

Electronic Greeting Cards (Ecards): A Modern and Convenient Alternative

Electronic greeting cards, or Ecards, offer a contemporary, eco-friendly, and often cost-free alternative to traditional paper cards. These digital cards can be sent via text, social media, or email, and many platforms allow you to schedule delivery weeks or even months in advance. They are a great option to send holiday messages during the current Canada Post strike.

Ecards come in a variety of formats, including static images, animations, or interactive multimedia featuring sound and text. Personalization is easy, allowing you to add your own messages for a more customized touch.

Ecards are highly convenient. You can browse, personalize, and send them directly from your computer or mobile device without needing to visit a store, purchase stamps, or wait for postal delivery to start again. With Ecards, your message can reach recipients anywhere in the world instantly.

Free Ecard Platforms:

- Punchbowl
- 123Greetings
- Blue Mountain
- Greetings Island

Premium Ecard Platforms:

For higher-quality designs and animations, consider these premium services:

- **Jacquie Lawson:** Known for elegant, artistic designs with whimsical animations.
- **Paperless Post:** Specializes in premium designs, particularly for invitations.
- **Hallmark eCards:** Offers digital versions of traditional, classic card styles.

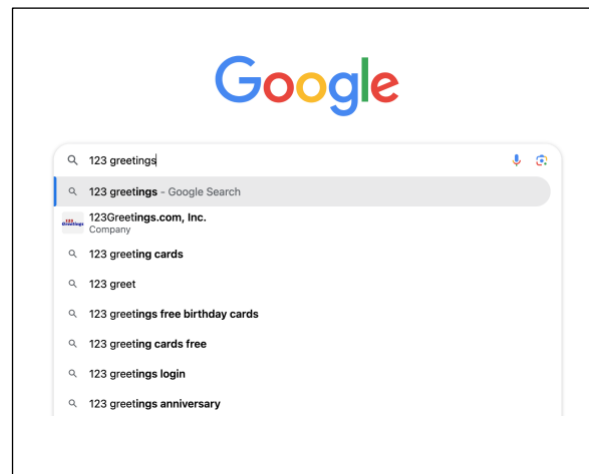
Example: Using 123Greetings

123Greetings is accessible both as a mobile app and through your browser, making it a versatile choice for sending thoughtful Ecards with ease.

Download the App from the Google Play (Android)
Or The App Store (Apple iOS)

