Reading 1. The digital age

We are now living in what some people call the digital age, meaning that computers have become an essential part of our lives. Young people who have grown up with PCs and mobile phones are often called the digital generation. Computers help students perform (1) mathematical operations and improve their maths skills. They are used to access the Internet, do basic research and communicate with other students around the world.

Teachers use projectors and interactive whiteboards to give presentations and teach sciences, history or language courses. PCs are also used for administrative purposes - schools use word processors (2) to write letters, and databases to keep records of students and teachers. A school website allows teachers to post tutorials for students to complete online (3) .

Students can also enrol for courses through the website and parents can download (4) official reports.

Mobiles let you make voice calls, send texts, email people and download logos, ringtones or games. With a built-in (5) camera you can send pictures and make video calls in face-to-face mode. New smartphones combine mobile phone with web access, video, games console, MP3 player, personal digital (6) assistant (PDA) and GPS navigation system, all in one.

In banks, computers store (7) information on the money held by each customer and enable staff to access large databases and carry out financial (8) transactions at high speed. They also control cashpoints, or ATMs (automatic teller machines), which dispense money to customers by using a PIN-protected card. People use a Chip and PIN card to pay for goods and services. Instead of using a signature to verify payments, customers are asked to enter a four-digit personal identification number (PIN), the same number used at cashpoints; this system makes transactions more secure. With online banking, clients can easily pay bills and transfer money from the comfort of their homes.

Airline pilots use computers to help them control the plane. For example, monitors (9) display data (10) about fuel consumption and weather conditions. In airport control towers, computers are used to manage radar systems and regulate air traffic. On the ground, airlines are connected to travel agencies by computer. Travel agents use computers to find out about the availability of flights, prices, times, stopovers and many other details.

Exercise 1.

Find the words (1-10) in the text above. Can you guess the meaning from context? Are they nouns, verbs, adjectives or adverbs? Write n , v, adj or adv next to each word.

1	Perform	6	digital
2	word processor	7	store
3	online	8	financial
4	download	9	monitor
5	built-in	10	given

Exercise 2.

Match the words in the previous exercise (1 -10) with the correct meanings (aj):

a. keep, save   f. screen

b. collection of facts or figures   g. program used for text manipulation

c.   execute, to   h . integrated

d. describes information that is recorded   i. copy files from a server to your PC or mobile

  or broadcast using computers   j. connected to the Internet

e.   monetary