



Ibn Khaldoun University – Tiaret
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
Department of Computer Science



Module : English

Level : 1LMD

Semester : 1

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UNIT ONE :

Everyday Uses of Computers

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this unit, students should:

1- be better at :

- asking and answering simple questions about computing,
- asking for help when they don't understand,
- reading and scanning a text for general information,

2- be able to :

- understand the difference between countable and uncountable nouns,
- use articles more accurately,

3- know and be able to :

- use these words: *barcode, barcode reader, calculate, computer, computing, control, memory, program, software.*

A- PREREADING :

Task 1 (Warming up):

- Do you have a computer ?
- What kind of computer do you have/use ? ► (I have / I use a ...)
- Do you use a computer everyday ? ► (Yes / Sometimes / No ...)
- What do you use computers for ? ► (I use computers for ...ing)

Task 2 : We use computers in many different places. Which places can you link these computer documents with ?

Document 1 :

Document 2 :

Document 3 :

Document 4 :

Task 3: Make a list of other places where you can find computer documents. The following pictures may help you.

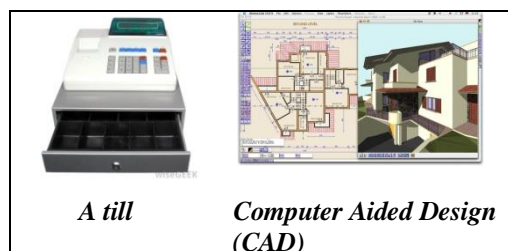


Key: hospital for lab results, cinema/theatre for tickets, garage for engine tests, cheque bank for payment, car bills, supermarkets for bills/receipts/tickets, ...

Task 4: Match these words (1-8) to the correct locations (a-d).

Words		Locations
1- games	_____	
2- machines	_____	
3- tickets	_____	
4- wages	_____	
5- flights	_____	
6- letters	_____	
7- barcode readers	_____	
8- tills	_____	

Words	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Locations								



A till

Computer Aided Design (CAD)

Key :

Words	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Locations	d	a	c	a	c	d	b	b

B- READING

Task 5 : Read the following extracts then identify which place is described in each one.

a- a factory b- a supermarket c- a travel agency d- a home

Extract 1: We use a PC for writing letters, for playing games, to calculate our bills, and to connect with the Internet.
Extract 2: We've got electronic checkout tills with barcode readers. They read a special barcode on almost everything we sell. They calculate the bill for the customer. At the same time they send information to a larger computer, so we always know exactly what we've got in the store.
Extract 3: We make washing machines and refrigerators. The machines we use to make them are controlled by computers. We also use computers to calculate our wages, to keep the accounts, and to look after all materials and parts.
Extract 4: Our terminal links to airline offices. If you want to fly anywhere in the world, we can tell you at once if there's a seat on the flight you want. We can supply you with the tickets and we can reserve your hotel— all by computer.

Key :

Extract	1	2	3	4
place	d	b	a	c

Extract 1: We use a PC for writing letters, for playing games, to calculate our bills, and to connect with the Internet. ► <i>d- a home</i>
Extract 2: We've got electronic checkout tills with barcode readers. They read a special barcode on almost everything we sell. They calculate the bill for the customer. At the same time they send information to a larger computer, so we always know exactly what we've got in the store. ► <i>b- a supermarket</i>
Extract 3: We make washing machines and refrigerators. The machines we use to make them are controlled by computers. We also use computers to calculate our wages, to keep the accounts, and to look after all materials and parts. ► <i>a- a factory</i>
Extract 4: Our terminal links to airline offices. If you want to fly anywhere in the world, we can tell you at once if there's a seat on the flight you want. We can supply you with the tickets and we can reserve your hotel— all by computer. ► <i>c- a travel</i>

Task 6: Tick (✓) the computer uses mentioned in the following article.

