

These 8 Websites Will Help Improve Your Computer Skills

In this ever-increasing technological age, more and more senior citizens want to learn how to use computers and gain basic internet skills. Learning how to do so does not only give them access to all sorts of information, but it also enables them to keep in touch with family members and friends. This is very important as it could help prevent loneliness. In fact, the benefits that the younger generation get from general computer and internet skills are exactly the same for the older generation.

Some senior citizens fear using the computer, but basic computer skills are so easy to learn - even more so today as everything is designed to be user-friendly and visually accessible. The following 8 websites are the best around when it comes down to teaching basic internet and computer skills. These sites are not only great for senior citizens, but for any newcomer.

1. *Skillful Senior*

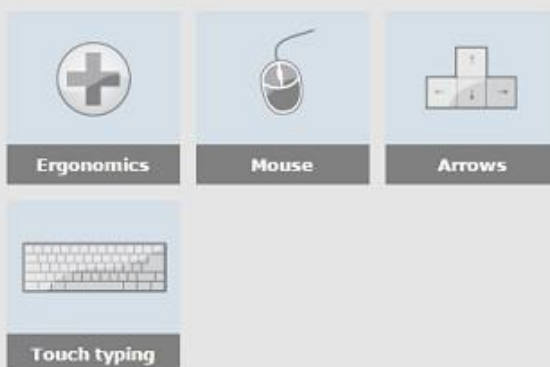


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Senior Computer Skills

Learn to boil water, and you can cook a lot of things; learn basic skills and you can do a lot on any computer

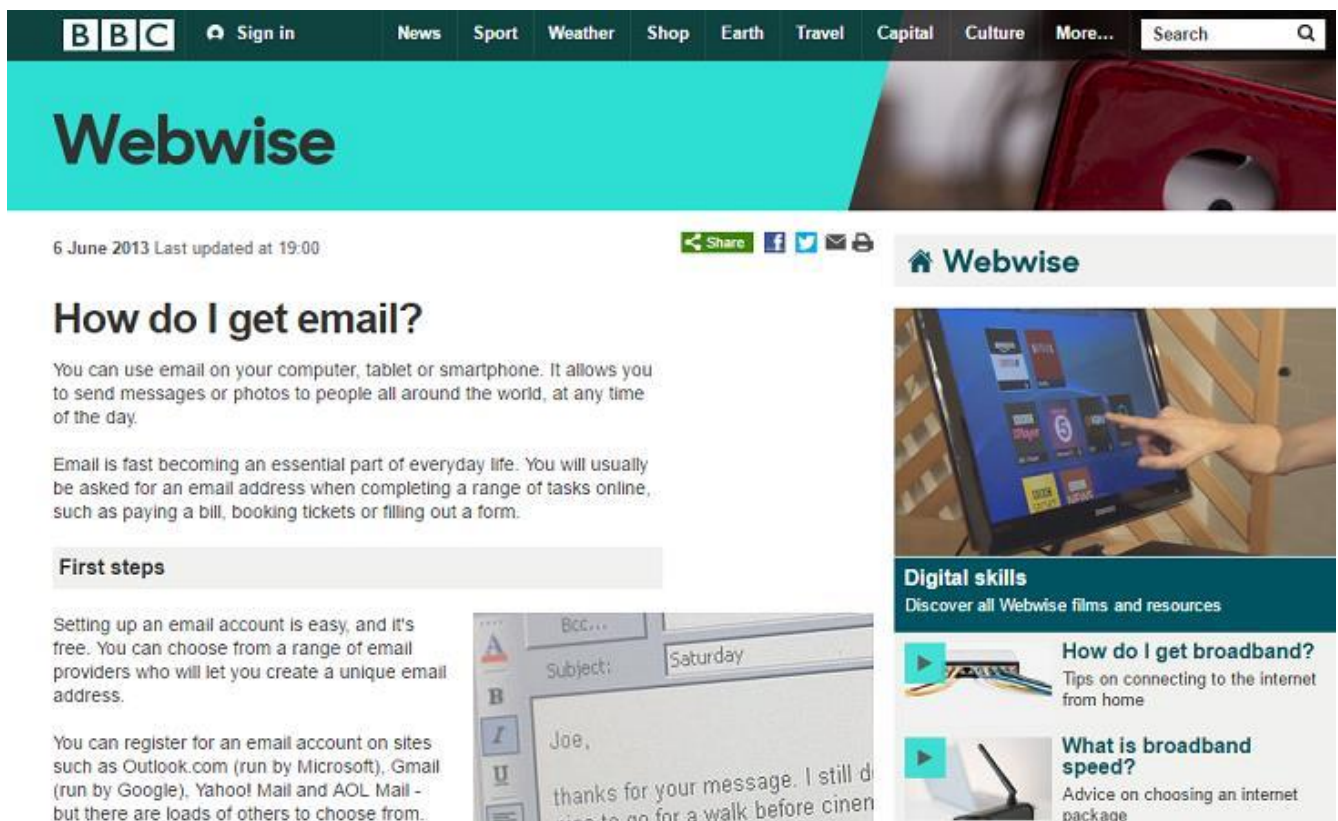
Ergonomics
Mouse Tutorial
Arrows Tutorial
Touch typing
Requirements



