

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 the Cambridge Assessment English website. Labels a-k point to the following features:

- a: Back button
- b: Forward button
- c: Address bar
- d: Refresh button
- e: Search bar
- f: Home button
- g: Google search bar
- h: Social media icons
- i: Navigation menu
- j: Main content area
- k: Footer

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?