

THE INTERNET

The Internet spans the world and allows speedy transactions. Millions of people use it daily for a relatively low cost. You can send e-mail (you post it from one computer to another), access all information and read or write information. The World Wide Web, also called Web (WWW), allows you to link text, pictures, and sound. Compared with television, its great advantage is that the users can interact with it, for example request information or order goods. It is becoming a global market place with an international clientele, offering big benefits to businesses and to all spheres of scientific and cultural life.

In spite of all this, however, the majority of the population knows next to nothing about what the Internet is, how to connect to the Internet, what it looks like and what it “feels like” to be connected. In principle, the Internet is a global computer network consisting of millions of computers operated by millions of users. Even personal computers can be connected to it either directly – such as computers at universities, in libraries or companies – or by using telephone lines and modems.

If you are given the address of an Internet user, it is very easy to send him a message from anywhere in the world. It is quite common to see e-mail and WWW ad-

resses in advertisements and on visiting cards nowadays, where we used to see telephone and fax numbers only.

Internet users often call normal letters “snail-mail”. They use many strange, but quite useful abbreviations and acronyms:

:-) (colon, hyphen, right bracket) = “smile”. It means that the preceding sentence was a joke.

:-((colon, hyphen, left bracket) = The author of the message is sad or sorry about what he had to write.

FAQ “Frequently Asked Question” = A list of documents on different topics where you may find answers to questions many users ask all over again.

BTW in messages = “By the way”.

IMHO “In my humble opinion” = When the author wants to stress the fact that what he wrote need not be accepted by everyone.

FYI “For your information”.

AFAIK “As far as I know.” = A phrase similar to IMHO, but usually meant more seriously.

span pokrývat, spojovat
e-mail (= **electronic mail**) elektronická pošta
access information získat informace, mít přístup k informacím
web *n* síť, pavučina; *v* chytit, zachytit
link spojit
interact with [ˌɪntərˈækt] komunikovat *s* (počítačový termín označující

možnost zadávání dotazu uživatelem a poskytnutí odpovědi počítačem)
clientele [kli:ən'tel] klientela, klienti, zákazníci
modem modem (*zařízení pro připojení počítače k telefonní síti*)
snail *n* šnek; *adj* šnečí
humble skromný, pokorný

Part 2

Getting married

DIALOGUE

(*Mary – Father – Mother – Bob*)

Mother: There's one thing I'd like to talk over with you, Mary. When are you going to get married?

Mary: Really, Mother, we haven't made up our minds yet. Sometime in the summer, I think. But we don't want a big wedding, nor a grand reception with crowds of well-wishers, cameras clicking and goodness knows what else. It's more fuss and bother than it's worth. In my opinion it's only a waste of time and money.

Father: I agree. Don't do it if you can help it.

Mother: And what does John think?

Bob: How can you ask? She can twist him round her little finger. Poor boy, he doesn't know what he's in for.

Mary: John thinks the same, Mum. He hates ceremonies and he would be ill at ease anyway.

Mother: Do just as you like, then. But what if John's family insist? It would be no good falling out with your future in-laws before you even get married.

Mary: Well, that's his business, not theirs. After all, he hasn't got any close relatives here at present. His cousin Diana isn't likely to come from the Hague before the end of the year. And his nephew and niece, the twins, were sent to be brought up, or rather spoiled by Charles' half-sister, an old lady living in Paris.

Mother: And the people on his father's side live abroad, don't they?
Father: But I can't help thinking you ought to invite at least John's stepmother.
Mary: It's out of the question. They don't get on well together.
Mother: Have it your own way, then.
Father: Aren't you even going to tell your aunt?
Mary: Oh, I suppose I should, shouldn't I? I'll pop over one of these days.
Father: The phone's ringing. Will you answer it please, Bob?
Mary: That'll be John. He's taking me to see a new play.
Bob: John wishes to inquire if his "bride-to-be" is ready to leave!
Mary: Tell him I'm on my way.

