

COMPU-LIVING MONTHLY

Let's Talk Storage!



Computer technology grows rapidly. The **capacity** of data **storage** is no exception. **Hard drives** and storage devices improve all the time.

Early computers relied on **magnetic tape**. Developers soon replaced these with more efficient **floppy disks**. However, these still had limited space. For a while, **Zip drives** were a larger-capacity solution.

Then **CDs** came along. These lightweight, inexpensive devices are easy to store and discard. **DVDs** have similar benefits, and hold much more data. However, erasing and reprogramming these devices is often unreliable.

Today, we have compact **flash memory**. Tiny **flash drives** hold more information than earlier devices, including DVDs. We also have **external hard drives** these days with an average capacity of 1TB of data and files can easily be moved or erased.



Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What are some early forms of computer data storage?
- 2 What are the benefits of flash memory?

Reading

2 Read the article. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the main idea of the article?
 - A the rising costs of data storage devices
 - B a history of data storage devices
 - C materials used to make data storage devices
 - D addressing problems with data storage devices
- 2 Which of the following was NOT a benefit of CDs?
 - A They are easy to store.
 - B They are lightweight.
 - C They can be erased and reprogrammed.
 - D They have a lower capacity than DVDs.
- 3 According to the article, what made Zip drives better than floppy disks?
 - A a smaller size
 - B more affordable cost
 - C a higher capacity
 - D the ability to be erased

Vocabulary

3 Write a word or phrase that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

- 1 The engineer could not erase the data from the flat, round data device.

- 2 Most new computers cannot read flat, square, low-capacity data devices.

_lo___ d__ks
- 3 The firm needs a new method of saving information for its electronic files.

s__ra__
- 4 New devices have more space to store information than old devices.

_a_a_it_

4 Read the sentence pairs. Choose which word or phrase best fits each blank.

1 hard drive / flash drive

- A A _____ is built into a computer.
B A _____ is designed to move easily from one computer to another.

2 flash memory / magnetic tape

- A _____ was one of the earliest methods of computer data storage.
B _____ has a larger storage capacity than earlier methods, like DVDs.

3 CDs / Zip drives

- A _____ were popular because they were cheap and disposable.
B _____ were popular because they were like large-capacity floppy disks.

5 Listen to and read the article again. What product does the article recommend?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between a customer and a salesperson. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 ___ The man needs help choosing a new hard drive.
2 ___ The man requests a product that will not meet his storage needs.
3 ___ According to the woman, the man needs multiple storage devices.

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Customer: Excuse me. Can you help me 1 _____ some flash drives?

Salesperson: Of course. What do you need them for?

Customer: Data storage. I'm moving about 500 GB off my employer's 2 _____.

Salesperson: That's going to take a lot of flash drives. I'd recommend a(n) 3 _____ instead.

Customer: Why is that better?

Salesperson: I 4 _____ with a one terabyte capacity.

Customer: Oh, so all the data will fit on 5 _____?

Salesperson: Right. Plus, you can 6 _____ later and use it for something else.

Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

Can you help me ...?

What do you need ...?

Plus, you can ...

Student A: You are a customer.

Talk to Student B about:

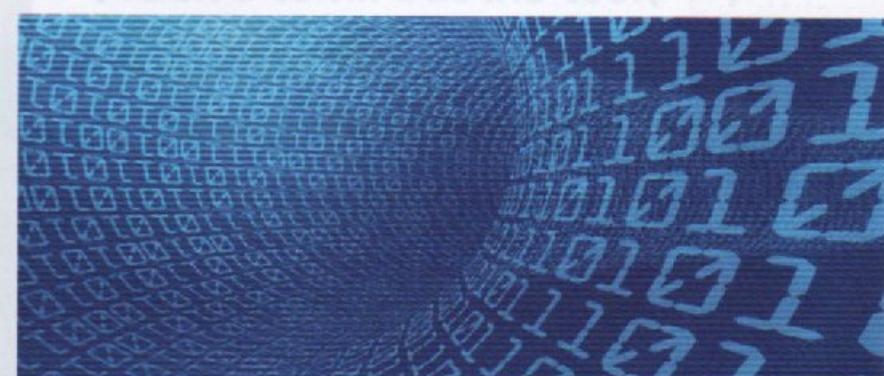
- your data storage needs
- a product you are looking for
- his or her recommendations

Student B: You are a salesperson.

Talk to Student A about his or her data storage needs.

Writing

9 Use the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the note from the customer to his or her employer.



Hi Jenny,

I picked up a storage device at the electronics store today. I know you said that you wanted _____. However, I got _____ instead. The salesperson recommended that because _____ and _____. I hope that's okay.

Glenn