

World Wide Web inventor worried about its future

15th March, 2017



The man who created the World Wide Web, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, has warned of the dangers of the Internet. He described his three main worries about

how the Internet is being misused. The first problem is fake news. He said websites and companies are creating fake news just to make money, or to try and change people's political opinions. He said the danger is that fake news "spreads like wildfire". The second problem is political advertising. He said adverts are used in "unethical ways" to stop voters from voting or to make them click on fake news stories. His final concern is the misuse of personal data by governments. He said people are killed in some countries because of the websites they visit.

Berners-Lee invented the web in 1989. He said that it had "lived up to [his] vision" in many ways. He said: "I imagined the web as an open platform that would allow everyone, everywhere to share information, access opportunities and collaborate across geographic and cultural boundaries." His letter outlined a five-year strategy to keep his vision alive. He said there were complex problems, and that the solutions would not be simple. He wants to put, "a fair level of data control back in the hands of people". He also wants to stop governments from looking at our online data, which he said creates a "chilling effect on free speech". And he wants to fight against fake news and misinformation. He called on all Internet users to help.

Sources: bbc.com / newsicentist.com / webfoundation.org

Writing

What are the main dangers of the World Wide Web and what are the solutions?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Internet dangers / fake news / political opinions / political advertising / personal data / vision / platform / information / opportunities / strategy / solutions / free speech

True / False

- The man who created the World Wide Web wrote about five dangers. T / F
- The first problem the man mentioned was cyber-bullying. T / F
- The man said fake news stories spread like wildfire. T / F
- The last danger he mentioned was misuse of personal data. T / F
- The man said the Internet had lived up to his vision. T / F
- He outlined a 10-year plan to free the Internet of dangers. T / F
- The man said the solutions to the problems were simple. T / F
- The man asked everyone who used the Internet to help. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. dangers | a. answers |
| 2. fake | b. risks |
| 3. opinions | c. dishonest |
| 4. unethical | d. satisfied |
| 5. concern | e. work together |
| 6. lived up to | f. beliefs |
| 7. allow | g. scary |
| 8. collaborate | h. hoax |
| 9. solutions | i. let |
| 10. chilling | j. worry |

Discussion – Student A

- Have you had a problem because of the Internet?
- Do you prefer the name 'Internet' or 'World Wide Web'?
- How has the Internet made your life better?
- What would life be like without the Internet?
- How can governments and companies misuse personal data?
- What do you think of the idea of free speech?
- Should we all check if news is fake or not?
- How can we help to keep the Internet safe?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. warned of the dangers | a. to share information |
| 2. worries about how the Internet | b. opinions |
| 3. try and change people's political | c. ways |
| 4. fake news spreads like | d. up to his vision |
| 5. adverts are used in unethical | e. is being misused |
| 6. He said that it had lived | f. hands of people |
| 7. allow everyone, everywhere | g. effect on free speech |
| 8. complex | h. of the Internet |
| 9. control back in the | i. wildfire |
| 10. creates a chilling | j. problems |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How important is the Internet to you?
- How dangerous could the Internet be?
- What do you know about fake news?
- How dangerous is fake news?
- What do you do to protect your data online?
- How can advertising change politics?
- What questions would you like to ask Sir Tim Berners-Lee?

Spelling

- the asrgnde of the Internet
- He described his three main sierow
- change people's cilaopitl opinions
- fake news "esadrspl like wildfire"
- in "unecahlit ways"
- His final ocnncre
- lived up to his iovnis
- an open rfalmotp
- access opportunities and rcollaebto
- across ggphraoeic and cultural boundaries
- a five-year rtsyegat
- a "chilling fecfte on free speech"

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. b | 2. h | 3. f | 4. c | 5. j |
| 6. d | 7. i | 8. e | 9. a | 10. g |

Role Play

Role A – News

You think news is the best thing about the Internet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so great online. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): social media, shopping or gaming.

Role B – Social Media

You think social media is the best thing about the Internet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so great online. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): news, shopping or gaming.

Role C – Shopping

You think shopping is the best thing about the Internet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so great online. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): social media, news or gaming.

Role D – Gaming

You think gaming is the best thing about the Internet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so great online. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): social media, news or shopping.

Speaking – Internet

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about the Internet at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| • shopping | • news |
| • gaming | • wi-fi |
| • YouTube | • mail |
| • research | • social media |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | F | c | T | d | T | e | T | f | F | g | F | h | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.