

Catherine Black

Which single technology has most changed your life. Why?

Having broadband means that you have an Internet connection which is always on. As a result, the Internet becomes a way of life; when I wake up in the mornings I check my e-mails as I eat my breakfast.

Nowadays everyone seems to have a therapist; through the Internet I have found free therapy. At [web address removed] I have a support network of on-line friends who read what I write and then offer advice and virtual “*hugs*”.

The Internet helps make life easy - I can compare prices and reviews of CDs, movies, clothes and holidays before I buy. To earn extra money I sell things on eBay. As a student, I can discuss assignments with colleagues on-line and use search engines for help about topics I don't fully understand.

A high speed Internet connection makes it feasible to listen to music on-line. Launch.com creates a personalised radio station based on your song ratings. Listening to this station is more enjoyable than downloading music as it is free and the songs played are unpredictable.

I have had the pleasure of playing on-line Scrabble with an old age pensioner from Boston. Where else, apart from the Internet, could a 22-year-old girl from the UK play Scrabble with an OAP from America?