

Bluetooth In Your Life

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Bluetooth is a wireless technology standard that connects electronic devices within a short range, up to 30 feet. It was created in 1989 in Sweden, initially intended to connect wireless speakers and named for a Viking and king who united Denmark and Norway in the 10th century.

Bluetooth is almost automatic to connect and easy to use. The term for connecting two devices via Bluetooth is “pairing”. Some examples of wireless devices to be connected are car audio (to smartphones), mice (to a computer), earbuds or earphones (to computers, tablets, smartphones, stereos, TVs), most modern hearing aids, gaming controllers, fitness watches, and more.

Connecting is fairly automatic when Bluetooth is built in to a smartphone or computer, with no extra receivers or connectors required. While most smartphones have Bluetooth capability, the user must turn on that service on their phone. Check the smartphone’s instructions on how to turn it on or search in SETTINGS for ‘Bluetooth’. Likewise, if you are using Bluetooth on your computer (Mac, PC, or Chromebook), Bluetooth must be turned on.

Many newer TVs and stereo receivers have Bluetooth built in so wireless headsets and earbuds can be paired directly to them, eliminating the need for wires. If Bluetooth is not built in, a Bluetooth wireless transmitter/receiver can be purchased to connect to the TV or stereo audio ports.

Most hearing aids today have Bluetooth capabilities. When hearing aids are on and your phone’s Bluetooth is on, then whenever a call is incoming your hearing aids will automatically connect to the incoming phone and you can answer the call by pressing one of the hearing aid’s buttons or from the smartphone’s selection on the phone. Volume is controlled usually on the hearing aids, but on your smartphone you can also manually change volume.

If a computer is older and does not have Bluetooth built in, a Bluetooth ‘dongle’ can be purchased for around \$15. These dongles plug directly into a USB port on the computer. Bluetooth devices can then be connected, such as a wireless mouse or wireless earbuds or earphones. By using Bluetooth, desk space becomes free of wires.

Other Bluetooth electronics are cameras, televisions, speakers and headphones which simplify data sharing between devices. A Bluetooth-enabled smartphone, for example, can wirelessly connect to a headset to make hands-free calling. There is a wealth of information to be had by doing a Google search, especially when it comes to finding information on how to pair with your specific device.

