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THE GRANDPARENT CONNECTION



OBJECTIVES:

1. *MAKE AND RECEIVE A PHONE CALL*
2. *SEND A TEXT AND A PHOTO*
3. *VISIT WITH FACETIME AUDIO AND VIDEO*

The Grandparent Connection

Phone calls texting and FaceTime on your iPhone

A single two hour class for staying close to your grandchildren, whether you live around the corner or across the country. Learn to call, exchange everyday moments, and enjoy a face to face visit from your phone.

Begin with the overview and Demos 1 through 3. These are the essential skills to practice together. Demos 4 through 9 offer additional discoveries when you are ready, or for practice at home. You do not need to complete every optional activity during class.

Overview 1 Choose how to connect

Phone is for a live voice conversation. Messages is for texts, photos, and recordings that family can enjoy later. FaceTime Audio is a live internet voice call; FaceTime Video adds a live picture. FaceTime needs Wi-Fi or cellular data. Carrier calling, messaging, and data charges may apply.

1. Return to the Home Screen by swiping up from the bottom edge, or pressing the Home button if your iPhone has one.

2. Find Phone, Messages, and FaceTime. If an app is hard to find, swipe down from the middle of the Home Screen, type its name, and tap the app.

3. Open each app, then return to the Home Screen. No call or message is sent merely by opening an app.

Before you practice

Have your iPhone charged and your Apple Account available if setup is needed. Agree on a practice partner who is happy to receive calls and messages. Use that partner in the steps instead of interrupting family during school or work. For a young grandchild, arrange contact through a parent or caregiver.

These directions follow current iPhone controls on iOS 27, with notes for older layouts. Check your version in Settings > General > About > iOS Version. A button may look slightly different on your phone.

Overview continued

Keep the right contact information

A contact card is your address book entry for one person. A grandchild with an iPad may use an email address for FaceTime and iMessage instead of a mobile number.

1. Open Contacts. Search for your practice partner. If there is no card, tap the plus button to create one.

2. Tap Edit on an existing card. Enter or check the name and mobile number. Add the email address they use with FaceTime if needed.

3. Tap Done. Confirm the details with your partner before sending anything.

Overview 3 Make the screen and connection comfortable

1. Open Settings > Wi-Fi. Join the classroom network using the password supplied to you.

2. For larger text, open Settings > Display & Brightness > Text Size and move the slider. For still larger text, use Settings > Accessibility > Display & Text Size > Larger Text.

3. Open Settings > Apps > FaceTime. Turn on FaceTime and complete any sign-in requested. On older iOS versions, FaceTime is directly in Settings.

4. Check Settings > Apps > Messages > iMessage. Turn it on if you want Apple messaging features. Your partner must also have iMessage for features marked iMessage only.

Overview 4 Know what your message tells you

Blue bubbles mean iMessage. Green bubbles mean RCS or SMS/MMS; a green message is not automatically a failure. Some Apple features require blue iMessage conversations. Delivered does not mean someone has read your message; Read appears only when read receipts are available and enabled.

1. Open Messages and choose an existing conversation, or use the new-message button and select your practice partner.

2. Look at the text field label and any existing bubble colors. Notice whether the conversation uses iMessage or a green-message service.

3. Before each practice send, check the name at the top. Share family photos only with permission. If an urgent request for money seems unusual, call the family member at a number you already know.

Demo 4 React quickly and pin a conversation

A small reaction acknowledges a photo; a pinned conversation keeps family easy to find.

Try it step by step

1. Open your partner’s conversation in Messages. Touch and hold a message or photo bubble.

2. Choose a Tapback reaction such as a heart or thumbs-up from the reaction choices.

3. To change the reaction, touch and hold the same bubble and select another. Tap your selected reaction again to remove it.

4. Return to the main conversation list. Touch and hold your partner’s conversation, then tap Pin.

5. Find the conversation at the top of the list and tap it to reopen it.

6. To undo the pin, return to the list, touch and hold the pinned conversation, and tap Unpin.

Your practice

React to a photo, change your reaction, and pin your partner’s conversation. Keep the pin if it helps you find them.

Helpful to know

Pinning changes your own Messages list. It does not pin the conversation on anyone else’s phone. Reactions can appear differently on other devices; practice in an iMessage conversation for consistent results.

Demo 5 Send your voice as a message

Record a greeting, a short family memory, or a few lines of a bedtime story for someone to hear later.

Try it step by step

1. Open a blue iMessage conversation with your practice partner.

2. Tap the plus button, then Audio. If necessary, scroll the menu or tap More to find Audio.

3. Speak after recording begins. Keep your first greeting brief, then tap the stop button.

4. Tap Play to listen before sending. If you want to start over, tap the close or cancel button and record again.

5. Tap the send arrow when you are happy with the recording.

6. When your partner sends one back, tap Play to listen. Tap Keep beneath an audio message you want to retain; your partner should do the same for theirs.

Your practice

Exchange a short greeting or family memory. Listen to the reply and keep it in the conversation.

Helpful to know

Audio messages are recordings, not live calls. The keyboard microphone dictates written words instead. With the default expiration setting, an audio message can disappear from your phone two minutes after sending or listening unless you tap Keep; keeping it does not preserve the other person’s copy.

Demo 6 Correct a message and send one later

Fix a recent typo and prepare a greeting to arrive at a more convenient time. These activities require iMessage; Send Later requires iOS 18 or later.

