

## Professional English in Use ICT 'You and Computers' exercises

### UNIT 2

#### Computer history

Possible answers:

- 1954
  - First production of silicon junction transistors
  - IBM 650 computer (magnetic drum calculator)
- 1960
  - DEC PDP-1, precursor to the minicomputer
  - COBOL programming language (Common Business Oriented Language) was created
- 1970
  - Computer-to-computer communication expanded when the US Department of Defense established four nodes on the ARPANET: the University of California Santa Barbara and UCLA, SRI International, and the University of Utah
- 1971
  - Intel released the first microprocessor (the Intel 4004)
  - An IBM team invented the 8-inch floppy diskette
- 1981
  - Microsoft launched MS-DOS, the basic software for the newly released IBM PC
  - Osborne I, the first portable computer and Apollo DN100, the first workstation, were launched
- 1984
  - IBM released its PC Jr. and PC-AT
  - William Gibson coined the term 'cyberspace' in his novel Neuromancer.
- 1990
  - The World Wide Web was born when Tim Berners-Lee, a researcher at CERN, the high-energy physics laboratory in Geneva, developed HyperText Markup Language

**UNIT 8****Acronyms and Abbreviations**

Answers:

- **ASCII:** American Standard Code for Information Interchange
- **MIPS:** Million Instructions Per Second
- **PCMCIA:** Personal Computer Memory Card International Association
- **USB:** Universal Serial Bus
- **MP3:** MPEG-1 Layer 3 Audio
- **WAP:** Wireless Application Protocol
- **UMTS:** Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (used by 3G mobile phones)

**UNIT 12**

(1) Dear Mr Vázquez,

Thank you for your interest in Mercury industrial robots.

(2) Please find enclosed some descriptive leaflets with the technical details of six robots – Cobra and Hercules models. I would like to draw your attention to the Cobra M2 which is designed for arc welding.

The prices shown in our leaflets are net, but we offer discounts by negotiation. Mercury Warranty provides 2-year coverage.

(3) We would be please to deliver one of our robot systems on approval, for your inspection.

Please do not hesitate to contact us (4) if you require any further information.

I look forward to hearing from you again soon.

(5) Yours sincerely,

*Liz Brown*

Sales Office Manager

**UNIT 16****Create your own Podcast**

Go to [the CNET website](#). Use the navigation bar on the left of the web page to access information and videos. Read the texts watch the videos and complete the following table.

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Definition of podcasts: | <i>Podcasts are recordings distributed across the Internet as downloadable MP3 files.</i>                    |
| Podcasting hardware:    | <i>Personal computer, a headset with a noise-cancelling microphone, and a portable MP3 voice recorder.</i>   |
| File formats:           | <i>MP3<br/>WAV can be used to create a master file.</i>  |
| Podcasting software:    | Podcast recording software:<br><i>Microsoft's Sound Recorder, Audacity, iPodcast Producer / Creator</i>      |
|                         | Podcast feeding software:<br><i>an RSS-feed generator program, e.g. those downloadable at TD Scripts.com</i> |
| Where to publish:       | <i>An FTP server<br/>Free sites, e.g. Ourmedia.org, fee-based sites, e.g. Audioblog.com</i>                  |

## UNIT 17

## Computer languages

| Computer language | Meaning   | Use  |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Fortran / FORTRAN | <u>Formula translator</u>   | <i>Scientific applications that require extensive mathematical computations</i>  |
| COBOL             | <i>COmmon Business Oriented Language</i>                                      | <i>Business applications that run on large computers</i>   |
| Pascal            | Named in honour of the scientist Blaise Pascal                                | <i>Often used to teach programming<br/>Also used in the business world</i>   |
| BASIC             | <i>Beginner's All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code</i>                       | <i>Originally designed to teach programming.<br/>Today also used for a variety of business applications</i>  |
| C++               | Adds object-oriented features to its predecessor, C                           | <i>Very popular for graphics applications in Windows and Macintosh environments</i>  |
| Prolog            | <i>Programming Logic</i>  | <i>Artificial Intelligence applications (e.g. expert systems)<sup>1</sup></i>  |
| Ada               | Named after Augusta Ada Byron; considered to be the world's first programmer. | <i>US military applications.<br/>Often the language of choice for large systems that require real-time processing, e.g. banking and air traffic control systems.</i> |
| LISP              | <i>List Processor</i>   | <i>Artificial Intelligence applications</i>  |

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<sup>1</sup> An expert system is a computer application that performs a task that would otherwise be performed by a human expert. For example, there are expert systems that can diagnose human illnesses or make financial forecasts.

