



# LESSON 4. COMPUTERS

## Why are computers useful?

In a variety of workplaces, for instance, from hospitals to banks, computers are used to maintain records and analyze data, among other tasks. A home computer might be used to store photographs, listen to music, play video games and keep in touch with friends and family via the Internet.

Today, there are a number of different kinds of computers, each suited to specific uses. Laptops, or notebooks, and the smaller netbooks, for instance, are lightweight versions of the more traditional desktop computers, ideal for portable use.





## *Listening 4.1*

### Unjumble the words

1. It's hard had to that one computers believe no a few years ago.
2. I wonder how people lived. There must have paperwork lot been of a.
3. I can't imagine writing everything by hand.
4. wonder I how also everything worked without computers.
5. We need computers today for everything.
6. Hospitals, airports, the police... nothing can work without computers.
7. ten busier sure be times I'm I'd than now if I didn't have a computer.
8. Imagine having to paper an a of and find piece envelope and then walking the to a down street mail letter!
9. I love my computer.
10. It makes in everything convenient so life my.
11. Sure, it freezes and crashes sometimes.
12. Sure I lose some data. But that's not often.
13. the of Most like is computer my time my best friend.



# Role-Playing Activity



**Hooking Up My Computer.** Discuss the **highlighted** words.

**Peter:** Hi Jack. Can you **give me a hand**?

**Jack:** Sure. what's up?

**Peter:** I've just bought a new computer and I'm having some problems **hooking everything up**.

**Jack:**... and I'm a geek. Yeah, I know. I'd be happy to help.

**Peter:** Thanks! I've connected all the **cables** from my monitor, mouse and keyboard, and I've **plugged it in**.

**Jack:** Have you installed the **software** yet?

**Peter:** No, I haven't. Do I need to?

**Jack:** Not always, but it's best to **install drivers** for your keyboard and mouse, as well as your printer.

**Peter:** Will the computer **boot up** without those?

**Jack:** Of course. Boot up the computer and then we can **update the drives**.

**Peter:** OK. What's that thing (points to a **computer component**)

**Jack:** Oh, that's a **memory reader**. You can insert things like SDcards from your camera and mp3 players into it.

**Hooking Up My Computer.** Discuss the **highlighted** words.

**Peter:** That's **handy**.

**Jack:** You've bought a nice system. How big is the hard drive?

**Peter:** I think it's 750 **gigabyte**.

**Jack:** Good... The computer's booted up. Let's install those **drivers**.

**Peter:** Before we do that, can I get **online**?

**Jack:** Do you have a **modem**?

**Peter:** Yes, I do. I think I have a cable modem.

**Jack:** hmmm... yes you do. Is the **Ethernet** cable plugged in?

**Peter:** What's that?

**Jack:** It's the cable that connects your modem to your computer.

**Peter:** Let's **surf** the internet!

**Jack:** Just a moment... first we need to **launch** the browser.

**Peter:** The **browser**?

**Jack:** It's the program that allows you to surf the internet.

**Peter:** oh ... I've got a lot to learn.

**Jack:** Yes, you do. I can see I'm going to be here all day ...

Choose the correct answer to these questions based on the dialogue.

**1. What's Peter having problems with?**

- a. Hooking up his new computer
- b. Unplugging his new computer
- c. Installing his new computer

**2. Why does he ask Jack for help?**

- a. He knows Jack is friendly.
- b. He knows Jack is a geek.
- c. He knows Jack can't say no.

**3. Which piece of hardware does Peter not mention hooking up?**

- a. Mouse
- b. Keyboard
- c. Printer

**4. What does Jack suggest Peter install?**

- a. Drivers for the keyboard, mouse and printer
- b. A new browser
- c. A new hard drive

**5. Which component does Peter not recognize?**

- a. The printer
- b. The memory reader
- c. The cable modem

**6. What does Jack think of the system?**

- a. He thinks it's too small.
- b. He thinks it's nice.
- c. He thinks it's cheap.

**7. Which hardware is required to get online?**

- a. A cable modem and Ethernet cable
- b. A cable modem and printer
- c. A cable modem and SD card

**8. Which software do they need to surf the internet?**

- a. A word processor
- b. A browser
- c. An SD card

**9. What does Jack understand in the end?**

- a. That Peter is an expert as using computers
- b. That he's going to need to stay a long time to help Peter
- c. That he should be done soon



## *Listening 4.2*

Stephen and Janice go shopping for a new computer. Listen to the recording, then answer these true/false questions.