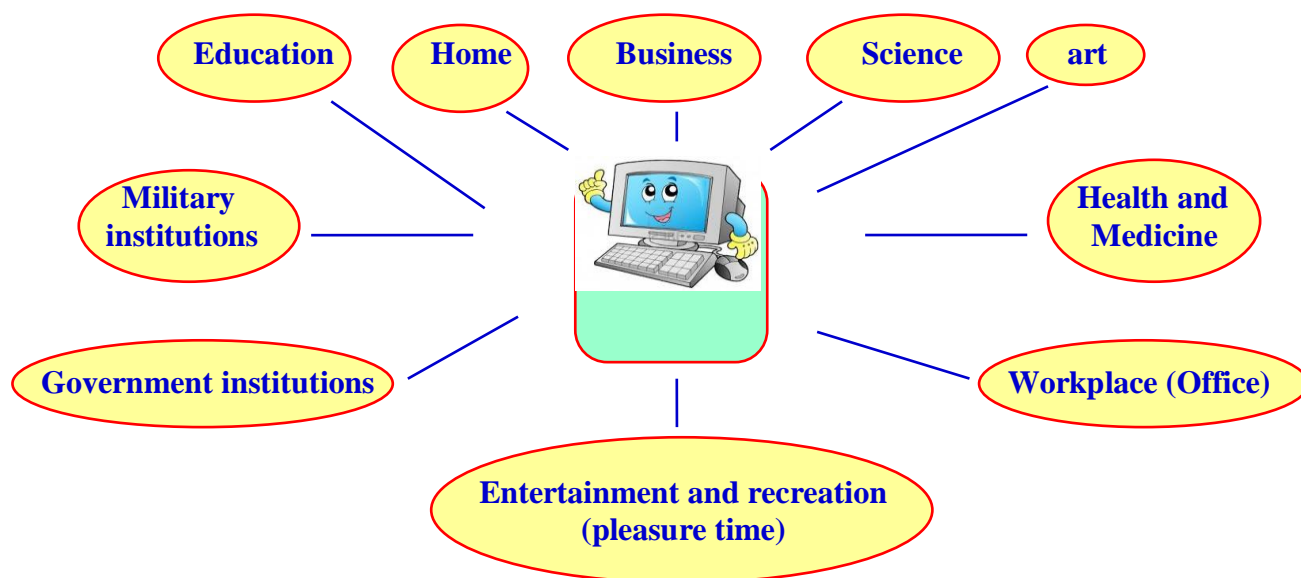
- ☐ home ☐ hospitals ☐ engineering ☐ shopping ☐ television advertising
☐ art ☐ banking ☐ libraries ☐ film-making ☐ schools

Computers are part of our everyday lives. They have an effect on almost everything you do. When you buy groceries at a supermarket, a computer is used with laser and barcode technology to scan the price of each item and present a total. Barcoding items (clothes, food, and books) requires a computer to generate the barcode labels and maintain the inventory. Most television advertisements and many films use graphics produced by a computer. In hospitals, bedside terminals connected to the hospital's main computer allow doctors to type in orders for blood tests and to schedule operations. Banks use computers to look after their customers' money. In libraries and bookshops, computers can help you to find the book you want as quickly as possible.

Key:

- ☐ home ☒ hospitals ☐ engineering ☒ shopping ☒ television advertising
☐ art ☒ banking ☒ libraries ☒ film-making ☐ schools

Uses of computer in various fields



GOVERNMENT

- Various departments of the Government use computer for their planning, control and law enforcement activities. To name a few – Traffic, Tourism, Information & Broadcasting, Education, Aviation and many others.

COMPUTERS IN HOSPITALS

Computers help doctors in diagnosing many diseases.
Computers help doctors in performing operation and medical tests.
Computers help in keeping records of all the patients in a hospitals

EDUCATION

- Computers are used in schools for teaching.
- Computers are used for mathematical calculation.
- Students can do their work by using computer.

