

Reading 1

► Have you ever come across the name *Sir Tim Berners-Lee* before? In what context? As you can see, the name is preceded by 'Sir', the title of a knight, a title of honour given by the British Queen (or King) to a man for his exceptional achievements that are considered a significant contribution to national life. (**Note:** The female equivalent is *Dame*.) So, what about Sir Tim Berners-Lee? What is his significant contribution? Read the text that follows to find out.



► **Activity 1:** Before you read the text for meaning, practise your scanning skills! Scan through the first five paragraphs and underline the following. You will not need more than 15 seconds for each.

1. an instance of upcycling an old household appliance
2. a world-famous educational institution
3. the famous deceased CEO of an American multinational corporation
4. a machine using electromagnetic fields to propel charged particles to very high speeds and energies
5. word(s) or image(s) with links to other pages, documents, etc. on the internet

► **Activity 2:** The following are paraphrases of ideas in the text that follows. While you read the text, underline the original wording for each paraphrase:

1. He became aware that they could share information by taking advantage of a specific technology that was just beginning to appear.
2. If I had claimed ownership of the technology and protected it by a registered trade name, it is likely that it wouldn't have become successful or popular.
3. It was written in a way that made it clearly and easily seen by everyone, inspiring people to take part and try out new ideas, activities and methods.
4. Up to the present time, we have dealt only in a superficial manner with the way that these fundamental truths could improve the world we live in and the political affairs.

History of the Web

Sir Tim Berners-Lee is a British computer scientist. He was born in London, and his parents were early computer scientists, working on one of the earliest computers. Growing up, Sir Tim was interested in trains and had a model railway in his bedroom. He recalls: "I made some electronic gadgets to control the trains. Then I ended up getting more interested in electronics than trains. Later on, when I was in college, I made a computer out of an old television set."

After graduating from Oxford University, Berners-Lee became a software engineer at CERN, the large particle physics laboratory near Geneva, Switzerland. Scientists come from all over the world to use its accelerators, but Sir Tim noticed that they were having difficulty sharing information. "In those days, there was different information on different computers, but you had to log on to different computers to get at it. Also, sometimes you had to learn a different program on each computer. Often it was just easier to go and ask people when they were having coffee...", Tim says.

Tim thought he saw a way to solve this problem – one that he could see could also have much broader applications. Already, millions of computers were being connected together through the