**Advantages and disadvantages of using computers**

Society has reaped many benefits from using computers. Both business and home users can make well-informed decisions because they have instant access to information from anywhere in the world. A user is anyone who communicates with a computer or utilises the information it generates. Students, another type of user, have more tools to assist them in the learning process.

The benefits of computers are possible because computers have the advantages of speed, reliability, consistency, storage, and communications.

Speed: When data, instructions, and information flow along electronic circuits in a computer, they travel at incredibly fast speeds. Many computers process billions or trillions of operations in a single second.

Reliability: The electronic components in modern computers are dependable and reliable because they rarely break or fail.

Consistency: Given the same input and processes, a computer will produce the same results – consistently. Computers generate error-free results, provided the input is correct and the instructions work.

Storage: Computers store enormous amounts of data and make this data available for processing anytime it is needed.

Communications: Most computers today can communicate with other computers, often wirelessly. Computers allow users to communicate with one another.

Some disadvantages of computers relate to the violation of privacy, public safety, and the impact on the labour force, health risks, and the impact on the environment.

Violation of Privacy: In many instances, where personal and confidential records were not properly protected, individuals have found their privacy violated and their identities stolen.

Impact on Labour Force: Although computers have improved productivity and created an entire industry with hundreds of thousands of new jobs, the skills of millions of employees have been replaced by computers. Thus, it is crucial that workers keep their education up-to-date. A separate impact on the labour force is that some companies are outsourcing jobs to foreign countries instead of keeping their homeland labour force employed.

Health Risks: Prolonged or improper computer use can lead to health injuries or disorders. Computer users can protect themselves from health risks through proper workplace design, good posture while at the computer, and appropriately spaced work breaks. Another health risk, called computer addiction, occurs when someone becomes obsessed with using the computer.

Impact on Environment: Computer manufacturing processes and computer waste are depleting natural resources and polluting the environment. Strategies that can help protect the environment include recycling, regulating manufacturing processes, extending the life of computers, and immediately donating replaced computers.

**Give the synonyms of the following:** *to buy, box, to interpret, to carry out, portion, programmer, many, vital, sealed, to convert, to store, screen*

**Give the antonyms of the following:** *processed, shut off, temporarily, portable (computer), sometimes, input, to press, to connect, flat, to maintain.*

**Match the following words with the right definition according to the text:**

**means**

**a)** ways out; **b)** way-sides; **c)** ways; **d)** way-lays;

**payroll**

**a)** wads; **b)** wage-packets; **c)** wagers; **d)** wages;

**leisure**

**a)** tranquillity; **b)** free; **c)** serene; **d)** serendipity;

**literacy**

**a)** knowledge; **b)** understanding; **c)** books; **d)** readings;

**to convey**

**a)** to communicate; **b)** to conceal; **c)** to conceive; **d)** to conceptualize;

**retrive**

**a)** to redeem; **b)** to recuperate; **c)** to rectify; **d)** to redistribute;

**lightweight**

**a)** light; **b)** lighted; **c)** lighter; **d)** lighten;

**average**

**a)** avowed; **b)** common; **c)** compliant; **d)** available;

**to provide**

**a)** to supplement; **b)** to supersede; **c)** supply; **d)** to supervene.

**X. Translate into English:**

Hardware – ul reprezintă totalitatea componentelor fizice ale unui calculator . Acestea sunt inutile fără existenţa software–ului. El reprezintă totalitatea programelor care facilitează accesul utilizatorului şi efectuează operaţiile de prelucrare a datelor . Pentru a introduce date în calculator în vederea prelucrării, cât şi pentru a intra în posesia rezulatatelor, calculatorul se conectează la diferite ecchipamente de intrare (tastatură, scaner, mouse, etc) respectiv, echipamente de ieşire (monitor, imprimantă, etc).