

Skype vs. Google Voice

(Feature Comparison)

FEATURE	GOOGLE VOICE	SKYPE	COMMENTS
VIDEO CHAT	Yes*	Yes	*Available only through integration with Google's " Voice and Video Chat " (requires plug-in installation), video chat not within Google Voice itself.
FREE INTERNATIONAL CALLING	No*	Yes**	*International calls are not free/supported with Google Voice, but you can install Google's Voice and Video Chat for free international calling (does not extend to landline and mobile phones). **Only Skype-to-Skype international calls are free.
UNLIMITED DOMESTIC CALLS (INCLUDING MOBILE AND LANDLINE NUMBERS)	Yes	No*	*Skype-to-Skype domestic calls are free, but calls to mobile and landline phones cost extra using a Skype subscription (domestic pay as you go: 2.3 cents/min). Subscriptions range from \$2.99/month for U.S. and Canada to \$13.99/month for unlimited worldwide. Certain subscriptions offer free (but limited) calls to landline/mobile phones.
VOICE, IM AND VIDEO INTEGRATION ON SINGLE PLATFORM	No*	Yes	*Video calls are only available through Google's Voice and Video Chat plug-in.
FREE SMS	Yes*	No**	*Only domestic SMS is free ** Skype Credit must be bought to SMS; rates vary by country, U.S. (not including Hawaii/Alaska): 11.2 cents/message.
FREE VOICEMAIL	Yes*	Yes	*Google Voice also allows you to listen to voicemail in real-time and answer the call at any time.
FREE CALL FORWARDING (Public Switched Telephone Network [PSTN] INTEGRATION)	Yes	No*	*Certain paid subscriptions offer free call forwarding and purchasing Skype Credit allows you to pay per minute (Rates vary by country, U.S. [<i>not</i> including Hawaii/Alaska]: 2.3 cents/min).
FREE VOICEMAIL TRANSCRIPTION	Yes	No*	*Costs extra (25 cents/message).
FREE CALL RECORDING	Yes*	No	*Google Voice has free call recording with incoming calls, not outgoing calls.

FEATURE	GOOGLE VOICE	SKYPE	COMMENTS
FREE CALL BLOCKING	Yes	Yes	
FREE INDIVIDUAL PHONE NUMBER	Yes	No*	*You can get your own number for \$18 for three months, or \$60 for a year (through a <u>Skype Premium</u> subscription, users get a 33% discount for 3 months on their numbers, and a 50% discount for a year).
NEEDS PHONE PLAN	Yes*	No**	*You need a phone plan to use Google Voice, but can use Google <u>Voice and Video Chat</u> for free via WiFi connection. **A phone plan is unnecessary because you can connect through WiFi.
FREE GROUP VIDEO CHAT	Yes*	No**	*Free group video chat is available only through Google's " <u>Google+ Hangouts</u> " application. **This is free/available only with <u>Skype Premium</u> paid subscription (cost varies by country, U.S.: \$4.99/month for 12-month subscription, \$7.49/month for 3-month subscription).
ABILITY TO PLACE 911 EMERGENCY CALLS	No	No	
"BUSINESS VERSION" OF THE SERVICE AVAILABLE AIMED AT TYPICAL COMPANY NEEDS	No	Yes*	*" <u>Skype for Business</u> " costs more and includes features like cheaper calls, group calling, collaboration functions and contact with non-Skype customers. Cost varies depending on business size and other factors.
REQUIRES A CLIENT	No	Yes*	*Download the <u>Skype client</u> .
REQUIRES A PLUG-IN	Yes*	No	*Download the <u>Google Voice plug-in</u> .

References:

- <http://searchunifiedcommunications.techtarget.com/feature/Skype-vs-Google-Voice-Feature-by-feature-showdown>
- <http://google.com/>
- <http://skype.com/>