1. Stephen seems to understand more about computers than Janice.
2. Janice would prefer to get a desktop computer because it has more memory.
3. Stephen isn't sure about buying a laptop computer because he thinks it won't be as powerful.
4. Stephen has a headache and that makes it hard for him to choose.
5. They are using money from an uncle to buy the computer.
6. Janice doesn't want to buy a computer with a wide screen.
7. Somebody eventually comes and helps them.

1. What's Stephen's attitude towards buying a new computer?
2. What kind of computer do you think they will buy? Why?
3. What computer do you suggest they buy? Why?





## Fill in the blanks

1. \_\_\_\_ a name or other word that you sometimes need to type in along with a password before you are allowed to use a computer or a website
2. \_\_\_\_ to send a letter, etc., especially from someone's old address to their new address, or to send a letter, email, etc. that you have received to someone else
3. \_\_\_\_ to start something again
4. \_\_\_\_ to take the plug of a piece of electrical equipment out of the place where it is connected to the electricity supply
5. \_\_\_\_ to produce writing or images on paper or other material with a machine
6. \_\_\_\_ a computer program or part of a computer program that can make copies of itself and is intended to prevent the computer from working normally
7. \_\_\_\_ to move text or other information on a computer screen in order to see a different part of it
8. \_\_\_\_ to start using a computer system or program by giving a password
9. \_\_\_\_ to write using a machine, either a computer keyboard or a typewriter
10. \_\_\_\_ the instructions that control what a computer does; computer programs
11. \_\_\_\_ a flat surface in a cinema, on a television, or as part of a computer, on which pictures or words are shown
12. \_\_\_\_ information stored on a computer as one unit with one name
13. \_\_\_\_ to look at information on the internet



# Vocabulary Activity

Discuss these words

Internet Explorer	malfunction	Browse
pop up	crash	CD/DVD
modem	Windows	unplug
Hard ware	update	save
anti-virus	install	Apple
program	connect	data
tech-support	paste	CPU

## RELATIVE CLAUSE

### How Are Clauses Used in Sentences?

We use relative clauses to give additional information about something without starting another sentence. By combining sentences with a relative clause, your text becomes more fluent and you can avoid repeating certain words.

### How to Form Relative Clauses

Imagine, a girl is talking to Tom. You want to know who she is and ask a friend whether he knows her. You could say:

**A girl is talking to Tom. Do you know the girl?**

That sounds rather complicated, doesn't it? It would be easier with a relative clause: you put both pieces of information into one sentence. Start with the most important thing – you want to know who the girl is.

**Do you know the girl ...**

As your friend cannot know which girl you are talking about, you need to put in the additional information – the girl is talking to Tom. Use „the girl“ only in the first part of the sentence, in the second part replace it with the relative pronoun (for people, use the relative pronoun „who“). So the final sentence is:

**Do you know the girl who is talking to Tom?**

relative pronoun	use	example
who	subject or object pronoun for people	I told you about the woman <i>who</i> lives next door.
which	subject or object pronoun for animals and things	Do you see the cat <i>which</i> is lying on the roof?
which	referring to a whole sentence	He couldn't read <i>which</i> surprised me.
whose	possession for people animals and things	Do you know the boy <i>whose</i> mother is a nurse?
whom	object pronoun for people, especially in non-defining relative clauses (in defining relative clauses we colloquially prefer <i>who</i> )	I was invited by the professor <i>whom</i> I met at the conference.
that	subject or object pronoun for people, animals and things in defining relative clauses ( <i>who</i> or <i>which</i> are also possible)	I don't like the table <i>that</i> stands in the kitchen.

