zu **kick off Coursebook** pages 54-55

# Unit 5 – Interaction

**Read this text about the inventor of the internet and explain the main ideas to your partner.**

## Meet the inventor of the World Wide Web

The Internet began in 1965, but at first it was only for the US military. It wasn’t today’s *World Wide Web* for everyone. That began later, and the inventor was an English scientist, Sir Tim Berners-Lee.

In 1980, Sir Tim was a scientist at CERN, the atomic research centre in Switzerland. He had hundreds of documents on his computer, and he wanted a system to find things easily. He invented HTML (*HyperText Markup Language*), a simple computer language. With HTML you can put links in documents (this is a link!). It worked really well and soon colleagues at CERN also had Sir Tim’s system on their computers. The problem was, they couldn’t send documents from one computer to another.

Sir Tim invented an easy method. He gave it the horrible name HTTP (*HyperText Transfer Protocol*), but it also worked very well and with it, everyone at CERN could now send documents quickly and safely over the old Internet. Sir Tim developed his system carefully for the next five or six years and in 1991 he opened the *World Wide Web* to the world. The system was free – Sir Tim has never earned any money from his invention. Today, he is a university teacher and he is also working for an organisation that wants to make the internet cheaper for everyone, including people in poor countries.

**Answer these questions first.**

**1** Who is Tim Berners-Lee?

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**2** Where did he work in 1980?

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**3** Why did he invent HTML?

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**4** What was the problem?

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**5** What did he do to solve this problem?

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**6** When did it become the *World Wide Web*?

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