

## The Internet vs. The World Wide Web: What's the Difference?

Have you ever wondered how your tablet or computer actually works? Most people use the words "**Internet**" and "**Web**" to mean the same thing, but they are actually two very different parts of a giant digital team!

To understand the difference, imagine a giant **railway system**.

---

### 1. The Internet: The Tracks and Tunnels

The **Internet** is like the railway tracks, the tunnels, and the bridges. It is the physical stuff that connects every computer, phone, and games console in the whole world.<sup>1</sup>

- **What it is:** A massive "Network of Networks."
- **How it works:** It uses huge cables buried under the ground and even deep under the sea!
- **What it does:** It allows computers to "talk" to each other and send bits of information back and forth.

**Think of it this way:** Without the Internet, there would be no way for your computer in the UK to talk to a computer in America or Australia.

### 2. The World Wide Web: The Trains

The **World Wide Web** (or just "the Web") is like the trains that run on those tracks. It is the stuff you actually see and do on your screen.

- **What it is:** A collection of billions of pages and files (like websites).
- **How you see it:** You use a **Web Browser** (like Google Chrome, Safari, or Microsoft Edge) to look at it.
- **The "WWW":** That stands for World Wide Web! When you type a website address, you are asking the "train" to bring that page to your screen.

**Think of it this way:** The Web is just one of the things that travels across the Internet.

## What else uses the Internet?

The Web is famous, but it isn't the only thing that uses the Internet's "tracks." Other things use the Internet without using a web browser, such as:

- **Online Gaming:** When you play *Minecraft* or *Roblox* with friends, you are using the Internet, but you aren't usually on "the Web."
- **Messaging:** Apps like WhatsApp or iMessage send texts across the Internet.<sup>6</sup>
- **Smart Gadgets:** If you ask an Alexa or a Google Home a question, it uses the Internet to find the answer.
- **Email:** Sending an electronic letter uses the Internet to travel from one person to another.

## The Quick Summary

The Internet	The World Wide Web
The <b>Hardware</b> (cables and wires).	The <b>Software</b> (websites and pages).
Like the <b>tracks</b> and bridges.	Like the <b>trains</b> carrying information.
It connects computers together.	It connects people to information.

**Fun Fact:** The Internet was invented first (way back in the 1960s), but the World Wide Web wasn't invented until 1989 by a British scientist named **Sir Tim Berners-Lee!**