

English Learning Through Digital Media

Unit 1 The Internet



Getting started

What is the Internet?

The Internet is a global network of billions of computers and other electronic devices. With the Internet, it's possible to access almost any information, communicate with anyone else in the world, and do much more.

You can do all of this by connecting a computer to the Internet, which is also called going online. When someone says a computer is **online**, it's just another way of saying it's connected to the Internet.

The **World Wide Web**—usually called the **Web** for short—is a collection of different websites you can access through the Internet. A **website** is made up of related text, images, and other resources. Websites can resemble other forms of media—like newspaper articles or television programs—or they can be interactive in a way that's unique to computers.

The purpose of a website can be almost anything: a news platform, an advertisement, an online library, a forum for sharing images, or an educational site like us!



Once you are connected to the Internet, you can access and view websites using a type of application called a web browser. Just keep in mind that the **web browser** itself is not the Internet; it only displays websites that are stored on the Internet.

How does the Internet work?

At this point you may be wondering, how does the Internet work? The exact answer is pretty complicated and would take a while to explain. Instead, let's look at some of the most important things you should know.

It's important to realize that the Internet is a global network of physical cables, which can include copper telephone wires, TV cables, and fiber optic cables. Even **wireless connections** like **Wi-Fi** and **3G/4G** rely on these physical cables to access the Internet.

When you visit a website, your computer sends a request over these wires to a **server**. A server is where websites are stored, and it works a lot like your computer's **hard drive**. Once the request arrives, the server **retrieves** the website and sends the correct data back to your computer. What's amazing is that this all happens in just a few seconds!

There's almost no limit to what you can do online. The Internet makes it possible to quickly find information, communicate with people around the world, manage your finances, shop from home, listen to music, watch videos, and much, much more. Let's take a look at some of the ways the Internet is most commonly used today.

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences with appropriate words. You may look for the words from the box below.

1. The is a worldwide network that connects billions of computers and other electronic devices all around the world.
2. The, is a collection of various websites that you may visit over the Internet.
3. When someone says a computer connected to the Internet, this means that it's
4. Unlike the Internet, the only shows websites that are kept on the Internet.
5. A is made up of content, graphics, and other materials that are all related. It has the ability to be interactive in a manner that computers do not.

Exercise 2: Match the word (1-5) with the definitions (A-E).

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. An internet connection using wireless signals | a. hard drive |
| 2. A device that sends data over phone lines | b. Wifi |
| 3. A place used to stores hundreds of websites | c. server |
| 4. To enter to the website | d. retrieve |
| 5. A computer part used to store large amounts of data | e. wireless router |

Language Focus

A part of speech is a term used in traditional grammar for one of the nine main categories into which words are classified according to their functions in sentences, such as nouns or verbs.

Every sentence you write or speak in English includes words that fall into some of the nine parts of speech. These include nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, articles/determiners, and interjections. Some sources include only eight parts of speech and leave interjections in their own category.

To understand the sentence, English learners must know how to use the nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. To know for sure what part of speech a word falls into, you look not only at the word itself but also at its meaning, position, and use in a sentence.

For example, in the first sentence below, post functions as a noun; and in the second sentence, a verb:

- How many **posts** do you read today?
- The noun '**posts**' is the text, images, that are placed on a website.
- In Tik Tok, you can **post** it and share it with your friends
- The verb '**post**' is the action of placing text, images, etc. on a website

Now find the part of speech for 10 bold and underlined words from a paragraph below

Online media

There are many sites that allow you to watch videos and listen to music. For example, you can watch millions of videos on YouTube or listen to Internet radio on Pandora. Other services, like Netflix and Hulu, allow you to watch movies and TV shows. And if have a set-top streaming box, you can even watch them directly on your television instead of a computer screen.

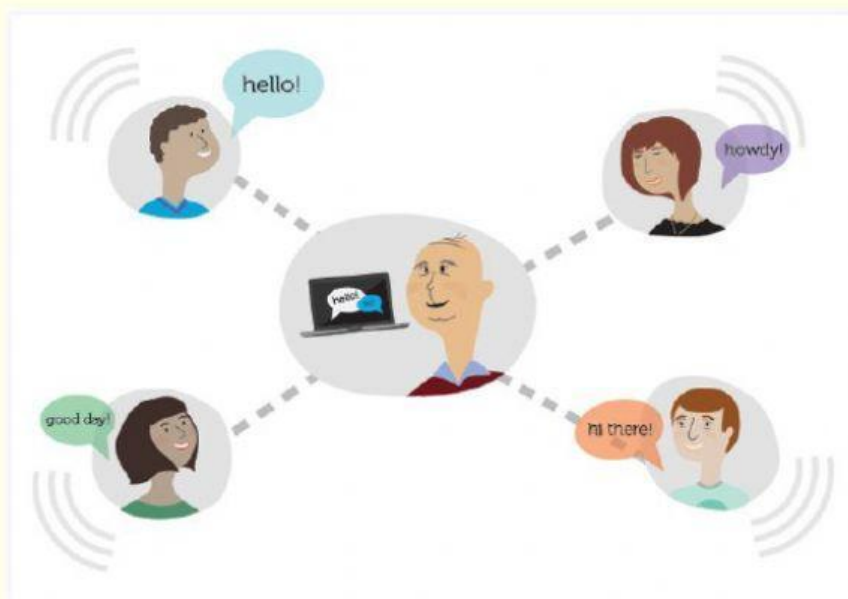
1. many
2. sites
3. allow
4. For example,
5. on
6. And
7. a
8. them
9. directly
10. instead of

Looking closely

What can we do on the Internet?

