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# Internet access is a human right

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1003/100309-internet_access.html

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9th March, 2010

# THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1003/100309-internet_access.html

Most of the world's Internet users believe Internet access is a basic human right. This is according to a new poll conducted for the BBC. A survey of more than 27,000 adults in 26 different countries found four out of five people believed access to the World Wide Web was a right everyone in the world needs and should have. The chief of the International Telecommunication Union, Dr. Hamadoun Toure, told the BBC World Service: "The right to communicate cannot be ignored. The Internet is the most powerful potential source of enlightenment ever created." Dr. Toure believes online access should be available everywhere, just like roads and water. In some countries, this has already happened. Finland and Estonia have laws saying access is a human right.

The survey also showed how the Internet is quickly becoming a vital part of our life, all across the world. Over 75 per cent of Japanese, Mexican and Russian people said they could not live without it. It is easy to see why. Almost everything we do in our life today, from communication, study, work and leisure, needs the Internet. Without access to the Web, many people would feel helpless and powerless. Almost 80 per cent of those who took the survey believe the Web had a positive impact, with nearly four fifths saying they have greater freedom. Other people were worried about the dangers of using the Internet. One big surprise was that the majority of Germans felt it was not safe for them to express their opinions online.

# WARM-UPS

**1. INTERNET ACCESS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about Internet access. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

> *Internet users / human rights / surveys / BBC / telecommunications / enlightenment / vital part of life / study / work / leisure / powerless / positive impact / online dangers*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. HUMAN RIGHTS:** What do you think of these new ones? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you heard.

| | Yes / No (Why?) | Problems | Solutions to problems |
|---|---|---|---|
| Internet access | | | |
| Live anywhere | | | |
| A well-paying job | | | |
| Free education | | | |
| Free legal services | | | |
| Party anytime | | | |

**4. INTERNET:** Students A **strongly** believe Internet access should be included in the United Nation's human rights; Students B **strongly** believe the Internet is not a human right. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. VITAL:** Could you live without the Internet? Rate these and share your ratings with your partner: 10 = Impossible for me to live without this. It's absolutely vital; 1 = I could easily live without this. Change partners and share your ratings again.

- e-mail
- social networking sites
- news sites
- online music
- English study sites
- gaming
- Google search
- to find information

**6. COMMUNICATION:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'communication'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1003/100309-internet_access.html

## 1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

a. The article says the UN has made Internet access a human right. T / F
b. A poll questioned 27,000 adults in 126 countries. T / F
c. A telecommunication chief said the Web was important for light. T / F
d. There are at least 2 countries with laws saying the Internet is a right. T / F
e. Three-quarters of Mexicans cannot live without the Internet. T / F
f. The Internet makes it easy for us to see. T / F
g. Four fifths of people said they feel the Web is a positive thing. T / F
h. Most Germans surveyed were worried about freedom of expression. T / F

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | believe | a. | learning |
| 2 | chief | b. | possible |
| 3. | ignored | c. | weak |
| 4. | potential | d. | free time |
| 5. | enlightenment | e. | disregarded |
| 6. | vital | f. | effect |
| 7. | leisure | g. | think |
| 8. | helpless | h. | talk about |
| 9. | impact | i. | head |
| 10. | express | j. | necessary |

## 3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Internet access is a basic | a. | be ignored |
| 2 | A survey of | b. | of Germans |
| 3. | The right to communicate cannot | c. | has already happened |
| 4. | access should be | d. | helpless and powerless |
| 5. | In some countries, this | e. | without it |
| 6. | the Internet is quickly becoming a vital part | f. | human right |
| 7. | they could not live | g. | impact |
| 8. | many people would feel | h. | more than 27,000 adults |
| 9. | the Web had a positive | i. | of our life |
| 10. | the majority | j. | available everywhere |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1003/100309-internet_access.html

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Most of the world's Internet users _____ Internet access is a basic human right. This is according to a new _____ conducted for the BBC. A survey of more than 27,000 adults in 26 different countries found four _____ of five people believed access to the World Wide Web was a right everyone in the world needs and should have. The _____ of the International Telecommunication Union, Dr. Hamadoun Toure, told the BBC World Service: "The right to communicate cannot be _____. The Internet is the most powerful potential _____ of enlightenment ever created." Dr. Toure believes online access should be available everywhere, _____ like roads and water. In some countries, this has already happened. Finland and Estonia have laws _____ access is a human right.