## Choose the correct relative pronoun (who, which, whose).

1. This is the bank \_\_\_\_\_ was robbed yesterday.
2. A boy \_\_\_\_\_ sister is in my class was in the bank at that time.
3. The man \_\_\_\_\_ robbed the bank had two pistols.
4. He wore a mask \_\_\_\_\_ made him look like Mickey Mouse.
5. He came with a friend \_\_\_\_\_ waited outside in the car.
6. The woman \_\_\_\_\_ gave him the money was young.
7. The bag \_\_\_\_\_ contained the money was yellow.
8. The people \_\_\_\_\_ were in the bank were very frightened.
9. A man \_\_\_\_\_ mobile was ringing did not know what to do.
10. A woman \_\_\_\_\_ daughter was crying tried to calm her.
11. The car \_\_\_\_\_ the bank robbers escaped in was orange.
12. The robber \_\_\_\_\_ mask was obviously too big didn't drive.
13. The man \_\_\_\_\_ drove the car was nervous.
14. He didn't wait at the traffic lights \_\_\_\_\_ were red.
15. A police officer \_\_\_\_\_ car was parked at the next corner stopped and arrested them.

## Decide whether the relative pronouns must be used or not.

1. The book **which** is on the table belongs to Brandon.  
relative pronoun is necessary    relative pronoun is not necessary
2. The museum **which** we visited last month is closed now.  
relative pronoun is necessary    relative pronoun is not necessary
3. The man **who** you saw in the house is my cousin.    relative pronoun is necessary  
relative pronoun is not necessary
4. Bob, **who** I know very well, is going out with Mary.  
relative pronoun is necessary    relative pronoun is not necessary
5. I cannot forget the song **which** they played last night.  
relative pronoun is necessary  
relative pronoun is not necessary
6. The woman **who** is talking to Sue is my aunt.  
relative pronoun is necessary  
relative pronoun is not necessary
7. I cannot remember the hotel **that** we stayed at.    relative pronoun is necessary  
relative pronoun is not necessary
8. Lucy, **who** I haven't seen for ages, rang me last night.  
relative pronoun is necessary    relative pronoun is not necessary
9. A person **that** you don't trust won't trust you either.  
relative pronoun is necessary    relative pronoun is not necessary
10. My father, **whom** I helped to install his computer, always forgets his password.    relative pronoun is necessary  
relative pronoun is not necessary

## Discussion

### Some advantages of technology

- to keep in touch with friends and family
- to make education accessible to countryside students
- to lack social skills
- to face health problems

## Complete the sentences and discuss.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is an important new discovery in technology
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is a public place where you can access the internet
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is powerful computers with top high quality components
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is somebody who has an interest in technology
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is an expert computer user
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is to make a copy of files in case of computer problems
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is to mark a webpage for future purpose



For each space, write in the correct form of the verbs you see in brackets.

Children are \_\_\_\_\_ *(use)* and owning consumer electronics from a younger age than ever before, according to USmarket researcher NPD. Its research \_\_\_\_\_ *(show)* the average age at which children begin \_\_\_\_\_ *(use)* computers, games and other electronic gadgets has \_\_\_\_\_ *(decline)* from 8.1 years in 2005 to 6.7 years in 2007. The NPD report, “Kids and Consumer Electronics Trends III”, \_\_\_\_\_ *(say)* the youngest consumers are also \_\_\_\_\_ *(get)* choosy about what they \_\_\_\_\_ *(buy)*. More and more young children now own a DVD player, portable video game, digital camera or cell phone. NPD’s Anita Frazier said: “Kids are drawn to the latest and greatest digital devices just as their parents are.” She \_\_\_\_\_ *(add)*: “They appear to have no fear of technology and \_\_\_\_\_ *(adopt)* it easily and without fanfare, \_\_\_\_\_ *(make)* these devices a part of their everyday lives.”

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of electronic gadgets to kids.



1. Do you own a computer? What do you use it for?
2. Are you good at using computers?
3. What software do you use most often?
4. Who taught you how to use a computer?
5. Does everyone in your family know how to use a computer?
6. What Internet sites do you visit regularly?
7. What do you think is the best computer brand? Why?
8. What computer do you usually experience?
9. Think about smart phones, like the iPhone. Do you consider them computers? Why or why not?
10. Computers are starting to be built into new houses and apartments. Would you like a computer to control your house for you?
11. Do you think the invention and rise of computers has been a good thing or a bad thing? Why?
12. Do you think people rely too much on computers?
13. Do you think computers will ever be able to think for themselves or have “real” intelligence?
14. What is the downside of using computers?

**The End**