Before you start

1 Have you ever surfed the Internet? Which websites did you visit?

Reading

2 Read the article. Decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

1 The Internet first started in the USA. T/~~F~~
2 The Internet and the WWW are different. T/~~F~~
3 Berners-Lee invented the Internet. ~~T~~/F **F**
4 One file on the WWW can have two or more addresses. **T**/F
5 There are 40 million Internet users today. **T**/F

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THE INTERNET originated in the early 1970s when the United States wanted to make sure that people could communicate after a nuclear war. This needed a free and independent communication network without a centre and it led to a **network** of computers that could send each other e-mail through **cyberspace**.

Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web (WWW) when he discovered a way to jump to different files on his computer using the **random**, or unplanned, links between them. He then wrote a simple coding system, called HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language), to **create** links to files on any computer connected to the network. This was possible because each file had an individual address, or URL (Uniform Resource Locator). He then used a set of **transfer** rules, called HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol), to link Web files together across the Internet. Berners-Lee also invented the world's first browser. This lets you locate and view Web pages and also **navigate** from one link to another.

The WWW became available to everyone in 1991 and the number of Internet users grew from 600,000 to 40 million in five years. Today, that number is much larger and there are now many browsers that provide Web pages, information and other services. You can also do research, download music files, play **interactive** games, shop, talk in chat rooms and send and receive e-mail on the WWW.

3 Find the correct word or abbreviation in the text.

1 an address for Web pages _____ URL
2 a coding system that creates links _____ HTML
3 this finds and shows Web pages _____ BROWSER
4 rules for transferring files _____ HTTP
5 a group of computers joined together _____ NETWORK

Vocabulary

4 Match the groups of verbs below with their general meaning from the box.

> move ■ make, start ■ join ■ look at ■ find

1 browse, surf, view _____ LOOK AT
2 download, navigate, transfer _____ MOVE
3 connect, link _____ JOIN
4 discover, locate _____ FIND
5 originate, create, invent _____ MAKE START

5 Complete the sentences (1–7) with the highlighted words from the text.

1 Some people spend too much time playing INTERACTIVE games on the Internet.
2 You can sometimes have a computer NETWORK that is not connected to the Internet.
3 It is easy to NAVIGATE around a screen with a mouse.
4 Berners-Lee discovered how to CREATE links between computers in new ways.
5 Some people surf the Internet at RANDOM just to see what they can find.
6 People use the Internet to TRANSFER information from one place to another.
7 When you surf the Internet, you are travelling in CYBERSPACE

Speaking

6 Work in groups. Say which of the following ideas about the Internet are good or bad.

> independent ■ world wide ■ cheap to use ■ expensive to buy computers ■ the information may not be true or correct ■ spend too much time playing games ■ talking in chat rooms ■ make new friends ■ visit many interesting websites ■ wait for a long time to download Web pages

▶ *Get real*

Use a browser to surf the Internet at random. Find five interesting websites to tell the class about. Write down the URL of each website and bring the list to class. Build a class file of interesting sites so that other students can visit them.