well-wisher gratulant
click cvakat
twist / turn sb round one's (little)
finger otočit / omotat si koho kolem prstu
he doesn't know what he's in for
 neví, co ho čeká
ill at ease neklidný, celý nesvůj
fall out with sb pohádat se s kým, nepohodnout se s kým, rozejít se s kým

half-sister nevlastní sestra
people on one's father's side příbuzní z otcovy strany
it's out of the question to je vyloučeno / nepřichází v úvahu
have it your own way zaříd' si to podle svého, udělej si to, jak chceš
pop over zaběhnout (kam), zastavit se (kde)
I'm on my way už jdu

► RESPONSES

1. How does she get on with her in-laws?

Not very well, I'm afraid.
 Much as you might expect.
 There's been a clash of wills more than once.
 Things are going from bad to worse. They aren't even on speaking terms any more.
 Oh, they couldn't get on better.

2. He is a distant relation of hers, I believe.

I suppose so.
 There's a slight / strong family resemblance.
 They are cousins by marriage.

3. What's Paul's wife like?

Well, a model wife, intelligent and unaffected.

She's a very sociable woman and a good hostess too.

In my opinion, she is extravagant and rather whimsical.

I couldn't tell you, I've never come into closer contact with her.

4. Theirs is reputedly a marriage that works, isn't it?

Yes, in spite of their being quite different in character.

There never seems to be any friction.

5. Patsy has broken off her engagement with Jerry.

Oh, he'll get over it.

She was too young for him, anyway.

He should find somebody his own own age.

Well, there's a lot of other charming girls around, isn't there?

They went back together again, I hear.

6. What is Mr Cooper like?

Very good within his own sphere.

You don't meet people like him very often.

He is said to be quite a celebrity / VIP.

Absolutely reliable.

I wonder how to classify him.

Opinions of him vary.

A rather dull man.

There's really nothing about him.

A rather self-centred man. I took a dislike to him at first sight.

clash střet (*názorů*), neshody
they aren't on speaking terms
nemluví spolu
resemblance [ri'zembləns] podoba
model wife dokonalá / vzorná
manželka
sociable společenský, přátelský,
kamarádský
whimsical [wimzɪkl] vrtošivý
reputedly [ri'pju:tɪdli] údajně, prý

be different in character povahově se
lišit
friction střetnutí (*názorů*), třenice,
napětí, neshody
break off one's engagement zrušit
zasnoubení
within his own sphere ve svém oboru
celebrity [si'lebrəti] = **VIP** slavná
osobnost, prominent
self-centred egocentrický, sobecký

► EXERCISES

1. Find some responses to the following statements and questions.

1. What kind of man is her fiancé?
2. Is it a fact that Nora is going to be married?
3. What's he like as a person, his character I mean?
4. Just imagine, he remarried only a month after he became widowed.
5. She's only twenty. At all events that's what she says. That would make her nine years his junior.
6. As I see it, he's only flirting with her.
7. Is he making a good living?
8. They seem to have always got on very well together.
9. What is your view of Miss Davies?
10. I know practically nothing about him. Do you?

2. Topics for discussion

1. Comment on the following statements:
 - a) "Fate makes our relatives, choice makes our friends."
Interference of the in-laws: they don't respect the privacy of the individual; not everybody enjoys the family reunion parties.
 - b) "Some men owe their wives to their success, but some men owe their success to their wives."
 - c) Many men seem still to take Schopenhauer's view that "getting married means doubling one's duties and halving one's rights".
 - d) "A wedding makes two people one, the difficulty lies in determining which of them it will be."
 - e) "What the eye doesn't see the heart doesn't grieve over."
 - f) "Before the wedding keep your eyes open, after the wedding keep them half-closed."
 - g) "Marry in haste, repent at leisure."
2. Marriage at (or under) eighteen without parental consent:
 - a) Teenagers too eager for marriage; not emotionally stable; inexperienced; they still need guidance in their lives; the bond between the parents and the children shouldn't be broken too soon.
 - b) The parents' interference may spoil the young couple's mutual relations; they hate being dictated to; the parents cannot run their children's lives for them forever; the young can benefit from their own experience only; they concede the parents' objections but too late.