Pick the skills you need, and practice as often as you want.

This computer skills site for the elderly maintains that basic navigation skills are very important especially since it enables people to have access to a wealth of information on the web. This site has interactive animated tutorials that explain how to use a mouse, the arrow keys on a keyboard, and touch typing. It also explains how to use a computer in a way that will not result in pain. To aid learning, every tutorial has a voiceover by a digital character.

2. BBC Webwise



The screenshot shows the BBC Webwise website interface. At the top is the BBC logo and a navigation bar with links to News, Sport, Weather, Shop, Earth, Travel, Capital, Culture, and More... A search bar is on the right. Below the navigation bar is a large teal banner with the word 'Webwise' in white. Underneath the banner, it says '6 June 2013 Last updated at 19:00' and has social media sharing icons. The main article is titled 'How do I get email?' and includes an introduction about using email on various devices. Below the introduction is a section titled 'First steps' which explains how to set up an email account. To the right of the article is a sidebar with a 'Webwise' header and a 'Digital skills' section. This section contains two video thumbnails: 'How do I get broadband?' and 'What is broadband speed?'. The article text includes: 'You can use email on your computer, tablet or smartphone. It allows you to send messages or photos to people all around the world, at any time of the day.' and 'Email is fast becoming an essential part of everyday life. You will usually be asked for an email address when completing a range of tasks online, such as paying a bill, booking tickets or filling out a form.'

How do I get email?

You can use email on your computer, tablet or smartphone. It allows you to send messages or photos to people all around the world, at any time of the day.

Email is fast becoming an essential part of everyday life. You will usually be asked for an email address when completing a range of tasks online, such as paying a bill, booking tickets or filling out a form.

First steps

Setting up an email account is easy, and it's free. You can choose from a range of email providers who will let you create a unique email address.

You can register for an email account on sites such as Outlook.com (run by Microsoft), Gmail (run by Google), Yahoo! Mail and AOL Mail - but there are loads of others to choose from.

Digital skills
Discover all Webwise films and resources



How do I get broadband?
Tips on connecting to the internet from home

What is broadband speed?
Advice on choosing an internet package


This site is a beginner's guide to the internet. However, the online guide does start off with an introduction to the basics of using a computer. The guides on this site cover a wide range of computer use - each one is explained simply and some come with interactive multimedia which helps to make the learning a lot more fun.

3. Microsoft Accessibility

Microsoft Accessibility

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 Guides section masthead

Guides

Guides Guides for Individuals with Age-Related Impairments


10 Tips for the Awkward Age of Computing

Aging computer users can use Windows to personalize and customize their computers to make them easier to see, hear, and more comfortably use.

As we rack up birthdays, sooner or later we all experience some loss of vision, hearing, or physical dexterity. Fortunately, personalization options in Windows make it easy to adjust your PC.

