The language of technology

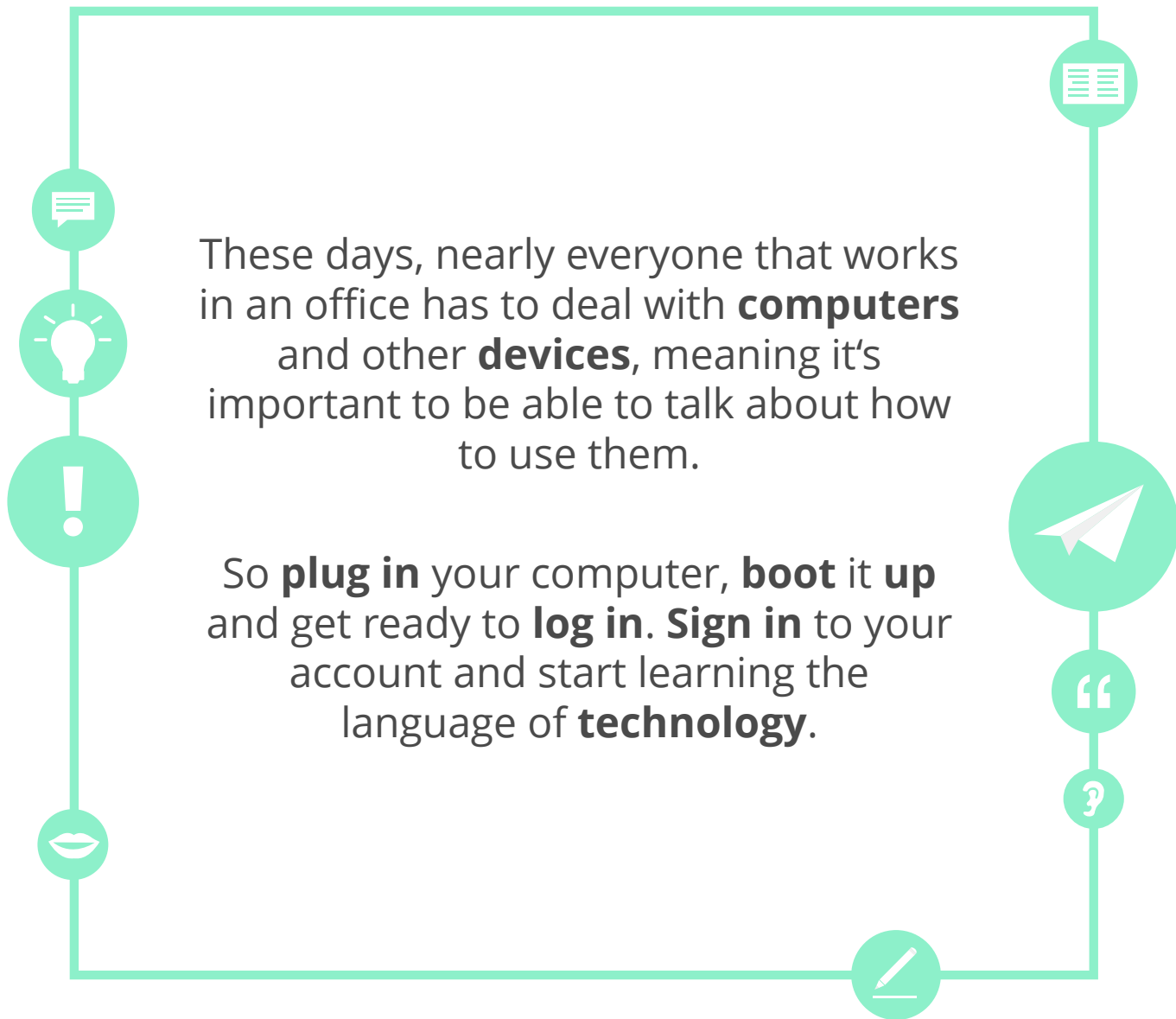| LEVEL	NUMBER	LANGUAGE
Advanced	C1_4061G_EN	English

Goals

- Can explain the meaning of some more advanced phrasal verbs and idioms related to technology.

- Can maintain an extended discussion about technology using these new verbs and idioms.

These days, nearly everyone that works in an office has to deal with **computers** and other **devices**, meaning it's important to be able to talk about how to use them.

So **plug in** your computer, **boot** it **up** and get ready to **log in**. **Sign in** to your account and start learning the language of **technology**.

The language of technology

- In this lesson you are going to learn **phrasal verbs** and **idioms** connected to **technology**.

I forgot to **back up** my files and now they're all gone!

