Week 1.2
Asynchronous Session

Learning IT Vocabulary: Techniques and Tips

1.   Guessing meaning from context

Some ICT terms (Information and Communication Technologies) are difficult, but some other are relatively easy to understand. You probably know term like *modem, online, chat, email, website, virus,* and *hacker;* these words are part of our everyday life.

When you meet an unknown word, **first** try to guess the meaning from **the context** – the surrounding words and the situation. Read the following text and see how words have meaning in relation to other words:

The birth of a revolution

Kids use PCs, to do homework, access information via <u>Internet</u> for research, communication with pals, play video games and collect <u>digital music</u>. Parents, too, use the <u>PC</u> for communication and entertainment but also let it handle mundane tasks like balancing the checkbook, monitoring investments, preparing tax returns, and tracking the family's genealogy. With the advent of more powerful PCs with greater <u>storage</u> capacity, families <u>are digitizing</u> home movies and photos are stored on the home

Typing cartoons illustration made by Storyset:
https://storyset.com/illustration/typing/bro

- You know that a *PC* is a type of "computer" and *digital music* relates to "music in computers".
- You know *that are digitizing* is a verb because it derives from "digit", it is in the form of the present continuous, and it goes with the subject "families" and the object "home movies".
- Words change their shape by adding prefixes and suffixes; for example, we add a prefix *inter-* to *net* and form *Internet*, and we add the suffix *-age* to *store* and form *storage.*
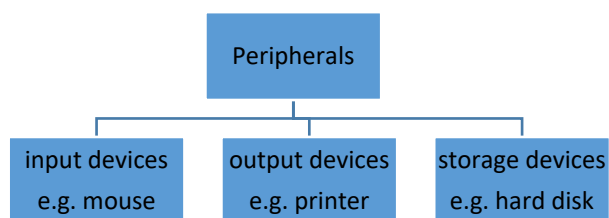
2.   Organizing vocabulary

Read the text *The birth of a revolution* again. There are different ways on which you can organize your vocabulary. A *vocabulary bank* is one of the most common techniques to organize your new words:
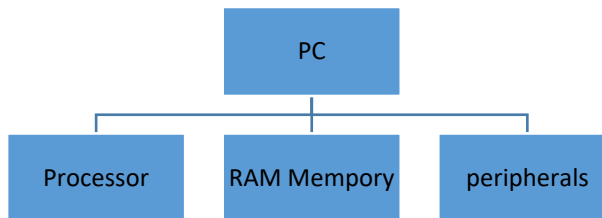
	How?	Examples
Meaning	Definition Lexical family Synonyms translation	*The Internet is a global network for computers.* *Digit (root), digital, digitally, digitize, digitizer, etc* *Handle=manage; advent=arrival* *Storage = almacenamiento*
Word class	(n), (v), (adj), etc	*Communication (n); communicate (v),*
Word Building	Prefixes Suffixes compounds	*Internet, research* *Information; investment; powerful* *Checkbook (check + book)*
Collocations	Word partners, phrases	*Access information; handle tasks*

Another common technique is a *spidergram*. They can help you build up you own mental maps of vocabulary areas. They are diagrams to classify things.

Example 1

Peripherals

input devices
e.g. mouse

output devices
e.g. printer

storage devices
e.g. hard disk
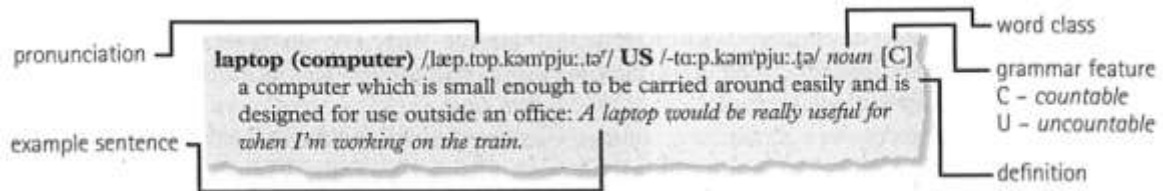
Example 2

PC

Processor

RAM Mempory

peripherals

3. Using a dictionary

A *monolingual* dictionary gives you a lot of information about words. Click on *How to read a Dictionary Entry video*:

How to Read a
Dictionary Entry.mp4

Now that you watch the video, look at this entry:

Taken and adapted from *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary*

Take a look at another example here *https://www.superteacherworksheets.com/dictionary-skills/dictionary-parts_PARTS.pdf*

Activity 1

Part 1. Look at the words in the box. Are they nouns, verbs or adjectives?

