

Extra exam practice 1

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

STOPPING THE SPAM

I You open an e-mail with “HI FRIEND” written in the subject line. Instead of a friendly message, you receive information about camera prices! These annoying e-mails are known as spam, or unwanted commercial e-mail. Spam is an aggressive means of advertising. It is also the most deceptive way to advertise because you are tricked into reading ads.

II The first spam e-mail was sent in 1978. But it wasn’t called spam then. In those days, the word only meant “canned meat”! Many believe that the name acquired a new meaning – namely, something that is repeated to the annoyance of others – as a result of a humorous TV scene. In it, a group of Vikings sing endlessly about “wonderful spam”. However, it wasn’t until 1994 that the name really became popular after two lawyers sent a mass posting to advertise their services.

III Spamming companies send spam messages to billions of unsuspecting computer users daily. But how do they track down e-mail addresses? They use several methods. First, e-mail addresses are easily elicited from online newsgroups and chatrooms. Second, spammers create search engines called “spambots” to check websites, searching for the “@” sign used in e-mail addresses. Furthermore, they use special software to detect genuine addresses in large service providers that host e-mail, such as Hotmail. This method is known as a “dictionary attack”.

IV Can spam be stopped? Spam filtering software identifies keywords in the subject line of e-mail messages and deletes the messages. However, filters sometimes block authentic e-mails because the subject line contains “suspicious” keywords. Another way to block spam is by detecting the IP address of the computer from which the spam is being sent. Unfortunately, spammers change their IP addresses frequently to avoid detection. Moreover, they sometimes send viruses to personal computers. Once computers contract the virus, they become “zombie machines” because spam e-mails are sent through them.

V Looks like we’re stuck with spam!

1. Decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F). Find evidence in the text to justify your answers.

- 1. We don’t always know that the e-mail we are opening is a spam message.
.....
.....
- 2. Two lawyers sent the first unwanted commercial e-mail in 1978.
.....
.....
- 3. Spammers have developed one way to elicit real e-mail addresses.
.....
.....
- 4. We haven’t succeeded in stopping spam completely.
.....
.....

2. Answer the question according to the information in the text.

Why should you be careful about putting your e-mail address on a website?
.....
.....

3. Rewrite the following sentences without changing the original meaning.

- 1. The first spam e-mail was sent in 1978. It wasn’t called spam.
The first spam e-mail, which
- 2. Moreover, they sometimes send viruses to personal computers.
Moreover, viruses
- 3. Once computers contract the virus, they become “zombie machines”.
If your computer

4. Find words in the text that mean the opposite of:

- 1. truthful, direct (paragraph I)
- 2. pleasure (paragraph II)
- 3. not authentic (paragraph III)
- 4. permit (paragraph IV)

5. Write a composition of about 100-150 words. Choose one option.

- 1. There should be more laws to prevent people from sending spam e-mails. Do you agree or disagree?
- 2. In your opinion, what are the benefits of using the Internet and e-mail?

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1.
 1. T – “Instead of a friendly message, you receive information about camera prices!”
 2. F – “The first spam e-mail was sent in 1978. However, it wasn’t until 1994 that ... two lawyers sent a mass posting to advertise their services.”
 3. F – “They use several methods.”
 4. T – “Looks like we’re stuck with spam!”
2. Spammers can easily track down our e-mail addresses in websites by using “spambots” and other methods.
3.
 1. was sent in 1978, wasn’t called spam
 2. are sometimes sent to personal computers
 3. contracts the virus, it will become a “zombie machine”
4.
 1. deceptive
 2. annoyance
 3. genuine
 4. block
5. Accept all logical and grammatically correct answers.