

# A Scottish Invention That Changed the World? | E12 The Scottish English Podcast

<i>Transcript</i>	<i>Vocabulary and grammar structures you should know. *= meaning used in the podcast if there is more than one meaning.</i>	<i>Collocations, idioms and other useful phrases.</i>
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## Claire | Kilted English:

150 years ago, communication took days, even weeks. Letters travelled by horse and ship, and the fastest way to send a message was through a series of coded dashes and dots. Then, one invention changed everything. Allowing people to hear each other's voices over vast distances for the first time in history.

Let's find out what it is and how it has a connection to Scotland.

Hello and welcome to the Scottish English Podcast, the show where you can improve your English while learning about Scotland's history, culture, and of course, our famous accents.

I'm Claire. And today we're talking about a Scottish inventor whose work revolutionised communication. Alexander Graham Bell, the man behind the telephone.

But before I get started, remember you can download the transcript of this episode, which includes definitions as well as collocations and

Coded (adjective)

/ 'kəʊdɪd/

- a coded message or coded information is written or sent using a special system of words, letters, numbers, etc. that can only be understood by a few other people or by a computer

Vast (adjective)

/vɑːst/

- extremely large in area, size, amount, etc.

Revolutionise (verb) (Revolutionize US)

/ ,revə 'luːʃənəɪz/

- to completely change the way that something is done

- In the vast majority of cases...
- Vast quantities of food
- Vast sums of money

<p>idiomatic phrases for some of the more challenging words.</p> <p>And also do subscribe and hit that notification bell so that you know when the next episode of the Scottish English Podcast comes out.</p> <p>So how did Alexander Graham Bell, Scottish-born scientist go from <u>humble</u> beginnings to changing the way the world connects? Let's find out.</p> <p>Early life and Scottish <u>roots</u>.</p> <p>Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh in 1847 into a family that was deeply involved in the study of sound and <u>speech</u>. His father, Alexander Melville Bell developed a system called Visible Speech, allowing deaf people to communicate and this had a <u>profound</u> influence on young Alexander's life.</p> <p>Although Bell <u>eventually</u> moved to Canada and then the United States, his Scottish roots remained a key part of his identity.</p>	<p>Humble (adjective) /'hʌmbəl/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- having a low rank or social position*</li> <li>- (<i>ironic or humorous</i>) used to suggest that you are not as important as other people, but in a way that is not sincere or not very serious</li> </ul> <p>Root /ru:t/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- roots [plural] the feelings or connections that you have with a place because you have lived there or your family came from there</li> </ul> <p>Speech (noun) /spi:tʃ/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the language used when speaking; the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (Ironic meaning) In my humble opinion</li> <li>- In speech</li> <li>- Free speech = the right to say openly</li> </ul>
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<p>The invention of the telephone</p> <p>His interest in sound led him to experiment with ways to <u>transmit</u> sound over long distances.</p> <p>At the time, communication was mostly done through the telegraph, which could only send simple coded messages.</p> <p>But Bell wanted to go further. He wanted to send actual human voices through wires.</p> <p>In 1876, after years of <u>collaboration</u> and research with his assistant Watson, Bell successfully created the first working telephone.</p> <p>His famous words during the first phone call were: Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you.</p> <p>And just like that the world was forever changed.</p> <p>A <u>sceptical</u> public and a communication revolution.</p> <p>At first, people were sceptical. Who needed a telephone when you could just send a telegram?</p>	<p>fact of speaking rather than writing</p> <p>Profound (adjective) /prə 'faʊnd/  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- very great; felt or experienced very strongly</li> </ul> </p> <p>Eventually (adverb) /ɪ 'ventʃuəli/  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- at the end of a period of time or a series of events</li> </ul> </p> <p>Transmit (verb) /trænz 'mɪt/  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to send an electronic signal, radio or television broadcast, etc.</li> </ul> </p> <p>Collaboration (noun) /kə ,ləbə 'reɪʃn/  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the act of working with another person or group of people to create or produce something</li> </ul> </p> <p>Sceptical (adjective) (Skeptical US) /'skeptɪkl/  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- having doubts that a claim or statement is</li> </ul> </p>	<p>what you think</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transmit to</li> <li>- Transmit from</li> <li>- Collaboration with somebody</li> <li>- In collaboration with somebody (on something)</li> <li>- Collaboration between A and B</li> <li>- Sceptical about something</li> <li>- Sceptical of</li> </ul>
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<p>But Bell was determined to show the world that his invention was the future of communication.</p> <p>He <u>demonstrated</u> it at exhibitions, and soon individuals and businesses saw its <u>potential</u>. By the late 19th century, telephone networks were <u>expanding</u> rapidly, and Alexander Graham Bell was <u>a household name</u>.</p> <p>Despite his success, Bell never stopped inventing.</p> <p>Throughout his life, he worked on many other innovations, including advancements in <u>aeronautics</u>, <u>hydrofoils</u>, and even early metal detectors.</p> <p>He also continued his work with the deaf community, believing that communication was at the heart of human connection.</p> <p>Bell's legacy and the impact of his invention.</p>	<p>true or that something will happen</p> <p>Demonstrate (verb) / 'demənstreɪt/  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to show and explain how something works or how to do something*</li> </ul> </p> <p>Potential (noun) /pə 'tenʃl/  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- qualities that exist and can be developed</li> </ul> </p> <p>Expand (verb) /ɪk 'spænd/  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to become greater in size, number or importance; to make something greater in size, number or importance</li> </ul> </p> <p>Household name (noun) / ,haʊshəʊld 'neɪm/  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a person, thing or name that has become very well known</li> </ul> </p> <p>Aeronautics (noun) / ,eərə 'nɔ:tɪks/  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the science or practice of building and</li> </ul> </p>	<p>something</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate something (to somebody)</li> <li>- Demonstrate (to somebody) how, what etc.</li> <li>- Realise/reach/fulfil/achieve (your) full potential</li> <li>- Someone shows great potential</li> </ul>
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<p>So the next time you pick up your phone, take a moment to think about the Scottish man who made it all possible.</p> <p>Alexander Graham Bell's invention changed the way the world works, lives and connects with each other.</p> <p>And even though he spent most of his life abroad, his Scottish <u>heritage</u> remained an important part of his story.</p> <p>That's all for today's episode of the Scottish English Podcast. If you enjoyed this episode, be sure to subscribe and leave us a comment. What do you want to know about Scottish history and culture? Maybe I'll do a video on it.</p> <p>And if you want to continue improving your English, check out the transcript in the show notes. Thanks for listening. See you later.</p>	<p>flying aircraft</p> <p>Hydrofoil (noun) /'haɪdrəfɔɪl/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a boat which rises above the surface of the water when it is travelling fast</li> </ul> <p>Heritage (noun) /'herɪtɪdʒ/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a person's ethnic or religious background; the countries, cultures, religious groups, etc. that a person's parents or ancestors come from</li> </ul>	
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