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Федеральное государственное бюджетное образовательное учреждение высшего
образования

**«Московский авиационный институт
(национальный исследовательский университет)»**

Кафедра "Экономика и управление"

Методические указания к практическим занятиям по дисциплине «Иностранный язык»
Сборник текстов и тестов по английской грамматике

(для студентов по направлению 38.03.02 Менеджмент)

Квалификация - бакалавр

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Введение

Дисциплина реализуется в Ступинском филиале МАИ кафедрой ЭиУ. Программа составлена в соответствии с требованиями СУОС МАИ, разработанного на основе модифицированных ФГОС ВО (3++) по направлению 38.03.02 Менеджмент.

ЦЕЛИ ОСВОЕНИЯ ДИСЦИПЛИНЫ. ПЕРЕЧЕНЬ ПЛАНИРУЕМЫХ КОМПЕТЕНЦИЙ И РЕЗУЛЬТАТОВ ОБУЧЕНИЯ.

Целью освоения дисциплины Иностранный язык является достижение следующих результатов освоения(РО):

N	Шифр	Результат обучения
1	З-1(УК-4.1)	Знать лексику и грамматику в объёме, достаточном для перевода профессиональных деловых текстов
2	В-1(УК-4.1)	Владеть навыками чтения и перевода профессиональных деловых текстов на иностранном языке
3	У-1(УК-4.2)	Уметь применять на практике навыки делового общения в устной и письменной формах на иностранном языке, развивающие психологическую готовность к профессиональной деятельности по избранной профессии
4	В-1(УК-4.3)	Владеть навыками аргументированного представления собственного мнения при деловом общении и в публичных выступлениях на иностранном языке, демонстрирующими достаточную степень сформированности исследовательского и критического мышления, мотивации к научно-исследовательской деятельности

Перечисленные РО являются этапом формирования следующих компетенций:

N	Шифр	Компетенция
1	УК-4	Способен осуществлять деловую коммуникацию в устной и письменной формах на государственном языке Российской Федерации и иностранном (ых) языке(ах)

Индикаторы достижения компетенций, служащие для проверки сформированности части соответствующей компетенции:

N	Шифр	Индикатор компетенций
1	УК-4.1	Выполняет перевод профессиональных деловых текстов с иностранного языка на государственный язык РФ и с государственного языка РФ на иностранный
2	УК-4.1	Выполняет перевод профессиональных деловых текстов с иностранного языка на государственный язык РФ и с государственного языка РФ на иностранный
3	УК-4.2	Осуществляет деловую коммуникацию в устной и письменной формах, в том числе на иностранном языке
4	УК-4.3	Представляет свою точку зрения при деловом общении и в публичных выступлениях

Настоящее пособие предназначено для студентов по направлению «Менеджмент».

Оно представляет собой сборник текстов, способствующих расширению словарного запаса студентов в рамках их специализации и тестов на повторение и закрепление грамматического материала.

Данные тесты предназначены для систематизации и проверки знаний грамматики английского языка, полученными студентами на практических занятиях и помогают отметить не только успехи, но и вскрыть конкретные провалы тестируемого студента в усвоении английской грамматики, что позволяет своевременно устранять пробелы.

Каждый тест состоит из 10 тестовых заданий. После каждого задания предлагаются четыре варианта ответов. Один из них является верным. Правильный ответ следует определить тестируемому.

Для обработки результатов теста в процентном соотношении необходимо подсчитать количество правильных ответов и умножить результат на 10.

100% - отличное знание грамматического материала;

80% - хорошее знание;

70% - удовлетворительно;

менее 70% - слабое усвоение материала.

В конце даются тексты для дополнительного чтения, которые могут быть использованы или не использованы преподавателем в зависимости от уровня группы.

Lesson 1

1. Прочитайте и переведите текст, обращая внимание на выделенные слова.

Text “MONEY THEN AND NOW”

When you buy something these days, you have many ways of paying for it. Just think of them! However, you may be surprised to learn that there have always been lots of methods of payment. Long ago, people used **to exchange** one thing for another — an ox or a cow for rice or grain, for example. This system of exchange was called **barter**, but there were lots of problems. Well, how many bags of rice would you give for a cow? And how would you carry the bags? People manages **to solve** these problems. In the 7th century B.C. they introduced coins made of amount of gold and silver. Business became much easier, because people could now exchange money for things they required. Coins lasted for a long time, but they are heavy, and so governments solved the problem by introducing banknotes, so **cash** became easier and lighter to carry.

