



## SECOND LIFE

Ever thought that you'd like another life? Is real life - well - sometimes too real? Perhaps you'd be better off with a second life. Well one of the biggest phenomena sweeping the internet is something called exactly that - Second Life.

**Virtual** worlds are still a little known part of the internet. In them, real humans are shown as digital versions of themselves known as **avatars**. They build homes and businesses, buy and sell land and have relationships - all through the medium of the computer.

Second Life is the biggest and best-known virtual world **but for all the hype**, generally no more than one-million people log on in any given month. But in an interview with the BBC, Second Life founder Philip Rosedale has predicted that as technology improves, that will change: "Our challenge is **to scale** this from nine-million people registered and a couple of hundred thousand people a day using it to hundreds of millions of people routinely using it, which I think **it can and will reach**."

Speaking by his avatar, Philip Rosedale compared the current state of virtual worlds to the stage the internet was at in the early nineties. Real world businesses are currently expanding into virtual worlds not only as marketing tools but as **recruiting sites**. Multi-national companies, such as IBM and PA Consulting, now regularly hold client meetings there.

But the technology behind virtual worlds is still **a long way off being ready** for **mass use**. Currently no more than fifty avatars can gather in one place without **freezing the computer programme**, and performing basic functions, such as changing your appearance, requires **technical expertise** well beyond the ability of most everyday PC users.

### 1. Choose the best option. (1 mark)

1.a. Living in a fantasy world, like Second Life, is the most common way that people use their computers today.

**1.b.** In these fantasy worlds, people do many of the same tasks and or activities as they do in their real lives.

**1.c.** Every month millions of people are active in Second Life.

**1.d.** Philip Rosedale isn't sure that he can significantly increase the number of users of Second Life.

**2.a.** Second Life isn't useful for companies to advertise their goods and to find new staff.

**2.b.** If more than 50 avatars are in one area of Second Life, people's computers stop working.

**2.c.** According to Philip Rosedale this new virtual life has already reached its top.

**2.d.** We only find bussinesses in Second Life.

**2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions. (1 mark)**

1. virtual .....	A. before it can be used, a lot of things have to be done to it.
2. avatars .....	B. despite there being a lot of advertising to attract everyone's interest
3. but for all the hype .....	C. the computer application stops working
4. to scale .....	D. it's possible and it will happen
5. it can and will reach .....	E. not real, fantasy
6. recruiting sites .....	F. the majority of people can use something
7. a long way off being ready .....	G. websites which offer job opportunities
8. mass use .....	H. computer representations of people
9. freezing the computer programme .....	I. to increase
10. technical expertise .....	J. knowing a lot about machines

**3. Answer the following sentences about the text using your own words.**

**(3 marks)**

1. According to the text, how would you describe Second Life?

.....

2. What is Philip Rosedale's main aim?

.....

3. What is Second Life useful for?

.....

4. How must technology change to adapt to this new virtual world?

.....

5. In your opinion, do you think internet makes life easier? (25-50 words).

Give reasons for your answers.

.....

.....

**4. Complete with one or more adequate words. (2 marks)**

Second Life is an online \_\_\_\_\_ game, in which "residents" create characters, or avatars of \_\_\_\_\_ and then meet with other residents, \_\_\_\_\_ strange landscapes and even buy and sell services. \_\_\_\_\_ a lot going on in there, and a lot of people are deriving \_\_\_\_\_ of enjoyment from the Second Life.

**5. Complete the following sentences using the correct grammatical structure.**

**(3 marks)**

1. If Second Life hadn't been created.....

2. Philip Rosedale said .....

3. In the businesses world it's believed that .....

.....

4. The more technology develops, .....