

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151020-words.html>

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

- a. The article says the Internet has had no impact on the words we use. T / F
- b. The website Dictionary.com started 20 years ago. T / F
- c. The website looked back at language change over the past ten years. T / F
- d. Dictionary.com has been tracking lexical change for two decades. T / F
- e. The article says the biggest change to words is to the word "word". T / F
- f. The article says Facebook is responsible for a new meaning. T / F
- g. The word "tablet" also means a flat piece of clay for writing on. T / F
- h. The article says the word "troll" only came into the language last year. T / F

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

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. pace         | a. age              |
| 2. impact       | b. celebrate        |
| 3. additional   | c. speed            |
| 4. commemorate  | d. alternative form |
| 5. era          | e. growth           |
| 6. recognisable | f. extra            |
| 7. rise         | g. describe         |
| 8. variant      | h. effect           |
| 9. refer to     | i. upcoming         |
| 10. next        | j. identifiable     |

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

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. fast                | a. shaped our word use |
| 2. transformed         | b. word is "befriend"  |
| 3. created additional  | c. of the Internet era |
| 4. technology has      | d. device              |
| 5. since the dawn      | e. definitions         |
| 6. the meteoric        | f. cyber world         |
| 7. A variant of this   | g. pace                |
| 8. in the real and not | h. knowing             |
| 9. a touchscreen       | i. our lives           |
| 10. There's no         | j. rise of Facebook    |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151020-words.html>

The fast (1) \_\_\_\_\_ at which the Internet has entered and transformed our lives has had an (2) \_\_\_\_\_ on the words and language we use. It is 20 years since the website Dictionary.com was created, and it has looked back at the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ two decades to see how the worldwide web has created (4) \_\_\_\_\_ definitions to many commonly used words. Dictionary.com boss Liz McMillan says it's interesting to see, "just how much the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of technology has (6) \_\_\_\_\_ our word use over time". She said: "To commemorate the 20th birthday of Dictionary.com, we look back at 20 words that have (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in meaning over the last 20 years." The website has been documenting new lexical uses since, "the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of the Internet era".

*rise*  
*impact*  
*expanded*  
*pace*  
*dawn*  
*additional*  
*shaped*  
*past*

Perhaps one of the most (9) \_\_\_\_\_ recognisable changes is to the word "friend". For centuries, this word has been a (10) \_\_\_\_\_. However, with the meteoric rise of Facebook, this very common word is now also a verb, as in, "Can you friend me?" A (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of this word is "befriend," which means to become friends with someone (usually in the real and not (12) \_\_\_\_\_ world). The word "tablet" used to commonly refer to a flat piece of (13) \_\_\_\_\_, clay, or wood that is used to write on. Now it's more likely to mean a touchscreen (14) \_\_\_\_\_ that is Internet-enabled. Other words that have new definitions include "(15) \_\_\_\_\_," "wireless," "viral," "tweet" and "troll". There's no knowing which new words will have new meanings in the next two (16) \_\_\_\_\_.

*cyber*  
*noun*  
*device*  
*decades*  
*easily*  
*cloud*  
*variant*  
*stone*

## Level 6

The Internet gives new meanings to common words – 20th October, 2015  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com) - Copyright Sean Banville 2015

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151020-words.html>

- 1) The fast pace at which the Internet has entered and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. transformed our live
  - b. transformed our living
  - c. transformed our livelihoods
  - d. transformed our lives
- 2) see how the worldwide web has created additional definitions to many \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. commonly useful words
  - b. commonly abused words
  - c. commonly used words
  - d. commonly use words
- 3) interesting to see just how much the rise of technology has shaped our word \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. use over time
  - b. used over time
  - c. using over time
  - d. useful over time
- 4) we look back at 20 words that have expanded in meaning over \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a last 20 years
  - b. the last 20 years
  - c. so last 20 years
  - d. that last 20 years
- 5) The website has been documenting new lexical uses since the dawn of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the Internet era
  - b. the Internet ear
  - c. the Internet air
  - d. the Internet are
- 6) Perhaps one of the most easily recognisable changes is to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the world "friend"
  - b. the worldly "friend"
  - c. the world's "friend"
  - d. the word "friend"
- 7) However, with the meteoric rise of Facebook, this very common word is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. now also to verb
  - b. now also one verb
  - c. now also a verb
  - d. now also that verb
- 8) become friends with someone (usually in the real and \_\_\_\_\_)
  - a. non cyber world
  - b. not cyber world
  - c. knot cyber world
  - d. now cyber world
- 9) The word "tablet" used to commonly refer to a flat piece of stone, clay, or wood that is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. used to write on
  - b. used to write in
  - c. used to write up
  - d. used to right on
- 10) Other words that have new definitions include "cloud," "wireless," "viral," \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. "tweet" for "troll"
  - b. "tweet" and "troll"
  - c. "tweet" to "troll"
  - d. "tweet" as "troll"