ENTERTAINMENT

- Computers are used for playing games, listening to music and watching movies.
- Computers are used for making cartoon movies and animation films.
- Computers are used for making drawings.

OFFICE

- Computers are used to type and print documents, letters, etc.
- Computers help in keeping records of office employees.
- Computers help in sending e-mails

BANK

- Computers are used in banks for storing information about different account holders.
- Computers help in keeping a record of the cash.
- Computers help in giving all kinds of information regarding any account in the bank

DESIGNING

- Computers help in designing magazines, newspapers, books, advertisement, etc.
- Computers help in designing buildings, houses, etc.

HOSPITALS

- Computers help in keeping records of all the patients in a hospital.
- Computers help doctors in controlling operation theatre machines.
- Computers help in doing a number of medical tests.

DEFENCE

- Computers help in launching of missiles in defence.
- Computers help in keeping records of criminals.
- Computers help in constructing weapons and controlling their functions.
- Computers help in establishing communication links between the soldiers and their commanders through satellites.



RAILWAY STATIONS and AIRPORTS

- Computers help in giving information about ticket reservations and bookings.
- Computers help in giving information about the arrival and departure timings of trains and aeroplanes.
- Computers help in keeping records of all the passengers.



Computers are everywhere. Their influence is universal.

C- Language work

Articles

1- Study these nouns : *a supermarket* - *technology* - *a computer* - *money*

► *Supermarket* and *computer* are countable nouns. They can be singular and plural.

singular	plural
a supermarket	supermarkets
a computer	computers

► *Technology* and *money* are uncountable nouns. They have no plural and you cannot use them with *a* or *an*

2- Study this paragraph :

Computers have many uses. In *shops*, a computer scans the price of each item. Then the computer calculates the total cost of all the items.

Rules:

A- We use a plural noun with no article, or an uncountable noun, when we talk about things in general.

Examples : • *Computers* have many uses. • *Information technology* is popular.

B- We use *a/an* when we mention a countable noun for the first time.

Example : • In shops, *a computer* scans the price of each item.

C- When we mention the same noun again, we use *the*.

Example : • *The computer* calculates the total cost.

D- We use *the* with countable and uncountable nouns to refer to specific things.

Examples : • *The price* of each item. • *The* total *cost* of all the items. • *The speed* of this computer.

Important

In most dictionaries, nouns are marked (C) for countable and (U) for uncountable.

Let's practise

Task 7: *Divide the following computing nouns into countables and uncountables.*

capacity - data - device - disk - drive - memory - monitor - mouse - software - speed

Key: (countables = red / uncountables = blue)

countables	capacity - data - device - disk - drive - memory - monitor - mouse - software - speed
uncountables	capacity - data - device - disk - drive - memory - monitor - mouse - software - speed

Task 8: *Fill in the gaps with (a/an), (the) or (Ø) where necessary.*

The Walsh family have ...1... computer at home. Their son uses ...2... computer to help with ...3... homework and to play ...4... computer games. Their student daughter uses ...5... computer for ...6... projects and for ...7... email. All ...8... family use it to get ...9... information from ...10... Internet.

Key:

The Walsh family have **a** computer at home. Their son uses **the** computer to help with **Ø** homework and to play **Ø** computer games. Their student daughter uses **the** computer for **Ø** projects and for **Ø** email. All **the** family use it to get **Ø** information from **the** Internet.

