# Activity sheet 3.33: Is the net neutral?

*Learning outcome C: The wider implications of digital systems*

*C2: Legal and ethical*

For each of the following scenarios, answer these questions.

1. Is this an example where net neutrality has been broken? Give reasons for your answer.
2. What are the benefits and drawbacks to users (customers) of the situation described in the scenario? Explain your answers.

A UK-based Internet Service Provider (ISP), Peasy Internet, also owns a music streaming service called FastTunes.

## Scenario 1

Some customers of Peasy Internet are also customers of a music streaming service owned by one of FastTunes’ competitors, Lightning Media.

Research has discovered that Peasy Internet users can download music from FastTunes nearly twice as fast as they can from Lightning Media.

* 1. Has net neutrality been broken? Give reasons for your answer.

* 1. Benefits and drawbacks to users of this situation:

## Scenario 2

Research has discovered that customers of Lightning Media are able to download music of a higher quality (higher mp3 bit rate) than customers of FastTunes. This happens to users who   
have Peasy Internet as their ISP as well as to users who don’t.

1. Has net neutrality been broken? Give reasons for your answer.

1. Benefits and drawbacks to users of this situation:

## Scenario 3

Jamal Internet is an ISP based in an African country that has one of the lowest income levels in   
the world.

Jamal Internet has the following pricing structure:

* Customers pay a basic monthly fee, which entitles them to view websites hosted inside the country. There is a maximum monthly data allowance of 500 megabytes (Mb).
* Customers who wish to view websites based abroad must pay an additional fee. This additional fee entitles them to a bigger monthly maximum data allowance.

1. Has net neutrality been broken? Give reasons for your answer.

1. Benefits and drawbacks to users of this situation:

**Take it further**

Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of net neutrality. Assess how you would be affected if ISPs were not bound by the principles of net neutrality.