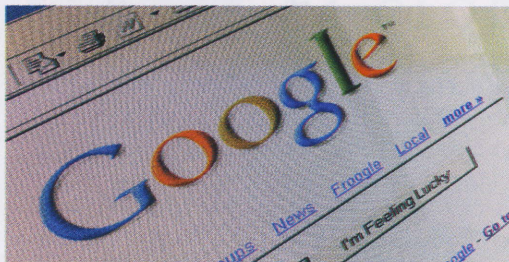


## READING



**1a** In pairs, discuss which of the following you have used / heard of. What kind of sites are they?

Google YouTube eBay Amazon  
Wikipedia MySpace Second Life

**1b** Read the article and check to see if you were correct.

**2** Read the article again and answer the questions.

- Why do teenagers see the world as a smaller place than their grandparents did?
- What point does the writer make about friendships in the second paragraph?
- What examples are given of the power of the Internet with regard to:
  - buying and selling?
  - getting information?
  - social networking?
- What warnings does the writer give about Internet sites?

**3** In pairs, discuss the following questions.

- Do people indulge in fantasy virtual life because of the disappointments of their real lives?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of:
  - buying and selling over the Internet?
  - social networking with people you have never met face-to-face?
- Should teenagers' use of the Internet be limited?

## How the Internet is changing lives forever

- These days with inexpensive air travel, mobile phones, email and the Internet, teenagers see the world as a smaller place than it appeared to their grandparents. Of these innovations, the Internet appears to be the one with the most potential for global influence, and which will change lives the most.
- For example, up until recently friendships developed over a lifetime but that has now changed. People often made friends locally at school and continued those friendships into adulthood, but many young people today find the majority of their friendships over the Internet. This is not restricted to teenagers. Paula Sen, who has just turned 30, says: 'I've met most of my best friends over the Internet, through common interest forums. I couldn't live without the Internet. It's my lifeline.'
- The Internet has also greatly influenced how people buy and sell goods. International Internet shopping is now common, with people buying all sorts of goods, from sites such as Amazon, the most successful online retail site. The international auction site eBay allows millions of participants to buy from and sell to strangers, setting their own prices. But beware – there are as many unscrupulous salespeople online as on the high street.
- One of the Internet's greatest success stories is Wikipedia, the free online encyclopaedia, which is compiled and updated by its users. It carries far more content than any other encyclopaedia and is a great starting point for research, but remember to double-check important facts as it does contain errors. If you don't have time to check your facts, consider purchasing a reliable online encyclopaedia such as the Encyclopaedia Britannica. The other major information resource on the Internet is Google, a search engine which finds and ranks web pages according to the number of links made to them.

### VOCABULARY: abstract nouns

**4a** Match the words from the article with their definitions. Use a dictionary if necessary.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 influence     | a) talking to other people in order to share information and help each other |
| 2 networking    | b) the power to affect the way someone or something behaves or develops      |
| 3 hierarchy     | c) the use of the imagination to produce new ideas or things                 |
| 4 creativity    | d) working together to produce or achieve something                          |
| 5 collaboration | e) a system of organising people or things according to their importance     |