

## STARTER

1. Are you computer literate?
2. How often do you use a computer? What would/do you use a computer for most? (Example: playing computer games, educational CD-ROMS, surfing the Internet, sending e-mail, chatting, playing games in English, doing school homework...)
3. Choose a word or phrase to describe what you feel about computers (e.g. useful, fascinating, a waste of time, difficult to use...). Why did you choose that word/phrase?
4. Are you connected to the Internet? Can you access the Internet from your home? Do you ever go to cybercafés?
5. Do you surf the Net? What kind of sites do you usually visit? What is your favourite website?
6. Do you have a web page? What's the URL? When did you start it? How much time did it take to make? How much time do you spend keeping it updated?
7. What do you think of learning online? Do you think you can learn English online? Do you ever visit English websites while websurfing?
8. Do you think e-commerce (buying goods and services on the Internet) is easy nowadays?
9. Do you use chatrooms? If so, what chatrooms do you use and who do you talk to?
10. How safe or reliable do you think the Internet is as a source of information?

## Protection for home email

**CipherTrust**

13 March 2006



CipherTrust a pioneer in internet messaging security has today launched TrustedSource Toolbar, a free plug and play software programme downloadable at <http://research.ciphertrust.com/toolbar.php>. The TrustedSource Toolbar uniquely protects home users' email inboxes from offensive spam, online fraud and phishing attacks by verifying the reputation of the email sender.

Source: <http://www.totaltele.com/View.aspx?ID=2965&t=1>

11. Do you use e-mail? How many e-mails do you get a day? How many e-mails do you send a day? How many times a day do you access your e-mail?
12. Do you write e-mail in English?
13. Do you get a lot of spam in your inbox?
14. What are the advantages/disadvantages of using e-mails?



## Was I Addicted to the Computer?

**Tina Chang from Taiwan**

I think I was addicted to the computer when I was in my second year of high school. At that time, the first thing that I did after school was turn on the computer. I would spend a lot of time checking my e-mail even though I didn't get so many e-mail messages. I spent hours and hours in front of the computer screen and surfed the Internet for a long time. Though I knew that I should stop to do my homework, I just couldn't help trying to spend more time on the computer.

This situation lasted for about two months, and then I became aware that I was spending too much time online. It was not easy to break a habit which was already developed, but I still tried hard to do so. Now I am no longer addicted to the computer; I spend less than one hour in front of the computer screen each day.

Source: <http://www.topics-mag.com/edition18/addictions/computer.htm>

15. Have you ever suffered from cybersickness?
16. Have you ever suffered from Internet addiction? Do you consider yourself a mouse potato? Do you know anyone who is a mouse potato?

## Are computers harmful to kids?



The "Alliance for Childhood," a coalition claiming to focus on issues related to children's health and development, has recently called for a moratorium on further introduction of computers in early childhood and elementary education (...).

The Alliance alleges that computers cause physical harm to children. Repetitive stress injuries (RSI), for instance, are a group of conditions generally caused by placing too much stress on a joint, and they vary in type and severity. RSI in kids may occur from heavy computer or video game use, but they are also caused by playing musical instruments, and by the repetitive motion of sports such as tennis. Shall we take away the violins and the tennis rackets, too?

The Alliance also claims that computers cause eyestrain. According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, working on computers will not harm your eyes. Eyestrain or fatigue can result from excessive time spent looking at the computer screen, but no harm is done to the eyes. The Academy recommends taking breaks while using the computer. So do we.

Common sense is what we need-- not a moratorium. The way we see it, the computer is simply another material in a child's day; to be used in balance alongside traditional materials like books, paint, clay, paper and markers. Some computer activities support a child's development, while others are a waste of time and money (...).

Rather than a moratorium, we'd like to see a redirection of energy and funding into teacher training, quality software and appropriate staffing to make full use of technology's potential.

Source: <http://www.childrensoftware.com/harm.html>

17. Do you think children should not be allowed to use computers? Why (not)?
18. In which ways do you think computers can harm young children?
19. In which ways can computers benefit young children?

## Romance Dating

You can find your love and romance dating here!

We have really beautiful brides seeking reliable and loving men for serious relationship. If you are lonely you can change your life definitely for the better! Take a chance to find a single woman or man with the online dating romance of your dream!!! (...)

A safe and confidential singles romance dating site, once you've found someone you're interested in, you can exchange private messages with him or her quickly and safely with our easy to use anonymous mailer. (...)

Source: <http://www.megafriends.com/romance.htm>



20. What do you think of the previous website? Have you ever visited a site like this?
21. Have you ever been in an Internet chat room? If you have, what did you talk about in the chat room?
22. Would you consider using a chat room on the Internet to make new friendships? Have you ever made friends with someone (either with a person of the same sex or opposite sex) on the Internet? Describe your experience. How did the friendship start? Is it still going?
23. Do you believe that people can find a suitable (marriage) partner using Internet chat rooms?
24. Why do you think people tell lies? Do you think it's okay to tell white lies? Why (not)?
25. Do you agree with the following statements?
  - a) Only shy people use chats to seek a partner.
  - b) It is easier to find men seeking a partner on the Internet than women.