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Level 5

The Internet gives new meanings to common words

20th October, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151020-words-5.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151020-words-5.html>

The speed at which the Internet has transformed our lives has had an impact on the words we use. It is 20 years since the website Dictionary.com was created. It has looked back at the past two decades to see how the Internet has created additional definitions to many common words. Dictionary.com boss Liz McMillan said the rise of technology has shaped our word use over time". She said the website, "looked back at 20 words that have expanded in meaning over the last 20 years." The website has been recording new meanings for words since, "the dawn of the Internet era".

One of the most recognisable changes is to the word "friend". For centuries, this word has been a noun. The rise of Facebook means it is now also a verb, as in, "Can you friend me?" Another form of this word is "befriend," which means to become friends with someone (usually in the real and not cyber world). The word "tablet" once referred to a flat piece of stone, clay, or wood that is used to write on. Now it is a touchscreen device with Internet. Other words that have new definitions include "cloud," "wireless," and "viral". Many more new meanings will come in the next two decades.

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationquestions/11931049/QUIZ-hows-your-modern-day-vocabulary.html>
<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/living/article39544122.html>
<http://blog.dictionary.com/20-words-in-20-years/>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151020-words-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. had an impact | a. decades |
| 2. looked back at the past two | b. for words |
| 3. created additional | c. shaped our word use |
| 4. technology has | d. 20 years |
| 5. expanded in | e. of the Internet era |
| 6. over the last | f. on the words we use |
| 7. recording new meanings | g. meaning |
| 8. the dawn | h. definitions |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. One of the most recognisable | a. this word |
| 2. For centuries, this word has | b. not cyber world |
| 3. The rise | c. been a noun |
| 4. Another form of | d. have new definitions |
| 5. usually in the real and | e. changes |
| 6. a flat | f. device |
| 7. touchscreen | g. of Facebook |
| 8. Other words that | h. piece of stone |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151020-words-5.html>

The speed (1) _____ Internet has transformed our lives has had an impact (2) _____ use. It is 20 years since the website Dictionary.com was created. It has (3) _____ the past two decades to see how the Internet has created additional definitions (4) _____ words. Dictionary.com boss Liz McMillan said the rise of technology has shaped our word use over time". She said the website, "looked back at 20 words that have expanded (5) _____ the last 20 years." The website has been recording new meanings for words since, "(6) _____ Internet era".

One of the most recognisable (7) _____ word "friend". For centuries, this word (8) _____. The rise of Facebook means it is now also a verb, as in, "Can you friend me?" (9) _____ word is "befriend," which means to become friends with someone (usually in (10) _____ cyber world). The word "tablet" once referred to a flat piece of stone, clay, or wood (11) _____ write on. Now it is a touchscreen device with Internet. Other words that have new definitions include "cloud," "wireless," and "viral". Many more new meanings will come (12) _____ decades.

WORDS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1510/151020-words-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Words in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