Here are ten tips from cartoon Brian Bassett on how to counter the effects of aging to make your computer more comfortable to use.

#1 A Screen Too Far



Do you find yourself fighting the urge to press your nose against the screen because you can't see text and objects clearly? Consider changing your monitor display settings to increase the size of icons or text

More Information

- [Computing Guide for Aging Computer Users](#)

I'm looking for:

Windows

- Windows 10
- Windows 8
- Windows 7

Office

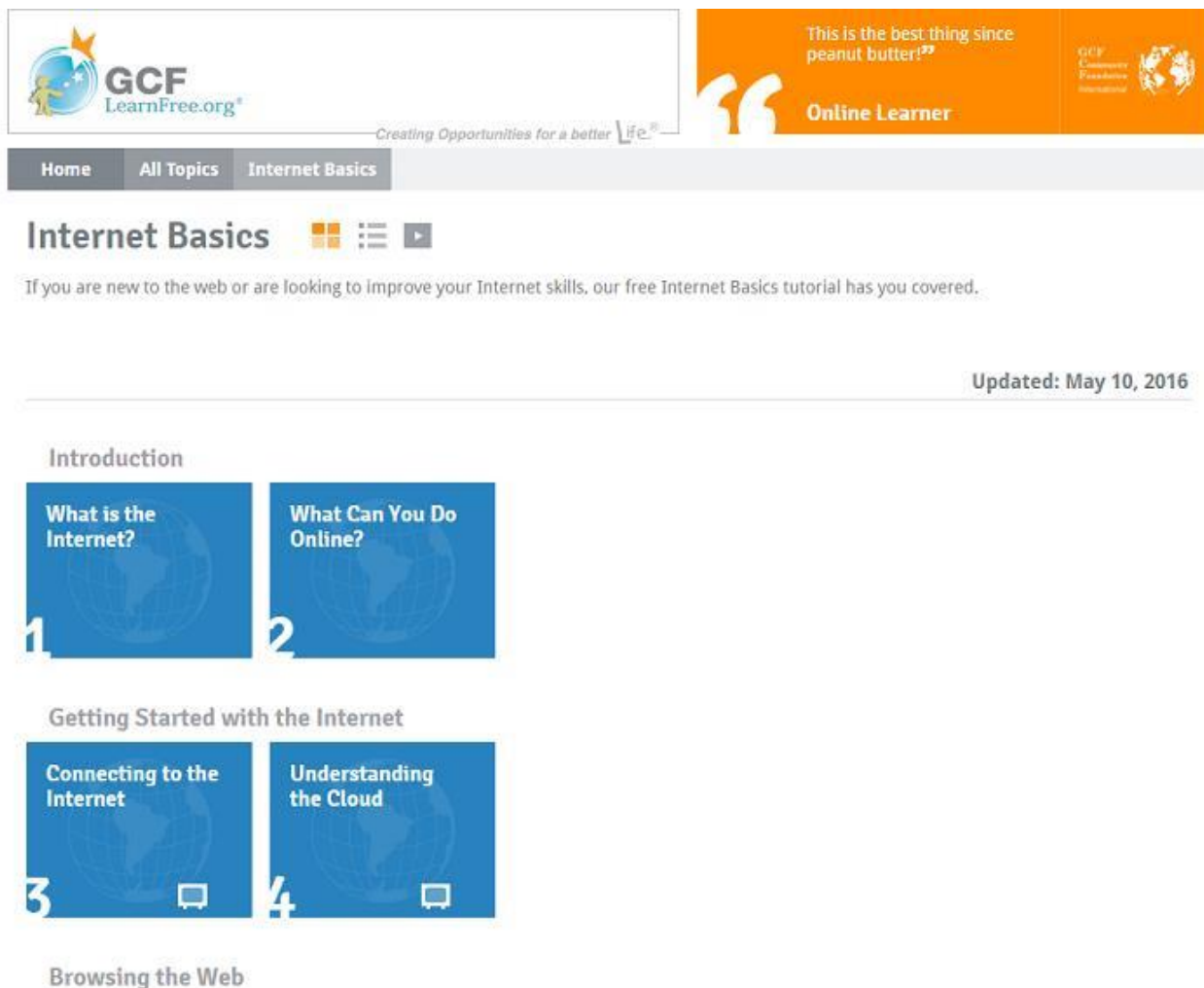
- Office 365
- Office 2013
- Office 2010

