Alexander Graham Bell.

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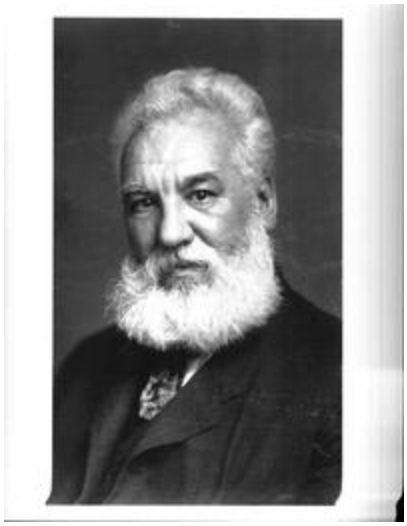
Audiologist

- **Born:** March 3, 1847
- **Birthplace:** Edinburgh, Scotland
- **Died:** August 2, 1922
- **Place of death:** Beinn Bhreagh, Nova Scotia, Canada

Bell was a Scottish-born scientist who is best known for inventing the telephone.



Portrait of Alexander Graham Bell. Library of Congress

Bell on the telephone in New York (calling Chicago) in 1892 By Gilbert H. Grosvenor Collection, Prints and Photographs Division, Library

Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1847 and was educated in both London and Edinburgh. In 1867, Bell began studying under his father, who had invented a phonetic and visual way of teaching deaf people to speak.

The next year he became a partner in his father's London-based practice where he stayed until 1870. In August 1870, after the deaths of his two brothers, Bell and his family moved to Canada .

In 1871, Bell moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where he taught at the Boston School for Deaf Mutes. In 1873, he met a woman named Mabel Hubbard, who had become deaf from scarlet fever. Hubbard became Bell's pupil and, in 1877, became his wife. From 1874 to 1879, Bell served as professor of the mechanism of speech at Boston University.

Bell's experiments, based on his knowledge of sounds, led to his most famous invention, the telephone. In 1874, Bell was given patents for his work on a multiple telegraph, which could send two or more messages at the same time over one wire.

Bell took this a step further when, during the next year, he accidentally produced electric speech for a moment. With this new development his idea was complete.

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He had discovered that the different sounds of the human voice can be made to vary the intensity of an electrical current, which could be carried over a wire. Bell's new invention won the gold medal at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in June 1876.

In August 1876, the first long-distance voice message traveled from Brantford, Ontario, to Paris, Ontario, for a distance of eight miles. Before 1876 had come to an end, this voice communication distance had increased to 143 miles.

Bell's other inventions include a photophone, which was the first means of wireless speech transmission, and two devices that were used to locate metallic masses in the human body. One of these machines was widely used until the invention of the x-ray machine.

Bell also worked on such projects as converting salt water to fresh water , breeding sheep, and developing an air conditioning system.

Bell died at his estate on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia.

Bell's Inventions Include:

- telephone
- graphophone (improved phonograph)
- air conditioning system
- hydrofoil speedboat
- aerial transportation (kites that transported people)

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By Phyllis Barkas Goldman

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