

The Internet

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. When do you think the idea of linking computers to share information first started?
2. Do you know how long the Internet has been in service?
3. What does WWW stand for?
4. How often do you use the Internet, and what types of things do you use it for?
5. How many Internet users do you think there are around the world?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.
Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

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|-----------------------|---|
| ___ 1. network | a) a person teaching or studying at a university |
| ___ 2. protocol | b) to be able to reach or use |
| ___ 3. destination | c) a person who has a lot of skills or knowledge about something |
| ___ 4. academic | d) to read or look through |
| ___ 5. expert | e) to continue communication at a later date |
| ___ 6. document | f) a connected system |
| ___ 7. site | g) average, not special |
| ___ 8. browse | h) a code or rules for doing something |
| ___ 9. click | i) to talk in a friendly, casual way |
| ___ 10. store | j) the place that someone or something is going to |
| ___ 11. ordinary | k) a physical location or a place on the Internet containing linked pages |
| ___ 12. chat | l) to collect and keep for future use |
| ___ 13. access | m) a written or printed piece of information |
| ___ 14. keep in touch | n) to push a computer key or button |

Reading

1. The Internet is made up of a large number of computer **networks** linked together by wires, cables, and wireless connections. The networks are run by governments, universities, and private businesses.
2. The idea of linking computers to share information started in the United States in the 1940s, mainly for defense purposes. By the 1970s, there were several computer networks, but they were not linked. Then, in 1979, two Americans developed the Internet **Protocol** (IP), which let packets of information be sent from one computer network to another until they reached their final **destination**. Computer networks could now be linked. Around 1982, several networks merged to form the Internet, but it was used mostly by **academics** and technical **experts**.
3. In 1989, Tim Berners-Lee created a computer language known as HTML and a protocol known as HTTP that made it possible to send and receive **documents** through the Internet. This was the beginning of the World Wide Web. The web consists of a series of documents or **sites** that are linked together. Each has a specific location, called a URL or web address.
4. The web **browser** was developed shortly after. A browser is a piece of software that recognizes HTML and the hyperlinks (references to other documents) within documents. When a computer user **clicks** on a hyperlink, the browser connects to the computer **storing** that data (the web server) and sends the data back to the user's computer. The web and the web browser allowed **ordinary** people to use the Internet. It holds billions of pages of information sent out to billions of users around the world.
5. The Internet has changed the world. We use it to **chat** with family and friends, share information, run businesses, work from home, and **keep in touch** with the world. When we can't **access** the Internet, we feel disconnected.

“The trouble with quotes on the Internet is that you never know whether or not they are genuine.”

—Abraham Lincoln

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information in your notebook.

- _____ 1. All computer networks are run by the government.
- _____ 2. Computer networks were first linked in the US in the 1940s.
- _____ 3. The Internet was created in the early 1980s.
- _____ 4. HTML is a web address.
- _____ 5. When the Internet was first created, it was used mostly by universities.

B. Ask & Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

1. Briefly explain what the Internet is.
2. Where did the idea for the Internet originate?
3. What event happened in 1979 that led to the development of the Internet?
4. Who were the first users of the Internet?
5. What was Tim Berners-Lee's role in the development of the Internet?
6. What is a web browser?
7. How much information does the Internet hold?
8. What is a URL?

Vocabulary Review

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

1. According to the protocol, we need to sign in before we begin.
 - a) rules
 - b) boss
 - c) Internet
2. I don't know where to find the IP address. Let's ask the expert.
 - a) specialist
 - b) government
 - c) academic
3. Have you looked at the newsletter on a different browser?
 - a) data
 - b) mobile device
 - c) web viewer
4. One billion people visit this site on an ordinary day.
 - a) access
 - b) regular
 - c) original
5. We keep in touch via video chat.
 - a) link
 - b) socialize
 - c) communicate
6. Only an academic would notice that error.
 - a) scholar
 - b) browser
 - c) server

Discussion

1. The Internet has really changed the world. Make a list of several different topics (e.g., personal relations, education, work, health, shopping, entertainment, banking, etc.) and discuss the kinds of changes that have occurred in each of these areas since the creation of the Internet.
2. Many of the changes that the Internet has brought about have been very positive. However, the Internet has also created many problems. Discuss some of these problems. What do you think can be done about them?
3. Do you know many people who do not use the Internet? Do you think that people who do not use the Internet have trouble functioning in today's society? If so, give examples.