

# 1

Unit

# Information Technology

- A** Computers
- B** The Internet
- C** Networks
- D** E-mail
- E** Viruses
- F** Gadgets



# A

# Computers

## Warm up

The table lists some prefixes commonly used in computer science. Match the prefixes with the meanings and examples.

Prefix	Meaning	Example
giga-	very large	gigantic, gigabyte, gigahertz
micro-	very small	microfilm, microphones, microwave
deci-	one tenth	decimal, decimalize, decibel

## Pronunciation

Put these plurals in the correct pronunciation column.

passwords      images      taxes      folders      interfaces  
 laptops      fields      expenses      budgets      graphics

[s]	[iz]	[z]

## Conversation



### At a Computer Store - Buying a Computer

- Assistant** Do you need any help with anything? What are you looking for?
- Amanda** Um, yes, I'm looking for a laptop. Do you have any really basic ones that are very portable?
- Assistant** Sure. If you'd like to come over here, I'll show you several different models.
- Amanda** There are so many different computers! I don't even know how to begin.
- Assistant** Well, the first question is always what you want to use your computer for? Is it for doing a lot of work, or for playing games?
- Amanda** Oh, just word processing, saving files, Web surfing... um... I don't do any games or downloading.
- Assistant** Well, all of these laptops are pretty much the same. The only differences are the designs, sizes and of course the prices. For what you're interested in, we've got these two models: The 'My-book' and 'Samin Moon.'
- Amanda** Could you explain that in more detail. I don't know much about electronic gadgets.
- Assistant** Of course, both computers have the same memory space and processor speed, but the 'Samin Moon' is a lot slimmer and lighter.
- Amanda** I think I like the 'My-book' better since it's prettier and it fits into my bag so I can carry around.

## Vocabulary

What do these abbreviations mean?

CD ROM / RAM / USB / GPS / CPU

- \_\_\_\_\_ random access memory: used for temporary information storage and quick access
- \_\_\_\_\_ universal serial bus: a type of connector used for electronic communication
- \_\_\_\_\_ central processing unit: the main chip in a computer
- \_\_\_\_\_ compact disk read-only memory: an optical memory device
- \_\_\_\_\_ global positioning system: uses satellites to inform you of your exact position

### Reading Comprehension



#### About Computers

The non-profit group One Laptop per Child is dedicated to improving the education of the world's poorest children. They believe the best way to do this is to make technology available to everyone on Earth. It is their goal to make sure every child has access to a computer. To reach this goal, they have designed a very cheap and small computer that will be donated to governments around the world. This computer will run on a Fedora-based system designed by Linux and be run by an AMD Geode processor. It will have 1GB of flash memory for storage and 256MB of RAM. It is designed to come complete with a keyboard, camera, microphone and a 19cm display. Additionally it will come with wireless connectivity and have three USB ports and a slot for an SD card. Remarkably this computer will cost only \$200.



## Activity

Study the text above to find this information.

- 1 How much information can this computer store?
- 2 Can this computer connect to the Internet?
- 3 What is the size of the monitor?
- 4 What type of CPU does it use?
- 5 How much memory does the computer have?
- 6 Which operating system does it use?
- 7 Why will this computer be given to children?

# Role-Play Activities



Read and practice the dialogs below. For the second dialog, fill in the blanks with appropriate sentences, then practice with a partner.

## Role-Play 1



- A** I need to upgrade my laptop. I'd like to know how long it will take and how much it will cost.
- B** Let me see your computer... um... I see. This is a pretty old computer. I guess you find it runs too slow?
- A** That's right. I can't work with this laptop because it's too slow. Can you please do something about this?
- B** Well, I can add some more RDRAM to speed it up a little. What do you use this computer for?
- A** I need to make presentations when on business trips. I also like to

watch movies when I travel.

- B** In that case, I'll upgrade your CDROM drive to a DVD player. I'll also make sure to upgrade the AGP so you can use SVGA projectors.
- A** That sounds like a lot of work. Can you also make sure the Internet works?
- B** Sure, I can put in an adapter that will allow you to use both GPRS and Wifi. Don't worry about the cost, this will still be cheaper than a new computer.

## Role-Play 2



**A** How often do you make backup files?

**B** \_\_\_\_\_

**A** How often do you upgrade your computer?

**B** \_\_\_\_\_

**A** When was the last time you had your computer fixed?

**B** \_\_\_\_\_

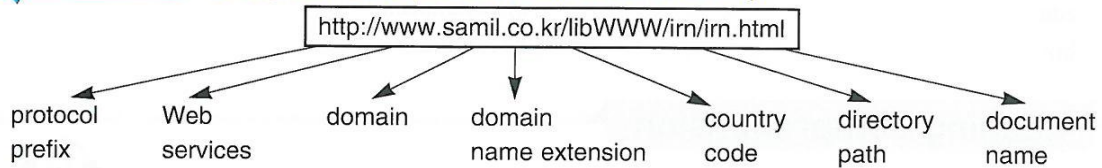
**A** Can you work without a computer?