Nowadays, of course, more and more people are paying for things with cheques or credit cards instead of cash. Some goods can be **purchased on credit**. Sometimes you a get a **discount**. You are often offered a discount if you buy **wholesale**. In some places, for example, in the market you can **haggle**, but in the shops, supermarkets and malls prices are fixed. If you buy a good thing at a reasonable price, you say it's a **bargain**.

The money you pay for your school or lawyer is called **fee** or fees and the money paid for a journey is called a **fare**.

If you deposit your money in a bank, you get a **current account**. This type of keeping money is not very popular in Russia now, as after the August 1998 crisis many banks collapsed and people lost their savings.

2. Выучите значение следующих слов.

to exchange-обменивать
 barter- бартер
 to solve - решать
 fixed - фиксированный
 eventually- в конце концов
 cash – наличные деньги
 purchased- покупка, покупать
 on credit – в кредит
 discount - скидка
 wholesale- оптом, оптовый
 haggle - торговаться
 bargain – удачная покупка
 fee – плата за обучение, гонорар адвоката
 fare – плата за проезд
 current account – текущий счет
 to collapse – рушиться, разваливаться
 savings - сбережения

3. Задайте вопросы к следующим утверждениям.

1. Yes, there have always been lots of methods of payment.

7. Under Elizabeth I English ... were becoming less isolated.

- a) politick
- b) policy
- c) politics
- d) polities

8. The ... of a new continent with high mountains, and wide rivers was very important for Englishmen.

- a) newses
- b) news'
- c) news
- d) news's

9. In the first ... time moved very slowly.

- a) millennia
- b) millennium
- c) millenniums
- d) millennias

10. The ..., which the word "globalization" refers to are not new.

- a) phenomenas
- b) phenomenon
- c) phenomenons
- d) phenomena

Lesson 2

1. *Прочитайте и переведите текст.*

Text "ADVERTISMENT AND PROMOTION"

We asked the GH Institute team and experts at Whirlpool UK and Comet to tell us about future developments in the world of appliances.

S. Wilkinson - GHI Consumer Research Editor: "I believe "fuzzy logic" is the way forward: appliances will no longer need a person to operate them. This is made, possible by the use of sensors, which take information back to the machine's "brain". If a washing machine over-foams, for example, it will take more water, making the machine more efficient and economical to run. I also envisage more colour and fashion in the kitchen of the future. It would be refreshing to change those white boxes into high-style pieces of furniture."

P. Schofield - GHI Assistant Consumer Research Editor: "There's no doubt that, over the next few years, more and more of us will be ordering showing by computer and arranging home delivery. Wouldn't it be wonderful if housework could also be done at the touch of a button? Let's hope the next century sees appliances linked to a central control unit which will operate the washing machine, dishwasher and cooker. The computer will plan our weekly meals and devise dinner party menus. AU we'll need then is a robot to do the ironing."

M. Jordan - Whirlpool UK Training manager: "As a leading manufacturer of kitchen appliances, we are able to give customers a simple but compelling message: 'We understand your needs'. From four years of research involving 40,000 customers we've learnt that products of the future need to work efficiently, be easy to use and easy to clean. The kitchen will continue to 'gain in importance as the focal point of the home, and there will be many more electronically enhanced appliances using 'fuzzy logic' technology - all aimed at saving time."

S. Skevington - Comet Corporate Communications Manager: "Style and ergonomic design will become increasingly important as customers look to purchase appliances that complement their house decor. New materials and techniques, resulting in environmentally friendly products which consume less energy and are pleasing to the eye, are being introduced. Advanced technology is helping to make appliances easier to use - just press a button and let the machine get on it. As well as ensuring better results, it will leave us more time to concentrate on enjoying life."

