

A simple how-to guide to get started

Communication technology helps grandparents stay connected across the miles



A lesson learned in recent years during the pandemic was the different ways to connect with grandparents and elders. The technology that made this possible is also a way for families who live miles apart to remain connected.

Zoom, Facetime, and Facebook are three digital media platforms that are user friendly and perfect for large groups or small online gatherings. If you haven't already jumped on the bandwagon, follow these instructions and tips to get started!

Technologies explained:

Zoom

- Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool that allows users to meet online with or without video. Zoom can be used on a computer, tablet, or phone and is accessed by downloading the app.
- Helpful Features: Using the screen share feature on Zoom allows others to see your screen and is great for watching movies together or playing online games.

Facetime

- Facetime is a user-friendly video conferencing option for people with Apple products. Just open up the app on your iPad, iPhone, or Apple computer, and type in the phone number or email address into the search bar.

Facebook

- Facebook is a free social media platform used to share pictures, videos, personal stories, music, and articles.
- It is a free app that can be downloaded to your smartphone, tablet, or accessed on a computer. It is great for keeping up with out-of-town family or friends.

Shared online games

- While you may not be able to always get together to play traditional games in person, there are many online equivalents that are sure to be just as fun.
- *Words with Friends* is an equivalent to *Scrabble* that you can play on your smartphone or tablet. Simply download the app and look up your friend's name by username to get started. Online *Bingo* and *Battleship* are two other classics that only require a computer.

Once you've mastered these technologies, the possibilities are endless for engagement with families and friends.



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