Financial	internet	electronic	print	design	microchips

Part 2. Read the following text about **the digital era.** Use the words from exercise 1 to complete the text.

Nature on screen Semi Flat Illustrations made by Sotryset: Illustration by Freepik Storyset

A digital era

Computers have changed the way we do everyday things, such as working, shopping, and looking for information. We (1) _____ houses with the help of PCs; we buy books or make flight reservations on the (2)_____; we use gadgets that spring to life the instant they are switched on, for example the mobile phone, the music player, or the car ignition, all of which use (3)_____;. Many people now work at home, and they communicate with their office by computer and telephone. This is called 'teleworking'. With the appropriate hardware and software, a PC can do almost anything you ask. It's a magical typewriter that allows you to type and print any sort of (4)_____;. It's a calculating machine that makes (5)_____; calculations. It is a filing cabinet that manages large collections of data. It is a personal communicator that lets you interact with friends. It is a small lab that helps you edit photos and movies. And if you like (6)_____ entertainment, you can also use it to relax with games.

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Activity 2

Part 1. **Match the following words with the correct definition:**

a) Financial
b) internet
c) electronic
d) print
e) microchips
f) design

1. Tiny pieces of silicon containing complex electronic circuits
2. To make or draw plans for something
3. Relating to money or how money is managed
4. Involving the use of electric current in devices such as computers
5. The large system of connected computers around the world
6. To produce text and pictures using a printer

Part 2. Take a look at the following words. Organize them in the spaces provided.

Mobile phone   interact   communicator   teleworking   calculating
calculators   typewriter

Meaning	Definition	(1) _____: working at home, while communicating with your office by computer or telephone
	Lexical family	Calculate, calculator, (2)_____ (3)_____
	Synonyms	Gadgets: small devices
	translation	Switch on = (4) _____
Word Building	Prefixes	(5) _____
	Suffixes	(6) _____
	compounds	(7) _____(8) _____
Collocations	Word partners	Print a document; make calculations

Fingerprint Cartoon Illustrations made by Storyset: Illustration by Freepik Storyset
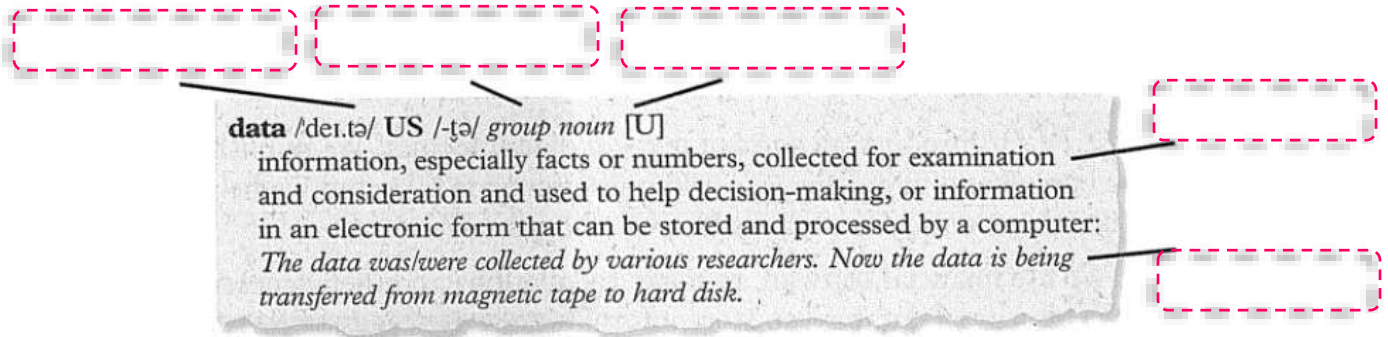
Activity 3

Part 1. Look at this dictionary entry. Put the following labels in the correct place.