2. *Задайте 10 вопросов по содержанию текста, составьте письменно свои собственные высказывания по теме текста.*

3. *Заполните пропуски прилагательными, обращая внимание на употребление степеней сравнения.*

Test “The Adjective Degrees of Comparison”

1. The chain is no stronger than ... link (*звено*).
a) the most weakest b) weakest
c) weaker d) the weakest
2. ... of all duties is the duty to one's self.
a) The highest b) Highest
c) Most high d) More high
3. We know ... than we want to know.
a) last b) least
c) less d) more little
4. There is certain ease in change, even though it be from bad to
a) badest b) worse
c) more bad d) more worse
5. Self-conquest is ... of victories.
a) the greatest b) the greater
c) the most greatest d) greatest
6. She is ... thing I have ever seen in my life.
a) the most loveliest b) loveliest
c) the loveliest d) the more lovely
7. I can't quarrel with my two ... friends at once.
a) the good b) best
c) better d) the best
8. The history of banking goes back much ... than the history of coins.
a) further b) the furthest
c) the further d) furthest
9. The Roman emperors made ... use of coins for propaganda.
a) a more extensive b) the most extensive
c) the more extensive d) extensiver
10. Costume is ... sign of the mode of life of each century.
a) most important b) the more important
c) the most important d) a more important

Lesson 3

1. Прочитайте и переведите текст, обращая внимание на выделенные слова.

Text “THE BUSINESS OF AMERICA”

"The business of America is business", US President Calvin Coolidge once said. When you visit one of the country's large cities, you can see what he meant. In the center of the city, many large office buildings **house** banks, corporation **headquarters**, and government offices. Every weekday morning thousands of office workers enter these buildings and leave for their homes in the evening. Many of these people seem to be travelling all the time in buses, cars and taxi-cabs between one building and another, or in air-planes between one city and another.

The men and women who do all the office work are called **white-collar workers**. Secretaries, **accountants** and computer operators work for different kinds of companies. There are big banks that **do business** all over the world and little banks that serve a small town. The big **insurance** and industrial **companies employ** thousands of people, while around the corner an **employment agency** or another office may have five or six **employees**.

Many office workers dream of working their way up to the top from **messenger** to president of the corporation. The way lies through middle management positions. Middle management includes junior **executives**, who establish the policies for their companies, especially those that **involve** finances. The top managers of the large corporations have a great deal of power and influence.

It is still possible to start out at the bottom and go all the way to the top. Since the financial operation of business is very important, some accountants become top executives. In companies where technology is important, people with an engineering **background** can also rise to the top. People get **promoted** if they show the necessary personality and ability.

2. Выучите значение следующих слов.

to house -размещать

headquarters –штаб-квартира

white-collar workers-служащие, «белые воротнички»

accountant -бухгалтер

to do business-заниматься бизнесом

insurance company-страховая компания

to employ- нанимать на работу

employment agency –агентство по трудоустройству

employee- служащий, работающий по найму

employer - работодатель

messenger - курьер

executive – сотрудник, администратор

to involve - вовлекать

background – зд. подготовка, образование

to promote- продвигать

3. Задайте вопросы к следующим утверждениям.

1. The business of America is business.

2. US President Calvin Coolidge did

3. You can see what he meant when you visit one of the country's large cities.

4. They house banks, corporation headquarters, and government offices.
5. They enter these buildings and leave for their homes in the evening.
6. They are called white-collar workers.
7. They work for different kinds of companies.
8. They employ thousands of people.
9. They dream of working their way up to the top from messenger to president of the corporation.
10. It lies through middle management positions.
11. It includes junior executives, who establish the policies for their companies, especially those that involve finances.
12. Yes, they have a great deal of power and influence.
13. Yes, it is still possible to start out at the bottom and go all the way to the top.
14. They become top executives since the financial operation of business is very important.
15. They get promoted if they show required abilities.

4. Переведите на английский язык.

1. Соотношение промышленных рабочих ("синих воротничков") и "белых воротничков" в американских компаниях в последние годы изменилось. Доля последних значительно возросла. Сегодня успех большой компании зависит именно от них. Но главный вопрос в том, насколько эффективно работают "белые воротнички". Снижение производительности труда "белых воротничков"— основной признак кризиса компании. 2. Штаб-квартира компании Хьюлетт-Паккард находится в Силиконовой долине. (Silicon Valley). 3. В Москве работает больше ста агентств по трудоустройству. 4. Фирма ищет сотрудника с медицинской подготовкой. 5. Процесс приема на работу достаточно сложный. 6. На последнем интервью я спросил будущего работодателя, какие обязанности предусматривает эта должность (position).

5. Заполните пропуски необходимой формой инфинитива, предложения переведите. Определите функцию инфинитива в предложении.

Test "Infinitive"

1. Young people have many years at their disposal ... into life all their dreams.

a) to have been putting	b) to put
d) to be putting	c) to have put
2. It was a useless thing ... it.

a) to have done	b) to doing
c) have done	d) to have been done
3. As soon as people are old enough ... better they don't know anything at all.

a) to be knowing	b) to know
c) to have known	d) to have been known
4. The government promised ... people from taxes.

a) to liberate	b) to have liberated
c) to have been liberating	d) liberate

5. ... to was what the officials awaited.

