

Topic

How the internet has changed our lives.

Aims

To share ideas about how the internet has changed our lives
To practise asking and answering questions
To practise *used to* and *didn't use to*
To communicate orally in order to complete a text

Age group

Older primary (9–11)

Level

A2+

Time

45 minutes

Materials

Worksheets A and B (one per pair of students)

Introduction

March 2019 is the 30th birthday of the World Wide Web. Life has changed a lot since the days before the internet but most children can't imagine how different life used to be.

The lesson starts with a brainstorming activity involving the whole class. Learners think about how they use the internet in their daily lives. Then they think about how children's lives would have been different before the internet was invented. They are encouraged to use *used to* and *didn't use to* to make comparisons between the past and the present.

Then, in the core of the lesson, learners work in pairs, A and B, to do a 'jigsaw reading' with a text about ten ways in which the internet has changed our lives. First learners read and think about the questions they need to ask in order to get the information to complete their text. Then they take turns to read, ask and answer, completing their texts with the missing information.

The lesson finishes with learners discussing the points in the text and saying whether their experience is similar or different.

Procedure

Before the lesson	Download and make copies of the worksheets you need for the lesson.
1. Warmer (5 mins)	<p>Write this phrase on the board:</p> <p><i>Happy birthday. You are thirty!</i></p> <p>Tell learners that an important invention is thirty this month. Have an informal class discussion, encouraging learners to guess what the invention is. Accept any reasonable ideas, and if necessary tell learners that the World Wide Web is thirty years old.</p>
2. Class brainstorm (10 mins)	<p>Divide the board into two halves by drawing a vertical line down the centre. On the left, write a heading:</p> <p><i>How I use the internet in my daily life</i></p> <p>Make sure learners understand what ‘daily life’ means and then elicit some ideas in full sentences around the class. Write their ideas in a list under the heading, e.g. <i>I use the internet to send messages to my friends.</i></p> <p>After writing a list, ask learners to think about how children’s lives would have been different before the internet was invented. Add a heading to the right side of the board: <i>In the past</i>. Then go through each of the ideas on the left and elicit a sentence for how children in the past would have had a different experience, e.g. <i>Children <u>used to</u> send letters or phone their friends.</i> Underline <i>used to</i> or <i>didn’t use</i> to each time.</p>
3. Pair work preparation (5 mins)	<p>Put learners into pairs, A and B. Explain that learners are going to read a text about how the internet has changed our lives. There are ten examples in the text. Explain that there is information missing from the texts, and learners have to ask and answer questions to be able to write the missing words.</p> <p>Give out worksheets A and B and give learners a few minutes to read through the text and think about the questions they need to ask in order to get the missing information. If necessary, model a couple of examples with the whole class or write some example sentences on the board which they can use as support throughout the task, e.g. <i>What can we do at home with the internet? What can people do these days?</i></p> <p>Monitor learners while they do the task, helping where necessary and asking which questions they are going to ask.</p>

4. Pair work speaking (10–12 mins)	Learners work with their partner to complete their worksheets. They take turns to ask and answer questions, writing the missing words in the text. Encourage learners to speak clearly and repeat the information for their partners to be able to write the words correctly.
5. Discussion (5 mins)	Learners have a discussion about the text in small groups or as a whole class. Ask them to read each point and decide whether their experience is similar or different. Encourage them to expand their answers to share personal opinions and ideas.
Optional extra	<p>Learners can prepare a mini ‘Show and tell’ presentation, where they take turns to tell their classmates about their favourite webpage and why they like it. Check all the websites before this activity to make sure they are appropriate for the children’s age group.</p> <p>Download an internet safety poster for your classroom here:</p> <p>Title: Be safe online https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/teacheng/files/OnlineSafetyPoster-Kids1_0.pdf</p> <p>Title: Be smart. Be safe. Have fun online https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/teacheng/files/OnlineSafetyPoster-Teens-white1_0.pdf</p>

Contributed by

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Answer key (Teacher's copy)**Ten ways the internet has changed our lives**

1. In the past, children used to go to the library to find information for a homework project. Now we can do an internet search at home and find everything we need.
2. We used to leave the house to go shopping. Now we can do online shopping. You choose a product, click and pay. Then, a day or two later, the parcel arrives at your house.
3. In the past, children used to spend more time outside, doing sport and having exercise. These days we play more online games, so some of us aren't as fit and healthy.
4. When my mum was young, she used to write letters to one or two penfriends in other countries. I've got friends all over the world. We can chat online in real time.
5. My dad works from home using the internet. It's great! He saves time and money because he doesn't have to pay for transport to and from the office.
6. Years ago, if you wanted to watch a video, you used to go to a video club and rent a film. Now you can watch thousands of videos online.
7. These days it's easy to stay in touch with friends and family because you can add them to your social media sites. In the past, you used to send a letter or use the phone.
8. Some people get famous because of the internet. You can upload videos of yourself singing or playing an instrument. If you are good, they might go viral. There didn't use to be opportunities like this.
9. Parents and teachers used to communicate with notes and letters. These days they can send each other emails and text messages.
10. When my mum is away on a business trip, we can chat face-to-face every night. In the past that wasn't possible, so family members used to miss each other more.