

# Reading

Read the text and answer the questions.

The words that appear in *italics* are translated in the glossary below, but try to do the exercise *before* you use it.

## The Digital Divide

A recent survey has shown that the number of people in the United Kingdom who do not intend to get internet access has risen. These people, who are known as 'net refuseniks', make up 44% of UK households, or 11.2 million people in total.

The research also showed that more than 70 percent of these people said that they were not interested in getting connected to the internet. This number has risen from just over 50% in 2005, with most giving lack of computer skills as a reason for not getting internet access, though some also said it was because of the cost.

More and more people are getting broadband and high speed net is available almost everywhere in the UK, but there are still a significant number of people who refuse to take the first step.

The cost of getting online is going down and internet speeds are increasing, so many see the main challenge to be explaining the relevance of the internet to this group. This would *encourage* them to get connected before they *are left too far behind*. The *gap* between those who have access to and use the internet is the digital divide, and if the gap continues *to widen*, those without access will *get left behind* and *miss out on* many opportunities, especially in their careers.

## Questions

Q1 - More people in the UK do not intend to get internet access than before.

☐ True ☐ False

Q2 - The majority of people in the UK are 'net refuseniks'.

☐ True ☐ False

Q3 - Most of those without internet access want to get it.

☐ True ☐ False

Q4 - The minority of the people surveyed in 2005 weren't interested in having internet access.

☐ True ☐ False

Q5 - The main reason for not getting internet access is the cost.

☐ True ☐ False

Q6 - High speed internet is not available everywhere in the UK.

☐ True ☐ False

Q7 - Both costs and speeds are increasing.

☐ True ☐ False

Q8 - Many people think that getting the costs down is the key to this problem.

☐ True ☐ False

Q9 - The digital divide is widening in the UK.

☐ True ☐ False

Q10 - Not having access to the internet will only affect people's careers.

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### Glossary:

To make up:	comprender, formar
Research:	investigación
Lack:	falta, carencia
Broadband:	banda ancha
To refuse:	negarse
To encourage:	animar
To be/get left behind:	quedarse atrás
Gap:	diferencia
To widen:	agrandarse, ampliarse
To miss out on:	perder

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