**B** \_\_\_\_\_

**A** Is it easy to find service for your computer?

## Warm up

Study this URL (Uniform Resource Locator).



## Pronunciation 1-6

Read each word aloud and find out the meaning.

upgrade	imprint	printed	printout
interactive	printing process	pre-press	creative
manipulation	publishing	publisher	newsletter
visually	typeface	professional	image setter

## Conversation 1-7



### How to Make a Good Web Site

**Consultant** I can see your company has massive potential to dominate domestic and international markets. The only problem is that your Web site is not attractive enough.

**Business owner** What we've tried to do is have as much content and information we could on our Web site. What do you suggest we do to improve it?

**Consultant** Well, the most important thing to focus on here is the needs of the customers. A good Web site puts the information out there as clearly and directly as possible.

**Business owner** Are you saying that our Web site is too complex?

**Consultant** Yes, in fact, a lot of Web sites have too much text with too many details. That's hard on people's eyes. We need to redesign your homepage so it is simple and neat, with maybe a photo, and a short paragraph or two describing your business.

**Business owner** How simple do you mean?

**Consultant** Let's keep most of the information on one page. Forcing customers to scroll down a very long page is very inconvenient. Instead, provide a clear menu with a list of all the services and product information that you offer, so people can click easily to find out more.

**Business owner** Is there a good example we can see?

**Consultant** Let me show you an example. As you can see, the homepage for the Carton Hotel has a sharp, clear image, with a clean and simple design. But I think this page is too long, and not all of the information fits on the screen. The next example I'd like to show you is...

## Vocabulary

Match the domain names with their meanings.

- |         |                           |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 1 .gov  | a) education and research |
| 2 .coop | b) business               |
| 3 .edu  | c) government             |
| 4 .biz  | d) cooperatives           |

### Reading Comprehension



#### Tips for Using Search Engines

How do you search for information on the Internet? You probably already have a favorite search engine, like Ask.com, that you use exclusively to search the Web. Nowadays, there are many other options. Many people start browsing with a visit to a Web portal, a Web site that offers news, weather, e-mail and other services. Naver and Yahoo! are two examples of Web portals that have their own search engines embedded in their Web sites. It is also common for Web browsers, the program you use to view the Internet, to have a search bar near the address bar at the top of the screen. Newer versions of Internet Explore come equipped with a Bing search bar. The Firefox browser has a modifiable search bar that can search using almost any engine you like and can even search Web sites like Wikipedia. Some browsers, like Google Chrome, use the same box for displaying URL addresses as they use to run searches. There are also new search engines and new ways to search for information. The Web site TinEye.com lets you search for Web sites based on images that you give it to look for. Other Web sites do similar searches for sound and music. The Internet is full of amazing information, and now you know just how to find it all.



### Activity

What do you think would be the best search terms to use in a search engine to find the following information?

- 1 a timetable for trains crossing the Channel Tunnel from London to Paris
- 2 the weather in Busan next week
- 3 the exchange rate of your currency against the US dollar
- 4 a map of the Tokyo subway in English
- 5 video clips of a tiger fighting a bear
- 6 the rate of stomach cancer for Norwegians under 25 years of age
- 7 Chinese export values as a percentage of GDP for 2008–2011

# Role-Play Activities



Read and practice the dialogs below. For the second dialog, fill in the blanks with appropriate sentences, then practice with a partner.

## Role-Play 1



- A** Hi, Jenny, could you help me with something?
- B** Of course, what is it?
- A** I'm looking for the local market on the Internet, but I can't find their Web site. Do you know what their URL is?
- B** No, not offhand. Usually it is just the name of the store plus '.com' at the end.
- A** I've already tried that. I also tried '.biz' and '.net,' but they didn't work, either.
- B** That's weird. Have you tried looking for it on a search engine? Maybe they have a different name on-line.
- A** Let me try that. Oh, here it is. Their site is harvest.coop. I didn't know Web sites could have endings like that.
- B** Neither did I. The others I knew about were '.gov' and '.edu'. You really do learn something new everyday.

## Role-Play 2



- A** What are the advantages of the Internet?
- B** \_\_\_\_\_
- A** How inconvenient is it if you don't have Internet access?
- B** \_\_\_\_\_
- A** What kind of files do you download from Web sites?
- B** \_\_\_\_\_