

# 8 The world of IT

**READING SKILLS** Rephrasing and explaining • Avoiding repetition (2)

**WRITING SKILLS** Linking ideas (3) • Coherent writing • Writing from notes

**VOCABULARY** Abbreviations (1) and (2)

**RESEARCH** Acknowledgements

## READING Computers

- 1 Discuss with a partner how often you use a computer to:
  - download music/games/films
  - do research
  - send an email
  - shop on line
  - write an essay
- 2 Read the description of a computer. Label the diagrams using the words in the box.

CPU CD/DVD burner USB port VDU (monitor)  
mouse keyboard scanner printer webcam  
memory key speakers

**A computer** is made up of several main parts. Obviously, the most important is the CPU, or central processing unit. This is the part that houses the computer memory and processing chips, in other words, the computer's brain. Most CPUs now have a CD and/or DVD burner, that is, a device for recording onto a CD or DVD, already built into the unit. They also have USB ports, that is to say, sockets where you plug in other devices, e.g. your scanner or memory key. Most CPUs have software, i.e. computer programs, already loaded when you buy the computer, but many people like to add other programs to personalize their computer. Other necessary parts of any computer system are the monitor or screen, the mouse, and the keyboard.

- 3 **Read Study Skill** Underline seven ways of rephrasing, explaining, and giving examples in the description in exercise 2.

### STUDY SKILL Rephrasing and explaining

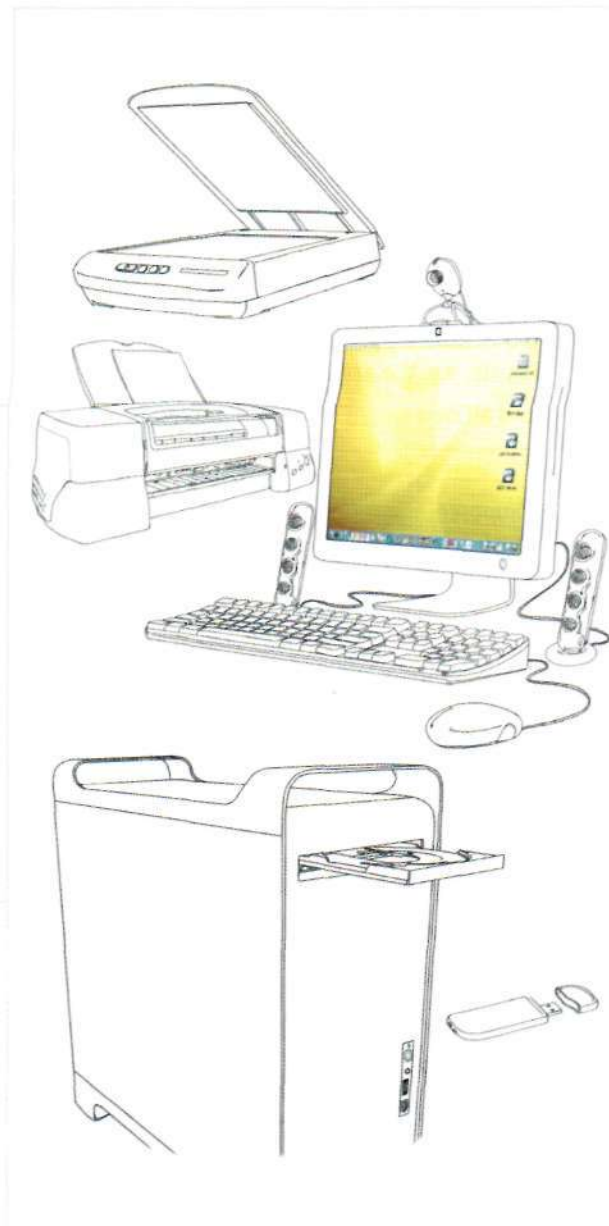
In technological or scientific texts, some words are often rephrased or explained:

... a CD burner, **that is,** a device for recording onto CD.  
**i.e.**

... hardware, **in other words,** the machinery of a computer.  
**or**

Sometimes an example is given instead. Look out for:

... software **e.g.** anti-virus programs, ...  
**for example**  
**for instance**



# Computers under attack

Every time you turn on your computer and connect to the Internet, there is a possibility of attack! **It** could come via an email from a friend, a software program or music you download, or even from a CD-ROM you are using.

The most common source of danger is a 'virus', that is, a program that hides itself in documents or software, and then attacks your computer. Sometimes, **these** are not too serious. They can even be funny, but sometimes they are so serious that they crash the computer, in other words, they stop the computer working. Consequently, some companies and even government departments have had to close while **they** try to find and destroy a virus. **This** can cost millions of dollars.

One type of virus, known as a 'Trojan Horse', is designed to get your credit card details or bank passwords. Once **it** has this information, **it** is sent to organizations that steal your money from your bank or use your credit card to buy things.

Another danger is 'spyware'. Like the Trojan Horse, it hides inside your computer so that you don't know **it** is there. It might not do any damage, but it collects information about you, for example, what you buy online or what music you download. It then sends this to commercial companies.

