

## Why Use a Computer?



Hi, I'm Kate. I'm here to tell you a few stories about people who've just started to use computers, and how it's changing their lives. These are people who, maybe like you, haven't felt that using computers and the Internet made sense for them.

Use your mouse to click on the green Continue button.



Tanya  
"I didn't think I was smart enough"



Anita  
"I thought I was too old to learn something new"



Jack  
"I didn't think I could afford it"



Della  
"I didn't think it was safe"



After taking computer classes at the library, Anita can now send messages **and share photos with her family using the Internet.** She's also been able to rekindle relationships with friends who live far away.



Now that Tanya has taken computer classes, she can help Terrell with school work, and follow his progress on the school's website.

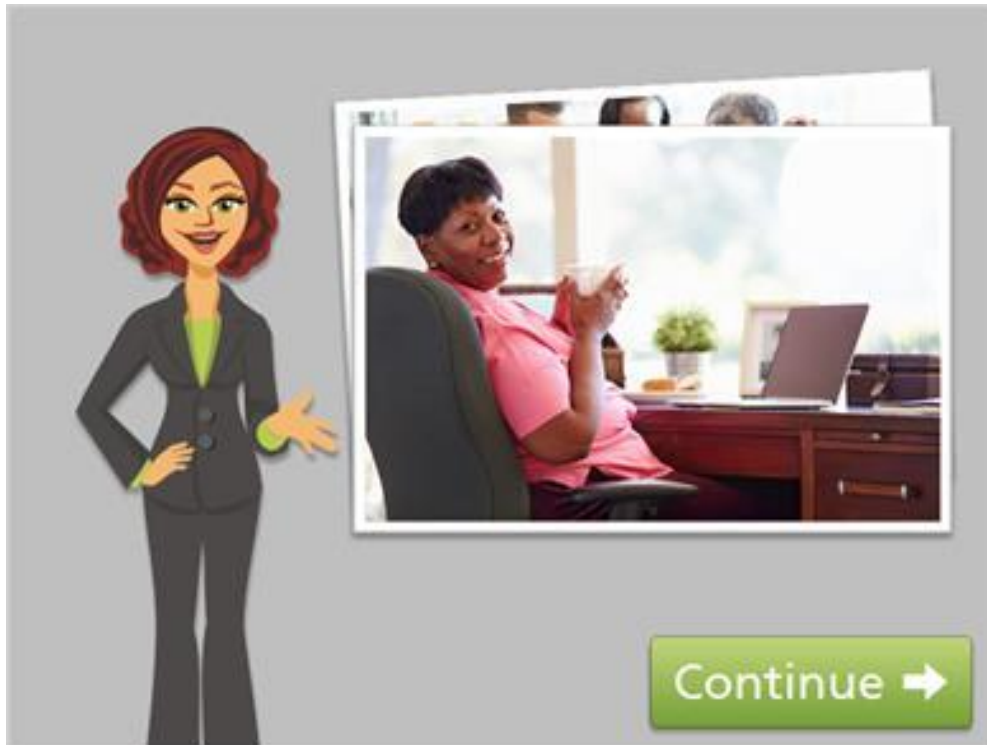


She's now a role model for her son and is more involved his learning . And Terrell's grades are going up!



Family is very important to Anita, but her daughter and grandchildren **moved out of the state. Anita still sees her family once a month, but it's** harder to stay in touch.

Anita had friends who use the computer for keeping in touch, but she felt **like it's hard for older people to learn new things. Technology seems so** complicated! But if her friends could learn, couldn't she?

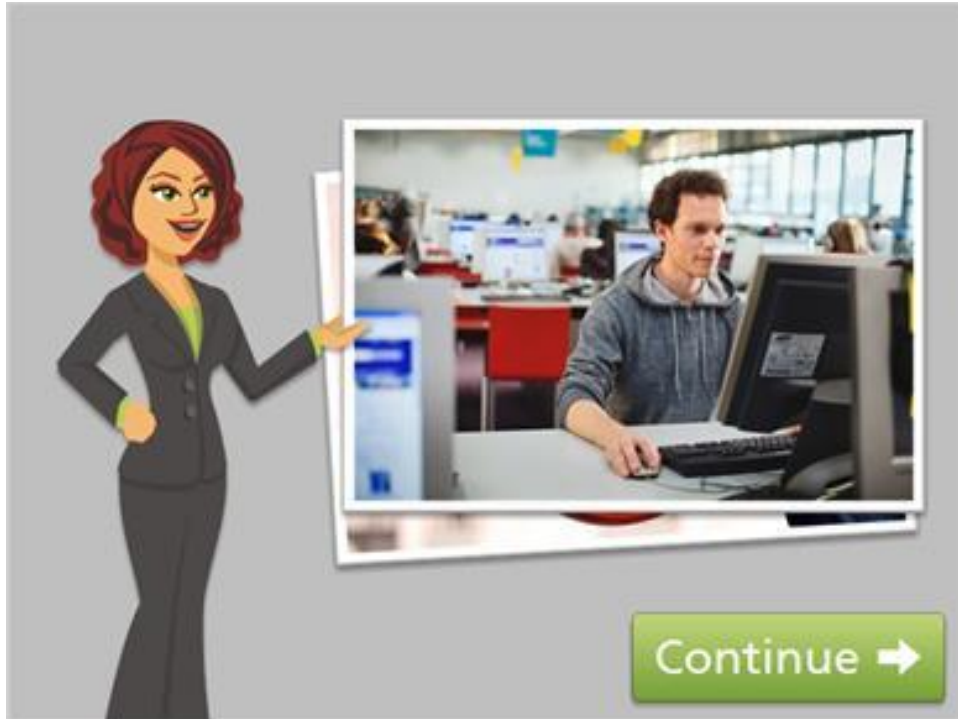


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Jack never had to use a computer in his line of work, and he always thought they were too expensive to bother using at home. But then Jack **needed to find a new job. He wasn't sure where to begin, especially** because these days you need to apply for most jobs online.





Jack heard from a friend that the library has computers and offers free classes. Using these free community resources, Jack was able to create a resume and apply for jobs online. No need for a computer or Internet at home! And now Jack has some more skills to bring to a new job position.



Della needed to renew her driver's license. But her job wouldn't allow her to take leave during the day. "Just do it online" her friends told her. But Della was afraid. Could she safely share her driver's license information, and payment information, when she wasn't there in person at the DMV?



Della's friend told her she could get help at the library after work. A library staff person showed Della the DMV website, and explained the process for renewing her license online. The staff person taught Della how to tell if a website is secure, **so she could rest assured there wouldn't be a problem** with the security of her personal information.



Not only was Della able to renew her driver's license, but she also learned enough about safety online that she's confident taking care of other personal business using the computer. What a relief to be able to complete essential tasks, without creating a problem at work!



What did you think of these stories? They were all different, but in each, someone felt that computers were not for them. Then they were challenged **with a need for computers they didn't expect. In all four stories, when they** faced that challenge, their lives were improved as a result.



The fact is, more and more of what we need to do to engage in the world is taking place **online**. **If you aren't online, it's more difficult to access** resources and services, and to stay in touch with the things that matter.

How about you? Have you noticed how much is online, and that you need to use a computer to access it?