Assistive Technology Products

- [Shop and Select Assistive Technology Products](#)
- [Types of Assistive Technology](#)

This site is a windows resource that lists guides that are helpful for certain types of difficulties and impairments (especially among the elderly). For example, senior citizens can have a look at the Windows features that make it a lot easier to see what is on the computer screen.

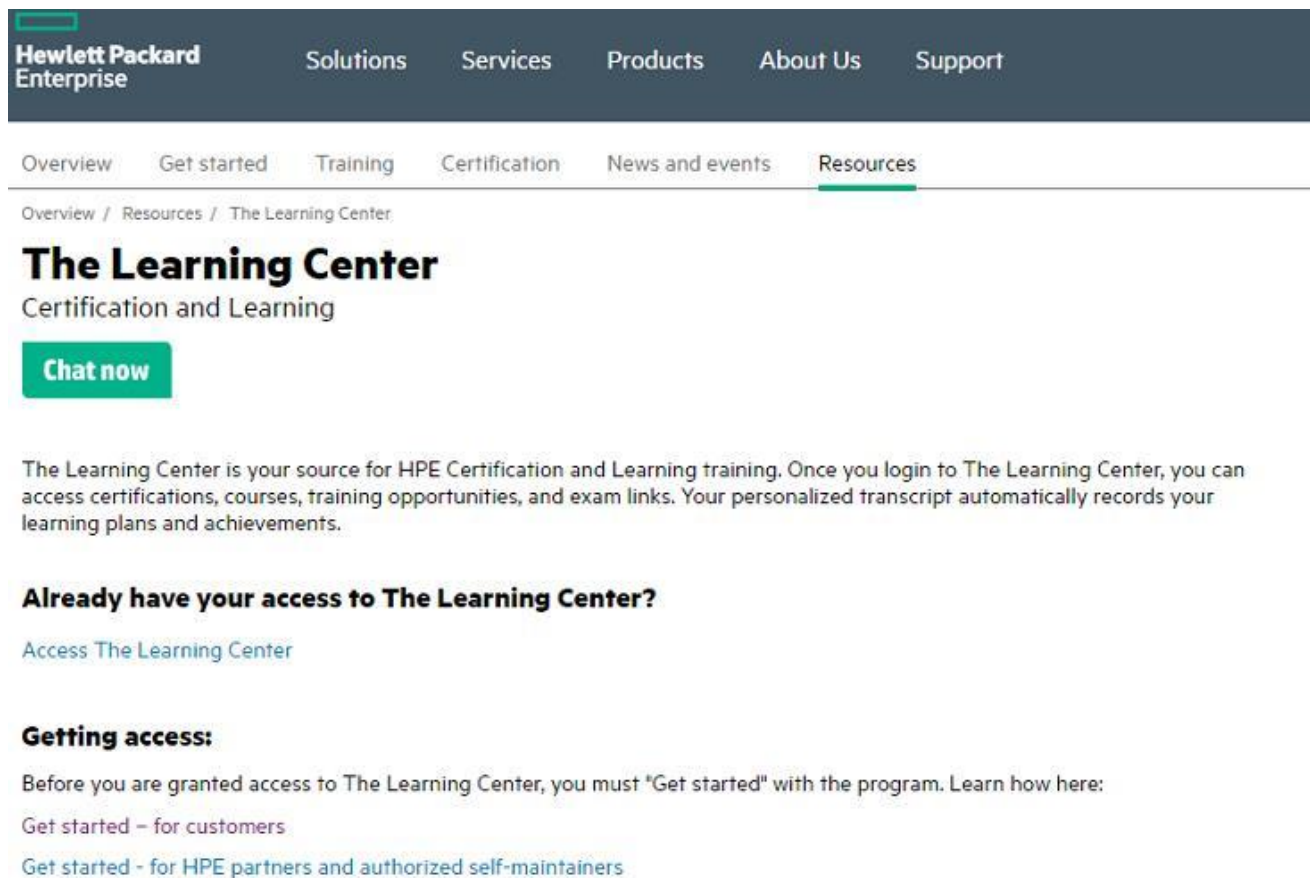
4. GCF Learn Free



The screenshot shows the GCF Learn Free website. At the top left is the GCF LearnFree.org logo with the tagline "Creating Opportunities for a better Life®". To the right is an orange banner with the quote "This is the best thing since peanut butter!" and the text "Online Learner". Below the logo is a navigation bar with "Home", "All Topics", and "Internet Basics". The "Internet Basics" section is highlighted. Below the navigation bar, the text "Internet Basics" is followed by three icons: a grid, a list, and a play button. A message states: "If you are new to the web or are looking to improve your Internet skills, our free Internet Basics tutorial has you covered." On the right, it says "Updated: May 10, 2016". The main content area is titled "Introduction" and contains two blue boxes: "1 What is the Internet?" and "2 What Can You Do Online?". Below this is the section "Getting Started with the Internet" with two blue boxes: "3 Connecting to the Internet" and "4 Understanding the Cloud". At the bottom, the section "Browsing the Web" is partially visible.

This site contains courses that cover technology, maths skills, and online literacy. The site has around 750 lessons that are purely designed for basic and intermediate levels - they are interactive and come complete with articles, animations, and videos.

5. HP Learning Center



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Hewlett Packard Enterprise website. The main navigation menu includes links for Solutions, Services, Products, About Us, and Support. Below this is a secondary navigation menu with links for Overview, Get started, Training, Certification, News and events, and Resources. The Resources link is highlighted with a green underline. The breadcrumb trail reads: Overview / Resources / The Learning Center. The main heading is "The Learning Center" in a large, bold, black font, followed by the subtitle "Certification and Learning". A green "Chat now" button is positioned below the subtitle. The main text block states: "The Learning Center is your source