OR

On your desktop or laptop just search for
123 Greeting Cards in your browser

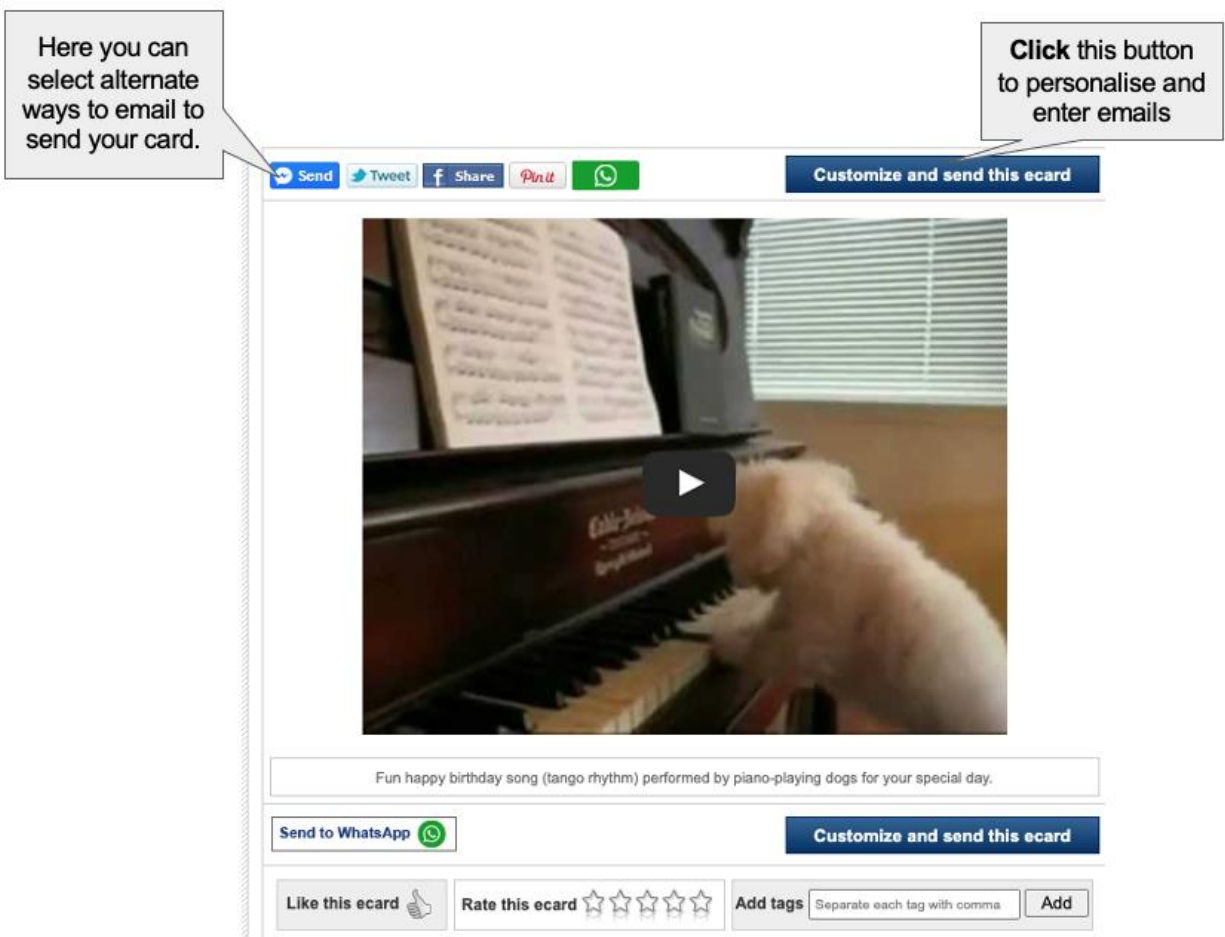


Begin by **selecting your occasion**.

Let's pick a birthday!

When you have selected your occasion, you will see a large selection of cards in a variety of styles including humorous, inspirational, elegant, and more. Click on each icon to view the card animation and message.

Once you have found a card you like you can personalise it.



The screenshot shows a web interface for selecting and customizing an ecard. At the top, there are social sharing icons: Send, Tweet, Share, Pin it, and WhatsApp. A blue button labeled "Customize and send this ecard" is positioned to the right. A callout box on the left points to these icons, stating: "Here you can select alternate ways to email to send your card." The main content area features a video player showing a dog's paws playing a piano. A play button is centered over the video. A callout box on the right points to the "Customize and send this ecard" button, stating: "Click this button to personalise and enter emails". Below the video, a text box contains the message: "Fun happy birthday song (tango rhythm) performed by piano-playing dogs for your special day." At the bottom, there are three sections: "Send to WhatsApp" with a WhatsApp icon, another "Customize and send this ecard" button, and a "Like this ecard" section with a thumbs-up icon, a "Rate this ecard" section with five stars, and an "Add tags" section with a text input field and an "Add" button.

Personalising your card is just a few clicks away. Let your intended recipient know who is sending the message, then compose your greeting and finally address and schedule your delivery time.

The screenshot shows a web interface for creating an e-card. It is divided into several sections:

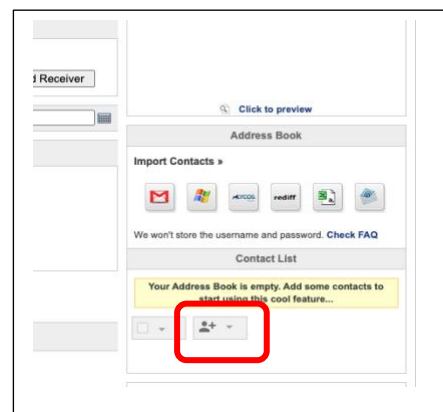
- Sender Details:** Includes fields for "Sender's name" and "Sender's email". A callout box labeled "Your details" points to these fields.
- Message:** A text editor area with a toolbar (bold, italic, underline, list, link, image, etc.) and a large text area. A callout box labeled "Your personalized message" points to the text area.
- Receiver Details:** Includes fields for "Receiver's name" and "Receiver's email", and an "Add Receiver" button. A callout box labeled "Recipient's info, click add receiver if more than one" points to the "Add Receiver" button.
- Scheduling:** A dropdown menu for "When do you want to deliver this ecard?" with "Today" selected. A callout box labeled "Schedule delivery time here" points to this dropdown.
- Notifications:** A section with checkboxes for "Remind me of this and related events every year.", "Subscribe me to Newsletter & Special Offers.", "Remember my details when I visit 123Greetings.com next time.", and "I have read and agree to the Terms of Use & Privacy Policy."

Contacts:

You can also import all your contacts into the system. This requires creating an account. Once your contacts are imported, sending cards becomes quicker and more efficient.

You have two options to add your contacts:

1. **Manual Entry:** Click the icon of a person with a "+" at the bottom to enter contacts individually.
2. **Address Book Import:** Select your preferred source (e.g., Gmail, Microsoft, Outlook, or other email providers) to import your entire address book.



Ecard Best Practices:

- Double-check the address for accuracy to avoid delivery failures.
- Preview the card before sending it to make sure everything works the way you want.

Benefits of E-cards

E-cards can be an easy and convenient way to send your love and thoughtful messages to someone. While many services offer free cards, the paid versions offer more sophisticated and elegant card designs. Choosing an e-card can also be an enjoyable and creative process.