



Learn English: Prefixes and Suffixes with Reporting Verbs

Reading Comprehension

Tim Berners-Lee, a British computer scientist, turned in a research paper to his boss over 30 years ago. Titled "Information Management: A Proposal," it resulted from several months of effort, but he didn't expect the lasting impact it would have on the world. With this proposal, Berners-Lee created a blueprint for the World Wide Web. Tim Berners-Lee told TIME magazine about how he helped start the new information age to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the World Wide Web.

The interviewer from TIME asked Berners-Lee, "When you envisioned the world wide web for the first time 30 years ago, did you have any sense of the impact that it would have?"

Berners-Lee admitted that he had not. He had not thought that it would work and that things could still go wrong. He added that people shouldn't take it for granted.

TIME also asked what had surprised him over the last 30 years. Berners-Lee confessed that for the first 20 years, people would say to him, "Tim, I've seen this web thing of yours. And I found some really bad stuff on it." He responded, "The way the web works is you don't follow those links. If those links lead you to garbage, don't go there again." At the time, it was believed that right-thinking people would be cautious about what they looked at on the Internet.

"But then," said Berners-Lee, "there was suddenly the era of the Trump and Brexit votes." He continued that people had looked at the way the elections had been happening, and it was revealed that people believed many things they saw online. He concluded, "The web kind of pandered to them, because it allowed them to create groups of people who believed the conspiracy theory."

Berners-Lee claimed that this had been a turning point, and he had realized the web needed to serve humanity. "Not just by just keeping it free and open, but making sure that the things that people build in this permissionless space are actually helping democracy."

<https://time.com/5549635/tim-berners-lee-interview-web/>