

Internet: Web Addresses

1. URL

Every page on the web has a unique address, called a URL (Uniform Resource Locator - URL).

The full web address or URL of the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) is:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

http://	is the protocol. A protocol is a standard set of software instructions which allow one computer to communicate with another. In this case, it is hypertext transfer protocol that is used.
www.	Stands for “World Wide Web”, which is a big part of the Internet
bbc	is the domain, or server name. This name can be purchased from a Domain Name provider.
.co.uk	indicates that it is a company, based in the UK

You don't have to type the http:// prefix in the Browser address box, since Internet Explorer will assume you are using hypertext transfer protocol and provide it automatically.

Not all web pages have a www prefix. Some Internet addresses lead directly to a site rather than to an officially published World Wide Web site. An example of this is the address of the Microsoft Office site - <http://office.microsoft.com>.

2. Display a web page

Click in the Address box and begin to type the URL of the web page you want to visit. Remember you do not need to type in the “http” bits.

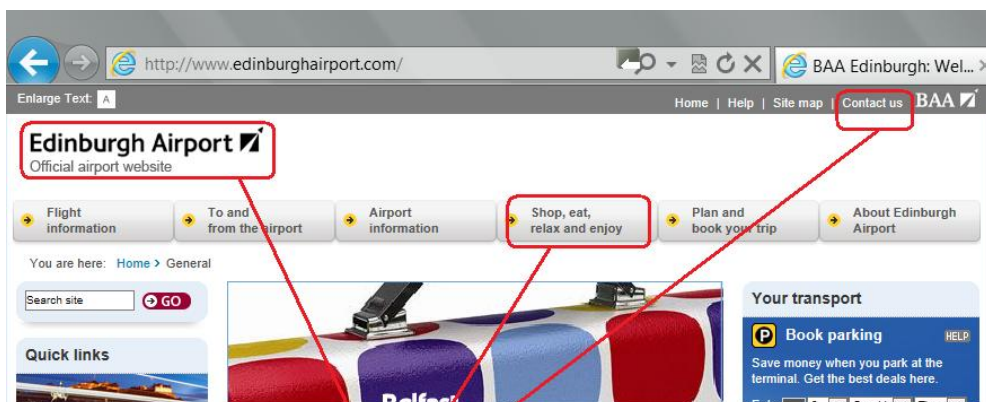


In this case, the BBC site has already been visited previously, so Internet Explorer will try to finish the address. If the address as it shows on the drop down list is correct, click on it, or if the correct address does not appear, just continue typing. When done, press the Enter key on your keyboard.

Once you’ve reached a website, you can switch to another page on the same site without typing a URL. This is because links have been added to the page.



3. Links

A link, often known as a **hyperlink**, is an electronic reference to another page, another part of the current page, or to another web site.

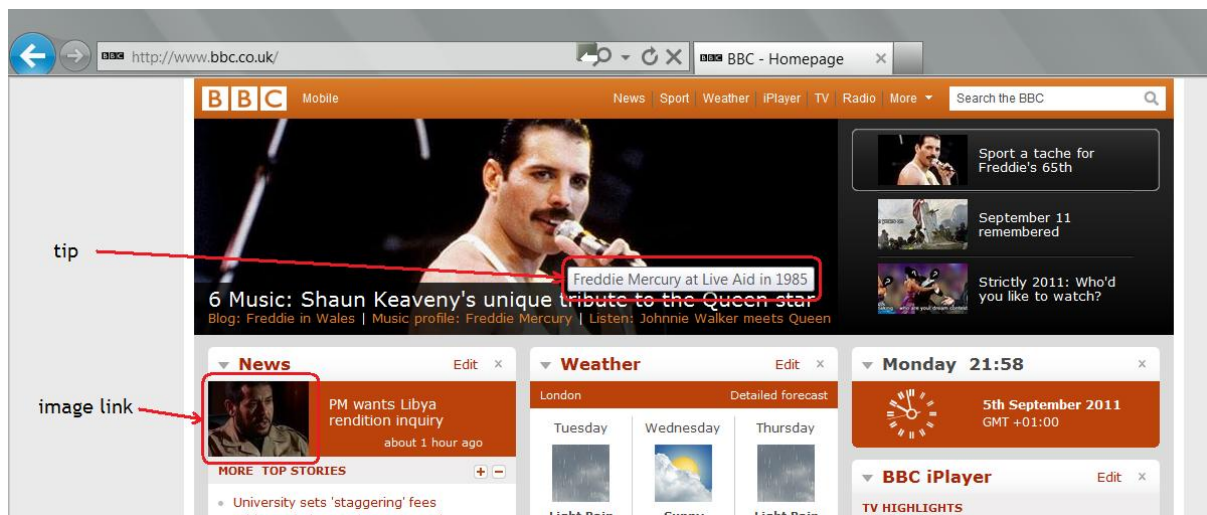


Example of Links on this web page

There are several types of link in the page extract shown above. To find out if an item on the page is a link or not, move the mouse over the text or image and the

mouse arrow  will turn into a hand icon  if it is a link.

By clicking on any link: For example, Edinburgh Airport, Shop, Eat Relax and Enjoy or Contact Us, you will be taken to the relevant page on this web site.



On the BBC web page above, for example, we can see that links come with “tips”. This means that there is a small text explanation of what to expect should you decide to click on that link. You will see a tip “Freddie Mercury at Live Aid 1985” appear if you hover your mouse above the picture link.

Links are normally self explanatory, but the special equipment used by visually impaired people, will pick up the text on the tip. In the example above, there is a hotspot in the news section. Image (or picture) links are often called **hotspots**.



Pictures are often used for linking to other websites, such as the one shown which links to a news item on Libya.

Sometimes, access to certain pages or downloads, may be blocked - usually by network protection. This is especially true if you are using a public, hence moderated, computer connection. Your own connection at home should be less restrictive.

The more **traditional** type of hyperlink is represented by a **word or phrase which is underlined** to indicate that it is a hyperlink. Clicking on the links shown below will take you to the appropriate page on the web site.

Roadworks in Edinburgh city centre

Work to prepare the ground for Edinburgh trams has started at Shandwick Place in the west end of Edinburgh. This will continue to the end of April 2008. [For more information see our Travel update section.](#)



Traditional word/phrase link