

## Communications and Technology

What is communication? In this module, the overall subject points to the advancement of the sending and receiving of information through technology. It is an interesting topic of how humans have advanced the way we communicate with one another. If you contemplate how society converses; we utilize things like symbols, written words, pictures, and even the body to convey an idea. It is amazing just how the brain can intake and analyze all this information simultaneously and in fractions of seconds.

So how did we get here? How did we get to this current point to where today's technology has advanced our communication?

To make a long story short, human communication naturally advanced over the many years. However, let us start with a brief overview of the history of communication. History points to the first evidence of sharing an idea beginning as far back as 3000 B.C. with the use of pictures on a cave wall. (I am not the smartest person in the room; however, in my opinion this era was likely during the caveman days to where they might be trying to convey what they might have witnessed as they were gathering or hunting for food.). As civilization progressed over the years and the written word becoming more advanced, we can fast forward to 1440 AD one of the greatest inventions the Gutenberg Printing Press. This invention revolutionized communication and allowed the expressing of an idea (well, more than one idea actually) to easily reach more people and in more places. This was the start of newspapers, books, etc.; the same items we use today to aid in our studies. From there, advancements in electronic communications begin to make its impact on the world; radios and phone in the 1800's (to hear the spoken word), televisions in the 1900's (so you can see and hear the spoken word) and computers invented in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (to hear, see and convey the spoken word). Which leads us to today's technology, the internet.

In my opinion, the internet is how most folks communicate with one another. This discovery provides more avenues of interaction than any other platform in history. You can chat with more than one person in real time (like what quilting circles used to be), write a blog for people to read (like an editorial in a newspaper), research a specific topic for school or curiosity (like you would do at a library), share pictures of your life achievements (taking out an ad in the local newspaper when you announce an engagement), play games with other individuals in real time (like chess at the park), sell items (like the brick and mortar stores), video phone calls, etc. Examples of things the internet has done to advance communications is endless. I could write papers and probably a thesis on this alone.

I feel fortunate to be living in today's society. To be able to witness and be an actual part of today's technology. I am attending class remotely from home; who would have thought this would have been possible 50 years ago? I remember reading Dick Tracy comics in the Sunday paper growing up and he had a watch he used to communicate with other by talking into it from his wrist. Fast forward to today, we have smart watches that can do just that. I mean wow.

It makes you wonder what the future of communications will look like. Will we have smart glasses, will we have chips in our brains (just look at one another and communicate without physically talking like the voice in your head), will we be able to figure out how to send communication signals faster through space (probably not possible as the speed of light is as fast as you can go), will we have an augmented reality (I think of this as a virtual reality to meet your doctor or games), or even being able to bridge the

language barrier gap (the ability to converse with individuals who do not speak the same language). I am excited to see what will come and I am sure it will be incredible.

#### Reference

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/communication>

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-psychology/chapter/human-language/#:~:text=Communication%20in%20both%20animals%20and,to%20a%20group%20of%20people.>

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