

Learning Guide

What is the Internet?

"It's like another language"

Sometimes it can seem that people who work with computers speak in a special language. You don't need to learn the whole language, but it helps to understand the most common words. That's what this guide does.

Where a word is underlined, it is explained in the guide.

Internet or World Wide Web?

Even the word Internet can be confusing. As explained below, the Internet is a telecommunications network, which can be used for many purposes, e.g. Electronic Mail or telephone calls using Skype.

One of its main uses is to link the World Wide Web (WWW).

The guides in the Learning Zone are mainly about using the World Wide Web, but we follow common practice by talking about "the Internet".

Some words that are used about the Internet

Address

Every web page has a unique address that means you can link to it from a browser anywhere in the world. Also called the URL.

Broadband

A high speed connection to the Internet.

Browser or Web Browser

The computer tool that you use to access the web. Most people use a browser called Internet Explorer.

Download

Copying a picture or a document to your PC from a website.

E-mail (Electronic Mail)

A way of sending messages and files from one computer to one or more others.

Also used to refer to the messages themselves, as in "sending an e-mail".

Firewall

Hardware or software that protects your computer when you are connected to the Internet. Vital security if you are using the Internet.

Home page

The "front page" of a web site. Also the name given to the web page that shows first every time you start your browser.

Hyperlink

The links that connect web pages. When you put your mouse pointer on a hyperlink and click the left mouse button, it displays the linked page.

Internet

Telecommunications networks that connect hundreds of millions of computers all over the world.

Internet Explorer

The browser that is part of Microsoft Windows. It is the most widely used browser, but there are alternatives, e.g. *Firefox*.

ISP (Internet Service Provider)

A company that hires out and manages the connections from homes and businesses to the Internet.

Online

Being connected to the Internet.

Pop-up

A small box that appears on the screen. May be used to provide a form for you to type information, or to display advertisements or other material.

Search Engine

A web site that you can use to search the web. The best known is *Google*. Other major Search Engines include *Yahoo!*, and *MSN*.

Skype

A way to make telephone calls via the Internet.

URL

The unique address given to every web page.

Web page

A single file on the World Wide Web, identified by a unique URL.

Web site (Site)

A set of web pages that is owned and managed by an individual, company or organisation. Often shortened to "site".

World Wide Web (WWW or web)

Collections of text, graphics, sound and video on computers all over the world, connected by hyperlinks and easily accessed with a browser. Often shortened to "web".