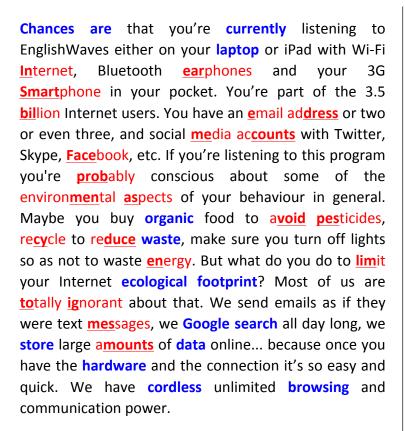


ENVIRONMENT

Green Browsing©

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Vocabulary & pronunciation study by
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Words are explained alongside the text
Stressed syllables are underlined and in bold*



Because of this instantaneous fluidity, we are not familiar with the reality of what happens behind our quick Google searches, emails and tweets, and what is needed to make them happen. In fact, the enormous physical infrastructures, networks and flows needed to support Internet have a considerable ecological impact.

For example, when you send an email, it is first



chances are (exp.) it is very likely
currently (adv.) at the present
time

laptop (n.) portable microcomputer that is small enough to be operated on the user's lap and is designed for use outside an office

organic (adj.) without chemicals waste (n.) unwanted matter

ecological footprint (n.) amount of the earth's energy that someone uses

to Google search (vb.) to use the computer program that finds information

to store (vb.) to put in a computer memory unit

data (n.) information

hardware (n.) physical and electronic parts of a computer

cordless (adj.) operated without a wire connected to an electrical supply

to browse (vb.) to look at information on the Internet

channelled through the 1 million kilometres long transcontinental cable network to reach a data centre. Those data centres are buildings that house thousands of servers that are used to handle and store your email's data along with the other 293 billion emails sent each day. Those data centres consume huge amounts of electricity and water mainly to keep the servers on all the time and to prevent the place from overheating. Your email then continues its way through the cable network to reach your destination's server where it is usually stored for a very long time amongst the other dozen emails we send and receive each day.

The Internet <u>industry</u> today <u>releases</u> more than 600 million tons of <u>greenhouse gases</u> every year. Half of it comes from the infrastructure and half from <u>usage</u>. This <u>represents</u> between 2 and 10% of global emissions depending on calculation <u>methods</u>. A <u>figure</u> that is <u>equivalent</u> to that of the <u>air</u>line industries, or FORTY <u>nuclear plants</u>.

The good news is that there are simple things you can do to significantly reduce your Internet ecological impact and at the same time reduce your electricity bill. Here are a few:

First of all TURN OFF your Internet box when you leave the house or at night, as well as your phone for that matter. Your box uses up at least 5 times more electricity than your computer! While you sleep it continues to communicate with external networks. You don't need that. This simple action has the added benefit of reducing your exposure to electromagnetic waves. And takes about 5 seconds.

Sending data online is a useful thing but storing it is quite useless. So a second easy habit to get into is to stop storing useless stuff online. Get a hard drive or USB key to store your important documents, emails, pictures, etc. and delete them from your mailboxes or online storage. The Internet cloud isn't some light wirtual space: it's real hardware. Storing stuff online causes a significant amount

to channel (vb.) to deliver

to house (vb.) to contain, hold

to handle (vb.) to deal with

to prevent (vb.) to keep from occurring

to release (vb.) to emit

greenhouse gas (n.) emission that causes global warming

figure (n.) number

nuclear plant (n.) factory that generates atomic energy

bill (n.) request for payment

for that matter (adv.) what is more

to use up (phrasal vb.) to use all of something

hard drive (n.) part of a computer or separate device that can be connected to a computer in order to read information on a hard disk

to delete (vb.) to remove, erase

of data to be exchanged between your device and the hard drive behind the cloud. Those exchanges can also be intercepted. This simple action has the added benefit of controlling and securing your data. It's in your hands, not in some centre on the other side of the globe.

One last easy **tip** before I **overfeed** you: instead of Googling every morning "weather in Lyon" or "traffic in Paris" have a **bookmark** of your <u>fa</u>vourite websites. It's done **once and for all** and stops wasting your time and the planet's energy by asking servers the very same question every day.

You can find lots of additional advice, the website www.backbn.fr is a reliable French website. You can look up other ones and once you find one you like, bookmark it and write it down to physically give it to friends instead of emailing it!

tip (n.) useful piece of information

to overfeed (overfed-overfed) (vb.) to inform to excess

bookmark (n.) address of a web page that is kept on your computer so that you can find it again easily

once and for all (exp.) in a way that will finally solve a problem

reliable (adj.) deserving trust, dependable

to look up (phrasal vb.) to search for

to write down (wrote-written) (phrasal vb.) to note, transcribe

* Tip!

Compound nouns (nouns composed of two or more words) are stressed on the first word in the compound:

airline, bookmark, earphones, Facebook, greenhouse, hardware, mailbox, network, website