
| 6 says a parent was unhappy about the cost of calls? | ☐ |
| 7 still has messages from a long time ago? | ☐ |
| 8 would like to communicate in an old-fashioned way? | ☐ |
| 9 made up new ways of writing words with friends? | ☐ |
| 10 didn't need to write down people's phone numbers? | ☐ |

Top tips for Part 7

1. Read the questions first and underline the key words.
2. The questions use **different words** with the same meaning. "getting a letter was the best part of my week" = "she loved receiving letters".
3. Find the **sentence** that matches and **underline it** in the text.
4. Don't leave any boxes empty – **always guess!**

Word helper

spelling (n.)

how you write the letters of a word

hall (n.)

the space inside the front door of a house

phone bill

a paper that says how much money you must pay for calls

invent (v.)

make or create something new

close (adj.)

good friends who care about each other

How did you do? _____ / 10



0-4



5-7



8-10

→ colour one!