- a) To be listened b) To be listening
- c) To listen d) To have listened

6. By the middle of the 20th century ... in man's potential for improvement seemed naive.

- a) to have being believed b) to believe
- c) to have been believing d) to be being believed

7. The Committee had an important problem....

- a) to have been solved b) will have solved
- c) to be solved d) be solved

8. Many states established international organizations ... on specific matters.

- a) to have cooperated b) to be being cooperated
- c) to be cooperating d) to cooperate

9. In 1945, the representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference ... up the United Nations.

- a) to have been drawing b) to be drawing
- c) to have been drawn d) to draw

10. ... nothing at all is the most difficult thing in the world.

- a) To do b) Done
- c) Did d) Have done

Lesson 4

1. Прочитайте и переведите текст, выпишите и выучите выделенные слова.

Text "BANKING"

What am I going to do after university? Maybe I should consider a job in the world of banking. There's a surprisingly wide range to choose from - for example, I could work for a high-street bank. Let us see what's what and who's who in it. If to take the roof-off a high-street bank, one can reveal that lots of people work behind the scenes in banks. There's the clerical staff (sometimes called bank clerks), and their job includes sorting cheques, making sure that each customer receives a statement of his/her account each month, keeping detailed up-to-date records of all bank's business.

The Enquiries Desk. This is where you go if you need advice about the bank's services.

The Manager. This is the person in charge of the bank. She or he gives customers advice about their finances, makes sure that the bank and its staff are working properly.

The Small-Business Adviser. Banks provide a wide range of services to their customers. This includes advice for people with small businesses. "How do I start a business?" "How much money can I afford to borrow?" "How do I plan ahead to make my business successful?" It's questions like these, which the small-business adviser is there to answer.

The Bank's computer System. Modern Banks keep all their financial data in computers. This makes it possible to check and provide information at the touch of a button.

The Foreign Exchange Desk. This is where you go to buy or sell foreign currency.

The Vault. Money, important documents and valuable objects (e.g. paintings, jewellery) are kept here. Vaults have very thick walls and strong, steal doors with complex locks.

Video Camera. Security is vital in banks. That's why many of them use video cameras these days. They can't stop robberies, but can film the robbers.

The Cash Dispenser Machine. You need money but the bank's closed? No problem - use the cash dispenser machine. All you have to do is: put your cash-card into the machine, tap in your personal identification number and the amount of money you want. A few seconds later the money appears. Thanks to machines like these, many banks are now open 24 hours a day.

The Night-Safe. Shopkeepers and business people often can't get to the bank until it's closed. What do they do with money they've earned that day? They put in the night-safe - a strong metal box in the wall of the bank which can be unlocked with a special key.

So, money is an important part of everyday life. These days, money is hi-tech (modern, well-designed and sophisticated). We have notes and coins which are specially made. We use credit cards. Banks and stock-exchanges can move millions at the touch of a button.

So, money is universal - but why? The answer is very simple. Without it trade would be impossible, and people in any society need to exchange goods in order to survive.

2. Ответьте на вопросы письменно.

1. Is the profession of an economist very prestigious? Why?
2. Should an economist know foreign languages?
3. Who advised you to enter this University?
4. Why have you chosen this very faculty?
5. Why have you chosen this very University?

4. Выберите правильную форму субъектного инфинитивного оборота. Предложения переведите.

Test “Complex Subject with the Infinitive.”

- The United Nations ... in 1945 by 50 countries.
 - a) is known to establish
 - b) know to have been established
 - c) is known to be being established
 - d) is known to have been established
- The UN system ... international responsibilities in the economic, social, cultural, educational fields.
 - a) appeared to have
 - b) appear to have
 - c) is appearing to have
 - d) is appeared to have
- The UN Assembly ... its annual (*ежегодный*) sessions from September to December.
 - a) known to hold
 - b) know to hold
 - c) is known to being hold
 - d) is known to hold
- The elimination of weapon of mass destruction (*оружие массового поражения*)... one the main goals (*цель*) of the United Nations.
 - a) is sure to be
 - b) are sure to be
 - c) sure to have been
 - d) is sure to be being

