

THE TELEPHONE



Introduction

First patented in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell and further developed by many others, the telephone was the first device in history that enabled people to talk directly with each other across large distances. Telephones became rapidly indispensable to businesses, government, and households, and are today some of the most widely used small appliances.

A new Directory Enquiry Service - which included the use of the London Postal Area printed street directory - came into operation in January 1954.

The Subscriber Trunk Dialling (STD) service, whereby telephone callers are able to make trunk calls automatically without the aid of the operator, was introduced into the United Kingdom in 1958 but not completed until 1979.



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