Use the Internet to find information

LEARNING OUTCOMES

■ To practise using a search engine to find information about first aid on the Internet

■ To note the source of information and check how up-to-date it is

RESOURCES

■ Internet access is essential
■ Interactive whiteboard (where available)
■ Copies of Resources 1–4

RELATED TOPICS

Information sources (Theme 11, Topic 1)
Saving lives (Theme 8, Topic 1)
Follow written instructions (Theme 8, Topic 3)

HEALTH SKILLS

One way of being more prepared for emergency situations is to have knowledge of illnesses and injuries in order to recognise the symptoms and know how to deal with them. The Internet provides some useful and immediately accessible information; however, it requires an understanding of how to do a search. In addition to this there are issues around the accuracy and currency of website information and it is important that learners are alerted to this.

Related health information

BBC web wise (gives interactive practice in doing Internet searches): http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/0/

There are numerous support groups and organisations with excellent websites. As learners explore the sites it is well worth keeping a record of good sites for future reference.

SKILLS FOR LIFE

Searching the Internet is a powerful way to find information, but requires good literacy skills to enter effective search terms and to handle the vast amount of information. Learners need to be able to:

■ scan to locate information
■ read in detail and follow instructions
■ use format and graphical information
■ spell words accurately.

Learners need the basic computer skills required to navigate around the screen and make selections from the toolbars or dropdown menus.

Functional Skills/Core Curriculum

Activities in this topic will contribute to learning in the following curriculum areas:

■ recognise and understand relevant specialist key words **English** E3.8 (**L**Rw/E3.1)
■ use text features to locate information **English** L1.14 (**L**Rt/L1.4)
■ use different reading strategies to find and obtain information **English** L1.14 (**L**Rt/L1.5)
■ spell relevant key words correctly **English** E3.17 (**L**Ww/E3.1).

■ Explain to learners that the Internet can be a useful source of information about health. Discuss whether learners use the Internet regularly and what they use it for. Discuss where learners can access the Internet if they aren't able to do this at home (e.g. Internet cafes, local library, etc.).

■ Encourage learners to try the 'Internet quiz' on Resource 1 in pairs. Read through the questions first and support learners where necessary.

■ Give them the answers at the end so that learners can count up their scores. Learners with low scores may need support with the activities.

■ Go through the questions and discuss answers in more detail where required.

> *Have you ever used the Internet to find health information? What have you looked for?*

> *Was it easy to find the information you wanted?*

ACTIVITY 1
Step 1 of an Internet search – type a key word into a search engine

■ You will need Internet access for this activity.

■ Give out Resource 2, which is a three-step guide to doing an Internet search. Read the introduction and step 1 about typing a word or phrase into a search engine.

■ Point out where to enter the search term. Discuss the use of UK websites for information.

■ Repeat the demonstration slowly, giving learners the opportunity to ask questions about each stage.

■ Learners can practise choosing key words and phrases using Resource 3. Ideally they should try out one or more of their ideas on the Internet. (Answers are provided for the Resource 3 scenarios.)

■ As learners have a go, encourage them to try different ways of getting to the same information by entering related words or phrases. Share success, establishing the importance of being accurate and precise if you are to find useful information. Ask: 'What happens if you type in the wrong words or the wrong spelling?'

> *What health issues would you like to search for?*

> *What key words might be suitable?*

Support
■ All learners will benefit from having a go themselves. Repeating the same search is helpful to the learner who needs reassurance.

■ You may need to explain computer jargon such as 'click on', demonstrating several times.

■ Give learners the search terms to copy so that they can type them in accurately.

■ Learners may require support with Resource 3 to pick out suitable key words or phrases from the information.

ESOL
■ Check that learners are familiar with words associated with Internet searches (e.g. 'search engine', 'search term', 'the web', 'website', 'web page', 'click on', 'enter', 'select').

■ When thinking of search terms using Resource 3, pair ESOL learners with native English speakers for support in understanding the scenarios. Ensure learners have access to bilingual dictionaries.

ACTIVITY 2
Step 2 of an Internet search – use the list of web pages

- Go through step 2 on Resource 2. Enter the search term 'asthma' and bring up the list of websites so that learners can see the process. Explain that this list of sites is a bit like looking at a shelf full of books or magazines – you can choose which you want to read.
- Explain that the underlined headings are 'live links'. If you click on one of these, you will be taken to that website. Demonstrate this on the computer and let learners try this for themselves.
- Introduce the 'back' button, so that learners can get back to the original list if they want to.
- Suggest to confident learners that they read the brief descriptions and choose a particular type of site by scanning down the list. Demonstrate this first and then allow plenty of practice.

