

B Match these words from the text (1–9) with the correct meanings (a–i).

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 software | a the brain of the computer |
| 2 peripherals | b physical parts that make up a computer system |
| 3 main memory | c programs which can be used on a particular computer system |
| 4 hard drive (also known as hard disk) | d the information which is presented to the computer |
| 5 hardware | e results produced by a computer |
| 6 input | f input devices attached to the CPU |
| 7 ports | g section that holds programs and data while they are executed or processed |
| 8 output | h magnetic device used to store information |
| 9 central processing unit (CPU) | i sockets into which an external device may be connected |

3 *Different types of computer*

A  Listen to an extract from an ICT class. As you listen, label the pictures (a–e) with words from the box.

laptop

desktop PC

PDA

mainframe

tablet PC



a _____



b _____



c _____



d _____



e _____

B  Listen again and decide whether these sentences are true or false. Correct the false ones.

- 1 A mainframe computer is less powerful than a PC.
- 2 A mainframe is used by large organizations that need to process enormous amounts of data.
- 3 The most suitable computers for home use are desktop PCs.
- 4 A laptop is not portable.
- 5 Laptops are not as powerful as desktop PCs.
- 6 Using a stylus, you can write directly onto the screen of a tablet PC.
- 7 A Personal Digital Assistant is small enough to fit into the palm of your hand.
- 8 A PDA does not allow you to surf the Web.

4 Language work: classifying

A Look at the HELP box and then use suitable classifying expressions to complete these sentences.

- 1 A computer hardware and software.
- 2 Peripherals three types: input, output and storage devices.
- 3 A word processing program software which lets the user create and edit text.
- 4 of network architecture: peer-to-peer, where all computers have the same capabilities, and client-server (e.g. the Internet), where servers store and distribute data, and clients access this data.

B  In pairs, describe this diagram, using classifying expressions from the HELP box. Make reference to your own devices.

HELP box

Classifying

Classifying means putting things into groups or classes. We can classify types of computers, parts of a PC, etc. Some typical expressions for classifying are:

- ... are classified into X types/categories
- ... are classified by ...
- ... can be divided into X types/categories

Digital computers can be **divided into** five main **types**: mainframes, desktop PCs, laptops, tablet PCs and handheld PDAs.

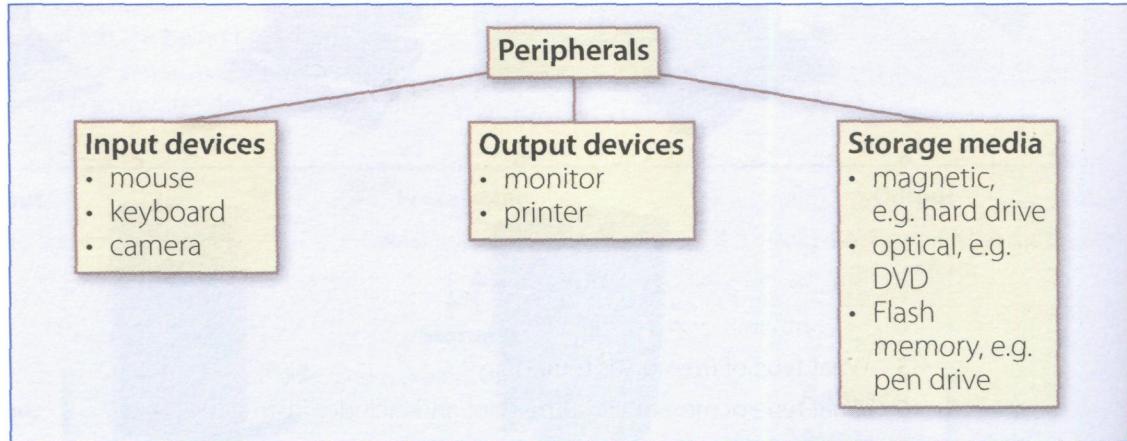
- ... include(s) ...
- ... consist(s) of ...

The basic configuration of a mainframe

- **consists of** a central system which processes immense amounts of data very quickly.

- There are X types/classes of ...
- X is a type of ...

A tablet PC is **a type of** notebook computer.



