**DEFINING COMPUTERS. THE COMPONENTS OF A COMPUTER (II)**

**VIII. Choose from the following words to complete the text below. Pay attention that some forms of the words must be changed:**

*profit, to print, websites, line, deceiving, to increase, to check, to order, secure (adj.), to research, to look into, to rip off, to place, reviews, lowest, simply, reputations, product, to prevent, deceptive, shipping, vendors.*

When it comes to wisely shopping for computer equipment, there are some techniques that will 1) **increase** your chance that your purchase will have the following characteristics:

* You will get a good price.
* You will get a good product.
* You will get what you expected when you 2) **order.**
* You will get the order when you expect it.
* You will not get 3) **rip off**.

**Shopping Steps**

**I.** 4) **Research** the product you want to buy. Read the 5) **reviews** at on-line magazines such as zdnet.com. Also computer gaming 6) **websites** may review sound cards and video cards. Another technique to find reviews is 7) **simply** to go to a search engine or a super search engine and search for reviews on the 8) **product** you are looking into buying. For instance go to mamma.com and search for "asus video card reviews".

**II.** Be aware of somewhat 9) **deceptive** pricing. This refers to the fact that various 10) **vendors** charge a wide variety of amounts for 11) **shipping**, even when you are buying product of similar weight and cost. This is because some vendors build some of their 12) **profit** into shipping costs. This should not 13) **prevent** you from purchasing from a particular vendor, but if you are aware of it, you will know what you are paying. This pricing policy will make the vendor show up with a 14) **deceiving** lower price on a price search engine.

**III.** Use price search engines to find the vendors with 15) **the** **lowest** price.

**IV.** Use web sites that compile customer ratings on vendors to tell what vendors have good 16) **reputations**.

**V.** When you 17) your order:

* + Be sure your order is placed using a 18) **secure** server so no one can steal your private information.
  + Always use your credit card such as Master Card or Visa. This is another 19) **line** of protection between yourself and the vendor. If you have trouble such as not receiving the product but still being billed for it, they can 20) **look into** the problem.
  + 21) **Check** shipping costs before finishing your order.

22) **Print** a copy of your order and get and print your order number.

**X. Translate into English:**

**A.** Calculatoarele digitale sunt echipamente complexe care conţin milioane de componente electronice elementare. Un calculator digital reprezintă un sistem ierarhic, format din câteva subsisteme ce interacţionează până la subsistemul cel mai de jos al componentelor electronice. Având în vedere numărul foarte mare de entităţi, numite la ora actuală calculator, şi proprietăţile foarte diferite ale acestora, este practic imposibil să se formuleze o definiţie unică a acestei noţiuni. Potrivit diferitelor puncte de vedere se pot da diferite definiţii ale unui calculator numeric sau digital.

**Definiţia nr. 1:** Un calculator digital (numeric) este un sistem destinat automatizării calculelor informaţiei discrete în conformitate cu anumiţi algoritmi.

**Definiţia nr. 2:** Un calculator digital este o reuniune între ansamblul de echipamente fizice, care constituie hardware-ul (ansamblul de microprograme care constituie firmware-ul) şi ansamblul de programe care constituie software-ul, ce permite prelucrarea logică şi aritmetică a informaţiei discrete la o viteză foarte mare (de ordinul milioanelor de operaţii pe secundă) în conformitate cu algoritmii daţi.

**Definiţia nr. 3:** Un calculator digital este un automat finit, deci un sistem cu stare finită care prelucrează cu o viteză foarte mare informaţia discretă în conformitate cu algoritmii impuşi.

Din definiţiile anterioare se pot desprinde câteva trăsături comune specifice tuturor calculatoarelor:

1. Informaţia este discretă, datele sunt numerice.
2. Prelucrările sunt complet automatizate.