Computers
and the Internet

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ADVANCED THEMATIC UNIT

LEARNERS LIVES AS CURRICULUM©

1. Mercedes' Story

Since people have been using the Internet, the world has become a little town. We can stay in touch with friends and family all day long and know what is happening in every part of the world. We also can share information without leaving our homes. The Internet is cheap, easy, quick, and for real.

Mercedes

Mercedes is an ESL student in Carlisle. She has been studying English at the Employment Skills Center for almost two years. Mercedes, standing under her flag, is from Spain where she teaches philosophy in high school. Her daughter Maria is a college student in Madrid. One way they communicate is to use the Internet.

- What do you use the Internet for?

- Do you think the Internet has changed the world? Write about it.

2. Playing with Language:

Listen to the story.

Work with a partner. One student read the story, the other writes the missing words.

Since people _____ the Internet, the world has become a little

town. We _____ in touch with friends and family all day long and

_____ what is happening in _____ part of the world. We also

can _____ information without _____ our homes. The

Internet is cheap, _____, quick, and for real.

Change roles. One person reads, the other writes the missing words. Check your answers.

Challenge: Cover the story. Your teacher will read the story. Listen and write. Check your writing.

Idiom
stay in touch –
to maintain
contact with
someone

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. Doing it in English: Using the Internet

Mercedes uses the Internet to stay in touch with friends and family.

Work with a partner. ☑️**the things you use the Internet for. Ask your partner what they use the Internet for.**

	Me	**My partner**
To email friends and family	☐	☐
To shop	☐	☐
To find directions	☐	☐
Banking	☐	☐
News	☐	☐
Instant messenger	☐	☐
Work	☐	☐
Skype	☐	☐

Other things I use the Internet for _____

_____

Tell the class what your partner uses the Internet for.

4. Listening In: Your teacher uses the Internet for……..

Your teacher will talk about what he or she uses the Internet for. Listen carefully.

Example story-

Every morning I wake up and the first thing I do is grab a coffee and check my email. I sometimes have emails from students asking questions or from friends just saying hello. I don't think I could live without the Internet. I am used to using it every day at work to look for things for English class, at home to shop, and to look up information about many different things.

I like using the Internet to look up information because it makes things a lot easier and faster. You also have access to information about just about everything. The only thing I don't like is that many people only want to use the Internet to communicate.

Now your teacher will tell his or her story.

- **What are three things your teacher uses the Internet for?**
- **How often does your teacher use the Internet?**
- **What does your teacher like about the Internet?**
- **What doesn't your teacher like about the Internet?**
- **Do you use the Internet for similar things? What different things do you use the Internet for?**

Do you want to know more about what your teacher uses the Internet for? Write two questions. Ask your teacher.

1. _____

2. _____

5. Asking Around: Computer Talk

Look at the list of word and phrases below. Ask around the class to see if you can come up with definitions for all of them. Ask you teacher if you have problems.

Update_____

Load _____

Download _____

Online _____

Homepage _____

Software _____

Install _____

Computer Virus _____

Junk Email/SPAM _____

Running Computer _____

Freeze up _____

Lag _____

Running right _____

What other computer terms do you know?

_____

_____

_____

_____

6. **Then and Now:** Comparing Countries

In the Czech Republic, they use the Internet in all the ways we do here in the US - for shopping, communicating, research, directions, information, etc. Czechs may have come second to the Internet but they have embraced it fully. One notable and ironic difference is that more Czechs have high-speed Internet than their American counterparts. That is quite the thing considering that it wasn't until 1990 that I first used a computer, and the internet followed a few years later. Finally I can't imagine my life without the Internet, reading Czech papers online, buying books, tickets, DVDs, etc., and most importantly talking to friends and family via Skype (Voice over the Internet). This enables me to feel almost as if I hadn't left the Czech Republic.

Hana is from the Czech Republic. She has been studying English at the Employment Skills Center in Carlisle for two years. Hana was a Czech language teacher in her country. She is on the right.

Think about what people in the United States use the Internet for and what people in your native country use the Internet for. Make a list. Share your answers with the class.

How else is using the Internet different in the United States and your country? Write two things. Tell a partner.

7. **Mapping it out:** Internet Activity

What do you use the Internet for in the United States? Think about it. Choose one thing you use the Internet for. Examples: finding directions, checking out menus, talking to friends, sending emails, finding out more information about something, or shopping for something.

Write a list of instructions for how to use the Internet for your topic. Be specific. Use the list of ordinal numbers and adverbs listed below to help you. An example is done for you.

