

Computer Users



Figure 1: Computer User

STARTER

**A. Work in groups.
Share information on
how you use computers in
your free time. Compare
answers with other groups
and make a list of uses for
your class.**

Let's read

B. Read the text and understand the vocabulary contextually then fill the meanings of vocabularies in the box.

Computers Make the World Smaller and Smarter

The ability of tiny computing devices to control complex operations has transformed the way many tasks are performed, ranging from scientific research to producing consumer products. Tiny 'computers on a chip' are used in medical equipment, home appliances, cars and toys. Workers use handheld computing devices to collect data at a customer site, to generate forms, to control inventory, and to serve as desktop organizers.

Not only is computing equipment getting smaller, it is getting more sophisticated. Computers are part of many machines and devices that once required continual human supervision and control. Today, computers in security systems result in safer environments, computers in cars improve energy efficiency, and computers in phones provide features such as call forwarding, call monitoring, and call answering.

These smart machines are designed to take over some of the basic tasks previously performed by people; by so doing, they make life a little easier and a little more pleasant. Smart cards store vital information such as health records, drivers' licenses, bank balances, and so on. Smart phones, cars, and appliances with built in computers can be programmed to better meet individual needs. A smart house has a built-in monitoring system that can turn lights on and off, open and close windows, operate the oven, and more.

With small computing devices available for performing smart tasks like cooking dinner, programming the VCR, and controlling the flow of information in an organization, people are able to spend more time doing what they often do best-being creative. Computers can help people work more creatively.

GLOSSARY			
Ability	:	Provide	:
Tiny	:	Take over	:
Transform	:	Pleasant	:
Handheld	:	Previously	:
Sophisticated	:	Perform	:

C. Find the answers to these questions from the above text.

1. Name some types of devices that use 'computers on a chip'!
2. What uses of handheld computers are mentioned in the text?
3. What are the benefits of using computers with the following items?
 - a. Security systems
 - b. Cars
 - c. Phones

4. What smart devices are mentioned in the text?
5. What are smart cards used for?

D. Mark the following statements as True (T) or False (F):

- a. Desktop organisers are programs that require desktop computers. []
- b. Computers are sometimes used to monitor systems that previously needed human supervision. []
- c. Networking is a way of allowing otherwise incompatible systems to communicate and share resources. []
- d. The use of computers prevents people from being creative. []
- e. Computer users do not have much influence over the way that computing develops. []

Let's speak

**E. Work in pairs. Find out this information from your partner.
Make sure you use the correct tense in your questions. For
example: download music from the Internet [what site]**

- A. Have you ever downloaded music from the Internet?
- B. What site did you use?

- 1 send a video email attachment [who to, when]
- 2 fit an expansion card [which type]
- 3 replace a hard disk [what model]
- 4 fix a printer fault [what kind]
- 5 make your own website [how]
- 6 have a virus [which virus]
- 7 watched TV on the Internet [which station]
- 8 write a program [which language]

LANGUAGE WORK

Past simple and Present perfect

Study these examples of the Present perfect

1. I've scanned in about a third of these photographs.
2. I've organised the paintings into themes.
3. I've added a sound track.

Why doesn't the speaker use the Past simple?

1. I scanned in about a third of these photographs.
2. I organised the paintings into themes.
3. I added a sound track.

We use the Present perfect to describe past actions with present relevance. The speaker uses the Present perfect because he is describing a CD he has just made and what he is going to do with it in the near future.

Meanwhile, we use the Past simple to describe completed actions in the past. It is often used with time expressions such as last year, before PCs were introduced, in 1998. Note these examples:

1. I made one for Mary's birthday last week.
2. I added sound track a minute ago.
3. We tried it out last term.

F. Put the tenses in this dialogue in the correct form: Past simple or Present perfect.

1. A What (do) today?
2. B I (work) on my project. I (search) the Web for sites on digital cameras.
3. A (find) any good ones?
4. B I (find) several company sites - Sony, Canon, ... but I (want) one which (compare) all the models.
5. A Which search engine (use)?
6. B Dogpile mostly. (ever use) it?
7. A Yes, I (try) it but I (have) more luck with Ask Jeeves. Why don't you try it?
8. B I (have) enough for one night. I (spend) hours on that project.
9. A I (not start) on mine yet.
10. B Yeh? I bet you (do) it all.

Let's write

G. Describe how you use computers in your study and in your free time.

