



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Internet English
网络英语



bbcukchina.com

Internet English 网络英语

How Is the Internet Changing English? 网络如何改变英语语言?

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

Twenty years ago this week the British inventor Tim Berners-Lee created the world's first webpage. It is worth pausing to consider the extraordinary impact that his invention has had on the English language.

Everyday words like google, **unfriend** and **app** simply didn't exist in 1990.

Even more words have had unexpected shifts in meaning in those two decades. If you had mentioned tweeting to an English-speaker a few years ago, he would have assumed you were talking about bird noises, not the use of the **microblogging** site Twitter.

Long ago, if someone lived online, it didn't mean they spent **every waking minute** on the internet, but that they travelled around with the rail network.

And wireless still means, to anyone **of a certain age**, a radio – not the system for **retrieving** internet pages without wires.

"The internet is an amazing **medium** for languages," said David Crystal, honorary professor of **linguistics** at the University of Bangor. "Language itself changes slowly but the internet has **speeded up** the process of those changes so you notice them more quickly."

English is a remarkably **inclusive** language, and if words continue to be used for at least five years they generally **end up** in the Oxford English Dictionary.

But less **accepted** are the peculiar **dialects** that have **sprung up** amongst some users. For example, 'LOLcat' is a **phonetic**, grammatically-incorrect **caption** that **accompanies** a picture of a cat, like "I'm in ur bed zleeping".

In an article called "Cats Can Has Grammar" the **blogger** Anil Dash referred to LOLcat as "**kitty pidgin**". But does something like LOLcat have the **staying power** to become an accepted form of English?

Not according to Professor Crystal. "They are all clever little developments used by a very small number of people – thousands rather than millions. Will they be around in 50 years' time? I would be very surprised."

Glossary 词汇表

to unfriend – 删除好友	app – 应用程序
microblogging – 微博	every waking minute – 醒着的每一分钟
of a certain age – 中年的，不算年轻的	to retrieve – 找回
medium – 媒介	linguistics – 语言学
to speed up – 加速	inclusive – 包容广泛的
to end up – 最终成为	to be accepted – 被接受
dialect – 方言	to spring up – 涌现
phonetic – 语音学的	caption – (图片、照片等) 说明文字
to accompany something – 伴随、陪伴某物	blogger – 写博客的人
kitty pidgin – 像猫语言的混杂语	staying power – 持久力

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. The word app had a different meaning in 1990.
True / False
2. If someone lives online now they spend a lot of time on the internet.
True / False
3. If you say “wireless” to a young person, (s)he will probably think of a radio.
True / False
4. The people at the Oxford English Dictionary decide what is and what isn’t officially correct English.
True/ False
5. LOLcat is a fun new form of English but it will probably never become widely used. **True / False**

2. Internet Language 网络语言

Do you think you know internet language well? Choose the correct word from the box below to put into the sentences underneath. You need to use each phrase once.

网络用语你是否已经完全掌握了呢？请从方框中选出正确的单词或短语来完成以下句子。每个单词或短语只能使用一次。

social networking	google	wireless		
app	feeds	log on	friended	tweet

1. I hadn't seen him for years but last week he _____ me online.
2. Do you remember when you had to go to the library every time you wanted to know something? Now you can just _____ stuff.
3. Check out my latest _____ for my phone. It tells me where the nearest pub is!
4. I used to go to one website for my news but now I get lots of _____ from different sites.
5. A lot of celebrities _____ several times a day... but not all of it is worth reading!
6. Many companies use some form of _____ to help them engage with their customers and promote new products.
7. If you want to access the internet I'll tell you my _____ network password and you can just _____.

3. Phrases with 'up' 和单词 'up' 连用的短语

a) In the article, there were three phrasal verbs which featured the word up. Did you notice them? Without looking back at the article match the phrasal verbs below to their definitions.

