



English for the Students of Hardware, Software, and IT

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IN THE NAME OF GOD

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Computers

Unit 1



Objectives

In this unit, you will learn about:

- computers and their applications
- the main components of a computer
- computer language
- the history of hardware development
- the history of software development

◆ Computers ¹

Computers and their Uses

You know what **computers** are and what they do for us. But computers have not really been with us for a very long time. Computers started to become **popular** with big companies in the 1960s. They did not become **widespread** at homes and schools until the 1980s.



Today, there is hardly any aspect of life in which computers are not being used. People use computers in many ways. Stores use computers to keep track of products and check you out at the cash register. Banks use computers to **transfer** money all over the world. Computers help teachers keep track of lessons and grades. They help students do research and learn. Computers let you connect to the **Internet**. Scientists use computers to solve research problems. Engineers use computers to make cars, trucks, and airplanes. Architects use computers to **design** houses and other buildings.

Computers are not just **desktops** and **laptops**. Computers are everywhere around your house. There are tiny computers inside microwave ovens, television sets, videocassette recorders (VCRs), or digital videodisc (DVD) players. There are even tiny computers in cars to help them run more efficiently.

¹ Adapted from: Snyder, Timothy Law. "Computer." Microsoft® Student 2008 [DVD]. Redmond, WA: Microsoft Corporation, 2007.

I. Find a synonym for each of the following items in the passage.

1. known:..... 2. being everywhere:..... 3. follow:.....

4. goods:..... 5. score:..... 6. designers:.....

7. small:..... 8. work:..... 9. better:.....

II. Check true or false.

1. Computers have a long history.

True False

2. There was a computer in most houses in the 1970s.

True False

3. Nowadays, computers are used in almost every aspect of life.

True False

4. The Internet is a worldwide network by which so many computers are connected.

True False

5. Computers are all external machines that we can see.

True False

III. Complete the following sentences based on the passage.

1. Computers became popular among then about years later among people.

2. The educational use of computers is when and use them at schools and universities.

3. In architecture, computers are used for buildings and houses.

4. Two major kinds of computers are and

5. VCR stands for and DVD stands for

.....

1. The operating system is the most essential system software.

True False

2. The operating system is involved in getting the input, processing, and giving the output.

True False

3. User interface means the services that bring the computer under control.

True False

III. Complete the following sentences based on the passage.

1. The operating system providesto computer hardware.

2. The four components which will not work without the OS are,
.....,, and

3. The four major functions of the operating system are:
.....,
and.....

4. For better controlling over the computer, the operating system should provide

Management Functions of Operating System

Essential functions that an operating system performs are: *process management functions, memory management functions, information management functions, and device management functions*: What these



functions are, and where they fit in the data processing **cycle**, are explained below.

function is actually carried out by the operating system. It is the operating system, which **invokes** all internal units to perform their **duties** and work out the results. Details of the operating system are described below.

Features of Operating System

The operating system is essential software, the purpose of which is to activate the computer and:

1. *Perform the internal management functions.*
2. *Provide services.*
3. *Provide **user interface**.*

Internal management functions are the functions that have to be essentially performed to make the computer work. Services are **bunch** of commands and utilities that the operating system provides to its users to have better control over the computer. User Interface is the **methodology** that a user uses to interact with the computer.

I. Find a synonym for each of the following items in the passage.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. <i>basic</i> :..... | 2. <i>parts</i> :..... | 3. <i>lack of</i> :..... |
| 4. <i>display</i> :..... | 5. <i>duty</i> :..... | 6. <i>done</i> :..... |
| 7. <i>activates</i> :..... | 8. <i>give</i> :..... | 9. <i>connection</i> :..... |
| 10. <i>set</i> :..... | 11. <i>instructions</i> :..... | 12. <i>communicate</i> :..... |

vacant /veɪkənt/ <i>an empty place</i>
via /ˈviə/ <i>by</i>
video conferencing /ˈvɪdiəʊ ˈkɒnfərənsɪŋ/ <i>giving a lecture via the Internet</i>
WAN /wæn/ <i>Wide Area Network</i>

2. Match the items in column A with the items in column B. There is one extra item in column B.

Column A	Column B
1) backbone ()	a. to start a company, organization, system, etc
2) configuration ()	b. a computer on a network which controls the others
3) destination ()	c. to become a member of a group or club
4) establish ()	d. a situation at a particular time
5) join ()	e. the layout of something
6) medium ()	f. the pattern of computer networks
7) server ()	g. the main part of a structure
8) status ()	h. an electronic device in a network
9) topology ()	i. a substance through which a force travels
10) vacant ()	j. the place that someone or something is going to

k. an empty and available space for someone to use

3. Fill in the blanks with the given words. There is one extra word in each set.

accessible / areas / confined / distributed / enhancement / entry / fiber

1. The Internet services are not available in all rural
2. New generations of the Internet connection are to some areas.
3. A new is created by clicking the mouse when the e-mail is open.
4. In quad-core CPUs, the processing load is evenly.
5. Computers should be made readily to teachers and pupils.
6. Optical is the latest technology in telecommunication.

identification / loose / obsolete / purchased / remove / terminate / via

1. Anyconnection lowers your internet speed.
2. These days, the computer parts can be online.
3. Nowadays, you buy a computer and it's almost
4. The e-mails you send at the receiver's mailbox.
5. "ID" stands for
6. The mouse is connected to a computer a wire or wirelessly.