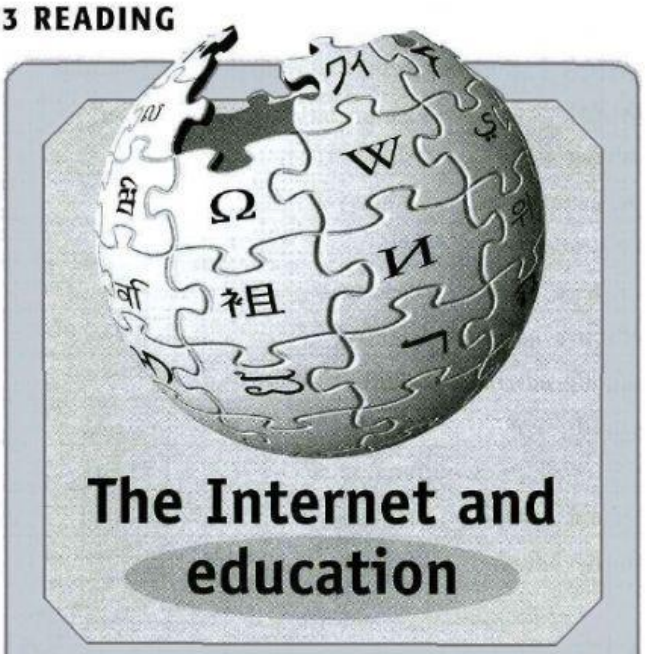
3 READING



The Internet and education

Until quite recently Silicon Valley and its innovations had little effect on teaching and learning. But with the rise of the Internet, information technology is now beginning to have much more influence on education. Two areas that are becoming more and more significant are "blogs" and "wikis."

The word "blog" is short for "weblog." A *blog* is an online diary or "log" of someone's life, thoughts, or opinions. Anybody can create their own blog and blogging is becoming extremely popular. Type "blog" into Google and you'll get over 500 million hits. For educational purposes, scholars, teachers, and students create blogs as personal online study sites: places to work together and share information and ideas. Some universities even give their students and staff free space on a server to start their own blogs.

"Wikis"' are websites where anyone can add content and make changes so that the site becomes a group creation. "Wiki" stands for **W**hat **I** **K**now **I**s." These sites can be a valuable source of information and opinion for students. However, the information may not be totally accurate and some scholars refuse to use them. Perhaps the best-known wiki is the online encyclopedia Wikipedia, which has more than one million entries in over 100 languages. Wikipedia is working hard to make sure that its information is completely accurate so that students will be able to use it with confidence. There's no doubt that it is an incredible resource.

a Read the article and find the answers to these questions as quickly as you can.

1 Is information technology more or less important in education than before?

more

2 Where does the word "blog" come from?

_____

3 What is a "blog"? _____

4 What are blogs used for at universities?

_____

5 What does '"wiki" mean?

_____

6 Who puts the information on this kind of website?

_____

7 Why do students need to be careful if they use "wikis" when they study?

_____

8 What is Wikipedia? _____

b Underline five words or phrases you don't know. Use your dictionary to look up their meaning and pronunciation.

4 GRAMMAR first conditional and future time clauses + *when, until,* etc.

a Match the sentence halves.

1 She won't pass her exams [d]
2 I'll have to go to a new school [ ]
3 She won't start elementary school [ ]
4 I think I'll go on vacation [ ]
5 As soon as I get home, [ ]
6 Her parents will get her a present [ ]

a after I finish my exams.
b if she gets good grades.
c I'm going to do my homework.
d unless she studies more.
e until she's five years old.
f when my parents move to San Diego.

LIVEWORKSHEETS