To translate a text correctly, we have to take into account content and structure.

Content: what the text says

Structure: how the text gives information

So, you have to consider the vocabulary and terminology used to attain a good comprehension of the text.

As regards vocabulary, there are different types of words. They can be classified in:

1- **Transparent words** are those of Latin origin and are similar in Spanish. They can be translated without difficulties.
2- **Non-transparent words** are those of Anglo Saxon origin and their meaning- if unknown- must be looked up in the dictionary.
3- **"Borrowings"** are the words we borrow from English.
4- **False analogies**. These words have apparently a clear meaning because of its similarity with the Spanish spelling but actually this meaning is different.

Activity: classify the words according to the group they belong to (T, NT, B, FA)

Computer   central   software   hardware   program   electronic   file   keyboard exit delete   driver   unlock   translate   analyst   display   back-up   idiom   menu realize   joystick   see   systems   chips   storage

We must also take into account that the structure is different in Spanish and English. On some occasions we can find addition or reduction, or a change in the order of the words in the sentence

Activity: analyse and translate these sentences

1- Computers are necessary in all activities (adición en Español)
2- It is necessary to know English. (eliminación en Español)

Articles

Definite article THE

It is invariable in gender and number. On occasions it does not appear in English but it must be used in Spanish.

> The scientist is in the laboratory.

> Iron is a hard metal (general sense: no article)

> Computers are widely used nowadays. (plural general sense: no article)

Indefinite article A/AN

It is invariable in gender, it does not have a plural form.

> Computation is a science.   Mechanics and Electronics are sciences.

> This is an electronic machine.   These are electronic machines.

Activity: note use and omission of the articles in the following sentences

1- A computer is an electronic machine.
2- The Stylus, or light pen, is like a common pen.
3- An instruction is not an order.
4- Oriented languages are very common.
5- Locations in memory are consecutive.
6- Problem 2 is an exercise on the function and use of the arrays.

7- Joysticks are much used in video games.
8- Mainframes are big computer systems used for large-scale operations.
9- Computer operations are not always easy for beginners.
10- Microchips are very small pieces of silicon with complex electronic circuits.