

Lead in

Most of us get on and off the Internet on an everyday basis, sometimes for no (serious) reason at all. It's always there for us and we seem to take it for granted.

What about you? What do you use the Internet for? Name at least three reasons:

- What if it stopped working for a day? What would you do? How would you react? What would you end up doing (instead)?
 - Have you ever stopped to think who invented the internet? Or, how old it is? When did we first start using it? Choose one option: a) In the 1920s, b) In the 1950s, c) In the 1990s.
- This Unit is obviously concerned with the Internet. Before you get round to reading the texts and doing the relevant tasks, try to do Activities 1 and 2 below:

Activity 1: Match the sentence halves to produce meaningful pairs:

1. The Internet has revolutionized	a) e-mail, social media, chat rooms, newsgroups, and audio and video transmission.
2. It provides access to digital information through	b) selling goods and services by means of computer telecommunications networks.
3. It supports business transactions that include	c) communications and methods of commerce.
4. It also supports human communication through	d) many applications, including the World Wide Web.

Activity 2: Fill in the gaps with suitable prepositions only if necessary:

A brief history of the Internet

The history of the Internet can be traced back (1) _____ the 1960s when government researchers were searching (2) _____ ways to share information. Of crucial importance (3) _____ the formation of the Internet was the heating (4) _____ of the Cold War¹, which urged (5) _____ the U.S. Defense Department to consider ways that information could be disseminated even (6) _____ a nuclear attack. This led (7) _____ the formation of the ARPANET², a U.S. military research network. As membership (8) _____ the ARPANET was limited (9) _____ certain academic and research organizations, other computer networks were created to provide (10) _____ information sharing. However, these networks did not have a standard way to communicate (11) _____ each other. This was eventually achieved when a new communications protocol, the Transfer Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP), was established. ARPANET officially changed to the TCP/IP standard (12) _____ January 1, 1983, a date which is considered the official birthday of the Internet.

1. the ideological conflict between the U.S. and the Soviet Union during the second half of the 20th century
2. Advanced Research Projects Agency Network