*source*
*out*
*ignored*
*believe*
*saying*
*poll*
*just*
*chief*

The survey also showed how the Internet is _____ becoming a vital part of our life, all _____ the world. Over 75 per cent of Japanese, Mexican and Russian people said they could not live without it. It is easy to see _____. Almost everything we do in our life today, from communication, study, work and _____, needs the Internet. Without access to the Web, many people would feel _____ and powerless. Almost 80 per cent of those who took the survey believe the Web had a _____ impact, with nearly four fifths saying they have greater freedom. Other people were worried about the _____ of using the Internet. One big surprise was that the majority of Germans felt it was not safe for them to _____ their opinions online.

*positive*
*leisure*
*across*
*dangers*
*helpless*
*quickly*
*express*
*why*

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1003/100309-internet_access.html

Most of the world's Internet users believe Internet _____ right. This is according to a new poll conducted for the BBC. A _____ 27,000 adults in 26 different countries found four out of five people believed access to the World Wide Web was a right everyone in the world _____. The chief of the International Telecommunication Union, Dr. Hamadoun Toure, told the BBC World Service: "The right to communicate _____. The Internet is the most powerful potential source of enlightenment ever created." Dr. Toure believes online access _____ everywhere, just like roads and water. In some countries, this has already happened. Finland and Estonia have _____ is a human right.

The survey also showed how the Internet _____ a vital part of our life, all across the world. Over 75 per cent of Japanese, Mexican and Russian people said they could _____. It is easy to see why. Almost everything we do in our life today, from communication, study, _____, needs the Internet. Without access to the Web, many people would feel helpless and powerless. Almost 80 per cent of _____ survey believe the Web had a positive impact, with nearly four fifths saying they have greater freedom. Other people were worried about _____ the Internet. One big surprise was that the majority of Germans felt it was not safe _____ their opinions online.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1003/100309-internet_access.html

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms … for the words 'human' and 'rights'.

| **human** | **rights** |
|---|---|
| | |

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning…?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

| | |
|---|---|
| • believe<br>• four<br>• chief<br>• source<br>• water<br>• countries | • vital<br>• live<br>• leisure<br>• survey<br>• freedom<br>• express |

# STUDENT INTERNET ACCESS SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1003/100309-internet_access.html

Write five GOOD questions about Internet access 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.

# INTERNET ACCESS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

a) What did you think when you read the headline?

b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Internet'?

c) How important is the Internet in your life?

d) Do you think Internet access is now a human right?

e) Do you think people in different countries have different views of the Internet?

f) How has the Internet changed the world?

g) Is the Internet a source of enlightenment for you?

h) Is the Internet just like roads and water?

i) What have you learnt from the Internet?

j) Do you think Internet access should become part of the United Nation's human rights?

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# INTERNET ACCESS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

a) Did you like reading this article?

b) In which areas of your life is the Internet vital?

c) How would your life be different without the Internet?

d) How do you feel when you've been unconnected for a long time?

e) How would you feel about going on vacation for a month to a place with no Internet?

f) DO you think the Internet gives you greater freedom?

g) What are the dangers of the Internet?

h) Do you worry about what you write online? This will become part of your 'digital footprint'

i) What will the Internet look like in 10, 20, 50 years from now?

j) What questions would you like to ask Dr. Hamadoun Toure?

# LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1003/100309-internet_access.html

Most of the world's Internet users (1) _____ Internet access is a basic human right. This is according to a new (2) _____ conducted for the BBC. A survey of more than 27,000 adults in 26 different countries found four (3) _____ of five people believed access to the World Wide Web was a right everyone in the world needs and should have. The chief of the International Telecommunication Union, Dr. Hamadoun Toure, told the BBC World Service: "The right (4) _____ communicate cannot be ignored. The Internet is the most powerful potential (5) _____ of enlightenment ever created." Dr. Toure believes online access should be available everywhere, (6) _____ like roads and water. In some countries, this has already happened. Finland and Estonia have laws saying access is a human right.

