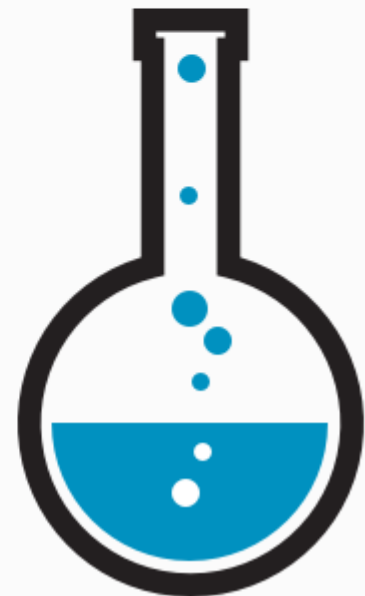


# Internet Basics: What Can You Do Online?



# Internet Basics: What Can You Do Online?

## Introduction

There's almost no limit to what you can do online. The Internet makes it possible to quickly find information, communicate with people around the world, manage your finances, shop from home, listen to music, watch videos, and much, much more. Let's take a look at some of the ways the Internet is most commonly used today.

## Finding information online

With billions of websites online today, there is **a lot** of information on the Internet. **Search engines** make this information easier to find. All you have to do is type one or more **keywords**, and the search engine will look for **relevant websites**.

For example, let's say you're looking for a new pair of shoes. You could use a search engine to learn about different types of shoes, get directions to a nearby shoe store, or even find out where to buy them online!

# Internet Basics: What Can You Do Online?

The image shows a Google search interface for the term "shoes". The search bar contains the word "shoes" and a search button. Below the search bar are navigation tabs for "All", "Shopping", "Maps", "Images", "News", "More", and "Search tools". The search results indicate "About 638,000,000 results (0.95 seconds)".

The first result is an advertisement for "Shoes at Zappos.com" with the URL [www.zappos.com/Shoes](http://www.zappos.com/Shoes). It features a 4.8-star rating and the text: "Fast, Free Shipping & Free 365 Day Returns on Huge Selection of Shoes! Nike · Frye · Converse · Birkenstock". Below the ad are links for "Women's Shoes", "Men's Shoes", "Most Popular Shoes", and "Sneakers".

Below the ad is the "Images for shoes" section, which includes a "Report images" link and five thumbnail images of various shoe styles: black dress shoes, black sneakers, black high-top sneakers, black sneakers with white laces, and colorful sneakers.

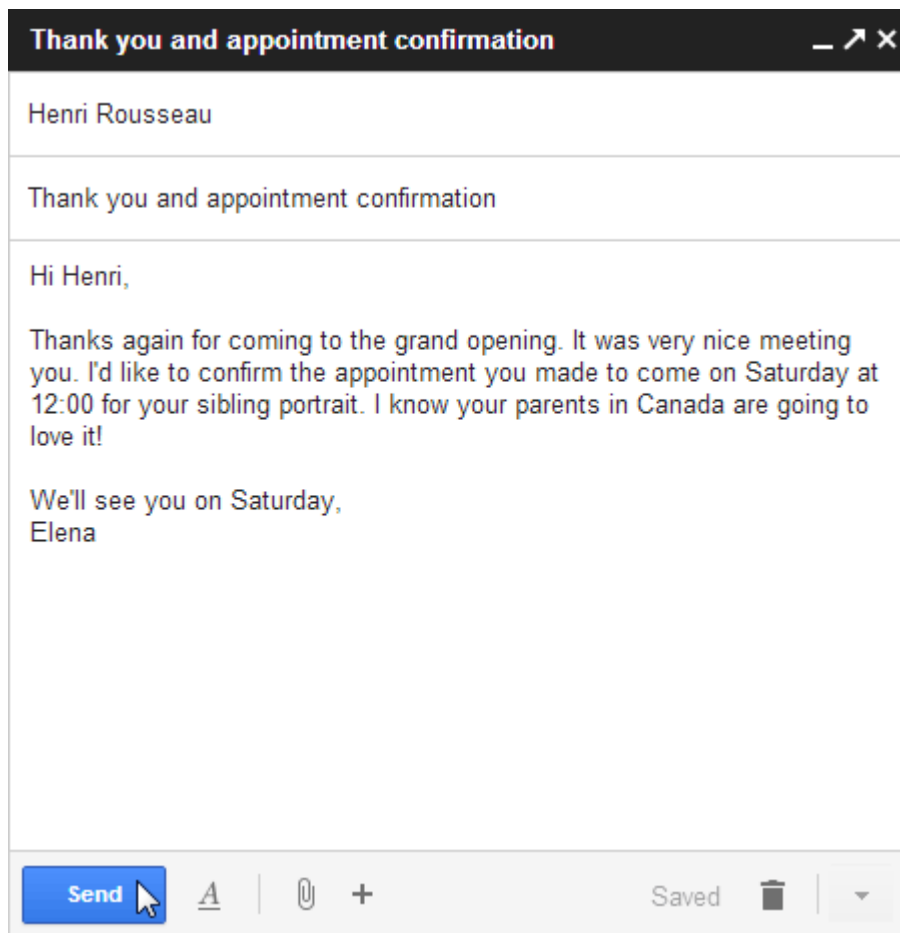
The "Maps" section shows a map of the Raleigh-Durham area with several shoe stores marked with red location pins. The map includes labels for Durham, Wake Forest, Rolesville, Carrboro, Blands, Genlee, Morrisville, Cary, Raleigh, and Fearrington. A detailed information box for "SRI Shoe Warehouse Inc" is visible, showing a 3.9-star rating (9 reviews), address "6031 Oak Forest Dr", phone number "(919) 872-2800", and hours "Open until 9:00 PM". It also includes links for "Website" and "Directions".