5 Benefits of laptops and tablet PCs

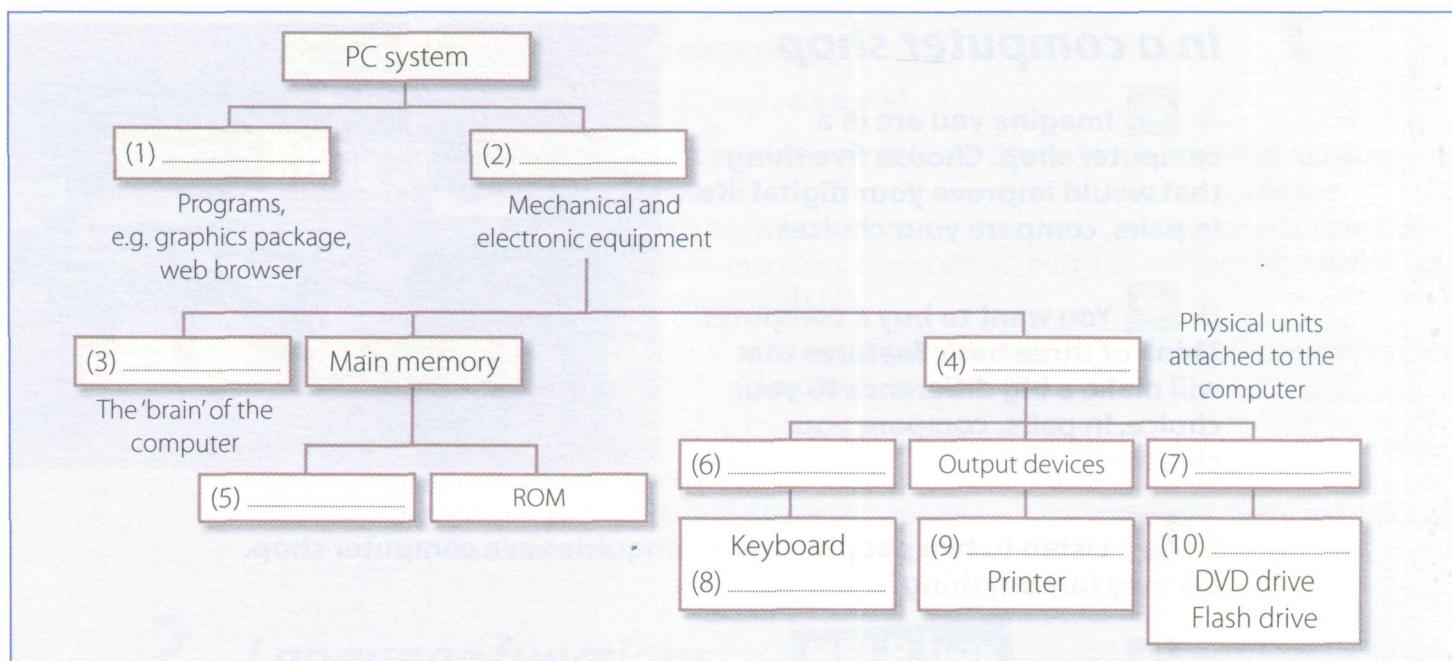
 Your school is considering buying tablet PCs to use in the classroom. Write an email to your teacher explaining the benefits for the students and the school.

or

Your company is considering replacing all of the office PCs with laptops. Write an email to your boss explaining the benefits for the employees and the company.

5 A PC system

A Complete this diagram of a PC system. Look at Units 1, 2 and 3 to help you.



B In pairs, compare your answers.

C Listen to a teacher explaining the diagram to her class and check your answers.

6 Your ideal computer system

A Make notes about the features of the computer that you would most like to have. Think about the features in the box.

CPU	Speed	Optical disc drives	Wireless connectivity	Minimum/maximum RAM
Monitor	Ports and card memory slots	Hard disk	Software	

B In pairs, describe your ideal computer system. Give reasons for your choices.

Useful language

It's got ...

It's very fast. It runs at ...

The standard RAM memory is ... and it's expandable ...

The hard disk can hold ...

I need a large, flat LCD screen because ...

As for the Internet, ...

Buying a computer

1

In a computer shop

A Imagine you are in a computer shop. Choose five things that would improve your digital life. In pairs, compare your choices.

B You want to buy a computer. Think of three basic features that will make a big difference to your choice. In pairs, compare your choices.

C Listen to two people making enquiries in a computer shop. Do they buy anything?

D Listen again and complete the product descriptions.

iMac

Processor speed 2.33GHz
 RAM
 Hard drive capacity
 DVD drive included? Yes
 Operating system
 Includes internet software
 Price



MacBook

Processor speed
 RAM
 Hard drive capacity
 DVD drive included?
 Operating system
 Includes internet software
 Price £1,029





E Listen again and complete the extract from the conversation.

Assistant: Do you need any (1) ?

Paul: Um, yes, we're looking for a Mac computer. Have you got any fairly basic ones?

Assistant: Yes, sure. If you'd like to come over here.

Paul: What different (2) are there?

Assistant: At the moment we've got these two models: the iMac, which is a desktop computer with an Intel Core 2 Duo processor (3) at 2.33 gigahertz, and the portable MacBook, which has a processor (4) at 2.0 gigahertz. Core Duo technology actually means two cores, or processors, built into a single chip, offering up to twice the speed of a traditional chip.

Sue: So they're both very (5) , then. And which one has more memory? I mean, which has more RAM?

