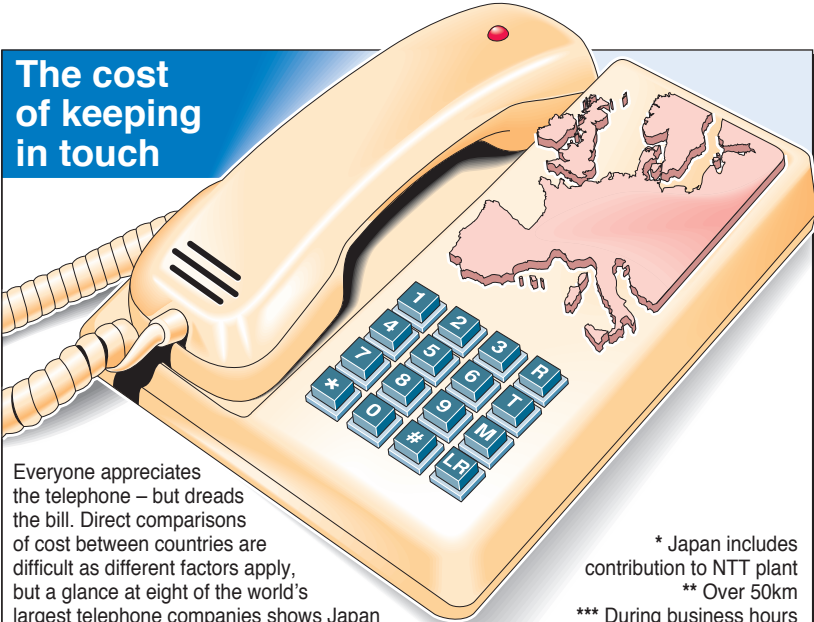


# The cost of keeping in touch



Everyone appreciates the telephone – but dreads the bill. Direct comparisons of cost between countries are difficult as different factors apply, but a glance at eight of the world's largest telephone companies shows Japan to be particularly expensive while the French pay least on average

\* Japan includes contribution to NTT plant

\*\* Over 50km

\*\*\* During business hours to U.S. and from U.S. to UK  
All prices are exclusive of tax

	France	Germany	Holland	Italy	Japan	Spain	UK	U.S.
<b>Fixed charges (£):</b>								
Line connection	26.00	27.00	78.00	97.00	427.00*	147.00	99.00	107.00
Line rental (per year)	48.00	123.00	104.00	54.00	98.00	80.00	78.00	79.00
<b>Calls (3 minutes cheap rate):</b>								
Local (pence)	7.6	9.6	5.5	6.2	5.3	4.9	4.2	2.4
Long distance**	15.1	19.1	11.1	30.9	36.9	26.7	12.6	23.7
International (£)***	2.42	2.49	2.94	4.74	3.58	3.67	1.47	2.17