



**Pager:
How were we reachable
before mobile phones?**

The pager, also known as “beeper”, was a portable device capable of receiving short messages. It became popular in the 1990s due to its low cost compared to the emerging mobile phones.

The service allowed a person to be contacted by means of a short alert message. The sender would dial a phone number that connected them to an operator, who would take down the message and transmit it to the recipient’s device. Messages could be up to 15 seconds long. The pager emitted an acoustic signal to warn of an incoming message. Some models with a screen allowed short text messages to be received.

