UNIT 18
ISPs AND INTERNET ACCESS

Objectives: at the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. recognize and use key vocabulary related to ISPs and internet access;
2. understand basic information from texts about how ISPs work and different types of internet connections;
3. use modal verbs to give advice about choosing internet services and express necessity;
4. discuss their own internet service or compare different types of internet access in a simple conversation.

Lead-in: Internet Connection Brainstorm

Discuss and list all the ways people connect to the internet. (Devices such as smartphones, laptops; types of connections: Wi-Fi, mobile data, and experiences with different internet speeds).

Vocabulary Building

Key Terms

Fiber-optic- Fiber optics, or optical fiber, refers to the technology that transmits information as light pulses along a glass or plastic fiber.

Example: A fiber optic cable can contain a varying number of glass fibers, from a few up to a couple hundred. Another glass layer called cladding surrounds the glass fiber core.

T-1 – is a type of line used by businesses that connects many users at once to the Internet

Example: The T-1 is a dedicated connection provided by your local telephone company (or a reseller for the telephone company).

T-3 – is a powerful line made of 28 T-1 lines

Example: We're also building all-new T-3 lines to accommodate the new costomers.

ISP – (Internet Service Provider) is a company that provides Internet access

Example: Dial-ups requires a modem connected to a computer and to a telephone line with an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

DSL – (Digital Subscriber Line) is a high-bandwidth connection using normal telephone lines

Example: Since about 10 percent of people in the United States live in rural areas or places cable and DSL can't reach, satellite Internet is the only real option for broadband speed.

Broadband – is a system that allows computers to transfer large amounts of information

Example: I don't have wireless Internet, but I have a broadband connection.

Hotspot – is a location (like an airport or café) that provides wireless Internet access to users

Example: The border has become a major hotspot.

Upgrade – is to improve something, like a computer program or a type of service

Example: We've decided to upgrade our old computer.

Wireless router – is a device that forwards data as a wireless signal

Example: Place the wireless router or access point away from outside walls to minimize signal leakage.

Activity: Match the words (1-5) with the definitions (A-E).

1. ___ T-1
2. ___ Wi-Fi
3. ___ ISP
4. ___ wireless router
5. ___ broadband

A. an Internet connection using wireless signals
B. an Internet connection using regular phone lines
C. a device that sends information over phone lines
D. lines that allow many users to connect to the Internet
E. a system allowing the transfer of large amounts of data

Reading

Understanding Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Internet Connections

When you want to use the internet, you need to get connected through an Internet Service Provider, or ISP. An ISP is a company that provides you with access to the internet. They offer different types of internet connections, each with its own advantages and disadvantages.

1. Fiber-Optic Internet

Fiber-optic internet is one of the fastest types of internet connections available today. It uses thin strands of glass or plastic to transmit data as light signals. Because of this, it can send large amounts of data very quickly. This means you can download and upload files faster, and streaming videos will be smoother. Fiber-optic internet is also very reliable and less likely to be affected by weather or other issues. However, it is not available everywhere, and it can be more expensive than other options.

2. DSL (Digital Subscriber Line)

DSL is another common type of internet connection. It uses the same telephone lines that you use for making calls, but it does not interfere with your phone service. DSL is generally slower than fiber-optic internet but can be a good option if fiber is not available in your area. The speed of DSL can depend on how far you are from the ISP's equipment. The closer you are, the faster your connection will be. DSL is usually more affordable than fiber-optic internet.

3. Cable Internet

Cable internet uses the same cables that deliver television signals to your home. It is faster than DSL but not as fast as fiber-optic. Cable internet is widely available and can be a good choice for homes with multiple users because it can handle more data at once. However, the speed can decrease if many people in your area are using the internet at the same time. This is because cable internet shares bandwidth with other users in your neighborhood.

Choosing the Right Connection

When deciding which internet connection is best for you, consider your needs and budget. If you need the fastest and most reliable connection and it is available in your area, fiber-optic might be the best

choice. If you are looking for a more affordable option and don't need the highest speeds, DSL or cable could be suitable.

In summary, ISPs offer various types of internet connections, each with its benefits and limitations. Understanding these options can help you make the best choice for your internet needs.

