

The Rise and Rise of the Internet

Most young people don't realize that the internet is a modern invention – after all, they don't remember a time without it. But it's still quite a new technology.

These days, more than three quarters of British adults use the internet every day. A very high percentage of adults (about 70%) use portable devices like mobile phones and tablets to access the internet.

18-to 24-year-olds use the internet more than any other age group. The number one activity is social networking followed by downloading and playing games.

Adults aged 25-34 use the internet more than other age groups to buy things online. In fact, about 90% of people in this age group do some of their shopping in this way. They also score most of doing other home-related activities like internet banking (70%), and for carrying out business activities like selling products or services online (36%).

Some people never use the internet. Just over half are aged 75 years and over.

And what about the youngest age groups? Well, school-age teenagers come second in the list of internet users after young adults. 93% of young teens use the internet regularly, which is an increase of 20% in only five years. They mainly use it for social networking and finding information for school.

And the most popular internet activity overall? Well, it's the humble email! So it seems that we're not worse at communicating with other people, we just do it in a different way!