3. Add the appropriate question tags to the following sentences.

1. All the family took to him at once,
2. There's no way to solve the problem,
3. She had a white wedding,
4. Nothing nasty happened,
5. I don't imagine he will turn into an ideal husband overnight,
6. They might get along well,
7. She seems a bit nervy and unable to get out of her old habits,
8. Joan and George will set off on their honeymoon,
9. He delights in teasing her,
10. Weddings in the old days used to be more showy,
11. She'd better end with him once and for all,
12. You'd rather keep it a secret,
13. They had to ask for your permission first,
14. The parents must have guessed something,
15. They are on first name terms,

4. a) Complete the sentences after the following models.

Everybody thought it impossible, but it *turned out to be* true.
Peggy seemed conceited to me, but she *turned out to be* quite humble.

1. I never thought much of her, but
2. She put all the blame on him, but
3. Robert said she bored him stiff, but
4. Everybody thought he would be a manageable husband, but
5. I would have said he was a skinhead, but
6. We took him for a solitary chap, but
7. All the family thought he had a model wife, but
8. He pretended to be a genius, but
9. Everyone said he was difficult, but
10. Bob was held to be brutally frank, but towards me he
11. I had always regarded them as rather a queer lot, but

b) Form similar sentences of your own using some of the following expressions.

highly unstable – outspoken – rather querulous – ingenious – peevish
– restive – strongly introverted – flippant – meek – tactful – shy – not
very promising – free and easy – false

5. Attach suitable nouns from the right-hand column to the *negative* form of adjectives from the left-hand column.

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--|----------------|------------------|
| 1) well-behaved | 5) -pleased | | a) behaviour | e) decision |
| 2) -necessary | 6) -calculable | | b) conclusions | f) mother-in-law |
| 3) -logical | 7) -correct | | c) fears | g) children |
| 4) -respectful | | | d) moods | |

6. Fill in prepositions or adverbial particles where necessary.

1. I think much the same him as you do. 2. What does he do a living? 3. Did she marry him love? 4. I was their wedding; she seemed to have been married her will. 5. They are distantly related me my mother's side. 6. I can't understand her having taken such a liking him. 7. What exactly are you driving? 8. Who is she married? 9. She had made her mind to marry him even before he proposed her. 10. She married before coming age. 11. May I call you your first name? 12. I wish Bob wouldn't use such horrible slangy expressions; I wonder where on earth he picks them 13. He is a complete mystery me. 14. I'll keep the matter myself. 15. She is a relation marriage. 16. How unwise him to contradict women. 17. A man would tire a woman not interested anything else but her household. 18. Her mother disapproved him and her instinct was not fault.

7. Complete the following sentences.

1. On thinking the matter over 2. I vaguely remember having heard 3. It's by no means certain that 4. I firmly believe 5. In all probability 6. You must definitely have heard 7. I don't see why 8. The fact remains that 9. I wouldn't wonder 10. It seems likely that 11. I wish to goodness 12. You should carefully consider 13. It all depends on how 14. Well, there are reasons why 15. I'm rather inclined to 16. All things considered, 17. If you want my opinion 18. That's all very well, but 19. I knew all along 20. On closer acquaintance with him 21. Amazing as it may seem 22. Her colleagues spread rumours 23. Contrary to what most people think 24. Is it a fact that? 25. To be quite frank 26. One gets the impression 27. To the best of my knowledge 28. I reflected over your decision and 29. You don't mean to say 30. I don't see why

8. Translate into English.

1. Po tom nám konečkonců nic není, ne? 2. Člověk nikdy neví, ale podle mého názoru by z něj mohl být docela dobrý manžel. 3. Bůhví na čí straně je vina. 4. Je občas dost nesnesitelný; chce mít všechno po svém. 5. Říká se, že je to mezi nimi čím dál horší, že už spolu ani nemluví.