



Unit 2. Computer essentials

1. Computer hardware

A. *Discuss these questions.*

1. Have you got a computer at home or work? What kind is it?
2. How often do you use it? What do you use it for?
3. What are the main components and features of your computer system?

1. Computer hardware

B. Label the elements of this computer system.



1. Computer hardware

C. Read these advertising slogans and say which computer elements each pair refers to.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| A. Point and click here for power | A. Displays your ideas with perfect brilliance | A. It's quiet and fast | A. Power and speed on the inside | A. ... a big impact on the production of text and graphics |
| B. Obeys every impulse as if it were an extension of your hand | B. See the difference – sharp images and a fantastic range of colors | B. ... it's easy to back up your data before it's too late | B. Let your computer's brain do the work | B. Just what you need: a laser powerhouse |

1. Computer hardware

D. Find words in the slogans with the following meanings.

1. to press the mouse button _____
2. clear; easy to see _____
3. to make an extra copy of something _____
4. selection _____
5. shows _____

2. What is a computer?

A. Read the text and then explain Fig. 1 in your own words.

What is a computer?

A computer is an electronic machine which can accept data in a certain form, process the data, and give the results of the processing in a specified format as information.

First, data is fed into the computer's memory. Then, when the program is run, the computer performs a set of instructions and processes the data. Finally, we can see the results (the output) on the screen or in printed form (see Fig. 1 below).

2. What is a computer?

A computer system consists of two parts: hardware and software. **Hardware** is any electronic or mechanical part you can see or touch. **Software** is a set of instructions, called a program, which tells the computer what to do. There are three basic hardware sections: the **central processing unit (CPU)**, **main memory** and **peripherals**.

Perhaps the most influential component is the central processing unit. Its function is to execute program instructions and coordinate the activities of all the other units. In a way, it is the “brain” of the computer. The main memory (a collection of RAM chips) holds the instructions and data which are being processed by the CPU. Peripherals are the physical units attached to the computer. They include storage devices and input/output devices.

2. What is a computer?

Storage devices (hard drives, DVD drives or flash drives) provide a permanent storage of both data and programs. **Disk drives** are used to read and write data on disks. **Input devices** enable data to go into the computer's memory. The most common input device are the **mouse** and the **keyboard**. **Output devices** enable us to extract the finished product from the system. For example, the computer shows the output on the **monitor** or prints the results onto paper by means of a **printer**.

On the rear panel of the computer there are several **ports** into which we can plug a wide range of peripherals – a modem, a digital camera, a scanner, etc. They allow communication between the computer and the devices. Modern desktop PCs have USB ports and memory card readers on the front panel.



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