

**Internet Basics**  
Ada Community Library

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**“The Internet is a global network of interconnected computers, enabling users to share information along multiple channels.”**

[Internet](#)  
Wikipedia (2009)

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**“A system connecting computers around the world using TCP/IP, which stands for Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol, a set of standards for transmitting and receiving digital data. The Internet consists primarily of the collection of billions of interconnected webpages that are transferred using HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol), and are collectively known as the World Wide Web.”**

[Internet](#)  
The American Heritage Science Dictionary (2002)

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But What Can I Do With It?

The word cloud contains the following terms: join, write, email, watch, listen, subscribe, shop, schedule, publish, search, learn, research, communicate, discover, work, play, chat, read, and call.

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### How Do I Get Connected?

Getting Online

- **Dial-up**
  - Slowest speeds & dials through your phone line to connect
  - [Earthlink & NetZero](#)
- **DSL (Digital Subscriber Line)**
  - Uses phone line (but you can still use your phone)
  - [Qwest & Verizon](#)
- **Cable**
  - [CableOne](#)
- **Others**
  - [Clearwire](#)

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### Got a Laptop? Go Wireless!

Getting Online

- **Out and About with Free Wireless Internet**
  - Many libraries, coffee shops, airports offer wireless Internet
  - Check websites like the [Wi-Fi Freespot Directory](#)
- **Create Your Own Wireless Network**
  - Inexpensive wireless router + an Internet connection = wireless Internet throughout your house
  - Be sure to enable security settings (WPA) on your router
- **Be Safe & Smart**
  - For shopping or sensitive browsing, be sure to use SSL encryption (look for https:// and a lock icon)

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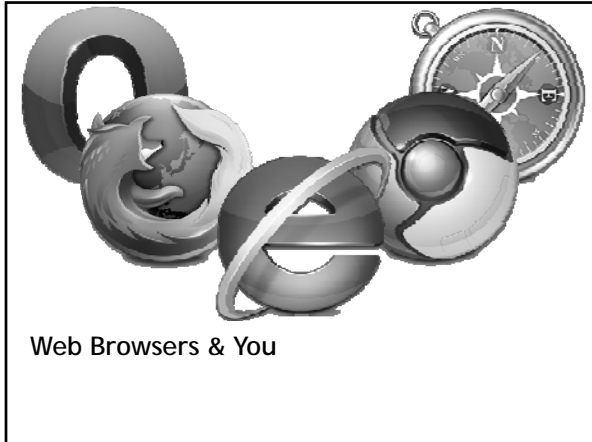
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### Web Browsers

Internet Basics

- Software to view material on the World Wide Web
  - Text, graphics, audio, video and more
- Many (free) choices
  - Internet Explorer
    - Included with Windows & ready to go
  - Mozilla Firefox
    - Customizable & easy to personalize
  - Google Chrome
    - Fast, simple and secure
  - You can have more than one on your computer, so try and use as many as you like

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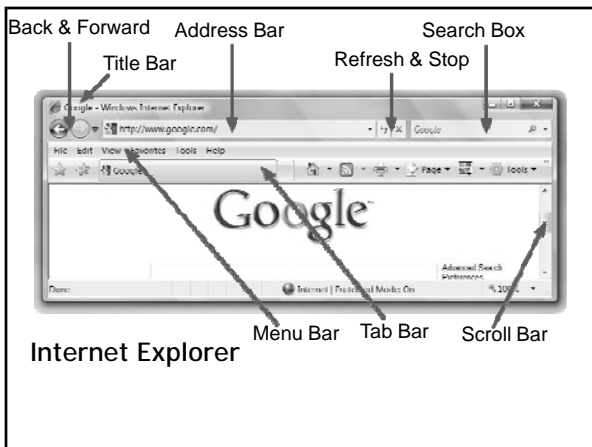
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### Browser Lingo

Internet Explorer

- **Title Bar**
  - Shows title of a web page and name of your web browser
- **Address Bar**
  - Shows the address (URL) of a web page
  - Type an address and press "Enter" to go to that web page
- **Search Box**
  - Type keyword(s) and press "Enter" to search for web pages
- **Scroll Bar**
  - Click the arrows or drag the scroll bar to view more of a web page (can be on bottom and/or right side)

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### Browser Lingo

Internet Explorer

- **Back & Forward**
  - Move back and forward through web pages you have viewed
- **Stop & Refresh**
  - Stop a web page from loading or reload it
- **Menu Bar**
  - Various commands live here, including printing, find on this page, text size, favorites (bookmarks) and options
- **Tab Bar**
  - If you have more than one web page open at a time, you can switch between them or open new tabs

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### Finding a Needle in a Haystack

On the Web

- **Pick a search engine, any search engine**
  - The most popular are [Google](#), [Yahoo](#), [Live Search](#) & [Ask](#)
- **Try some keywords**
  - Be specific for the best results (but not too specific)
- **Check out the results**
  - To save time, look at the title, address and snippet for each result before clicking on any link
- **Find what you were looking for?**
  - If not, try different searches with a different combination of keywords
  - Or try another search engine, as they each yield slightly different results

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### Plugging in to Plug-ins

On the Web

- **Adobe Flash Player**
  - Required for most audio, video & interactive websites
- **Adobe Reader**
  - Required to view PDF files, which are commonly used for printable documents on the web
- **Java**
  - Required for some games & interactive websites
- **More Media Plug-ins**
  - [Quicktime](#)
  - [RealPlayer](#)
  - [Silverlight](#)

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### Watch Out for Web Tricks

Safe Surfing

- **Viruses, Worms & Trojans... Oh My!**
  - Get protection with antivirus software
    - [AVG Free](#), [McAfee VirusScan](#), [Norton Antivirus](#)
  - Keep your computer updated automatically
- **Phishing**
  - Don't give your passwords, credit card numbers or other personal information to just anyone
    - Particularly not web pages that come from links that are emailed
- **Scams**
  - Be skeptical of anything that's "too good to be true"

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### Whatever You Do, Don't Click These

Safe Surfing

- **Don't click ads claiming you've won something**
  - You really aren't the 1,000,000 visitor, they just want your attention
- **Don't click ads claiming your computer is at risk**
  - They're just hoping you'll click so you'll let them put your computer at risk
- **Don't click to download or install a program**
  - Unless you really wanted to download and install it
- **Don't click anything that makes you suspicious**
  - Trust your judgment and common sense

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### Working the Web

Winning Websites

- **Keep in Touch**
  - Email
    - [Gmail](#), [Yahoo! Mail](#), [Windows Live Hotmail](#)
  - Chat
    - [Google Talk](#), [AOL Instant Messenger](#), [Yahoo! Messenger](#)
- **Research & Learn**
  - Library Catalog & Databases
    - [Ada Community Library](#)
  - Quick Reference
    - [Wikipedia](#), [Answers.com](#), [Kno!](#)
- **Write & Create**
  - [Google Docs](#), [Zoho Office Suite](#)

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### Killing Time & Boredom

Winning Websites

- **View, Share & Edit Photos... for free!**
  - [Flickr](#), [Picasa](#), [Picnik](#)
- **Listen to Personalized Radio... for free!**
  - [Pandora](#)
    - Creates radio stations out of your favorite songs and artists
  - [Last.fm](#)
    - Creates custom radio stations & recommendations based on your tastes
- **Watch TV & Movies... for free!**
  - [Hulu](#)
    - Joint venture by NBC, Fox & ABC
  - [Crackle](#)
    - Venture by Sony Pictures Entertainment

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"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."

Questions?

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