

# Internet Words Everyone Should Know

**Internet:** The *Internet* is a massive, world-wide network of computers connected by wires, cables, and satellites. Just as phone lines allow you to contact people all over the world with telephones, the Internet allows you to connect with computers all over the world.

**Internet Service Provider (ISP):** If you want to connect your computer to the Internet, you need to use an *Internet Service Provider* to open up a connection for you. Most ISPs charge a monthly fee and some, like America Online, also offer additional services to their subscribers that aren't available to anyone else.

**The World Wide Web:** The *World Wide Web* (or just plain "Web") is by far the largest and best-known part of the Internet. It consists of millions of Web pages stored on special computers (called servers) that you can view on your own computer using a Web browser. Many people use the terms "Internet" and "World Wide Web" interchangeably although, strictly speaking, the Internet is more than just the Web.

**Web Browser:** A *browser* is a computer program that's used to access and display Web pages found on the World Wide Web. Some commonly used browsers are Microsoft's Internet Explorer, Netscape's Navigator, and America Online's own browser.

**Web Address/URL (Uniform Resource Locator):** A *Web address* is like a regular postal address in that it tells a browser where to look on the Web to find and retrieve a Web page. Most Web addresses take the form [www.name.com](http://www.name.com). Web addresses are also called *URLs*, an abbreviation which stands for *Uniform Resource Locators*.

**Web Page:** A *Web page* is a single document accessible on the World Wide Web. Some Web pages contain just words, and others include images and sounds. A *Web site* is a collection of Web pages in the same way a book is a collection of printed pages. The first page that you see when you access a Web site on your browser is called its *homepage*, comparable to the title page on a book.

**Links:** One way of moving around the World Wide Web is by using *links*. Links are either words or images on a Web page that take you directly from one Web site or page to another when you click on them with your computer's mouse.

**Email:** A very popular use of the Internet is to send *email* (that is, "electronic mail") back and forth between computers. To start sending and receiving messages, you need to set up an email account at one of the many free email providers on the Web such as Hotmail.com.

**Web Directory:** With so many sites available on the World Wide Web, it's often hard to find the sites you need. *Web directories* are essentially lists of Web sites organized by people into a subject arrangement. Some Web directories like Yahoo.com offer numerous other services such as free email accounts, stock quotations, and current news stories.

**Search Engine:** Like Web directories, *search engines* are Internet finding tools. When you type words or phrases into a search engine, it will search the Web to find all the sites that include the words you searched for. An example of a search engine is Google.com.



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