你注意到了吗，在上面的短文中，有三个动词短语都和单词 **up** 连用？在不参考原文的情况下，请把下列短语和其正确的解释连线。

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| a. end up | 1. To make your notes into a report |
| b. speed up | 2. To finish in a place |
| c. mix (something) up | 3. Be quiet (rude) |
| d. put up with | 4. To confuse different things or put lots of things together |
| e. write up | 5. To appear or start existing |
| f. spring up | 6. Not to take an opportunity |
| g. pass (something) up | 7. To suffer something without complaining |
| h. shut up | 8. To make something happen more quickly |

b) Now complete the sentences below using one of the phrases above. You may need to change it slightly to fit the grammar of the sentence.

请用以上短语的正确形式来完成下列句子。

1. It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance to meet a pop star! I'm definitely not going to _____.
2. I'm so glad that Marie is leaving her husband. She's _____ his moods for years.
3. Just in the last few years so many coffee shops have _____ in my local area.
4. This glass is water and that one is acid. Try not to _____!
5. I wish you would _____! We're in a rush!
6. Why is it that whenever you go out with your old school friends you _____ in hospital?
7. He's always moaning about his boss. Sometimes I wish he would either get another job or just _____.
8. Have you had a chance to _____ your notes from the trip yet?

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with this week's article in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与本文有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

p	i	o	l	o	o	n	u	a	t	u	l	v
i	j	u	c	k	i	n	g	s	t	a	l	e
p	i	w	i	n	c	l	u	s	i	v	e	t
h	n	i	c	k	i	l	a	m	e	t	i	s
o	l	r	i	a	n	u	s	r	i	a	l	e
n	i	e	l	i	p	i	d	g	i	n	e	s
e	l	l	i	n	s	t	i	n	t	i	n	g
t	w	e	e	t	e	r	i	l	l	i	k	k
i	n	s	s	i	r	g	o	o	g	l	e	i
c	a	s	o	p	p	i	l	i	n	i	n	t
a	b	l	o	g	g	e	r	i	n	g	a	t
r	u	f	f	u	n	f	r	i	e	n	d	y
a	l	i	a	n	c	c	h	i	a	s	o	n

caption	wireless	pidgin	tweet
phonetic	kitty	unfriend	inclusive
blogger	google		

Answers 答案

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

- The word app had a different meaning in 1990. **False**
- If someone lives online now they spend a lot of time on the internet. **True**
- If you say "wireless" to a young person, (s)he will probably think of a radio. **False**
- The people at the Oxford English Dictionary decide what is and what isn't officially correct English. **False**
- LOLcat is a fun new form of English but it will probably never become widely used. **True**

3. Phrases with 'up' 和单词 'up' 连用的短语

a)
a2 b8 c4 d7 e1
f5 g6 h3

- b)
- It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance to meet a pop star! I'm definitely not going to **pass it up**.
 - I'm so glad that Marie is leaving her husband. She's **put up with** his moods for years.
 - Just in the last few years so many coffee shops have **sprung up** in my local area.
 - This glass is water and that one is acid. Try not to **mix them up**!
 - I wish you would **speed up**! We're in a rush!
 - Why is it that whenever you go out with your old school friends you **end up** in hospital?
 - He's always moaning about his boss. Sometimes I wish he would either get another job or just **shut up**.
 - Have you had a chance to **write up** your notes from the trip yet?

2. Internet Language 网络语言

- I hadn't seen him for years but last week he **friended** me online.
- Do you remember when you had to go to the library every time you wanted to know something? Now you can just **google** stuff.
- Check out my latest **app** for my phone. It tells me where the nearest pub is!
- I used to go to one website for my news but now I get lots of **feeds** from different sites.
- A lot of celebrities **tweet** several times a day... but not all of it is worth reading!
- Many companies use some form of **social networking** to help them engage with their customers and promote new products.
- If you want to access the internet I'll tell you my **wireless** network password and you can just **log on**.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

p		w	i	n	c	l	u	s	i	v	e								
h		i	c																
o		r		a															
n		e			p	i	d	g	i	n									
e		l				t													
t	w	e	e	t			i												k
i		s					g	o	o	g	l	e	i						
c		s									n								t
		b	l	o	g	g	e	r											t
						u	n	f	r	i	e	n	d	y					