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Information and Communications Technology

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Communications technologies include the techniques, tools and methods used to facilitate communication. Information technologies include those used to create, record, modify and display the content being communicated. Both were developed as separate technologies and industries until the 1970s when information technologies began to be applied to the telecommunication network. The term information and communications technologies (ICT) was adopted to indicate the convergence of these technologies and industries. ICT being developed and applied today are electronic computer-communications technologies used as part of, or in association with, modern telecommunication networks, although it is recognized that in a larger, historical sense, they would include language, gestures, dress, codes of behaviour and religious rituals, as well as artistic and cultural traditions. (See also Communications.)

It has long been recognized that advanced communications technologies can provide enormous economic, political and military advantages. Information is power. Communications technologies have had an important influence on the distribution of power within societies, as well as the rise and fall of empires, as the studies of Canadian scholar Harold Innis have shown. A major portion of research and development in information and communications technologies (ICT) has been, and continues to be, financed by the military budgets of the major powers.

Today, for Canada and other technologically advanced nations, ICT is a cornerstone of industrial and political strategies seeking to promote the domestic economy and unify the country, and to obtain advantage in a competitive global political economy. As a leading country in the development and application of ICT, Canada is well-positioned to benefit from the revolution in ICT now underway.

Adjectives ending in '-ed' and '-ing'

Do you know the difference between bored and boring? Test what you know with interactive exercises and read the explanation to help you.

Look at these examples to see how adjectives ending in -ed and -ing are used.

- I was really bored in that presentation.
- That was a really boring presentation.

Grammar explanation

Adjectives that end in -ed (e.g. bored, interested) and adjectives that end in -ing (e.g. boring, interesting) are often confused.

-ed adjectives

Adjectives that end in -ed generally describe emotions – they tell us how people feel.

- I was so bored in that lesson, I almost fell asleep.
- He was surprised to see Helen after all those years.
- She was really tired and went to bed early.

-ing adjectives

Adjectives that end in -ing generally describe the thing that causes the emotion – a boring lesson makes you feel bored.

- Have you seen that film? It's really frightening.
- I could listen to her for hours. She's so interesting.
- I can't sleep! That noise is really annoying!

Here are some adjectives that can have both an -ed and an -ing form.

annoyed	annoying
bored	boring
confused	confusing
disappointed	disappointing
excited	exciting
frightened	frightening
interested	interesting
surprised	surprising
tired	tiring
worried	worrying