What are 'live links'?

TIP

Encourage learners to look at the underlined headings and web addresses at the bottom of each description to find appropriate sites.

Support
- Learners might need to go back through step 1 and then on to step 2 so that they understand the process.
- Make sure they have plenty of practice in these two steps.

ESOL
To check that learners understand terms such as 'link', 'back button', 'forward button', 'scroll bar', etc., provide a printout of search page results for them to label.

ACTIVITY 3
Return to the search results and use links to other pages

- Look at step 3 on Resource 2. Suggest to learners that this page may not be useful to them after all. Ask learners if they know how to return to the list of websites shown on the search results.
- Demonstrate using the 'back' button to do this and give learners practice in using this button. Ask: 'What happens if you now use the forward button?'

How can you work around the website?

Support
Give learners plenty of practice and encourage them to verbalise what they are doing.

ESOL
Check understanding by commenting and asking questions: 'What happens if you click on this?' 'It takes me directly to the web page.' 'How do I get back to the search result?' 'I click on the back button.'

ACTIVITY 4
Link the three steps of the Internet search

- Repeat the three steps of the search again (Resource 2), asking learners to tell you what to do at each stage. If learners need to be prompted, stop at various points and ask what you should do next.
- Give learners the opportunity to experiment with a search of their own. Encourage them to move backwards and forwards through the stages.

ACTIVITY 5
Access web pages

■ Choose a web page to demonstrate with. This may be one that learners have found that is of interest to the group, or select a page that relates to the asthma search shown on Resource 2, such as the www.asthma.org.uk homepage, which has many useful features.

■ Explain the different features that can be found on the page by asking learners to choose where they would like to look. With learners, explore activities and dropdowns, as well as hyperlinks. Demonstrate how the links take you to other web pages or websites and demonstrate how to return to the homepage.

■ Describe what you are doing throughout the demonstration and allow learners to ask questions.

■ Point out that you don't need to read the whole page to find what you are looking for.

■ Point out or ask learners to find the date of the information (usually at the bottom of the page). Do this for all pages looked at and discuss how recent the dates are. Discuss the implications in terms of content – how up-to-date is the information? When was it last updated? Is it likely to be accurate?

■ Give learners opportunities to practise exploring web pages for themselves. Use Resource 4 for learners who need a prompt. Ensure learners realise that not all web pages contain all these features.

■ Note: it is important that learners realise that the information on websites is not necessarily up-to-date, or even accurate. Encourage learners to use the websites of well-known organisations.

> *How can you make sure that the health information is up-to-date?*

> *Why is it important that it is up-to-date?*

> *Is all Internet information accurate?*

> *How can you be sure the site has reliable health information?*

Action

For further practice, learners can do a search on an area of first aid or health chosen individually or by the group. Each person should print out a web page that they found particularly useful and highlight when it was last updated and the web address to share with the group.

> *What first aid or health area would you like to research?*

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Internet quiz

Read each statement about the Internet and decide whether it is true or false.

1 The Internet is a worldwide collection of computer networks giving information on lots of different subjects and topics. True ◯ False ◯

2 A web page is a page of information that can be found on the Internet. True ◯ False ◯

3 'www' in a web address stands for 'what we want'. True ◯ False ◯

4 You can print out a copy of any web page. True ◯ False ◯

5 'Surfing the net' means skipping from page to page on different websites by following links. True ◯ False ◯

6 A search engine is a type of train that transports computers to different countries. True ◯ False ◯

7 '.co.uk' at the end of a web address means that the website has been created by a company from the United Kingdom. True ◯ False ◯

8 '.org' at the end of a website address is short for 'organs'. True ◯ False ◯

9 You key in web addresses using lower-case letters, for example: www.lowercaseletters.com True ◯ False ◯

10 A portal is a website that leads you to other websites which have similar topics. True ◯ False ◯

Score 1 point for each correct answer.
Add up your score out of 10.

Use the Internet to find information

The internet is a useful place to find information on first aid and family health or illnesses.

