

WARM UP

1 Match these famous expressions and the events.

- 1 'What hath God wrought?'
- 2 'One giant leap for mankind'
- 3 'Come here Watson, I need you'
- 4 'Lo'

- a first man on the moon
- b first internet message
- c first telegraph message
- d first telephone call

★ **Lo and behold** is an exclamation used to bring someone's attention to something, used often to announce something surprising or important.

THE BIRTH OF THE INTERNET

It was 1969 and a busy year for making history: Woodstock, men on the moon – and something less celebrated but arguably more significant, the birth of the Internet. (1) Leonard Kleinrock, a professor of computer science at the University of California-Los Angeles, connected the school's host computer to one at Stanford Research Institute, a former part of Stanford University. Here he remembers that day when the Internet may have uttered its first word.

“(2) I was just one of them. I basically supervised the creation of the Internet at the first node, both in the first connection and the very first message. On September 2, 1969, UCLA connected its host computer to the first packet switcher, the first router if you will, ever on the Internet. (3) So a month later, Stanford Research Institute received its interface message processor, or IMP, and connected it to their host computer. We created the first piece of the backbone network when a 50-kilobit-per-second line was connected between UCLA and SRI.

(4) To do this, you only need to type L-O-G and the remote host knows what you're trying to do. It will complete the I-N for you. We also had a telephone connection so we could tell each other what was happening. So we typed the 'l', and we asked over the phone, “Did you get the 'l'?” And the response came back, “Yep, we got the 'l'.” We typed the 'o'. “Got the 'o'?” “Yep, got the 'o'.” Typed the 'g'. “You get the 'g'?” (5) So the very first message ever on the Internet was the very simple, very prophetic 'lo', as in **lo and behold***.

And, you know, we weren't aware that this was a significant event that would be recorded in history. We did not have a very effective message like 'What hath God wrought' or 'Come here, Watson, I need you.' or 'One giant leap for mankind.' We just weren't that smart.”

Source: www.cnn.com

MORE ABOUT...

The US Department of Defense's Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) wanted to be able to link computers together in a decentralised network. They developed packet switching, technology which allowed data to travel to different computers without a direct connection, and a system of different nodes or computers to send, receive and pass on data. In 1969, ARPA ran a prototype, called **ARPANET**, to link up computers at four universities in the south west of the country and this was the forerunner to the Internet as we know it today.

READING COMPREHENSION

2 **FCE** Read the text and choose the best sentence to fill each gap. There is one extra sentence you do not need.

- a But SRI's host crashed at that point.
- b What we wanted to do was login from the UCLA host to the SRI host.
- c On October 29 of that year, for perhaps the first time, a message was sent over the network that would eventually become the Web.
- d The host computers talked to each other for a long time.
- e But there was no other computer to talk to.
- f Millions of people helped create this Internet.

SPEAKING

3 Discuss these questions in pairs.

- 1 What do you think the future of the Internet will be?
- 2 Will there be more dangers or benefits?