



## Today's Telephone

CCSSR1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCSSR2: Determine **central ideas or themes** of a text and analyze their development; **summarize** the key supporting details and ideas.

Today's telephone has a long history. It started when there were no telephones. The only way to get a message to someone else was to write it and send it. Long ago there were messengers. They were people who would run from place to place. They would bring messages to other people. They would run miles.

After the invention of a new communications tool, people could send messages quickly. That tool was the telegraph. It used a line that went from one place to another. It took years to put all the lines across America. With those telegraph lines people could use a machine to send messages. But it did not let people talk to each other. It used a code to get the messages across the wires. On one end of the telegraph, an operator clicked the message. On the other end, a machine would make the same clicks. At first, a person had to listen and note what the clicks said. But then they figured out how to make the machine record them.

Still, there was no telephone. Then a man named Bell invented it. He tried many ways to get a machine that would work. He failed many times. But then he got it to work. Once he had done that, the world all wanted telephones.

The next changes for the telephone were the same as the telegraph. People had to put in all those lines. If you see a picture of Chicago in 1900 you will see lots of wires downtown. The first telephone lines went from one person's phone to another. Those were called land-lines. Then they added what were called switching stations. So one line could reach more than one place. Still, it would take years to get the phone system to work more efficiently.

Today there are cell phones. They do not need wires. They use signals that travel through the air. Some people now do not have a land line any more. They just use their cell phone. It can connect people. It can download music from the Internet. Some people even use their computers to talk to other people. Those are the latest changes. So the telephone is still changing.

### What is the main idea of this passage?

How do you know? Underline five sentences that help you know the main idea.