There are many different search engines you can use, but some of the most popular include [Google](#), [Yahoo!](#), and [Bing](#).

## Email

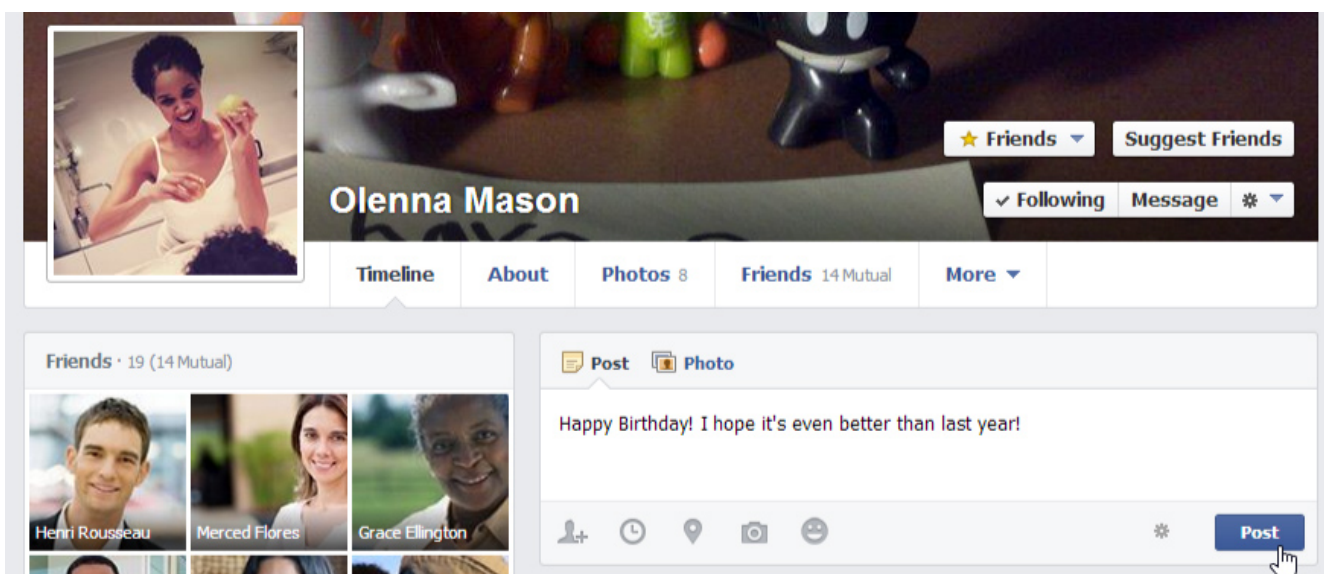
Short for electronic mail, **email** is a way to **send and receive messages** across the Internet. Almost everyone who uses the Internet has their own email account, usually called an **email address**. This is because you'll need an email address to do just about anything online, from online banking to creating a Facebook account.

# Internet Basics: What Can You Do Online?



## Social networking

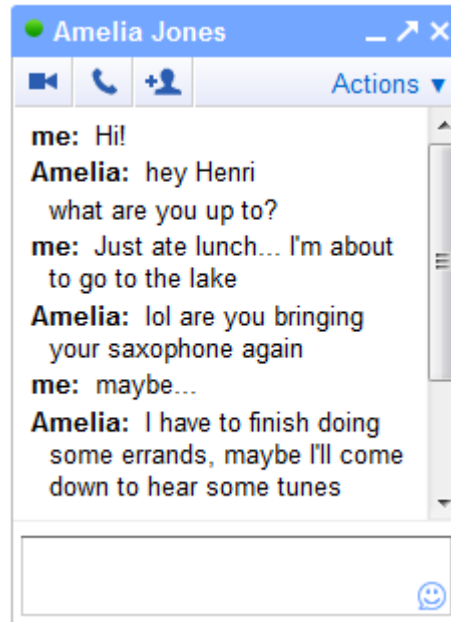
**Social networking websites** are another way to **connect and share** with your family and friends online. Rather than sharing with just a few people over email, social networks make it easier to **connect and share** with many people at the same time. **Facebook** is the world's largest social networking site, with **more than 1 billion** users worldwide.



## Chat and instant messaging

# Internet Basics: What Can You Do Online?

**Chat** and **instant messaging (IM)** are short messages sent and read **in real time**, allowing you to converse more quickly and easily than email. These are generally used when both (or all) people are online, so your message can be read immediately. By comparison, **emails** won't be seen until recipients check their inboxes.



Examples of instant messaging applications include **Yahoo Messenger** and **Google Hangouts**. Some sites, like **Gmail** and **Facebook**, even allow you to chat within your web browser.

## Online media

There are many sites that allow you to **watch videos** and **listen to music**. For example, you can watch millions of videos on [YouTube](#) or listen to Internet radio on [Pandora](#). Other services, like [Netflix](#) and [Hulu](#), allow you to watch movies and TV shows. And if you have a **set-top streaming box**, you can even watch them directly on your television instead of a computer screen.

# Internet Basics: What Can You Do Online?



## Everyday tasks

You can also use the Internet to complete many **everyday tasks** and **errands**. For example, you can manage your bank account, pay your bills, and shop for just about anything. The main advantage here is **convenience**. Rather than going from place to place, you can do all of these tasks at home!

# Internet Basics: What Can You Do Online?



And a whole lot more!

Remember, these are just a few of the things you'll be able to do online. Keep working through this tutorial to learn more about connecting to the Internet and using the Web!