Assistant: Well, the iMac has two gigabytes of RAM, which can be (6) up to three gigabytes, and the MacBook has one gigabyte, expandable to two gigabytes. It all depends on your needs. The iMac is (7) for home users and small offices. The MacBook is more (8) if you travel a lot.

2 Language functions in a computer shop

Look at the language functions in the HELP box and then correct one mistake in each of these sentences. Decide which functions are being expressed in each sentence.

- 1 The Ulysses SD is a power, expandable computer that offers high-end graphics at a low price.
- 2 A laptop is likely to be more expensive than the equivalent desktop, but a laptop is less practical if you travel a lot.
- 3 Where's the storage capacity of the hard drive?
- 4 I'm looking a desktop PC that has good graphics for games.
- 5 Do you need the help?
- 6 And how many does the PDA cost?
- 7 This workstation is a Pentium processor with dual-core technology, 1,024 gigabytes of RAM, and 1 terabyte of disk space.

HELP box

Language functions useful to a sales assistant

- Greeting and offering help
Good morning. Do you need any help?
- Giving technical specifications (specs)
The MacBook has a processor running at 2.0 gigahertz.
The iMac has two gigabytes of RAM.
They feature a camera built into the display.
- Describing
Both computers are very fast and reliable.
- Comparing
The MacBook is more practical if you travel a lot.
PDAs are cheaper than laptops but laptops are more powerful.

Language functions useful to a customer

- Explaining what you are looking for
We're looking for a personal computer. Have you got any fairly basic ones?
- Asking for technical specs
What's the storage capacity of the hard drive?
Do they have a DVD drive?
- Asking the price
How much do they cost?
How much is it?

3 Role play – buying a computer



Work in pairs. One of you wants to buy a computer, the other is the shop assistant. Use the prompts and product descriptions below to role play the conversation.

Shop assistant

Greet the customer and offer help.

Show the customer two possible models.

Give technical specs (describe the processor, RAM and storage capacity). Compare the two different models.

Give the information required. Compare the two models.

Answer, and mention any final details that might persuade the customer to buy the computer.

Customer

Explain what you are looking for.

Ask for some technical specs.

Ask about any further technical specs (DVD drive, monitor, communications, etc.).

Ask the price.

Decide which computer to buy or leave the shop.

Toshiba Satellite laptop

2.0GHz Core 2 Duo processor
2GB RAM expandable to 4GB
160GB hard drive
Super Multi drive (double layer)
15.4" wide XGA display
Wireless LAN, Wi-Fi compliance

£1,099

Dell desktop PC

AMD Athlon at 2.4GHz
1GB RAM expandable to 4GB
320GB hard drive
DVD+/-RW drive
17" LCD monitor

£680

Palm TX handheld

Intel 312MHz ARM-based processor
128 MB Flash memory (non-volatile)
Support for memory cards
320x480 TFT touch screen
Wi-Fi and Bluetooth
Lithium-ion battery

£216

4 Choosing the right computer



A Listen to four people talking about their computer needs and take notes. In pairs, read the descriptions from the computer shop website and choose the most suitable computer for each person. Give reasons for your choices.

Speaker 1

Speaker 3

Speaker 2

Speaker 4

Sun workstation

Two AMD Opteron processors at 3.0GHz
4GB RAM; 32GB maximum
1 terabyte hard drive and dual DVD drive
19" Sun TFT flat-panel LCD
Supports several graphics formats
Allows you to handle your toughest technical, scientific, and business-critical applications
Supports Solaris, Windows and Linux
£3,249



**Gateway C-120 convertible notebook**

Intel Core 2 Duo ULV processor at 1.06GHz

12.1" WXGA TFT touch screen

Gateway Executive stylus pen

1024MB DDR2 SDRAM

80GB serial ATA hard drive

DVD-ROM drive (optical DVD burner)

Integrated modem and Bluetooth

Windows Vista Home Premium

Thin and lightweight (1.17", 2.4 kg)

£805**Sony Vaio AR laptop (VGN-AR51E)**

Intel Core 2 Duo Processor at 2GHz

2GB DDR2 SDRAM

200GB hard drive

DVD+/-RW optical drive

17" WXGA high-definition LCD screen

Memory Stick slot

Three USB 2.0 ports

Integrated wireless LAN

Built-in 'Motion Eye' digital camera

Lithium-ion battery

Windows Vista Ultimate

£899**Dell Inspiron 531 desktop PC**

AMD Athlon 64 X2 Dual Core Processor

3072MB DDR2 SDRAM

Dell 22" Wide Flat Panel

256MB NVIDIA GeForce 8600GT video card

1.0TB Hard Drive

16x DVD+/- RW Drive

Integrated 7.1 Channel High Definition Audio

Windows Vista Home Premium

Optional features: Windows Media Center, integrated TV Tuner, and a Blu-ray disc drive for high-definiton content