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151020-words.html>

1. What kind of speed does the article use to talk about the Internet?
  - a) breakneck speed
  - b) fast pace
  - c) snail's pace
  - d) light speed
2. When did the website Dictionary.com start?
  - a) 1989
  - b) 1999
  - c) a decade ago
  - d) 20 years ago
3. Who is Liz McMillan?
  - a) boss of Dictionary.com
  - b) a 20-year-old
  - c) a journalist
  - d) a tablet maker
4. What did Liz McMillan say has shaped our word use over time?
  - a) the Oxford English Dictionary
  - b) Shakespeare
  - c) the rise of technology
  - d) clay
5. What dawn did Liz McMillan talk about at the end of paragraph one?
  - a) the one opposite to dusk
  - b) the Internet era
  - c) a bright dawn
  - d) the dawn of literacy
6. What did the article say was an easy word to see changes to?
  - a) friend
  - b) like
  - c) follow
  - d) post
7. What rose at a meteoric rate?
  - a) Internet use
  - b) the word "tweet"
  - c) Facebook
  - d) Dictionary.com
8. What "old" word in the article is made from stone, clay or wood?
  - a) tablet
  - b) troll
  - c) viral
  - d) wireless
9. What does the article say is Internet-enabled?
  - a) a touchscreen device
  - b) dictionaries
  - c) wireless
  - d) the cloud
10. What timeframe is given in the last sentence of the article?
  - a) the Internet era
  - b) 6 months
  - c) infinity and beyond
  - d) the next two decades

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1510/151020-words.html>

The fast (1) \_\_\_\_\_ at which the Internet has entered and transformed our lives has had an impact (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the words and language we use. It is 20 years since the website Dictionary.com was created, and it has (3) \_\_\_\_\_ back at the past two decades to see how the worldwide web has created additional definitions to many commonly used words. Dictionary.com boss Liz McMillan says it's interesting to see, "just how much the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of technology has shaped our word use over time". She said: "To commemorate the 20th birthday of Dictionary.com, we look back at 20 words that have (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in meaning over the last 20 years." The website has been documenting new lexical uses since, "the dawn of the Internet (6) \_\_\_\_\_".

Perhaps one of the most easily recognisable changes is to the word "friend". For centuries, this word has been a (7) \_\_\_\_\_. However, with the meteoric rise of Facebook, this very common word is now also a verb, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in, "Can you friend me?" A variant of this word is "befriend," which means to become friends with someone (usually in the real and not (9) \_\_\_\_\_ world). The word "tablet" used to commonly (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to a flat piece of stone, clay, or wood that is used to write on. Now it's more likely to mean a touchscreen (11) \_\_\_\_\_ that is Internet-enabled. Other words that have new definitions include "cloud," "wireless," "viral," "tweet" and "troll". There's no (12) \_\_\_\_\_ which new words will have new meanings in the next two decades.

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

- |     |                  |               |                |             |
|-----|------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1.  | (a) pace         | (b) rapid     | (c) accelerate | (d) rush    |
| 2.  | (a) by           | (b) at        | (c) to         | (d) on      |
| 3.  | (a) viewed       | (b) looked    | (c) watched    | (d) seen    |
| 4.  | (a) raise        | (b) risen     | (c) rise       | (d) arise   |
| 5.  | (a) expanded     | (b) expansion | (c) expanding  | (d) expands |
| 6.  | (a) era          | (b) area      | (c) aura       | (d) aurora  |
| 7.  | (a) verb         | (b) clause    | (c) adjective  | (d) noun    |
| 8.  | (a) as           | (b) was       | (c) ease       | (d) has     |
| 9.  | (a) saber        | (b) cyber     | (c) saver      | (d) cider   |
| 10. | (a) confer       | (b) defer     | (c) refer      | (d) conifer |
| 11. | (a) conglomerate | (b) pump      | (c) device     | (d) rim     |
| 12. | (a) knowledge    | (b) knowing   | (c) known      | (d) knows   |