

UNIT 4 – THE INTERNET

Reading 1

Skills:

- Details
- Organize information

Getting started: What do you use the internet for?

A TYPICAL WEB PAGE

Look at the screenshot of a typical web page. How many of the features (a-k) can you say in English?

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Cambridge Assessment English website. The page has a dark header with the logo and navigation menu. Below the header is a search bar and a main content area with a sidebar. Features are labeled with letters a through k:

- a: Address bar (URL)
- b: Tab
- c: Navigation icons (back, forward, refresh, home)
- d: Search bar
- e: Logo
- f: Social media icons
- g: Navigation menu
- h: Main content area
- i: Sidebar
- j: Text content
- k: Image

Read the text and label the features on the screenshot with the terms in bold.

A typical web page

At the top of the page is the **URL address**. URL means **Uniform Resource Locator** - the address of a file on the Internet. A typical URL looks like this: `http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/`.

In this URL, `http://` means **Hypertext Transfer Protocol** and tells the program to look for a web page. `www` means world wide web. `bbc.co.uk` is the domain name of the server that hosts the website - a company based in the UK; other top-level domains are `.com` (commercial site), `.edu` (education), `.org` (organization) or `.net` (network); `radio` is the directory path where the web page is located. The parts of the URL are separated by `.` (*dot*), `/` (*slash*) and `:` (*colon*). Some sites begin `ftp://` a file transfer protocol used to copy files from one computer to another.

The toolbar shows all the navigation icons, which let you go back one page or go forward one page. You can also go to the home page or stop the current transfer when the circuits are busy.

Tab buttons let you view different sites at the same time to look for information. When a web page won't load, you can refresh the current page, meaning the page reloads (downloads again). If you want to mark a website address so that you can easily revisit the page at a later time, you can add it to your *favourites* (*favorites* in American English), or bookmark it. When you want to visit it again you simply click show favourites. Near the favourites button, you find a round icon, which will display your account photo. This is the **user icon**, which is connected to one of your web accounts (Microsoft, Google, etc.)

On the web page itself, most sites include a search box so that you can look for certain information within the web page. There's also an icon that represents a magnifying glass. This is the **Zoom**. So, if you click on this button, you can make the website bigger. Most sites also feature **clickable image links** and **clickable hypertext links**. These are known as *hyperlinks* and take you to other web pages when clicked.

*Adapted from Infotech. Cambridge University Press.

What do you think?

What's your favorite web site?