

What's Your Name?

©2008 by Lucélia Ribeiro. Some rights reserved <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/deed.en>



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.



©2010 by TM Weddle in Flickr. Some rights reserved <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/deed.en>



For more information about TextProject and *FYI for Kids*, visit textproject.org v.1.0 © 2013 TextProject, Inc. Some rights reserved (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/>).