

# Skype

<http://skype.com>

Skype is a phone service that allows users to make computer to computer phone calls to anyone in the world absolutely free over the internet. If you have a web cam, you can also make video calls.

## Equipment

You need a microphone to use Skype, and the one on your laptop will work fine. However, if you use it frequently, you'll probably enjoy having a higher quality mic and headphones.

If you want to make video calls, you also need a web cam. There is one at school that you can use for your classroom. Just see your ITRT.

## Getting Started

Go to <http://skype.com> and download and install the software.

After starting the program, you'll see the log in screen. You'll need to set up an account first. Click on the **Don't have a Skype Name** link

Welcome to Skype.

Skype Name


[Don't have a Skype Name?](#)

Password

[Forgot your password?](#)

Sign me in when Skype starts  
 Start Skype when computer starts

Complete the requested information on the next screen.

 **Create a new Skype account.**

Already have a Skype account? [Sign in](#)

Full name

\* Create Skype Name.   
Between 6 and 32 characters

\* Password   
Minimum 4 characters

\* Repeat password

\*  Yes, I have read and I accept the [Skype End User License Agreement](#) the [Skype Terms of Service](#) and the [Skype Privacy Statement](#)

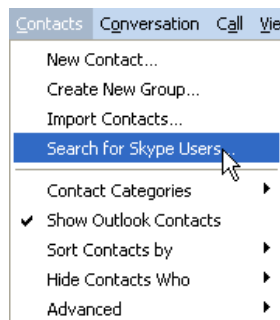
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\* Fields marked with an asterisk are required.

After successfully registering, you might want to check your settings or learn more about the program by clicking on buttons in the welcome screen.



To search for Skype users, go to Menu > Search for Skype Users.



On the next window, you can search for other Skype users by their Skype name, email address, city, state, country, etc.

**Search for people on Skype**

Looking to meet new people? Looking for someone in particular? Search the Skype Directory. If you know their **Skype Name, full name** or **email address** enter it here, or leave this box blank.

You can also add MySpaceIM contacts. Enter their MySpaceIM name and click Find.

Country/Region:  Gender:  Female  Male  Do not specify

State:

City:  Age range:

Language:

**More things you can do**

- [Save a phone number in your Contact list](#)
- [Add people from your email address books](#)
- [Help a friend get started on Skype](#)

When you find the other Skype user you are looking for, click on the name and then click on the Add Contact button at the bottom. On the other end, your buddy will get a message asking them to approve you and add you to their Skype list. If they approve you, you'll be able to call them.

## Using Skype

**Phone calls** - Click on a user in your Skype list and press the call button.

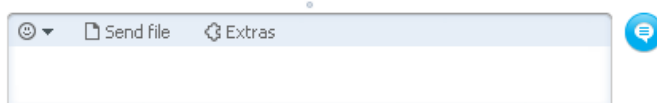
On the other end, your friend's Skype program will ring just like a regular phone.



**Video calls** - If you and your friend both have web cams, you can add video capabilities to your Skype calls by clicking on the video button.



**Instant Messaging** - Click on a buddy in your Skype list and type a message in the chat window (shown below.)



**Send Files** – You can also send files using this same window. Click on Send File in the chat window.

**Conference Calls** – You can have up to 24 people plus yourself in a conference call. (audio only)

## Uses in the Classroom

**Find other classes:**

<http://theedublogger.edublogs.org/want-to-connect-with-other-classrooms/>

<http://skypeinschools.pbwiki.com>

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/using-skype-at-school.html>

**Ideas:**

Conduct collaborative research with students in other schools, other cities, even other countries

Try setting up interviews with an author whose book your class is reading. Send an invitation to the author inviting him to join Skype and talk to your class.

Invite a guest speaker to talk to your class via Skype. Let experts come to the classroom.

Let parents listen in on their child's presentation.

Have students present their work to an authentic audience, for example, presentations to other classrooms around the world or professionals in their community.

Learn about students and life in other countries (global learners)

Take a virtual field trip without buses and entrance fees

.Meet your pen pals.

Include an ill student in daily discussions (child can unplug camera if he does not want class to see him)

Conduct a conference call for a club

Have a virtual substitute - monitor your class while you're away

Send files to everyone in group to view and interject /w text comments

Learn a language from native speakers

Brainstorm teaching ideas with mentors, student teachers, colleagues

Assist children with special needs in describing the day to their parents or other audience

Hearing impaired could use the chat mode

Blind can use audio mode

Conference calls with parents who cannot come to school

Read Alouds

have an author read a story over skype

other readers from local businesses

local theater groups

Collaborate with other teachers

Conduct professional development