D- Aids to communication

Here are some phrases to use when you do not understand what someone says to you :

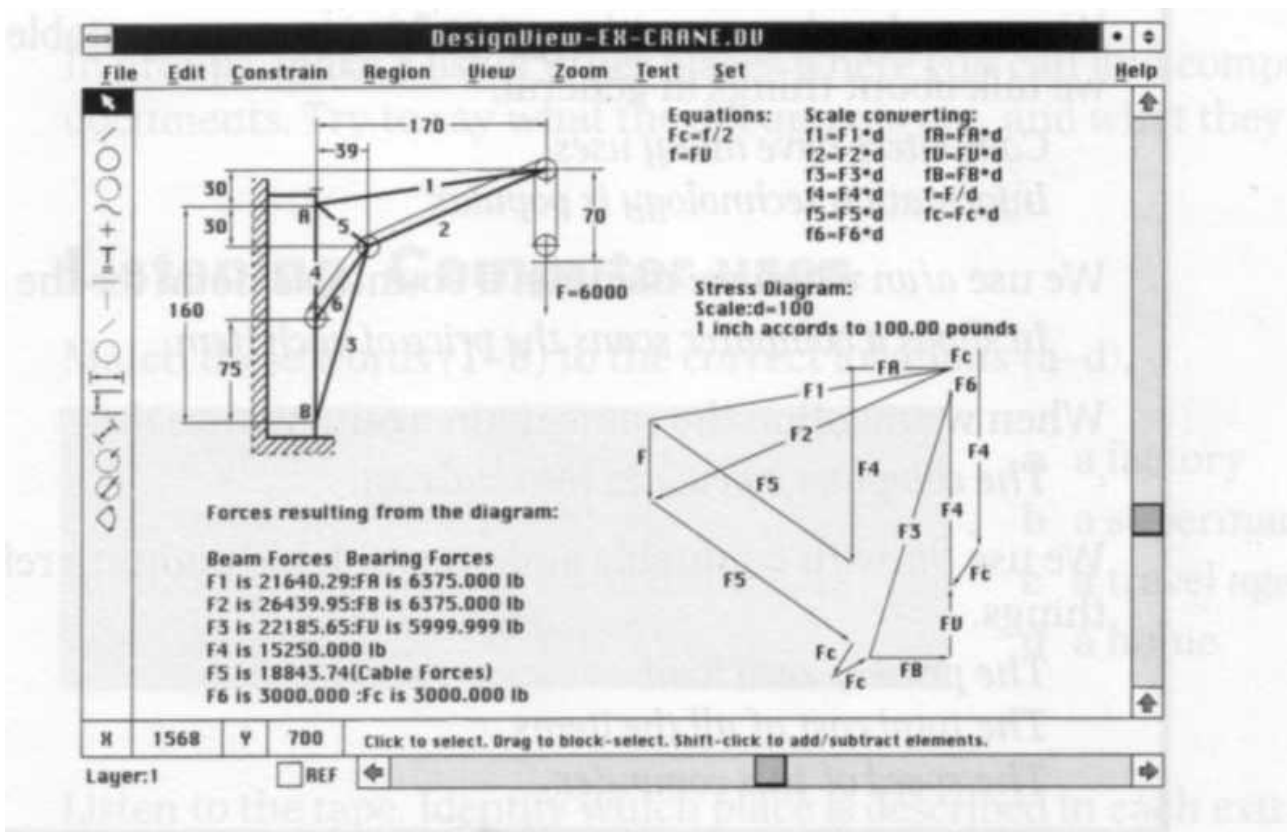
- What do you mean ?
- Could you say that again, please ?
- I'm sorry. I didn't understand that.
- A little more slowly, please.

E- Problem-solving

Task 9 : *Study these screens. Each shows a program used by a different occupation.*

- 1-** Who uses each program ?
- 2-** What do they use it for ?
- 3-** What did they use before computers ?
- 4-** How do computers make their work easier ?

Screen 1



Screen 2

Database

Keyword

Browse

New

Record Display from Edinburgh University Library (all sites)

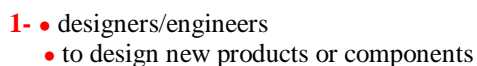
Record 34 of 42 for search:
2 12 23 32

TITLE	Practical English Usage, New Edition / Michael Swan	
AUTHOR	<u>Swan, Michael</u>	
PUBLISHER	Oxford : Oxford University Press, 1995	
ISBN	019431197X (pbk)	
SUBJECTS	<u>Language and languages</u>	
Library Holdings		
Location	Shelfmark	Status

Results

Hold

Screen 1



Task 10 : Match the places in column A with the computer uses in column B.

