

**part 1**

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**STUDY  
MATERIAL**

# Unit 1

## WWW: LINKING UP THE WORLD

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### Pre-reading

Before reading the text try to answer the following questions:

- a. In pairs or small groups find out how often you each use the Internet, and what you use it for.
- b. Do you think that the World Wide Web has improved people's lives?
- c. What are the dangers of Internet connection?

### Now read the text below.

Timothy J. Berners-Lee wanted a simple computer program that could help him remember associations. In 1980, while working at CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research near Geneva, the British-born computer scientist was having trouble following which computers CERN physicists were using with their experiments. Then he decided to connect virtual memory **5** links to CERN's 5,000 researchers – and then to anyone with a computer anywhere. His simple program was the Big Bang that exploded into the World Wide Web, launching a still-unfinished revolution and touching millions of lives. **9**

Until the Web made its debut in 1991, though, most people had a tough time seeing the need for such technology. Even CERN management was sceptical. Today, remembers Berners-Lee, what's hard to explain is why the idea ever seemed difficult to understand. **13**

Discovering what drives Berners-Lee can also be a challenge, because he

is very protective of his privacy. However, a week after his 49th birthday, Berners-Lee went to Helsinki to collect 1 million euros, or \$1,2 million, as the first winner of the Millennium Technology Prize. Funded by Finland's government and industry, the award honours achievements in technology, **18** since there is no Nobel prize for engineering or computer science. In Helsinki, Berners-Lee explained that the Web is a mixture of lots of exciting things, to which he contributed only a small bit.

Maybe. But that bit brought the world a lot closer together. **22**

## Comprehension

2. Answer the following questions using your own words. Then locate your answers in the text.
  - a. Why did Berners-Lee decide to extend the virtual memory links while he was working at Cern? (line . . . . .)
  - b. When the Web first appeared in 1991 how did most people react to it? (line . . . . .)
  - c. Why was Berners-Lee awarded a cash prize in Helsinki? (line . . . . .)

## Collocations, vocabulary & phrases

- 3a. Match the words from the text with their correct meaning.

- |             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 1. touching | a. fills with creative power |
| 2. debut    | b. affecting                 |
| 3. drives   | c. first appearance          |
| 4. funded   | d. paid for                  |

1. . . . .      2. . . . .      3. . . . .      4. . . . .

- 3b. Look at the grammar structure in line 2.  
In 1980, while working at CERN, ... the British-born scientist was having trouble ...

Write sentences using this structure. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

e.g. Last year, (study for my masters degree), I was also (learn) English.  
Last year, while **studying** for my masters degree, I was also **learning** English.

Finish the sentences with your own ideas.

1. In January, while (travel) abroad, .....
2. During Christmas, while (revise) for my exams, .....
3. In 2003, while (live) in Athens, .....
4. Yesterday, while (surf) the Internet, .....

## Writing skills

- 4a. In pairs or small groups discuss the pros and cons of being connected to the Web. Are there more pros than cons? Would your life be more difficult or easier without the Internet? Do you have Web access on your mobile phone? What will happen to the Internet in the future?
- 4b. Make a short list of points about the Internet and what people can use it for. Also mention its creator and the prize he received from Finnish government and industry.
  - a. WWW stands for World Wide Web and millions of people are connected
  - b. ....
  - c. ....
  - d. ....
  - e. ....
  - f. ....
- 4c. Now write a summary paragraph (about 90 words) giving details about the creation of the World Wide Web and also mention its creator. Include some of the pros and cons which you discussed above in ex.4a.

Summary paragraph:

.....  
.....  
.....

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

## Discussion topics

- a) The **World Wide Web** provides access to a range of supporting material *undreamed of* by earlier generations of researchers. Although a *blessing* it can also be a curse. (52% ...)
- b) English is the language which is used in more than half of all websites (about 52%). Discuss why you think this is. What implications does this have? Does this facilitate global communication or merely ensure that English maintains its current worldwide lingua franca status?

## Grammar Review - Verb Tenses

- a. Complete the email by putting the verb in brackets into either the present simple (*I do*), present continuous (*I'm doing*) or present perfect (*I've done*). The time phrases will help you. Use contractions where appropriate.

Every year around this time we <sup>(1)</sup>..... (interview) candidates for functions across the company. This week I <sup>(2)</sup>..... (plan) that process, so I <sup>(3)</sup>..... (need) an estimate of staffing needs from every department. In past years we <sup>(4)</sup>..... (always/be able to) recruit the numbers asked for, but this year will be different. At the moment we <sup>(5)</sup>..... (operate) in a difficult market, and sales <sup>(6)</sup>..... (fall) considerably over the last year. This <sup>(7)</sup>..... (mean) that we will have to reduce our staffing costs, although I <sup>(8)</sup>..... (hope) it will only be temporary.

- b. Complete the email by putting the verb in brackets into either the present simple (*I do*), present perfect (*I' ve done*) or past simple (*I did*). The time phrases will help you. Use contractions where appropriate.

I <sup>(1)</sup>..... (just/receive) an email from our subsidiary in Egypt. They <sup>(2)</sup>..... (need) more brochures as they <sup>(3)</sup>..... (give out) their entire stock over the last few months. They <sup>(4)</sup>..... (have) a stand at the Cairo Trade Fair last week and <sup>(5)</sup>..... (distribute) hundreds of brochures. Now they <sup>(6)</sup>..... (want) us to send another 5.000 copies. I <sup>(7)</sup>..... (already/contact) Sales to see if they have any spare, but I <sup>(8)</sup>..... (think) we' ll need some more. Can you get a quotation from the printers?

## Vocabulary building

### Internet and e-mail

Use the words in the box to fill in the blanks below.

|             |           |           |            |          |           |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|
| a. undelete | b.offline | c. upload | d. install | e. inbox | f. online |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|

- I sent a photo of my house by e-mail to my friend Magda in Cairo, but it took ages to ..... (transfer from here to there) and I spent 20 minutes ..... (connected to the Internet).
- I've had your message in my ..... (a place where unread e-mails are stored) for two days but haven't had time to read it yet.
- I had a lot of trouble trying to ..... (add to the programs already on my computer) that new software I bought.
- How do I ..... (restore something accidentally rubbed out) on this computer?
- I write my e-mails ..... (while disconnected from the Internet) and then connect to send them.

### Give your answers below

|    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
|----|----|----|----|----|