

# Getting started using the internet

Want to get online but not sure where to start?

We know it might seem overwhelming and no doubt you've got plenty of questions: so we're here to help.

Getting online and building your internet skills could change your life: with just a few clicks, you can shop online, book appointments, listen to music and catch up on your favourite TV show. It also offers you the chance to discover all sorts of new opportunities.




What's more, it's not as scary or complicated as it might seem. This sheet will give you a simple step-by-step guide on how to start your online journey.

\*Instructions may vary according to your device model.

## What you'll learn

1. How to connect a device to the internet in your home
2. How to search for something on the internet

## Connecting to the internet at home:

1. Make a note of your wi-fi network name and password. This can be found on a sticker on your wi-fi router and/or, via a removable card or the box it arrived in.
  2. Turn on your device (smartphone, tablet or computer).
  3. Select 'settings' on your device. This is normally shown as a cog icon.  
  
If you are on a computer you might need to select the search bar in home menu first (ask your helper if you are not sure).
  4. Select the wi-fi icon.  

  5. Turn on the wi-fi, If it isn't already on. (If on, the wi-fi icon will be in white). The device will start searching for available networks to connect to (this may take a minute or two).
  6. Select the network name that you noted down in step 1.
  7. Enter the wi-fi password you noted down in step 1.
  8. Enter the password and select connect. Be aware of the difference between capital and lowercase letters: you can click on the 'show password' button (or icon that looks like this ) to double check what you have written.
  9. The device will now connect to the wi-fi.
- Next time you turn on your device, if you are near the same wi-fi router, you will be connected automatically. (Provided you have selected the automatically connect option).

## Getting started using the internet continued

### How to search for something on the internet

So, you're connected to the internet. Now what? Well, to view a website you will need to use an internet browser (a program that allows you to search the internet).

The most common web browsers are:

Microsoft Edge



Google Chrome



Mozilla Firefox



Safari



One of these should be installed on your device.

### Searching online

1. Find the icon for the web browser and click to open it. Your device will then display a homepage.



2. Click on the search bar at the top of the page, sometimes called the 'address bar'.
3. Now type your query or the name of the webpage you'd like to visit in the search bar then press enter/return.
4. A list of options will now appear, select the result that looks most suitable for you.

If you would like to keep the page you have found on your search open but want to start looking for something else at the same time, you can open a new tab (web page) using this button.



Alternatively, if you want to visit this page regularly in the future, you can save the page as a favourite using the star icon.



And it's as simple as that. Time to explore the web!

To ensure the websites you are clicking on are safe, only spend time on websites with the padlock icon next to the website address.



### Here are some handy search suggestions:

- Weather in your area
- Supermarket closing times
- The best last-minute holidays
- Your favourite music artist
- What's on in your local area

### Hints and tips and further learning:

Once you've got to grips with the basics of the online world, there's no limit to what you will discover. You can find more handy guides at [bt.com/seniorskills](https://www.bt.com/seniorskills). Click on this link or, if the sheet has been printed, you can type the address into the web browser's search bar.