



The Internet

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.

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. About 1982, several networks merged to form the Internet, but it was used mostly by academics and technical experts.

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.

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.

The Internet holds at least 4 billion pages of information, which close to 50 million host computers send out to about 1 billion users around the world. Users buy online services that offer e-mail, chat rooms, and an Internet browser to access the Web in one package.

The Internet has changed the world. People use it to share information, run their business, work from home, and keep in touch with family and friends.

**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

A. True or False. Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence. If it is false, write F. If it is false, correct the information.

1. All computer networks are run by the government. _____
2. Computer networks were first linked in the U.S. 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. Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in complete sentences.

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****A. Choose the word(s) with the closest meaning to the underlined words in the following sentences.**

1. The idea of linking computers to share information started in the U.S. in the 1940s.
a) lending b) connecting together c) buying
2. This idea of linking computers was mainly for defense purposes.
a) military protection b) selling c) teaching
3. Computer networks are run by governments, universities, and private businesses.
a) managed b) made to go fast c) rented
4. About 1982, several computer networks merged to form the Internet.
a) met b) were created c) joined together to become one
5. About 50 million host computers send out information to about 1 billion Internet users.
a) expensive b) ones holding the information c) government

B. Match the words on the left with the correct meaning on the right.

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