A		B
1- banks	_____	— a- control machines
2- factories	_____	— b- calculate the bill
3- homes	_____	— c- look after patient records and medicines
4- hospitals	_____	— d- provide entertainment and information
5- shops	_____	— e- control our money

Words	1	2	3	4	5
Locations	e	a	d	c	b

Task 11 : Refer to *Task 9* and fill in the gaps in the following paragraph about computer uses.

Computers are now part of our everyday life. In shops, they**1**..... . In factories, they**2**..... . In**3**..... . they look after patient records and medicines. When we use a bank account, a computer**4**..... . In our homes, computers**5**..... .

Key: 1. calculate the bill information 2. control machines 3. hospitals 4. controls our money 5. provide entertainment and

- 8 -

G- Further reading

Most machines are designed to do one job. Computers are different: they are general purpose machines. Unlike most machines, computers do not have a fixed purpose. They are multipurpose tools. They can be used in a very wide variety of situations and are found in a wide range of systems including security systems, cars and phones. Advanced systems, known as expert systems, enable computers to “think” like experts. Medical expert systems, for example, can help doctors diagnose an illness and decide on the best treatment. As computer systems are developed, they are becoming more common and are gradually being used for more and more purposes. How they are developed, and for what purposes they are actually used in the future, can be influenced by computer users.

A computer is a device that processes data according to a set of instructions known as a program. By changing the program instructions, computers can be used to process information in very different ways.

The equipment is known as the hardware and the programs and data are the software. A special set of programs, called an operating system, provides an interface for the user and allows applications programs to communicate with the hardware.

Computers are therefore used in almost every type of work and are found almost everywhere. For example: a word processor program allows the computer to process text, a spreadsheet program enables the computer to perform calculations, a database program is used for searching and sorting records, and a browser program is used for looking at pages on the Internet (the Internet is the connection of computers from different parts of the world). Anti-virus programs are used to detect and remove viruses (harmful programs that can reproduce themselves and attach themselves to other programs).

Some operating systems have graphical user interfaces that allow the computer user to select items from menus (list of choices) and to start programs using an input device called a mouse. This is done by pressing a button on the mouse i.e. clicking the mouse. The main device for inputting the data is a typewriter-style keyboard and the output is commonly displayed on a monitor screen that looks like a small television screen.

A variety of devices can be attached to the computer. Input devices are used to enter data into the computer for processing. An input device called a magnetic ink character reader (MICR) is used to read characters printed using magnetic ink. Magnetic ink characters are commonly found on bank cheques.

An optical input device called a barcode reader uses the reflection of a light beam to read a sequence of printed parallel bars called a barcode. The bars are of different thickness, and each thickness of bars represents a different number according to a standard code.

Barcode labels are used to code items. Each item can be identified by a computer, using a barcode reader to scan the labels. Barcodes are used in industry, shops and supermarkets for stock control and to allow a computer to look up the price of item being purchased.

A variety of devices known as peripherals can be added externally to a computer. One of the most common peripherals is a printer used for printing the computer output (the processed data or signals that come out of a computer system) on paper.

Task 12: *Answer the questions.*

- 1- What allows a word processor program the computer to do?
- 2- What is a database program used for?
- 3- What is known as hardware?
- 4- What are programs and data called?
- 5- What devices can be attached to a computer?
- 6- What device is used to read characters printed using magnetic ink?
- 7- What does a barcode reader do?
- 8- Where are barcodes used?

H- Words to retain

1. barcode, n	2. barcode reader, n	3. calculate, v	4. computer, n	5. computing, n
6. control, n	7. memory, n	8. program, n	9. software, n	10. hardware, n
11. magnetic ink character reader, n	12. scan, v	13. graphic, n		