

2.1 Introduction to the Net (I)

Aim:	To introduce basic Internet skills and concepts
Focus:	Vocabulary connected with computers and the Internet
Level:	Lower-intermediate and above
Time:	60 minutes
Sites:	http://www.google.com
Notes:	This activity is designed to introduce students to the basic skills they will need for the other activities in this section.

Procedure

A simple questionnaire about computing habits is a good introduction to this activity. Make sure to include discussion questions about the Internet: has anyone used it? (at home / work / school?) What have they used it for? What is it for? What can you find on the Net? You will find a sample below. When they have finished talking, get feedback and general reactions to the subject. Then try the *Brief history of the Web* vocabulary activity below.

Show students how to open a web browser, type in an address and go to a website (try Google as a good starting page). Give students a printout of the web browser window with the Google main page in it. Go through the various functions of a browser (see *Section 1* for a reminder) and let students make notes and label their printout. Allow students time to play with Google and encourage them to find a website connected with a hobby or interest (don't forget to show them how to *Bookmark* or add *Favorites!*). When they find a page show them how to print it out. When they have finished make sure they know how to exit the browser and leave the computers tidy for the next class.

Put students into groups and give them time to compare their printouts and talk about the pages they have found. Discuss the process they have just been through and deal with the issues which usually arise – speed, content, etc. (See *Section 1* for more information.)

Follow-on

If you have good access to the Internet, give students more time on Google and get them to prepare a presentation on a hobby or interest using pages they find.

Computing habits

Have you got a computer at home? What do you use it for?

Do you use a computer at work / school / university? What for?

What do you know about the history of the Internet?

Do you use the Internet at home, at work? What do you use it for?

Which of the following can you use: chat, instant messenger, Skype, a webcam . . .

Have you ever bought anything on the Net? If so, what?

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Brief history of the Web

Read "The Web Story" and put the correct form of the words in the gaps. One example (address) is done for you.

Personal computers (PCs)	Small computers which people use at work/home.
A network	Computers joined together so that they can communicate.
The Internet	A network of millions of computers around the world.
Electronic mail (email)	A way of sending and receiving messages on the Internet.
The World Wide Web	A user-friendly way of looking at words or pictures and listening to sounds on the Internet. Also called the Web or the WWW.
A browser	Computer software used to look at the Web.
A site	A place on the Internet, also called a webpage.
An address	The location of a site/webpage.

The _____ has existed since 1969. It was created by the USA military as a way of communicating even after a nuclear war. Universities soon used it. At first it was only used to send and receive _____ messages. Thirty years ago computers were very big and very expensive. Today millions of people use computers at home and at work. Many people can afford to have a _____ at home and, at work, computers are joined over _____s. In 1991 _____ was invented. Now people looked at words, saw pictures and even heard sounds from around the world on their PCs. The Web was very popular. In 1987 there were 10,000 webpages but by 1992 there were more than one million _____s and many millions of webpage **addresses**. Thirty years ago a few people used the Internet to send email. Today, all you need is a PC and a _____ like *Explorer* to discover the wonderful world of the Web.

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