1. Pronunciation
2. Definition
3. Example sentence
4. Grammar feature
5. Word class

data /ˈdeɪ.tə/ US /-t̬ə/ *group noun* [U]
information, especially facts or numbers, collected for examination
and consideration and used to help decision-making, or information
in an electronic form that can be stored and processed by a computer:
*The data was/were collected by various researchers. Now the data is being
transferred from magnetic tape to hard disk.*

Taken and adapted from *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary*

Part 2. Use your monolingual dictionary to find the following words. Analyze the dictionary entries you find.

| Password | developer | username | support | database |

Part 3. Select one two of the following words to do a s*pidergram.* Do the map in your notebook.

1. System
2. Cybercrime
3. Privacy
4. Download
5. Memory

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https://storyset.com/illustration/search/rafiki

Self-Assessment

Rate yourself by selecting yes/no/need to practice next to each sentence:

	YES	NO	NEED TO PRACTICE
I understand how to guess the meaning of a word from the context.			
I recognize the two ways to organize the words I want to learn: *vocabulary bank and spidergram.*			
I can find a word in the dictionary and understand the different sections presented.			
I know what a *grammar feature* is and how to find it in the dictionary.			
I discovered new IT related words and know their meaning.			

Answer Key

Activity 1

Part 1.
Financial (adj), internet(n), electronic (adj), print (v), design (v), microchips (v)

Part 2.
1. Design
2. Internet
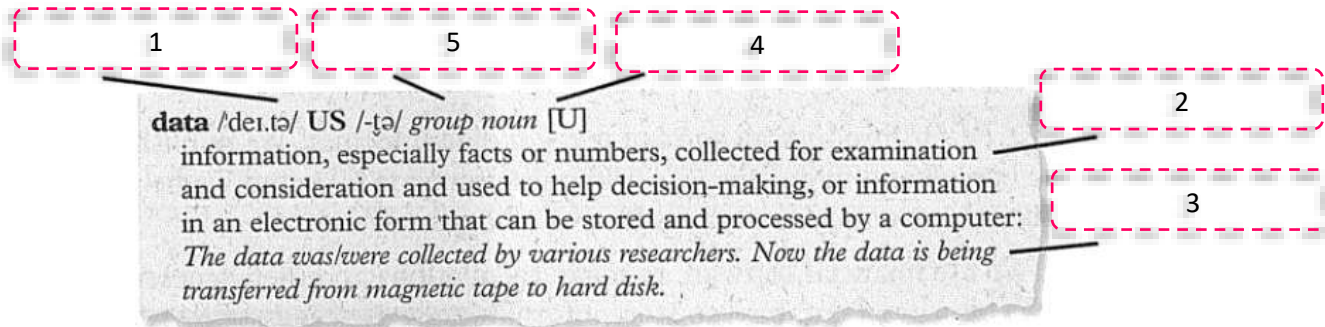3. Microchips
4. Print
5. financial
6. electronic

Activity 2.

Part 1. a-3, b-6, c-4, d-6, e-1, f-2

Part 2.   1. Teleworking, 2. Calculators, 3 calculating, 4. Encender, 5. interact   6. Communicator, 7. Mobile phone, 8. Typewriter.

Activity 3.

Part 1.

1	5	4

2

3

data /ˈdeɪ.tə/ US /-ţə/ group noun [U]
information, especially facts or numbers, collected for examination and consideration and used to help decision-making, or information in an electronic form that can be stored and processed by a computer: *The data was/were collected by various researchers. Now the data is being transferred from magnetic tape to hard disk.*

Part 2. Answers may vary.

Part 3. Answers may vary.