Try it step by step

1. In your partner’s blue iMessage conversation, send a harmless practice sentence with a typo.

2. Within 15 minutes, touch and hold your sent bubble, then tap Edit. Correct the words and tap the checkmark to save.

3. Tap Edited beneath the bubble to see the history. You can edit a message up to five times within the 15 minute window.

4. To schedule a new message, tap the plus button, then Send Later. Scroll the menu if needed.

5. Tap the displayed time and choose a time within the next 14 days. Check the date and time carefully, especially when family lives in another time zone.

6. Type your greeting and tap the send arrow. It stays in the conversation as a scheduled message until it is sent.

7. For practice, cancel it before it sends: tap Edit beside its scheduled date, then Delete Message and confirm if asked.

Your practice

Correct one typo, then schedule a practice greeting and cancel it. At home, try scheduling an encouraging message before an important day.

Helpful to know

Editing requires compatible Apple software; older devices may receive a follow-up correction. The original remains visible in edit history. Undo Send is a separate option available for only two minutes and may not remove a message from older devices. Editing and unsending are unavailable for SMS, MMS, and RCS.

Demo 7 Create a family text conversation

Bring several relatives into one conversation and give an all-iMessage group a recognizable name.

Try it step by step

1. Ask two practice partners to join a group. Open Messages and tap the new-message button.

2. Add the first person in To. Add the second person, checking each selected number or email.

3. Type an opening note explaining who is included, then tap Send. Everyone in the group can see the conversation and its replies.

4. For a blue iMessage group, tap the group icons or names at the top. On newer layouts, tap Edit > Edit Name & Photo. On iOS 18 or earlier, look for Change Name and Photo.

5. Enter a name such as “Family Weekend Plans” and tap Done to finish. Skip naming if your group does not offer the option.

6. Ask one partner to reply and the other to share a photo. Return to the main list and pin the group if you wish.

Your practice

Create a group with two willing partners, send an introduction, and exchange replies. Name it if all participants are using iMessage.

Helpful to know

Group naming depends on the message service and software; SMS/MMS groups cannot use this iMessage naming feature. Mixed-device groups have different capabilities. Avoid adding relatives to a busy group without asking; all participants can receive each reply.

Demo 8 Bring the family together on FaceTime

Visit with relatives in more than one household at once. Practice first with two willing partners who use FaceTime on Apple devices.

Try it step by step

1. Open FaceTime and tap New Call, or New FaceTime.

2. Add the first partner’s FaceTime number or email. Add the second partner before placing the call.

3. Tap FaceTime to begin the group video call. Each person joins from their own device.

4. Tap the screen to reveal controls. Notice each person’s picture and try muting your microphone while someone else speaks.

5. To invite another willing person during a group call, tap the people count or participant list at the top, then Add People. Enter their contact and confirm Add People.

6. Tap the red End button or Leave to leave the call. Other participants may continue talking after you leave.

Your practice

Hold a three-person conversation. Take turns sharing one highlight from the week and mute when you are listening in a noisy room.

Helpful to know

If several practice phones are in the same room, lower their volume or use headphones to reduce echo. Group FaceTime supports up to 32 participants, but a small group is easier for conversation. If someone uses Android or a Windows computer, try Demo 9.

Demo 9 Invite someone through a FaceTime link

Create an invitation that can include a relative using Android or Windows. The host uses FaceTime on an Apple device; browser guests can join without an Apple Account.

Try it step by step

1. Open FaceTime. Tap New Call, then Create Link. On older versions, Create Link may be on the opening screen.

2. Choose Messages from the sharing options. Select your practice partner, add the agreed meeting date and time in the message, then send the link.

3. At the agreed time, open your own link from FaceTime or the message. Tap Join if shown, and stay in the call to admit your guest.

4. Your guest opens the link. On Android or Windows, they use an up-to-date Chrome or Edge browser, enter their name, allow camera and microphone access, and tap Join.

5. When the guest requests entry, open the participant controls or waiting notice and approve only the expected person.

6. Practice muting and turning the camera off and on. Each person uses Leave or the red End control when finished.

Your practice

Send a link to a willing partner, join as host, and admit them. If no browser guest is available in class, practice the link with another iPhone.

Helpful to know

A FaceTime link is an invitation, not an automatic scheduled call or calendar reminder. Share it privately and admit only people you recognize. Browser guests have fewer features; SharePlay and screen sharing are unavailable on the web. FaceTime availability varies by country or region.

Questions and practice at home

Choose one small habit

Ask your family which method and time suit them. A weekly call, an occasional photo, or a short voice message can be easier to maintain than a long conversation. Allow time for a reply and ask permission before sharing a child’s picture beyond the family.

My first activity to try at home: _____

The person I will contact: _____

A good day and time for us: _____

Questions to bring to the discussion

Which step would I like to see again? Which buttons look different on my phone? Can I make a phone call, send a photo, and choose FaceTime Audio or Video without help?

My question: _____

_____

If something does not work

Check the recipient’s details and your connection first. For FaceTime, confirm that both people can use the service. If a special Messages option is missing, check whether the conversation is blue iMessage and whether your software supports it. Try a regular call or plain text while sorting out the issue.

Apple guides for further practice

In the digital copy, select a link below. Apple’s online iPhone User Guide includes a version selector so you can choose the software on your own phone.

Phone calls • Messages and photos • FaceTime calls • Audio messages • Edit and unsend • Send Later • Name a group • Group FaceTime • FaceTime links