**UNIT 23****How to choose the perfect domain name**

Possible answers:

- Main tips:
  - A good domain name is easy to spell and pronounce.
  - It is easy to remember.
  - It invokes positive associations.
  - It reinforces the site concept.
  - It is short.
  - It is unique.
  - It avoids linguistic traps.
- Answers:
  1. Yes. It's easy to spell and pronounce; it's short.
  2. No. It's hard to pronounce; it doesn't reinforce the site concept.
  3. No. It's long and hard to remember.
  4. Yes. It's easy to remember; it says something about the visitor.
  5. Yes. It invokes positive associations.
  6. Yes. It's short and unique.
  7. No. It is a linguistic trap.

**UNIT 29****Are you a responsible mobile user?**

Possible answers:

1. True.
2. False. Don't talk and drive even with a hands-free mobile; phone conversations can distract you.
3. True.
4. False. Be brief when you are talking to other people, whoever they are. Your friends, colleagues, etc. might not be interested in your conversation.
5. False. If you're not sure if it's the right moment to phone someone, send an SMS instead.
6. True.

**UNIT 31****Your dream home**

Possible answers:

Home control

- The systems that you can control are:
  - lighting
  - appliances
  - heating and cooling
  - security and monitoring systems
  - entertainment (home audio and video)
  - communications (telephones and intercoms)
  - lawn sprinklers
- Types of management networks:
  - power line
  - radio signals (wireless)
  - phone lines
  - structured wiring

**UNIT 32****Emerging technologies**

Suggested answers:

1. Devices that will be designed to determine unused frequencies while establishing communication. They will make the most of existing bands and help solve the problems of jammed communications between wireless devices.
2. A technology that will allow devices that use different radio standards to communicate over a pervasive<sup>2</sup> network to avoid crashes, i.e. two cars will create a pervasive network and avoid crashes.
3. A system that allows users to hop securely from one site to another after signing on just once. Such systems could protect both users' privacy and the online businesses or other institutions that offer Web-based services.

**UNIT 34****More 'wares'**

Suggested answers:

**betaware:** Software that is given to many users for beta testing before its official release.

**bloatware:** Software that uses excessive memory in proportion to the task it performs, perhaps because of having too many unnecessary features.

**firmware:** Software stored in ROM or PROM; essential programs that remain even when the system is turned off. Firmware is easier to change than hardware but more permanent than software stored on disk.

**guiltware:** Freeware or shareware that has a message attached which attempts to make the user feel guilty until making some kind of payment.

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<sup>2</sup> Pervasive computing is the trend towards increasingly ubiquitous (another name for the movement is ubiquitous computing), connected computing devices in the environment, a trend being brought about by a convergence of advanced electronic – and particularly, wireless – technologies and the Internet.

**hookemware:** Free software that gives a limited sample of how a program works, intended to hook the user into buying the full version.

**nagware:** Shareware that displays a screen when the program is opened or closed that reminds the user to register and pay the fee.

**payware:** Software that is sold; commercial software (not freeware or shareware).

**vapourware:** Software that is announced long before it is ready for sale, and that sometimes never materializes.

**wetware:** Human beings, or the human nervous system, as opposed to computer hardware or software.

## UNIT 35

### Combinations with 'card' and 'web'

Possible answers:

|       |               |        |       |           |            |
|-------|---------------|--------|-------|-----------|------------|
| e.g., | graphics      | card   | e.g., | web       | page       |
|       | accelerator   | card   |       | web       | browser    |
|       | card          | reader |       | webcam    |            |
|       | expansion     | card   |       | webcast   |            |
|       | PC            | card   |       | web       | crawler    |
|       | smart         | card   |       | web       | design     |
|       | sound         | card   |       | web       | designer   |
|       | video         | card   |       | web       | hosting    |
|       | video graphic | card   |       | webmaster |            |
|       | wild          | card   |       | web       | publishing |
|       |               |        |       | web       | server     |
|       |               |        |       | web       | site       |
|       |               |        |       | WebTV     |            |

Expressions from other dictionaries: store card, sim card, phone card / phonecard, identity card, credit card, memory card, web address, web portal, web mail, weblog (blog).

**UNIT 36****Word combinations relating to mobile phones**

Answers:

- card
- short
- built-in
- ring
- voice
- wireless

make

calls

send

faxes

press

the button

browse

websites

record

video

download

software

**UNIT 38****Compare before you buy**

Possible answers

PDA's are smaller in size and easier to carry. They weigh less than laptops so they're a better option if you travel a lot and don't want to have a briefcase with you. They fit in a pocket. The batteries in a PDA last longer, which is another advantage for travellers. They are usually cheaper and more versatile. Many PDA's include a mobile phone, an MP3 player, and a planner on top of the basic specs of a computer (web access, email, word processor, spreadsheet, etc.).

On the other hand, laptops have a keyboard which is easier to use. The processor and memory are more powerful so working with a laptop is more efficient and faster. They offer the possibility of working with highly-demanding applications (multimedia, graphics, etc.), while PDA's are mainly used for storage.

This person will probably be happier with a PDA which includes a mobile phone and an Internet connection to send and receive emails.