The survey also showed how the Internet is quickly becoming a (7) _____ part of our life, all across the world. Over 75 per cent of Japanese, Mexican and Russian people said they could not live without it. It is easy to see (8) _____. Almost everything we do in our life today, from communication, study, work and leisure, needs the Internet. Without access to the Web, many people would feel (9) _____ and powerless. Almost 80 per cent of those who took the survey believe the Web had a positive impact, (10) _____ nearly four fifths saying they have greater freedom. Other people were worried about the dangers (11) _____ using the Internet. One big surprise was that the majority of Germans felt it was not safe for them (12) _____ express their opinions online.

**Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | (a) | beliefs | (b) | believing | (c) | believer | (d) | believe |
| 2. | (a) | poll | (b) | doll | (c) | roll | (d) | toll |
| 3. | (a) | in | (b) | out | (c) | up | (d) | at |
| 4. | (a) | of | (b) | on | (c) | to | (d) | as |
| 5. | (a) | sauce | (b) | sourced | (c) | source | (d) | sorcerer |
| 6. | (a) | only | (b) | just | (c) | until | (d) | so |
| 7. | (a) | vile | (b) | viral | (c) | vial | (d) | vital |
| 8. | (a) | why | (b) | which | (c) | when | (d) | who |
| 9. | (a) | helpful | (b) | helpless | (c) | helping | (d) | helped |
| 10. | (a) | so | (b) | together | (c) | both | (d) | with |
| 11. | (a) | to | (b) | at | (c) | of | (d) | as |
| 12. | (a) | to | (b) | at | (c) | of | (d) | as |

# WRITING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1003/100309-internet_access.html

Write about **Internet access** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.


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# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about Internet access as a human right. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. INTERNET:** Make a poster about the Internet in your country. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. ENLIGHTENMENT:** Write a magazine article about how important the Internet is for enlightenment and education. Include imaginary interviews with someone who really believes this and someone else who thinks we learn better with books.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to International Telecommunication Union chief Dr. Hamadoun Toure. Ask him three questions about Internet access. Give him three of your opinions on what you think the Internet will look like in the future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

### TRUE / FALSE:

a. F  b. F  c. F  d. T  e. T  f. F  g. T  h. T

### SYNONYM MATCH:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | believe | a. | think |
| 2 | chief | b. | head |
| 3. | ignored | c. | disregarded |
| 4. | potential | d. | possible |
| 5. | enlightenment | e. | learning |
| 6. | vital | f. | necessary |
| 7. | leisure | g. | free time |
| 8. | helpless | h. | weak |
| 9. | impact | i. | effect |
| 10. | express | j. | talk about |

### PHRASE MATCH:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Internet access is a basic | a. | human right |
| 2 | A survey of | b. | more than 27,000 adults |
| 3. | The right to communicate cannot | c. | be ignored |
| 4. | access should be | d. | available everywhere |
| 5. | In some countries, this | e. | has already happened |
| 6. | the Internet is quickly becoming a vital part | f. | of our life |
| 7. | they could not live | g. | without it |
| 8. | many people would feel | h. | helpless and powerless |
| 9. | the Web had a positive | i. | impact |
| 10. | the majority | j. | of Germans |

### GAP FILL:

**Internet access is a human right**

Most of the world's Internet users **believe** Internet access is a basic human right. This is according to a new **poll** conducted for the BBC. A survey of more than 27,000 adults in 26 different countries found four **out** of five people believed access to the World Wide Web was a right everyone in the world needs and should have. The **chief** of the International Telecommunication Union, Dr. Hamadoun Toure, told the BBC World Service: "The right to communicate cannot be **ignored**. The Internet is the most powerful potential **source** of enlightenment ever created." Dr. Toure believes online access should be available everywhere, **just** like roads and water. In some countries, this has already happened. Finland and Estonia have laws **saying** access is a human right.

The survey also showed how the Internet is **quickly** becoming a vital part of our life, all **across** the world. Over 75 per cent of Japanese, Mexican and Russian people said they could not live without it. It is easy to see **why**. Almost everything we do in our life today, from communication, study, work and **leisure**, needs the Internet. Without access to the Web, many people would feel **helpless** and powerless. Almost 80 per cent of those who took the survey believe the Web had a **positive** impact, with nearly four fifths saying they have greater freedom. Other people were worried about the **dangers** of using the Internet. One big surprise was that the majority of Germans felt it was not safe for them to **express** their opinions online.

### LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d  2 - a  3 - b  4 - c  5 - c  6 - b  7 - d  8 - a  9 - b  10 - d  11 - c  12 - a