

How many words can you think of for each of these word families?

expect — expectation
— unexpected

possible

employ

Job opportunity in IT

The company is a major (0) , with stores throughout the country.
A vacancy has (17) arisen to join its information technology (IT) department.

RETAIL
EXPECT

The company is planning to open a distribution centre at the beginning of next year, and requires a computer service (18) to start work as soon as possible. He or she will join an existing team responsible for the (19) of a new computer system before the opening of the distribution centre. The team's duties will also cover the upgrading, repair and (20) of the computer systems currently in operation in the company's stores, and provide support to users.

TECHNICAL
INSTALL
MAINTAIN

Formal IT qualifications are (21) but not essential, provided you have a thorough working knowledge of computer hardware and software, excellent problem-solving skills and a (22) to keep up-to-date with IT developments.

DESIRE
WILL

The company aims to achieve (23) in every aspect of its activities, and expects all its (24) to be committed to the same goal.

EXCEL
EMPLOY

- What do you regard as an attractive personality in other people?
- Why do you think that some people have more extrovert personalities than others?
- How far do you agree that personality is a key factor in achieving a successful career?
- Some people believe that certain personality traits can be developed through training? What do you think?
- In what ways do people try to express their individuality? How about you?
- What might be the effect of social media on the way that some people now behave?

Write useful vocab here

You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about the means of escape they use to cope with the demands of their working lives.

TASK ONE

For questions 21–25, choose from the list A–H what each speaker finds demanding about their work.

While you listen you must complete both tasks.

A emotional involvement

Speaker 1

 21

B an excess of information

Speaker 2

 22

C clashes of personality

Speaker 3

 23

D everyday problems

Speaker 4

 24

E arguments about procedures

Speaker 5

 25

F extended working hours

G being in the public eye

H lack of physical space

TASK TWO

For questions 26–30, choose from the list A–H what attracts the speakers to their different means of escape.

A the feeling of being artistic

Speaker 1

 26

B the warmth of the relationships

Speaker 2

 27

C the fulfilment of a childhood ambition

Speaker 3

 28

D the idea of taking a risk

Speaker 4

 29

E the chance to overindulge yourself

Speaker 5

 30

F the change of activities

G the luxury provided

H the spirit of co-operation

KEEPING UP WITH THE NEW ENGLISH

The internet is destroying the English language. Well, isn't it? The English literature woven by poets such as Tennyson is not the clumsy, misspelled English of email communication, in which speed takes precedence over spelling and punctuation. It is not the MANIC SHOUTING!!! in the online chat room, where myriad chatterers rattle away through vast, overlapping conversations in which the fastest typist is king. And it is certainly not the vwl5-r-4-wmps desiccation of the txt message, whereby communication is shrunk to a pared-down minimum.

0 E

"You can't avoid Weblish, for the simple reason that whenever a new variety of language comes along, it inevitably impacts on the language as a whole," says Dr David Crystal, honorary professor of linguistics at the University of Wales in Bangor, whose book *Language and the Internet* has just been published (CUP £13.95). "These things won't be limited to internet nerds, they'll come to all of us."

1

However, these days, as Crystal points out: "New technology is going round the world more rapidly than it ever could have done before. In the past, it would take years for a word to become common currency; these days, a word can make it into a dictionary in a few months. So the main impact of the Internet lies not in the number of extra words that have come in, but in the speed with which they are spread." In other words, just because a piece of internet jargon is unfamiliar to you today, does not mean that it will not be a part of common speech tomorrow.

2

Yet there is more to this new English than a mere expansion of vocabulary, and text messages are essentially a red herring, because they do little more than reduce communication to the smallest number of keystrokes possible, albeit with clever use of soundalike words and numerals, as in U R 2 good 2 B 4gotten (you are too good to be forgotten). It is more useful to look at the language used in email.

3

Such symbols and abbreviations placed inside angled brackets are inevitably a common element of keyboard banter in internet chat rooms, where one of the most common solecisms is the misuse of the acronym LOL. This generally stands for Laughing Out Loud to indicate an appreciative reaction, yet newbies (internet novices) tend to assume it means Lots of Love. If you are telling someone how sad you are about the death of their hamster, it would be better not to sign off with LOL. Other popular acronyms in chat rooms are FWIW (for what it's worth), IMHO (in my humble opinion) and WYRN (what's your real name) and, of course, TLA (three-letter acronym).