Setting up a computer

How many of the phrasal verbs below do you know?

When we get a new computer, we have to **hook** it **up**.

→

Next you should **plug** it **in**.

→

Then **power** the computer **up**.

Finally, we probably have to **log in** to the computer.

←

Wait for the computer to **boot up**.

←

Phrasal verbs for technology

■ Here are some more basic **phrasal verbs** about starting and using a **computer**.

| When using a new computer, we have to **set up** a new system. |
| Users have to use the mouse to **click on** a program or icon to start the process. |
| We can also use the mouse to **scroll up** or **scroll down** on a web page or in a program. |
| If something is too small or hard to read, we can use the mouse or keys to **zoom in**. |
| Conversely, if something is too big we can **zoom out**. |
| When entering a password, we must **key** it **in** using the keyboard. |

Phrasal verbs and nouns

- Some of these **phrasal verbs** also have **noun forms** which are very similar.
- See the table below for explanations.

phrasal verb	noun
We need to **set up** the new system.	The class **setup** is rather odd.
You have to **log in** to the system.	Do you have a **login** for this computer?
Plug in the computer before you start.	Websites generally have lots of **plugins**.

Match the phrasal verbs with their meanings

A to put the plug into the socket

B to turn on

C to connect all wires to a machine

D to get started, to get ready to be used, to get ready to run programs

1. **to hook up**

2. **to boot up**

3. **to power up**

4. **to plug in**

Complete the dialogue

click

> Can you help me? I'm trying to _____ a new system on my laptop.

login

> Am I looking for the _____ menu?

in

> Oh, it's asking for my _____.

scroll

> No, I think I need to zoom _____.

> Sure. OK, just _____ up to the top of the page.

set up

> Yes. There it is. Double-_____ on it.

key

> _____ in your password. Can you see it properly?

setup

Verbs and nouns

In which of these examples does the noun have a completely different meaning to the phrasal verb?

set up – setup

plug in – plugin

log in – login

Speaking

Answer these questions.

1 Have you ever forgotten your login for something at work? How did you solve the problem?

2 Does your computer take a long time to boot up? Why might this be and what can you do to make it faster? How might this be problematic at work?
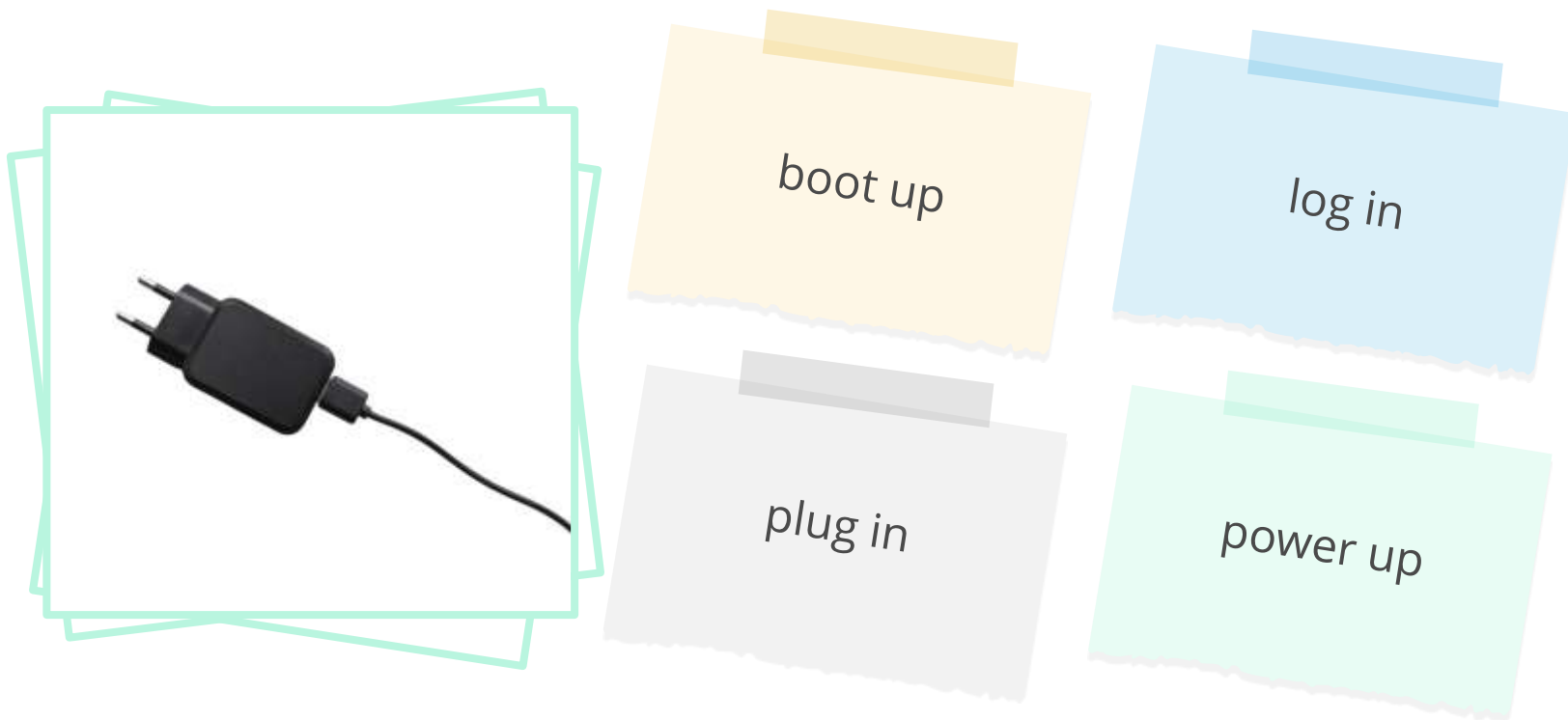
3 Would you know how to set up a new computer alone or would you need to get someone to help you?