5. A number of UN offices, programmers and funds ... for improvement economic and social conditions of the people throughout the world.
 a) understood to be working b) are understood to be working
 c) are understood be working d) is understood to be working
6. The Economic and Social Council ...a link between the United Nations and the Civil Society for years.
 a) said to be maintaining b) is said be maintaining
 c) is said to have been maintaining d) are said to have been maintaining
7. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) ... social and economic conditions of children throughout the world.
 a) believed to have improved b) is believed improving
 c) is believed to improve d) are believed to improve
8. The Commission of Human Rights ... successful in maintaining the observance of human rights throughout the world.
 a) proved to be b) is proved to have been
 c) is proved to be d) prove to be
9. The UN system ... the International Monetary Fund (*валютный фонд*), the World Bank and other organizations.
 a) is happened to link b) is happened to have linked
 c) happen to link d) happened to link
10. The International Labor Organization .. older than the United Nation itself.
 a) are certain to be b) is certain to be
 c) certain to have been d) is certain to being

Lesson 5

1. Прочитайте и переведите текст.

Text “WORK AT THE FOREIGN TRADE COMPANY”

Hello, my name is Maxim Sviridov. I work as a manager at the company. It is Russian company which works on the business travel market. Two weeks ago I was sent by the administration of our company to London where I studied the English travel companies, their traditions, their marketing and management. Now my business trip is coming to the end and I want to share with you my impressions of English business world. First of all English businessmen are well known all over the world for their honesty and decency. If an Englishman gives you his word he will keep it in any case. Besides that, nothing can prevent him from refusing the once taken decision. Of course, there are some exclusions, but they are so rare that nobody should put attention on them. During the last two weeks my working day was approximately the same. Early in the morning I took a taxi to my hosts' headquarters, which is situated in the City - the business heart of London. First of all I usually asked Ms. Lapital - my secretary if there were any letters or cables for me. Then she gave me my correspondence and

1. A hijacker (угонщик самолета) who claimed that he had explosives (взрывчатые вещества) ... the pilots to land in Greece.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| a) will force | b) force |
| c) forces | d) forced |

2. The hijacker surrendered (сдаваться) hours later and more than 200 people aboard ... unharmed, officials said.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| a) were freed | b) are freed |
| c) is freed | d) freed |

3. Police arrested the 20-year-old Turkish citizen who ... by family problems.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| a) is shocked | b) would be shocked |
| c) was shocked | d) shocked |

4. The Greek Foreign Minister said at Athens airport that all passengers ... safe outside the plane.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| a) were | b) are |
| c) is | d) been |

5. Police said the explosives ... to be a bundle (связка) of candles .

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| a) will appear | b) appeared |
| c) appears | d) appearing |

6. The hijacker claimed to have plastic explosives when he captured the plane, and passengers reported that he ... with explosives.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| a) have been strapped | b) has been strapped |
| c) had been strapped | d) had be strapped |

7. After the plane landed, Greek anti-terrorist police ... it at an isolated area of the airport and a top police official negotiated (вести переговоры) with the hijacker.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| a) surround | b) surrounded |
| c) are surrounding | d) will have surrounded |

8. During the stand-off (противостояние), Turkish television showed interviews with passengers who ... mobile phones.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| a) spoke | b) speak |
| c) are speaking | d) has spoken |

9. A passenger said that the hostess (стюардесса) ... them that a hijacker with bombs had been in the cockpit (кабина в самолёте).

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| a) tells | b) is telling |
| c) had told | d) has told |

10. It was reported that the Greek police ... for month a special anti-terrorist unit to deal with hijackings and other terrorism at the airport as part of its preparations for the Olympics.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| a) are training | b) has been training |
| c) trained | d) had been training |

*Тексты для дополнительного чтения***MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF COMPANIES**