Activity: Checking the comprehension of the text by solving the quiz

1. What is the main role of an Internet Service Provider (ISP)?

a) To provide internet access to customers

b) To sell televisions

c) To repair computers

d) To install telephone lines

2. Which type of internet connection uses thin strands of glass or plastic to transmit data as light signals?

a) DSL

b) Cable

c) Fiber-optic

d) Satellite

3. What is a key advantage of fiber-optic internet?

a) It is always the cheapest option

b) It is slower than other types of internet connections

c) It can send large amounts of data very quickly

d) It uses telephone lines

4. How does DSL internet work?

a) It uses the same cables as cable television

b) It uses telephone lines but does not interfere with phone service

c) It uses light signals to transmit data

d) It uses satellites to connect to the internet

5. Which type of internet connection can be affected by how many people are using the internet in your neighborhood?

a) Fiber-optic

b) DSL

c) Cable

d) Satellite

6. What is a common disadvantage of cable internet?

a) It is slower than DSL

b) It can become slower if many people are using it at the same time

c) It interferes with phone service

d) It is not widely available

7. If you are looking for the most affordable internet option and don't need the highest speeds, which type of connection might be a good choice?

a) Fiber-optic

b) DSL

c) Cable

d) Satellite

8. Which type of internet connection is generally the most expensive and fastest?

a) DSL

b) Cable

c) Fiber-optic

d) Satellite

9. How can the speed of DSL internet be affected?

a) By the weather

b) By the distance from the ISP's equipment

c) By the number of users in your neighborhood

d) By the type of television you have

10. In summary, why is understanding different types of internet connections important?

a) To choose the best option for your needs and budget

b) To fix computer problems

c) To install television signals

d) To improve phone service

Grammar Focus: Modals of Advice and Necessity ("should," "must," "ought to," and "need to").

We use "**must"** to say that we believe something is certain: You've been travelling all day. You **must be** tired. (travelling is tiring and you've been travelling all day, so you must be tired)

'Joe is a hard worker.' 'Joe? You **must be** joking. He doesn't do anything.'

We use **can't** to say that we believe something is not possible: You've just had lunch. You **can't be** hungry already. (we don't expect people to be hungry immediately after a meal)

The structure is:

you/she/they (etc.)	**must** **can't**	be (tired / hungry / at work etc.) be -ing (doing / going / joking etc.) get / know / have etc.

Must and Mustn't

You must do something = **it is necessary that you do it**: Don't tell anybody what I said. You must keep it a secret. We don't have much time. We must hurry.

You mustn't do something = **don't do it**: You must keep it a secret. You mustn't tell anyone. (= don't tell anyone) We must be very quiet. We mustn't make any noise.

Needn't and don't need to

You needn't do something = **it's not necessary to do it** (but you can if you want): We have plenty of time. We needn't hurry. **(= it is not necessary to hurry)** Joe can stay here. He needn't come with us. **(= it is not necessary for him to come)**

You can also use don't/doesn't need to: We don't need to hurry. Note that we say 'don't need to do', but 'needn't do' (without to).

Compare needn't and mustn't: You needn't tell Steve. I can tell him myself. (= it is not necessary) You mustn't tell Steve. I don't want him to know. (= don't tell him)

Should

You should do something = **it is a good thing to do or the right thing to do**. You can use should to give advice or to give an opinion: You look tired. You should go to bed.

You shouldn't do something = **it isn't a good thing to do:** You shouldn't believe everything you read in newspapers.

Should is not as strong as **must** or **have to**: You should apologise. (= **it would be a good thing to do**) You must apologise. / You have to apologise. **(= you have no alternative)**

Should = ought to (expressing moral obligation)

You ought to help your friends.

You should choose a plan with unlimited data if you stream a lot of videos.

Activity: Complete the sentences with the necessary modal verbs (must, should, need to and ought to)

1. If you want to improve your internet speed, you _____ consider upgrading to a higher-speed plan.
2. You _____ choose a plan with unlimited data if you use the internet for streaming videos frequently.
3. It's very important that you _____ keep your router in a central location for better signal strength.
4. To avoid overage charges, you _____ check your data usage regularly.
5. If you have a slow connection and are often on video calls, you _____ consider switching to fiber-optic internet.
6. You _____ follow the ISP's installation instructions carefully to ensure your internet works correctly.
7. For security reasons, you _____ update your router's password regularly.
8. If your internet connection drops frequently, you _____ contact your ISP for technical support.

Speaking

Activity: Role-play scenarios where students explain their current internet service, ask for recommendations or compare different internet plans.

Home assignment

Write a brief review of an internet service or a comparison between two types of internet connections.