For Directions- For directions I use Mapquest. First I open my Internet browser. Second I type www.mapquest.com into the URL. Third I click on the directions tab at the tops of the page. Then I type in my address and the address of the place I want to go and click on the get directions tab. Finally I print out my directions and am on my way. Hopefully I won't get lost.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____
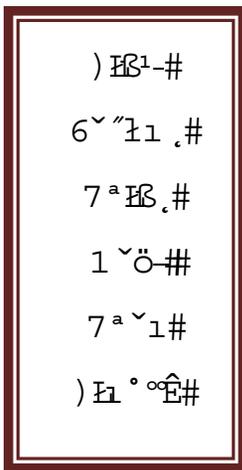
8. Doing it in English

Picture Dictionary

Desktop Computer

Laptop Computer

Computer Screen

Mouse

Keyboard

Hard Drive

Power Cord

Speakers

Disc

Internet Cables

Modem

Router

Josefin's Story

Last year I had a problem with my computer. The screen was dark then it turned blue and it didn't work right. I didn't know what to do. I asked my friends but they didn't know. I asked my husband but he didn't know. Finally I went to the computer shop. I don't know what they fixed but it cost me $150.

Josefin is from Sweden. She is a home-economics teacher there. She is a very good cook and uses the Internet often to share recipes with her teacher. Josefin is in the bottom left of the photo.

☑ **the things that you have had a problem with. Use the picture dictionary to help you.**

_____My computer screen   _____My desktop   _____My hard drive

_____My modem   _____My power cord   _____My router

_____My Internet cables   _____My mouse   _____ Mt laptop

_____My disc   _____My speakers   _____My keyboard

Other things you had a problem with _____

Think about the problem you had. What did you do? Tell the class

9. Ideas for Action: Interview results

Interview three (3) friends. Ask your friends if they have problems with their computers. Ask what they do when they have problems with their computers. Fill in your friend's information below. Discuss your answers with your class.

Friend's name_____

Write about your friend's problem.

_____

_____

_____

Friend's name_____

Write about your friend's problem.

_____

_____

_____

Friend's name_____

Write about your friend's problem.

_____

_____

_____

What other types of computer problems are there? Write some ideas.

_____

_____

Talk about the solutions with the class.

KENNY'S STORY

The Internet had changed a lot of things, for example people don't need to read much books anymore because almost everything is on the Internet. They can just look it up. I can use the Internet to talk with my friends, see my favorite TV programs, do my homework or buy something. You can do it easier on the Internet but sometimes it is not good.

Kenny is from El Salvador. She is an ESL student and also is taking college classes at Dickenson College in Carlisle, PA. She has many American friends but still uses the Internet to talk with her friends at home. Kenny is at the far right of the photograph.

Idiom
Look it up –
to seek
information in
a book or
..

10. Journal Writing

Mercedes, Hana, Kenny, and Josefin all use the computer and Internet to email friends and family. Who do you email? What do you email about? Write an email to that person. Use the space below to practice, then use the computer to write the email.

_____

_____

_____

_____

11. Collaborations: Discovering Resources

Work with your group. Use your computer. Create a list of websites you use in the United States to share with your classmates. Add your own important websites you use at the bottom.

Write a few sentences describing each website. Use the Internet to help you. An example is done for you.

News – www.cnn.com - This is one of the best American news websites. It gives you all the

headlines of the day. It has national news stories, sports, weather, and yes some gossip.

Shopping -
_____

_____

_____

_____

Directions –
_____

_____

_____

_____

(Your Choice)
_____

_____

_____

_____

(Your Choice)
_____

_____

_____

_____

Looking back:

1. In this unit I learned _____

_____

_____

_____

2. The activity I liked best was _____

   because_____

3. The activity I liked least was _____

   because_____

4. Add your own thoughts _____

   _____

Checklist for Learning

Vocabulary: ☑ **the words you know. Add more if you wish.**

Nouns

Computer Talk: Check the words you know.

____ Computer Screen
____ Mouse
____ Keyboard
____ Hard Drive
____ Power Cord
____ Speakers
____ Disc
____ Internet Cables
____ Modem
____ Router

____ download
____ install
____computer virus
____junk email/spam
____ homepage
____update
____email

Others

____ _____

____ _____

____ _____

Others

____ _____

____ _____

____ _____

Idioms
____ stay in touch
____ running right
____ freeze up
____ look up

Language: ☑ **what you can do in English. Add more ideas if you wish.**

I can:

____explain problems with my computer
____use the computer to look up information
____look up directions
____give computer directions
____ask for help with computer problems
____find solutions

Others

____ _____

____ _____