Opposites

What's the opposite of these phrasal verbs?

boot up

log in

plug in

power up

Storage

These **phrasal verbs** explain the importance of **storage** when it comes to computer systems.

- You should always **back up** your files on an external drive or in the cloud.

- If you store large files on your computer, you can **run out** of storage space.

- You can use a printer to **print out** important documents.

- Nowadays, people **hacking into** your system is a real worry.

- Hackers can cause a web page or computer network to **go down**.

When using the internet, annoying adverts can **pop up** on certain web pages.

We can **sign up** to use a service from a website. After we have signed up, we must **sign in** each time we use it.

Websites often ask us to **opt in** or **out** of receiving a newsletter.

Our e-mail providers try to **filter out** spam or junk e-mail.

Nouns from phrasal verbs

■ Again, some of these **phrasal verbs** are also used as **nouns**.

Always create **backups** of your files.

Create a **printout** of important documents to have a hard copy.

Popups are usually annoying.

Describe what these phrasal verbs mean

to run out (of)

to back up

to sign up (to)

to print out

to hack into

to go down

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Continue the dialogue from earlier

back

> Now that you're logged in you just need to _____ up your printer.

filter

> OK. I'll teach you how to _____ up your files instead then.

print

> We need to get you _____ up to a company e-mail account too.

went

> Sure. Just _____ into the anti-spam feature right here.

> Why? I never _____ anything out.

signed

> Great. Last time the system _____ down I lost lots of important files.

opt

> Is there a way to _____ out the spam? I hate it clogging up my inbox.

hook

Speaking

Fill in the gaps with the correct particle.

1. Does your e-mail provider do a good job of filtering _____ junk mail?

2. Do you always create a back_____ copy of important files? How do you do it?

3. Do you print a lot of documents _____? Why or why not?

4. Do you find it annoying when adverts pop _____ when you're using the internet?

5. Has anyone ever hacked _____ your computer?

Now answer the questions yourself.

Idioms

There are lots of **idioms** connected to **technology** in English.

Have a look at some examples below.

I bought my mum a new phone with **all the bells and whistles**.

I don't know why she was so angry but she just **blew a fuse**!

We can't let Harry go – he's an essential **cog in the machine**.

We've invested in a lot of **cutting edge** technology recently.

Sorry I'm late, I thought the match was at 2.30. We must have **got our wires crossed**.

Idioms

Here are some more idioms which involve technology.

Tom and Alex have the same mindset – they're really **on the same wavelength**.

My team at work is a **well-oiled machine**; we almost never slip up.

This department is losing money – I'm **pulling the plug**!

I don't know what it is about him but he really **pushes my buttons**.

I'm taking the weekend off to **recharge my batteries**.

Which idioms are shown in the pictures?

A

B

C

D

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Matching exercise

Match the phrases on the left with their literal meanings on the right.

a cog in the machine	to take a plug out from the power supply
to recharge your batteries	part of a wire that melts if too much current flows through it
to pull the plug	a part of a machine that turns other parts
fuse	to put power into batteries again

Are these statements true or false? Correct the false ones.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. *All the bells and whistles* means without any special features.	☐	☐
2. If you *pull the plug* you start a new project.	☐	☐
3. *Cutting edge* technology is the most up-to-date technology.	☐	☐
4. If someone *pushes your buttons* they make you angry or annoy you.	☐	☐
5. A *well-oiled machine* always has problems.	☐	☐
6. If you *blow a fuse* you are really happy.	☐	☐

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Complete the sentences

1. What do you do to recharge your _____?

2. What kind of things could make you _____ a fuse?

3. Is there anyone who really pushes your _____?

4. Does your phone have all the _____ and whistles?

5. Have you ever got your _____ crossed with someone?

Among all of your colleagues and friends, who do you think is **on the same wavelength** as you?