The simplest form of management is the partnership. In Anglo-American common-law and European civil law countries, every partner is entitled to take part in the management of the firm's business, unless he is a limited partner; however, a partnership agreement may provide that an ordinary partner shall not participate in management, in which case he is a dormant partner but is still personally liable for the debts and obligations incurred by the other managing partners. The management structure of companies or corporations is more complex. The simplest is that envisaged by English, Belgian, Italian, and Scandinavian law, by which the shareholders of the company periodically elect a board of directors who collectively manage the company's affairs and reach decisions by a majority vote but also have the right to delegate any of their powers, or even the whole management of the company's business, to one or more of their number. Under this regime it is common for a managing director (director general, direttore generale) to be appointed, often with one or more assistant managing directors, and for the board of directors to authorize them to enter into all transactions needed for -carrying on the company's business, subject only to the general supervision of the board and to its approval of particularly important measures, such as issuing shares or bonds or borrowing. The U.S. system is a development of this basic pattern. By the laws of most states it is obligatory for the board of directors elected periodically by the shareholders to appoint certain executive officers, such as the president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. The latter two have no management powers and fulfill the administrative functions that in an English company are the concern of its secretary; but the president and in his absence the vice president have by law or by delegation from the board of directors the same full powers of day-to-day management as are exercised in practice by an English managing director. The most complex management structures are those provided for public companies under German and French law. The management of private companies under these systems is confided to one or more managers who have the same powers as managing directors. In the case of public companies, however, German law imposes a two-tier structure, the lower tier consisting of a supervisory committee whose members are elected periodically by the shareholders and the employees of the company in the proportion of two-thirds shareholder representatives and one-third employee representatives (except in the case of mining and steel companies where shareholders and employees are equally represented) and the upper tier consisting of a management board comprising one or more persons appointed by the supervisory committee but not from its own number. The affairs of the company are managed by the management board, subject to the supervision of the supervisory committee, to which it must report periodically and which can at any time require information or explanations. The supervisory committee is forbidden to undertake the management of the company itself, but the company's constitution may require its approval for particular transactions, such as borrowing or the establishment of branches overseas, and by law it is the supervisory committee that fixes the remuneration of the managers and has power to dismiss them.

The French management structure for public companies offers two alternatives. Unless the company's constitution otherwise provides, the shareholders periodically elect a board of directors, which «is vested with the widest powers to act on behalf of the company» but which is also required to elect a president from its members who «undertakes on his own responsibility the general management of the company, » so that in fact the board of directors' functions are reduced to supervising him. The similarity to the German pattern is obvious, and French legislation carries this further by openly permitting public companies to establish a supervisory

committee and a management board like the German equivalents as an alternative to the board of directors-president structure.

Dutch and Italian public companies tend to follow the German pattern of management, although it is not expressly sanctioned by the law of those countries. The Dutch commissarissen and the Italian sindaci, appointed by the shareholders, have taken over the task of supervising the directors and reporting on the wisdom and efficiency of their management to the shareholders.

SEPARATION OF OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL

The investing public is a major source of funds for new or expanding operations. As companies have grown, their need for funds has grown, with the consequence that legal ownership of companies has become widely dispersed. For example, in large American corporations, shareholders may run into the hundreds of thousands and even more. Although large blocks of shares may be held by wealthy individuals or institutions, the total amount of stock in these companies is so large that even a very wealthy person is not likely to own more than a small fraction of it.

SOCIALISING ON THE INTERNET

When the telephone was new more than a century ago, people didn't know quite well what to make of it. What was it good for?

Not much it seemed. History maybe repeating itself. The Internet is a revolutionary publishing tool, but the net work may have even greater potential as a way for people to connect with each other.

Over the past two decades, as the price of computing has plunged, the personal computer enabled people to be more productive and gain better access to information. Now the PC is making it easier for people to reach each other, too.

Electronic in-boxes are flooded with e-mail. Electronic "chat" and community participation are on the rise. Chat is a fascinating phenomenon. It takes place in imaginary "rooms", where like-minded people congregate.

Typically, people type messages back and forth; usually to correspondent they've never met in person. Numerous people can communicate with each other simultaneously, and there are no long-distance charges the way there would be with a telephone. Compared to a telephone conversation, the technical quality of chat seems low. But it is ranging success despite its limitations because the human drive to connect with other people is so strong.

Chat rooms are filled with all kinds of people who appreciate or need the convenience of socialising from home - easily, safely and without getting dressed up.

People are looking in cyber-space for new avenues of self-expression. Although I don't get spend much time in chat rooms, I know people who do. One is a friend who is passionate about Beanie-Babies-the craze for miniature stuffed animals. She spends an amazing amount of time chatting about them and trading them online.

Chat and other forms of socialisation on the Internet are bound to evolve. I'm intrigued by efforts to create "virtual worlds", imaginary spaces in which participants choose a visual image to represent themselves. Exploration of the potential of virtual words is just beginning. This kinds of experiments are under way, but even without seeing the full results I have no doubt about what the Internet's good for. It's a social medium, like the telephone. Enriched forms of communication - including virtual worlds - will be a large part of what it offers the real world.

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