



Tim Berners-Lee (B2 -Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. How much time do you spend online every day?
2. What do you do online?
3. What would you miss most if you couldn't access the Internet?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. Tim Berners-Lee is an American computer scientist.
2. In 1989, he was at CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research in Geneva.
3. That year, he suggested an information-sharing system and started work on it at once.
4. After publishing the first-ever website in December 1990, Berners-Lee tried to patent it.
5. Berners-Lee has been named as one of the most important people of the 20th century.
6. He would like to keep the web as it is today, and is against any changes to it.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What made Tim Berners-Lee feel the need for a system to share information?
2. What could be done with the new technology of hypertext?
3. What did Berners-Lee build in order to publish the first website?
4. What important elements of modern society has the World Wide Web given us?
5. What is the purpose of the Alliance for Affordable Internet?
6. What aspects of the web is Berners-Lee dissatisfied with?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the subject, or change from singular to plural.)

1. Mobile phones have become much more _____ over the years. They used to cost a fortune.
2. Some people use different _____ according to what they want to do online.
3. Our teacher asked us to _____ these environmental problems in order of importance.
4. Joe and Anna had been dating for six months without their friends being _____ of it.
5. Anyone applying for this job should have a _____ experience in the film industry.
6. A _____ of art experts will decide which of the paintings will be included in the exhibition.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 1)

Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each gap.

Tim Berners-Lee inherited his love of computing from his parents, both of ¹_____ (who/which/them/whom) were mathematicians and computer programmers who ²_____ (have/had/having/were) worked on one of the first British commercial computers. As a schoolboy, Berners-Lee was keen ³_____ (on/with/for/over) trainspotting and learnt about electronics while setting ⁴_____ (off/out/through/up) a model railway. After leaving school, he ⁵_____ (continued/stayed/went/came) on to study physics at Oxford University and, while there, he built his own computer, using parts from an old television ⁶_____ (equipment/machine/device/set) he had bought from a repair shop.

His first period at CERN was ⁷_____ (as/like/doing/working) an independent contractor for six months in 1980. This was when he had the idea of a system based on hypertext to ⁸_____ (make/get/enable/let) researchers to share and update information. He returned to CERN in 1984 and there he realised it was possible to join hypertext with the Internet and create a World Wide Web.

F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups, discuss how people's everyday lives were different before the World Wide Web. How did people...

- keep in touch with friends and relatives living a long way away?
 - access the latest news?
 - do research for a school project?
 - organise a holiday or trip?
 - search for something specific they wanted to buy?
 - listen to music?
 - watch a film?
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Answers: Tim Berners-Lee (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. F – He's a British computer scientist. 2. T 3. F – He suggested it that year, but started work on it a year later. 4. F – He refused to patent it. 5. T 6. F – He's critical of it and would like it to have new rules and new business practices.

C – Read and answer

1. He was tired of consulting colleagues through constant questions. 2. Documents could be connected and stored on multiple servers controlled by interconnected people. 3. He built the first web browser and server. 4. It has given us online shopping, social media, big tech companies and trillions of web pages. 5. Its purpose is to campaign for universal internet access, especially in the developing world. 6. He's dissatisfied with the web's privacy violations, the growth of misinformation and government abuses and online gender-based violence.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. affordable 2. web browsers 3. rank 4. aware 5. broad 6. panel

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. whom 2. had 3. on 4. up 5. went 6. set 7. as 8. enable