

Our Top App Picks

The best free calling apps for seniors — compared in plain English

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Not sure which app to use? You are not alone — it is one of the most common questions we get asked. Here is a simple comparison of the best free calling apps so you can find the right one without having to try them all yourself.

1. WhatsApp

Best for: Everyday messaging and calls

What it does:	Free voice and video calls • Text messages, photos and voice notes • Group calls with multiple family members
Why seniors love it:	Works just like a normal phone call — but completely free, even when calling someone abroad.
Available on:	iPhone and Android
Cost:	Free

2. FaceTime

Best for: Apple iPhone and iPad users

What it does:	Free video and audio calls to other Apple users • Group FaceTime calls with up to 32 people
Why seniors love it:	Already built into every iPhone and iPad — nothing to download, nothing to set up.
Available on:	iPhone, iPad and Mac only
Cost:	Free

3. Zoom

Best for: Group family calls

What it does:	Video calls with large groups • Share your screen to show photos • Free calls up to 40 minutes
Why seniors love it:	Perfect for family gatherings, quizzes or celebrations when everyone is in a different location.
Available on:	iPhone, Android and computer
Cost:	Free (40 min limit for groups)

4. Google Meet

Best for: Android users and computer users

What it does:	Free video and voice calls • Works in a web browser — no app needed on a computer • No time limit on one-to-one calls
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Why seniors love it:	If you already use Gmail, you are set up and ready to go — no extra account needed.
Available on:	Android, iPhone and computer
Cost:	Free

5. Skype Best for: Calling landlines and mobiles

What it does:	Free video calls between Skype users • Low-cost calls to mobile and landline numbers worldwide • Instant messages and file sharing
Why seniors love it:	A great option if you need to reach someone who does not have a smartphone.
Available on:	iPhone, Android and computer
Cost:	Free (small charge for non-Skype numbers)

6. Viber Best for: International calls

What it does:	Free calls and messages to other Viber users worldwide • Group chats and calls • Photos, videos and voice messages
Why seniors love it:	Calling family in another country is completely free — no international phone charges.
Available on:	iPhone and Android
Cost:	Free

Which App Should You Start With?

Your situation	Best app for you
Most of your family uses iPhones	FaceTime
Your family is a mix of Android and iPhone	WhatsApp
You want to call a large group at once	Zoom
You already use Gmail on an Android phone	Google Meet
You need to call someone without a smartphone	Skype
You have family living abroad	Viber

■ **Tip:** You only need one or two apps — pick the one your family already uses and stick with it. You do not need to learn them all!

■ **Tip:** All of these apps work best over Wi-Fi. Connect to Wi-Fi before calling to avoid using your mobile data allowance.

■ **Tip:** All apps listed are free to download from the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play Store (Android).