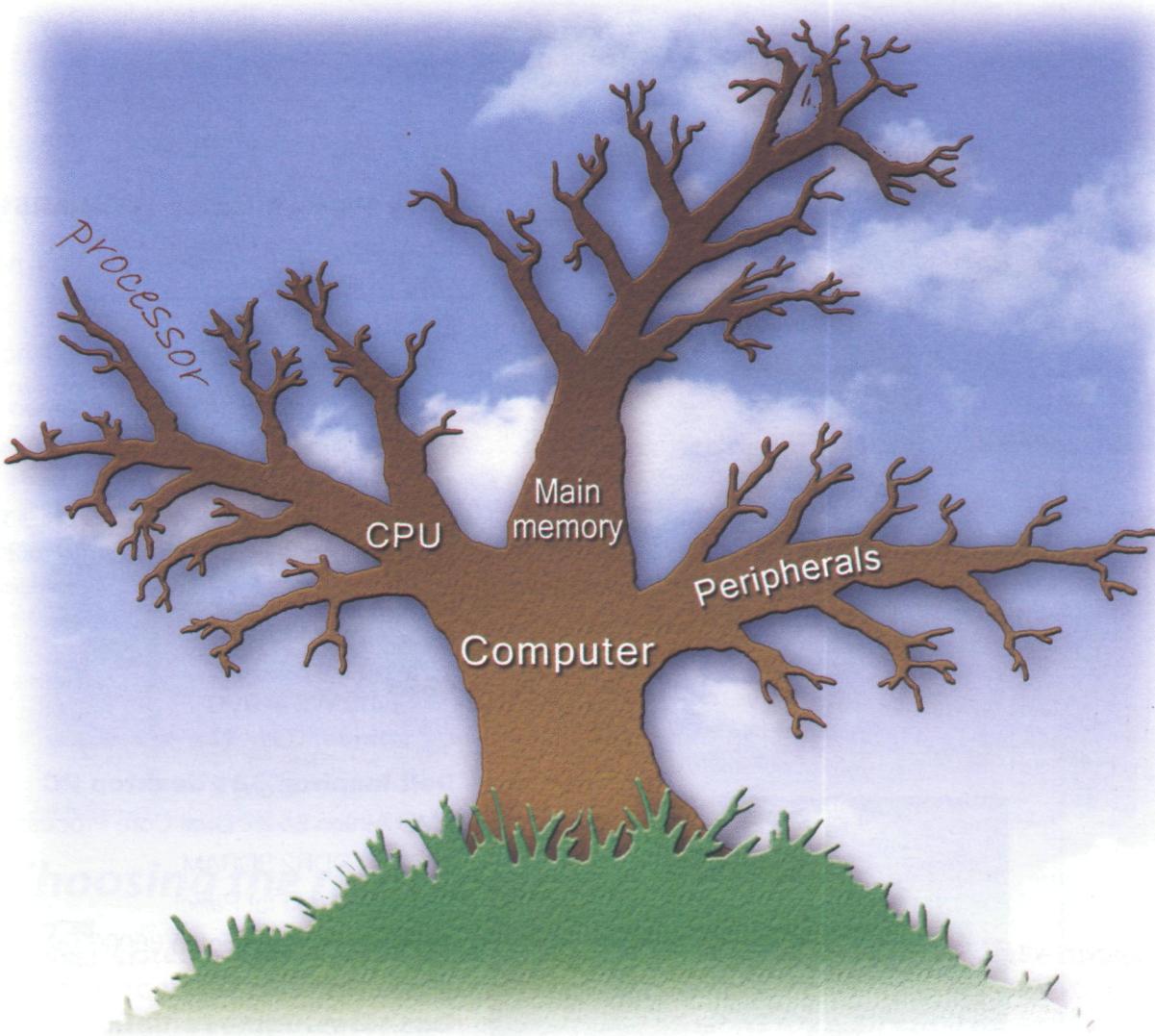
From £849

B Look at the notes you made about your ideal computer system in Unit 3 task 6 (page 15). What did you want? Look again at the descriptions of the computers above and choose the one that is closest to your ideal. In pairs, discuss your choices.

5 Vocabulary tree

Designing word trees and spidergrams can help you build up your own mental 'maps' of vocabulary areas. Look at the list of terms in the box and put each one in an appropriate place on the word tree below. The first one has been done for you.

processor	ROM	expandable memory	ALU	DIMMs	hard drive
RAM	computer brain	byte	DVD	system clock	keyboard
mouse	gigahertz	printer	megabyte	webcam	registers



6 Recommending a computer



A friend has asked you to recommend a computer that suits his needs. He needs to be able to access the Internet, play games and work with graphics, music and video files. Write an email describing its technical features and saying why you recommend it.



Now visit www.cambridge.org/elt/ict for an online task.