Write a short text

Write a short text about a device that you use at work or at home. Use idioms to describe it – is it *cutting edge*, for example?
Also explain how you use it and in what order, using phrasal verbs. Can you *power it up* straight away or do you need to *plug it in* first?
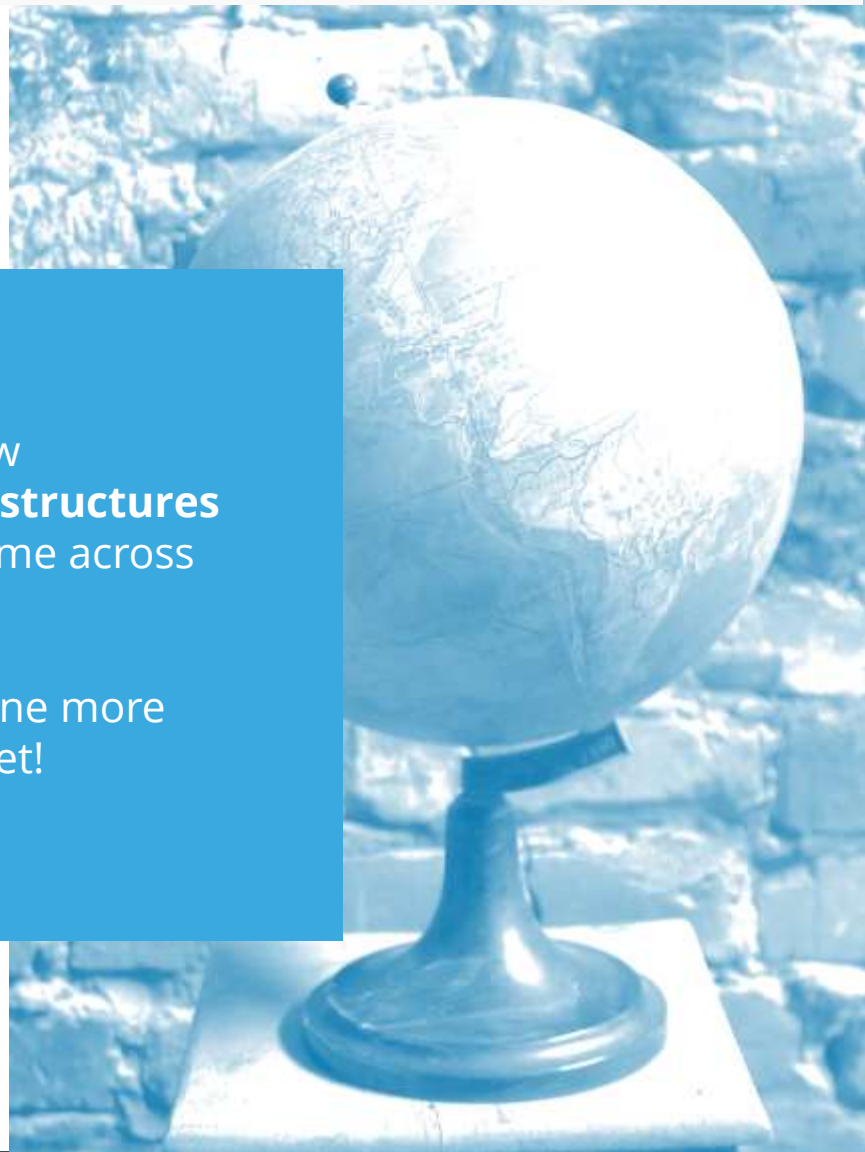
Reflect on this lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary**, **phrases**, **language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!

