

The Advantages and Disadvantages of Using the Internet

People constantly use their knowledge and creativity to invent new things that will help them in everyday life. Technology has been making enormous progress and today we can do things we couldn't even imagine 50 years ago. The development of technology is strictly related to the process of globalisation. The Internet has given us the opportunity to connect to any place in the world, to share or get information in only a few minutes. It seems like we are getting out of borders and we can bring the whole world in our room by using our computer. But, is the Internet really one of the greatest improvements lately, or does it also have some negative effects?

The internet is a global system of computer networks which serves millions of users worldwide. There is a huge amount of public, private, local, business and governmental networks. People do all sorts of things on the Internet. They learn, pay their bills, do shopping, communicate with friends, even work and earn money. The best thing about the Internet is that getting information is much faster and easier. It is possible to instantly approach information and systematically analyze them. Moreover, it is possible to share them with other users and get in touch with someone with same interests. Many business people cooperate successfully over the Internet without knowing each other personally. The Internet didn't only change the way we communicate and trade with information, but the way we learn, show our emotions, have fun and make money, too. Lately, social networks have become extremely popular. There are lots of users who except communicating with friends on the net, like writing a blog or discussing on forum.

Despite the fact that the Internet is saving our time and it is free and public, it has recently become a problem, too. Many people, especially the young, spend too much time on it. One dares to say the youth is exactly the most vulnerable group of Internet users. Scientists predict that the Internet will be one of the most problematic addictions in the future. Some people have already stopped hanging out with friends and started to live a virtual life. Furthermore, people are losing their social characteristics, they are adapting them to indirect communication on the Internet. They show their emotions with symbols and signs and forgetting how to act in real society. Also, the negativities are the lack of privacy and a dangerous possibility of stealing money, information and identity, illegal distribution of music and videos, as well. There are many cases of paedophilia and pornography, too.

All in all, the Internet has changed the world, that's for sure. How useful it will be, mostly depends on ourselves and the reasons why we use it. The positive sides are quick sharing and finding information, getting in touch with anyone and the ability to work from home. But we must be aware of the possible problems with paedophiles, gambling, violence, nationalism, stealing of intellectual property, etc. I think parents have a big role in the battle against this modern addiction. Youth should be educated about behaviour on the Internet and supervised. It is necessary to be up to date and to be sensible.

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