When you get a pet, the first thing you might do is give it a name. The name should be one you’ll remember. It might also describe the pet. For example, if you get a brown puppy, you might call her Honey.

When a new product is invented, people need to give it a name, too. The name helps others remember it—and buy it. Sometimes people make up new words for a new invention. Sometimes they use older words and combine them in new ways.

Lots of electronic products are invented every year, so new computer words are invented all the time. The Internet is an example. The word Internet was invented in the 1980s to describe the system that links computer networks around the world. Originally, it was called the internetwork.

The World Wide Web (the Web) is a huge collection of documents that you can access through the Internet. You use a Web browser to find texts and images. Browser is a good name for this software application because you use it to browse, or look around, on the Web. You navigate between pages using hyperlinks, or links that join Web pages.

Two words were invented to describe Internet journals: blog and vlog. Blog is a shortened form of web log. Vlog is a shortened form of video log. Blogs contain words and sometimes pictures, while vlogs contain videos.

Another new computer word is e-mail, which is a shortened form of electronic mail. You get your e-mail in a mailbox. While mailbox isn’t a new word, it’s a new use of an older word. Before e-mail, mailboxes were simply boxes where people deposited paper letters to be delivered by letter carriers.

The next time you see a new invention, look carefully at its name. Do you see any words or word parts you know? By looking for familiar words, you can often guess what an invention does.
What's Your Name?

Write all these words in the right places to complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about names and new words. You can reread the article before you begin, but don’t look back at it while you are working. After you’ve completed the puzzle, read it to someone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>browse</th>
<th>e-mail</th>
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Many of the names for things we use today did not exist when your ___________ were kids. Your parents got their ___________________________ from a mailbox or a post office. In contrast, a lot of the mail people receive today is in the form of ___________________________.

Many new words are needed as computer products are created. E-mail, which is one of these words, was created from the words ___________________________ and mail. Another is the word ___________________________, which was invented in the 1980s to describe the system that links computers around the world.

Some older words also were used in different ways. For example, a ___________ was once just something that was spun by a spider. Also, ___________________________ just meant riding big waves!

When you ___________________________ in a book store or ___________________________, you look for a good book to read. Today, you can also browse on a computer, looking for books or Internet journals, such as ___________________________. New words help you name all kinds of new things in the world.
Review

What’s Your Name?

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.