

1.3 Vocabulary and skills development

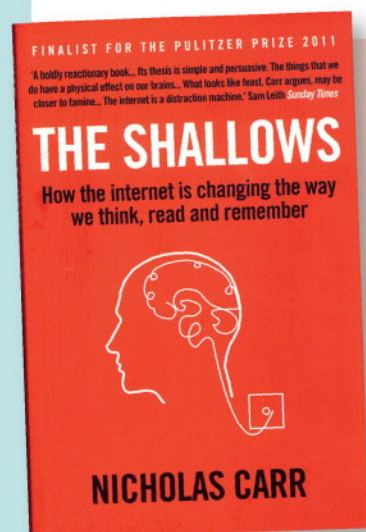
GOALS ■ Listen for key words ■ Noun suffixes

Listening & Speaking key words

- 1a How has the internet changed people's lives? Work with a partner and make a list of 5–10 things which have really changed since the internet was invented.



- b Compare your list with another pair. Has life changed for the better? Are any aspects of life worse since the internet was invented?
- 2 Look at the cover of a recent book about the internet. Do you think the author is positive about the effect of the internet or negative? Read the book description and check your ideas.



This is a fascinating book. We all know that the internet is changing the way we do things, but Carr believes that it is also changing the very way our brains work. With the printed book, he argues, our brains learnt to think deeply. In contrast, the internet encourages us to read small bits of information from lots of different places. We are becoming better and better at multitasking, but much worse at concentrating on one thing.

- 3 1.7) Read and listen to the information in the Unlock the code box about listening for key words.

UNLOCK THE CODE listening for key words

Key words carry the most important information. They are generally nouns and verbs and are usually spoken more loudly and clearly than other words. For example:

three times a **week**
I **send** a **lot** of **emails**
I **like** looking at **shopping websites**.

- 4a Look at these phrases from the review in exercise 2. Which do you think are the most important words in each phrase? Discuss with a partner, and underline them.
- This is a fascinating book.
 - We all know that the internet is changing the way we do things, ...
 - ... but Carr believes that it is also changing the very way our brains work.
 - With the printed book, he argues, our brains learnt to think deeply.
 - In contrast, the internet encourages us to read small bits of information from lots of different places.
 - We are becoming better and better at multitasking, ...
 - ... but much worse at concentrating on one thing.
- b 1.8) Listen and check your ideas.
- 5 1.9) Listen and complete these opinions about the internet with the missing key words.
- Shopping and _____ is _____.
 - Looking at _____ all day is _____ for our _____.
 - People will _____ how to _____ to each other.
 - People don't _____ enough _____.
 - Online _____ is not always _____.
 - Hyperlinks in _____ are very distracting.
 - We are now using _____ more _____ to _____ all our _____.
 - Multitasking online makes us _____ less _____.

- 6a 1.10** Listen to part of a radio programme about the book. Which of the opinions in exercise 5 do you hear mentioned?
- b 1.10** Listen again. According to the speakers, which of the opinions in exercise 5 would Nicholas Carr agree with?
- 7a** Which of the opinions in exercise 5 do you agree with? Discuss in small groups.
- b** What arguments *in favour* of the internet can you think of? Make a list in your group. Compare your list with another groups'.

Vocabulary & Speaking noun suffixes

- 8** Read the extract from a review of *The Shallows*. Name one thing the writer likes about the book, and one thing he dislikes.

Book Review: The Shallows

by Nicholas Carr | ★★★★★

As someone who started working long before the internet arrived, I was shocked by the main ideas in *The Shallows*. The book says that even though the digital age has resulted in amazing improvements in the ways we can get information, it is also causing us to lose our ability to do one thing at a time. It made me think hard about the way I use the internet and manage my relationships with people online.

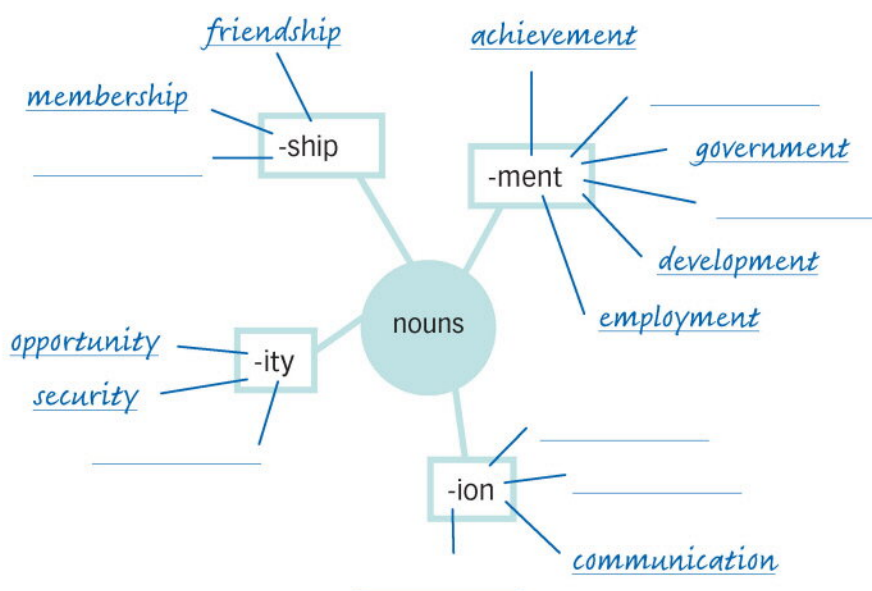
However, although Carr raises many interesting questions, I am not convinced that the solutions to the problems he raises are as difficult as he suggests. Since I read the book, I have, for example, been keeping Facebook and my email inbox closed while I work, to prevent myself from being distracted. Surely, all we need is a little careful judgement and good sense?

- 9a** Read the information in the Vocabulary focus box and find nouns in the review that end in *-ship*, *-ment*, *-ion* and *-ity*.

VOCABULARY FOCUS noun suffixes

- Suffixes often change the class of the word (verb, noun, adjective, etc.).
secure (adjective) → *security* (noun)
achieve (verb) → *achievement* (noun)
connect (verb) → *connection* (noun)
 Notice how the spelling can change:
communicate → *communication*;
able → *ability*
- Sometimes the word class stays the same, but the meaning is different.
She is my best friend. (noun)
We have a close friendship. (noun)

- b** Add the nouns from the review to the mind map.



- 10** Match nouns in the mind map to the definitions.

- the state of having a job
- connections with friends, family, etc.
- change which makes something better
- ways to deal with a problem
- forming an opinion/making sensible decisions
- a thing you have done successfully
- having the chance to do something you want to do

- 11** Add noun suffixes to the words in brackets to complete the sentences.

- The internet, and especially Skype, has improved _____ (communicate) with friends who live abroad.
- The _____ (develop) of smartphones has made a huge difference to the way we all access information.
- I am always extremely careful about my personal _____ (secure) online.
- I think I'm lucky because I've always had a very close _____ (relation) with my sister.
- I don't have gym _____ (member) because I can't afford the time.
- Many people think the _____ (govern) should have some control over the _____ (inform) we can get on the internet.
- The internet offers great opportunities for finding _____ (employ).

- 12 TASK** Which of the sentences in exercise 11 are true for you? Compare your answers with a partner and give reasons.