How to search

1 Type a key word or phrase into the search engine.

Make sure you spell words correctly or you might not find anything!

Search:

2 The search engine generates a list of websites linked to your search word.

Click on one of the underlined headings.

Asthma UK – Homepage
Asthma UK is the charity dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the 5.2 million people in the UK whose lives are affected by **asthma**
www.asthma.org.uk

Health and Safety Executive – Occupational and work related asthma
Health and safety advice on occupational and work related **asthma**
http://www.hse.gov.uk/asthma/

NHS website
Asthma. Chronic lung disorder. To view relevant pages, click on the left-hand side …
www.nhs.uk

3 This will take you to a website.

If the information isn't helpful, you can go back and choose another website.

Or you can click on a link to a different page or site.
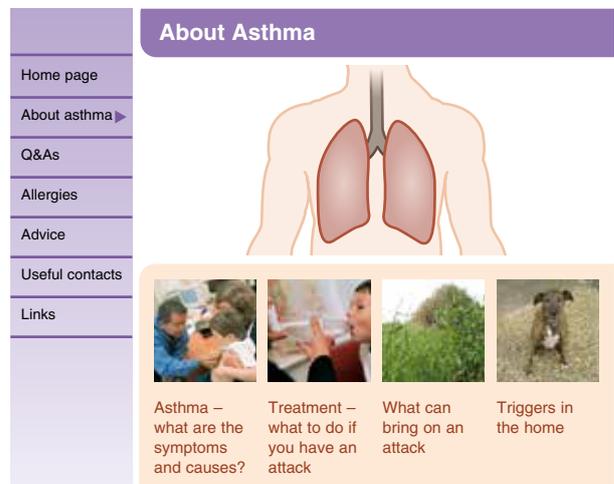
About Asthma

Home page
About asthma ▶
Q&As
Allergies
Advice
Useful contacts
Links

Asthma – what are the symptoms and causes?

Treatment – what to do if you have an attack

What can bring on an attack

Triggers in the home

WARNING

Anyone can set up a site on the Internet. Try to use reliable sources, such as the BBC or Department of Health websites.

Look at the bottom of the webpage to check when the information was last updated.

Use the Internet to find information

1

You want to find out about rescue breathing.

Search: [   ] 🔍

2

You want to find out what to do if a person is in shock following an accident.

Search: [   ] 🔍

3

You want to find out about the first aid courses available in your area.

Search: [   ] 🔍

4

You want to find out what to do if a baby under 1 year old is choking.

Search: [   ] 🔍

When you use a search engine, remember to:

1 check you have spelt the key word or phrase correctly
2 click on the 'Search' button.
3 make sure you are on a UK site, unless you want to search information from other countries too

Use the Internet to find information

Website pages contain a lot of information. Practise finding your way around.

Look at the web page you have on your computer screen.
Look for these things.

1   The website address (starting with www) ☐

2   The name of the organisation ☐

3   How to get back to the previous screen ☐

4   A place to search for more information ☐

5   A dropdown menu ☐

6   A live link to another web page ☐

7   Contact information in case you want to email or telephone for more information ☐

8   An activity or game to do (not all web pages have these) ☐

9   The date that the website was last updated ☐

10 An advertisment ☐

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There are no audio scripts for this topic.

ANSWERS

ENGAGE ACTIVITY / Resource 1

1   The Internet is a worldwide collection of computer networks giving information on lots of different subjects and topics. **True**

2   A web page is a page of information that can be found on the Internet. **True**

3   'www' in a web address stands for 'what we want'.
    False – 'www' stands for 'world wide web'.

4   You can print out a copy of any web page. **True**

5   'Surfing the net' means skipping from page to page on different websites by following links. **True**

6   A search engine is a type of train that transports computers to different countries.
    False – it is the tool you use to search the Internet by entering a key word or phrase.

7   '.co.uk' at the end of a web address means that the website has been created by a company from the United Kingdom. **True**

8   '.org' at the end of a web address is short for 'organs'.
    False – 'org' is short for 'organisation'.

9   You key in web addresses using lower-case letters, for example: www.lowercaseletters.com **True**

10 A portal is a web that leads you to other websites which have similar topics. **True**

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ACTIVITY 1 / Resource 3

Suggested answers

1 rescue breathing

2 dealing with shock after an accident

3 first aid courses in (name of area – e.g. Shropshire)

4 first aid for choking babies