Other things you can do on the Internet

One of the best features of the Internet is the ability to communicate almost instantly with anyone in the world. Email is one of the oldest and most universal ways to communicate and share information on the Internet, and billions of people use it. Social media allows people to connect in a variety of ways and build communities online.



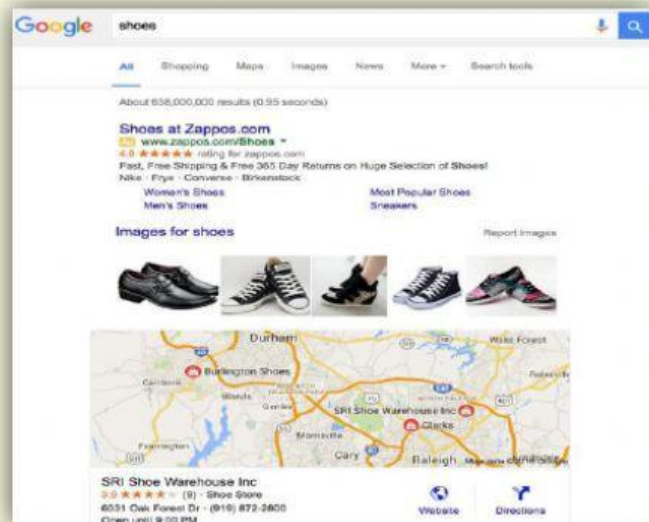
There are many other things you can do on the Internet. There are thousands of ways to keep up with news or shop for anything online. You can pay your bills, manage your bank accounts, meet new people, watch TV, or learn new skills. You can learn or do almost anything online.

Finding information online

With billions of websites online today, there is a lot of information on the Internet. Search engines make this information easier to find. All you have to do is type one or more keywords, and the search engine will look for relevant websites.

For example, let's say you're looking for a new pair of shoes. You could use a search engine to learn about different types of shoes, get directions to a nearby shoe store, or even find out where to buy them online!

There are many different search engines you can use, but some of the most popular include Google, Yahoo!, and Bing.



Email

Short for electronic mail, email is a way to send and receive messages across the Internet. Almost everyone who uses the Internet has their own email account, usually called an email address. This is because you'll need an email address to do just about anything online, from online banking to creating a Facebook account.

Social networking

Social networking websites are another way to connect and share with your family and friends online. Rather than sharing with just a few people over email, social networks make it easier to connect and share with many people at the same time. Facebook is the world's largest social networking site, with more than 1 billion users worldwide.

Online media

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Everyday tasks

You can also use the Internet to complete many everyday tasks and errands. For example, you can manage your bank account, pay your bills, and shop for just about anything. The main advantage here is convenience. Rather than going from place to place, you can do all of these tasks at home!

Exercise 3: Choose the correct answers.

1. Which is one of the oldest way to communicate and share information on the Internet?

- a. Facebook b. Email c. MSN d. Yahoo

2. Which one best describes email?

- a. a channel to watch film
b. a system to find information
c. a device of checking and preparing passages
d. a way to send and receive messages across the Internet

3. Which one doesn't need the email account in creating online connections?

- a. online banking b. Image downloading
c. creating a Facebook account. d. Making a YouTube channel

4. _____ allows people to connect in a variety of ways and build communities online.

- a. Social media b. eLearning c. Seminar d. Email

5. _____ is the world's largest social networking site

- a. YouTube b. Blogger c. Facebook d. Line

6. Which one does not allow you to watch movies and TV shows?

- a. Netflix b. Viu c. Pandora d. Hulu

7. With a _____, you can even watch them directly on your television instead of a computer screen.

- a. streaming box b. Screen c. Monitor d. Router

8. _____ is a system of information that is available on the Internet.

- a. everyday task b. online media c. search engine d. Link

9. An email account is also known as an email _____

- a. ID b. address c. password d. pin code

10. What is similar to the word "errands" in the last paragraph?

- a. signal b. test c. gadget d. task

Exercise 4: Match the word (1-5) with the definitions (A-E).

- 1. A word or image that you can click on to navigate. a. http
- 2. Computer program that arrows people to look for particular information (to find a web site). b. www
- 3. System of information that is available on the Internet. c. hyperlink
- 4. A global network of Computers and electronic devices d. Search engine
- 5. The part of the web address that allows the computer to connect to the site. e. Internet

Language note

What is the site's top-level domain?

Every web address has a top-level domain. Some common examples are *.com*, *.org*, *.gov*, and *.edu*, although there are many more.

.gov is a government site. These are usually reliable.

.edu can be a school, college, or university. However, some webpages could be student projects, and these are not always reliable. Try to determine whether the page was written by a student, teacher, or the school administration.

.org is an organization. Depending on the organization's mission, it could be biased or unbiased. Try to find more information about the organization and its purpose.

.com is typically used by commercial sites. However, it's also used by many other types of sites, so it doesn't really tell you whether a site is reliable.

Exercise 5: Find any webpage you like and identify each anatomy