Answer key (1/2)

Exercise p. 18
1. out, 2. up, 3. out, 4. up, 5. into

Exercise p. 17
hook, print, back, went, signed, filter, opt

Exercise p. 12
boot up – shut down, log in – log out OR log off, plug in – unplug, power up – turn off

Exercise p. 10
plug in and plugin

Exercise p. 9
set up, scroll, click, login, key, in

Exercise p. 8
1c, 2d, 3b, 4a

Exercise p. 21
A. cog in the machine, B. wires crossed, C. bells and whistles, D. push someone's buttons
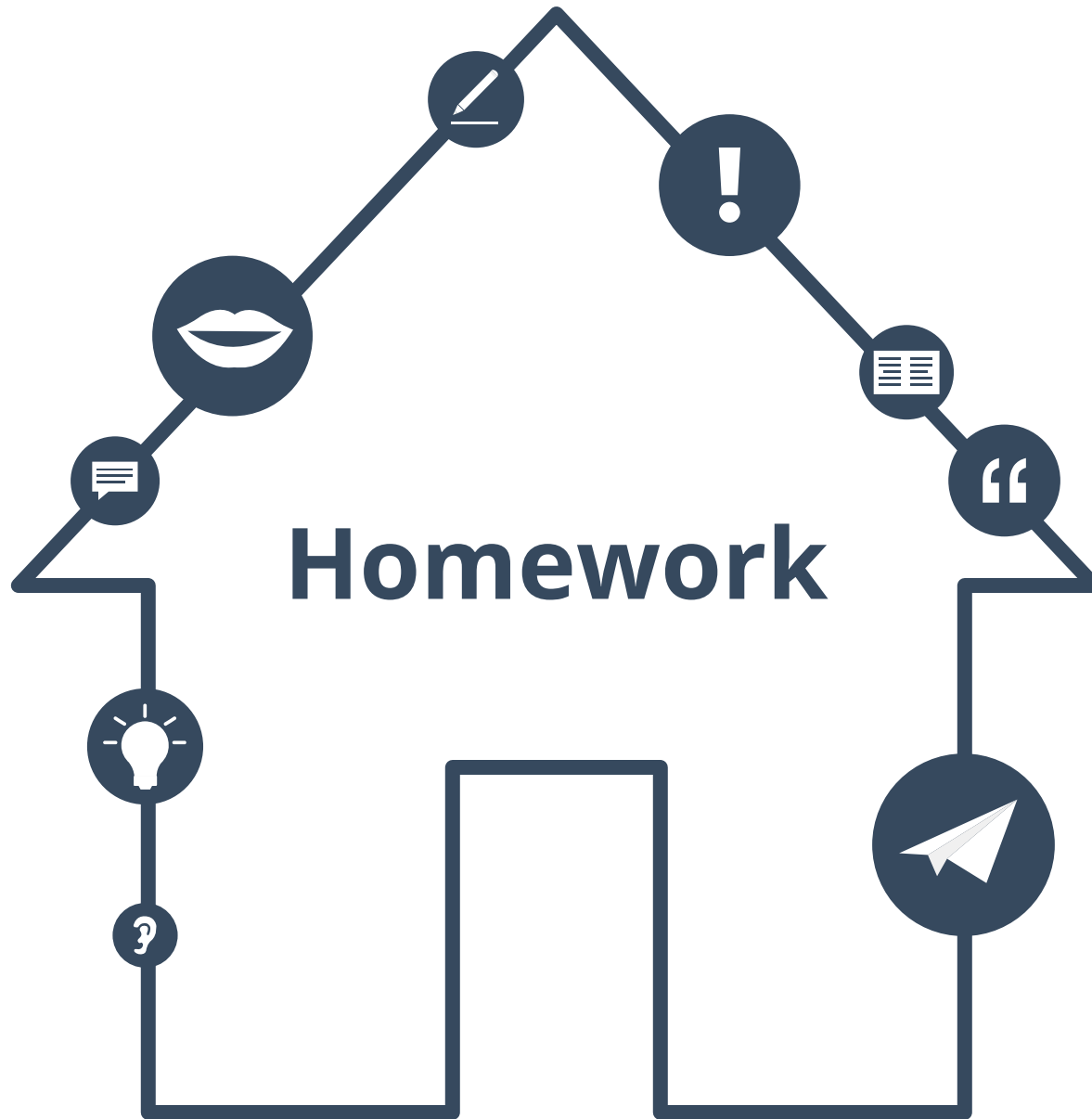
Exercise p. 22
a cog in the machine – a part of a machine that turns other parts
to recharge your batteries – to put power into batteries again
to pull the plug – to take a plug out from the power supply
fuse – part of a wire that melts if too much current flows through it

Exercise p. 23
1F, 2F, 3T, 4F, 5F, 6F

Exercise p. 24
1. batteries, 2. blow, 3. buttons, 4. bells, 5. wires

Homework

Vocabulary

Write down any new vocabulary here.

new vocabulary

bells and whistles

Write a short text about how to set up a computer for the first time and what is important to remember when using it.

Use as many phrasal verbs as you can.

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