A more common, but less dangerous, problem is 'spam', or unwanted advertising. When **it** first appeared, nobody worried about it, but now it is out of control: more than 50% of all email messages in the world are junk mail, or spam. Unfortunately, some people are now using spam to trick people and to get money from them. **This** is called 'phishing'. The simplest phishing trick is to send an email promising that you will get rich. However, to get this money, you must first send your bank details. Of course, they take the money from your bank and you certainly don't get rich!

Therefore, next time you're online, make sure your anti-virus program is up-to-date and never give anyone your bank details!

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4 Read the article *Computers Under Attack*. Match terms 1–5 with definitions a–e.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> phishing     | a a hidden program that can destroy data  |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> spam         | b a program that can be designed to steal personal information from your computer               |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> spyware      | c advertising emails  |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Trojan horse | d a program that steals money by tricking people into giving away personal information          |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> virus        | e a program that is hidden and can be used to get information about users' online buying habits |

5 What do the pronouns refer to? Look back at the article. Complete the table. **Read Study Skill**

pronoun	refers to
it (line 1)	possibility of an attack
these (line 5)	_____
they (line 8)	_____
This (line 8)	_____
it (line 10)	_____
it (line 10)	_____
it (line 13)	_____
it (line 15)	_____
This (line 18)	_____

## STUDY SKILL Avoiding repetition (2)

Pronouns are used instead of repeating the same words. Understanding what pronouns refer to helps you understand a text.

- *it* replaces a singular noun or noun phrase, e.g.  
*I bought a new computer. ~~The new computer~~ **It** was expensive.*
- *they* replaces a plural noun or noun phrase, e.g.  
*I bought some new computer games. ~~The new computer games~~ **They** are great fun.*
- *this* summarizes previous information and adds new information, e.g.  
*You should install an anti-virus program. ~~Installing an antivirus program~~ **This** will protect your computer.*

Using pronouns also makes a text more cohesive, or connected.

## WRITING IT – benefits and drawbacks

- 1 Read the paragraph *The Benefits of Wireless Technology* slowly and carefully. Use the information to complete the notes.

### The benefits of wireless technology

A breakthrough in computer design could lead to computer technology being available in the poorest parts of the world. An IT company has developed a laptop computer that will only cost \$100. It has all the functions of an ordinary computer including WiFi and 1GB of storage. Since the price will be low, the designers hope that the laptop will be available to children in poorer parts of the world. The computer is powered by turning a handle and, as a result, it does not need an electricity supply or batteries. This should make it even more attractive to schools in the developing world.

#### Wind-up \_\_\_\_\_

IT company → \_\_\_\_\_ \$100

Low price ∴ good for children in \_\_\_\_\_ countries

All functions e.g. WiFi / 1GB storage

Powered \_\_\_\_\_ ∴ no electricity \_\_\_\_\_ required



- 2 Write simple sentences using the completed notes from exercise 1. Do not look back at the paragraph.

*An IT company has produced a laptop for just \$100.*

- 3 **Read Study Skill** Link the sentences using the words and phrases in brackets.

- Many people do not back up their computer files. They lose a lot of data. (so)
- Many users don't empty their mailboxes. They may have problems downloading their mail. (As a result)
- There is a serious threat from viruses. Many people install an anti-virus program. (because)
- Many employees do not know how to use basic programs effectively. Many companies offer IT training. (Consequently)
- People use copies of programs. Manufacturers put in secret codes to detect copies. (since)

- 4 Link your sentences from exercise 2 using words and phrases from the Study Skill box.

### STUDY SKILL Linking ideas (3)

To connect ideas that show the cause and result, use linking words and phrases.

- For **cause**, use *because, as, since*:  
*People in some parts of the world cannot afford computers **since/as/because** they are too expensive.*
- For **result**, use *as a result, consequently, therefore, so*:  
*He didn't have an antivirus program, and **as a result**, a virus attacked his computer.*  
*Computer scientists have tried hard to stop spam. **Consequently**, the senders of spam have become more sophisticated.*  
*TV in the UK will be digital in 2012. **Therefore**, everyone will have to buy a digital receiver.*  
*Batteries are too expensive, **so** the computer is powered by solar energy.*

## Writing from notes

- 5 **Read Study Skill** Use the notes to write a paragraph about computer crime.

*The number of computers and computer networks has grown enormously over the past few years. Consequently, ...*

### Computer Crime

- Number computer networks ↑ ∴ opportunity for crime ↑
- Number people buying online ↑ = ↑ criminals steal (e.g. credit cards)
- IT experts make networks secure ∴ criminal gangs hire own experts
- ∴ need ↑ online security + better systems to protect users

### STUDY SKILL Coherent writing

To write up your notes in a natural and coherent style:

- make good notes (see Study Skill page 34)
- write simple sentences, and join them using linking words and phrases (see Study Skill pages 13, 24, and 48)
- use synonyms and pronouns to avoid repetition (see Study Skill pages 26, and 47)