

## Background information

### New Internet words

New words are coming into English all the time: the Oxford English Dictionary online is updated with new words several times a year. Many of these new words come from the fields of technology and computing. The words in Exercise 6 are mostly new, although they are established and frequently used now. Their meanings are as follows:

*browse* – look at information on the Internet (or to look through books, magazines, etc. without reading everything); note also *Internet browser*, i.e. Google, Yahoo, etc.

*surf* – as *browse*, to spend time visiting different websites

*landline* – traditional phone, i.e. not a mobile phone, but one connected within the house

*snail mail* – the post

*buzzword* – word/expression that has become fashionable because of being used a lot

*meme* – something, e.g. a video, image, text, idea, that is copied and spread rapidly around the web

*cyberbully* – a person who bullies others on the Internet, e.g. sending threatening messages

*troll* – a person who posts unpleasant or inflammatory messages about others on social media

*phishing* – sending emails that trick people into revealing important information, e.g. bank details, in order to commit cybercrimes

*spam* – unwanted emails, often advertising

*photoshop* – programme that allows users to edit images

*selfie* – photo taken on one's mobile phone of oneself, alone or with others

*crowdfunding* – raising money by asking supporters to contribute to a project, e.g. a band may crowdfund a new album by asking its fans to contribute in return for free concert tickets

*online petition* – usually a protest against government or big business where 'signatures' are collected online, allowing for much larger numbers of signatures to be collected

*blog* – article posted online, often by individuals writing on a particular subject and posted on a regular basis, although blogs are also posted by journalists, celebrities, etc.

*podcast* – audio or video broadcast, often from large media companies, posted online

*hotspot* – a place, e.g. cafes, libraries, where wi-fi is available, usually free of charge, so people can use their laptops, mobiles, etc. to access the Internet.

*offline* – not connected to the Internet

*BRB* – be right back

*BTW* – by the way