for HPE Certification and Learning training. Once you login to The Learning Center, you can access certifications, courses, training opportunities, and exam links. Your personalized transcript automatically records your learning plans and achievements." Below this is a section titled "Already have your access to The Learning Center?" with a link "Access The Learning Center". A section titled "Getting access:" follows, with text stating: "Before you are granted access to The Learning Center, you must 'Get started' with the program. Learn how here:". Two links are provided: "Get started – for customers" and "Get started - for HPE partners and authorized self-maintainers".

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Overview / Resources / The Learning Center

The Learning Center

Certification and Learning

Chat now

The Learning Center is your source for HPE Certification and Learning training. Once you login to The Learning Center, you can access certifications, courses, training opportunities, and exam links. Your personalized transcript automatically records your learning plans and achievements.

Already have your access to The Learning Center?

[Access The Learning Center](#)

Getting access:

Before you are granted access to The Learning Center, you must "Get started" with the program. Learn how here:

[Get started – for customers](#)

[Get started - for HPE partners and authorized self-maintainers](#)

This site isn't specifically for the elderly, but since the classes are pretty easy to follow, they should be able to learn a lot from this site. The classes include two to six lessons and some also include quizzes, demos, and assignments. You need to register (which is free) before you're able to choose a class.

6. Meganga



This site is arranged in a blog-styled layout. You can use the category listing found on the right to surf through the free lessons. The site is incomplete at the moment and is a work in progress, but there are still some great free beginner lessons on how to use computers.

7. Good50



This is not a website for senior citizens to learn computer and internet skills from. It's a Google-powered search engine which has been customized to be more user-friendly and readable to all. The larger text on the search page and the optional high-contrast setting makes it easier for older adults to access information off the internet.

8. Eldy



This is not a website, but a free download that turns a standard PC into an easy-to-use computer for first-time users.