4

The trouble with keeping up with the new English is not just these new words but also that the old words no longer mean what we thought they did. In the past, if someone said they did not have Windows, you would have to assume they lived in a cave. These days, it is probably because they use a Mac (which is a computer, not a raincoat). Spam is as groanworthy as it ever was, but now comes down a net connection rather than in a can. Booting up is something you do to your computer when switching on, not when going for a walk in muddy terrain.

5

A further change is that Weblish loves to see nouns happily become verbs ("Please bookmark this site"; "Stop flaming me!"), and verbs become nouns ("Send me the download"). Verbs and prepositions are regularly thrown together to become new nouns or adjectives (dial-up, logon, print out, pull-down, upload), while others are created from simply pairing nouns: ethernet, netspeak.

6

In conclusion, should we be worried by all this linguistic evolution? Not if you believe David Crystal. "Every new technology has brought its prophets of doom," he says. "The internet is no exception. Language consists of dozens of different styles; I could speak to you in any one of them. This is not to say that I have lost my identity simply because I can switch into one or another."

7

- A One of the peculiarities of email is that it often feels closer to a phone call than to a letter. So the opening salutation "Hi" is replacing the standard "Dear" for relatively formal communications. This might sound funky and overfamiliar, but compare it with the Roman greeting "Ave!" ("Hail!") and you see that we are simply back where we were 2,000 years ago. OTOH (on the other hand), email lacks the tonality of spoken language, which led early senders to incorporate "smileys" or "emoticons" – little faces :-) made from punctuation marks – to emphasise or enhance the true sense of their messages.
- B Spellings are changing as well as meanings. Not only is text-messaging playing hvc with vrbs, but the conventions of email communication place little premium on perfect speling. Most intriguingly, some words are now intentionally misspelt, such as swear words in online chat rooms. Spell certain four-letter words in their correct Anglo-Saxon form, and the chat-room software will automatically eject you from the forum. Misspell them slightly, and people will still know what you mean but the filters will not detect you.
- C The change is happening at high speed, and if you do not know the difference between a cookie and a chunky floppy, or between a spider and a Trojan horse, the chances are that you are being left behind. Technology has always been the main source of new vocabulary entering the English language, whether from the industrial revolution or developments in medicine.
- D Willingness to adapt – this is the key. The internet has not destroyed the English language, nor is it likely to. If we are to stay on top of our language, however, rather than watch it slowly being pulled like a rug from beneath us, it makes sense to try to keep abreast of developments rather than run them down. As the poet T S Eliot declared, many decades ago: "For last year's words belong to last year's language / And next year's words await another voice."
- E No, the English language is changing, and fast, thanks to the frenetic progress of technology. We all have a choice: either to bury our heads in the sand and spend the rest of our lives wishing Shakespeare
- were alive and well, hoping that these sinister linguistic developments fade away. Or we can embrace the new English, enter into the spirit of the internet age and call it Weblish, concede that the growth of the language is inescapable and become willing masters, rather than sulky victims, of its 21st-century possibilities.
- F Accordingly, Oxford University Press published its first *Dictionary of the Internet* (OUP £16.99) last week, explaining the meaning of words such as "ad hoc", "facemail" and "spamhaus". And as if to stamp an imprimatur on the literary value of text messages, the BBC and TransWorld this year joined forces to publish a book called *The Joy of Text*, reflecting the mainstream popularity of this phenomenon, which sees one billion messages being sent between UK mobile phones every month. It is no wonder that text-messaging is making its impact felt upon the English language.
- G Today's quickfire communication by internet, email and mobile phone is changing the language at an unprecedented pace. Unfortunately, this means in part that standards in written and spoken English are declining very rapidly too. However, in some ways the changes can be looked on more positively as adding a certain curious richness to the ways in which people express themselves.
- H While it is always acceptable (and even encouraged) to invent your own words as part of the new English, certain coinages are to be avoided at all costs. Cyber-anything (as in cyberbabe, cybergranny, cyberpizza) is now exceptionally clichéd, as is incorporating the @ symbol to suggest webfangledness (Ethel's C@fe). True geeks would not be heard dead talking about "surfing" the internet, which to them sounds as old-fashioned as "motoring" down to Hastings for tea.
- I It is worth saying that computer acronyms have yet to be accepted in common speech, with the possible exception of Wysiwyg (pronounced wizzywig, and short for "what you see is what you get"), which you may occasionally hear being applied to people as well as operating systems ("Jim is just so Wysiwyg; he couldn't tell a lie if he tried").