



lingoda

# The language of technology

GRAMMAR

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
EN\_BE\_3714G

LANGUAGE  
English

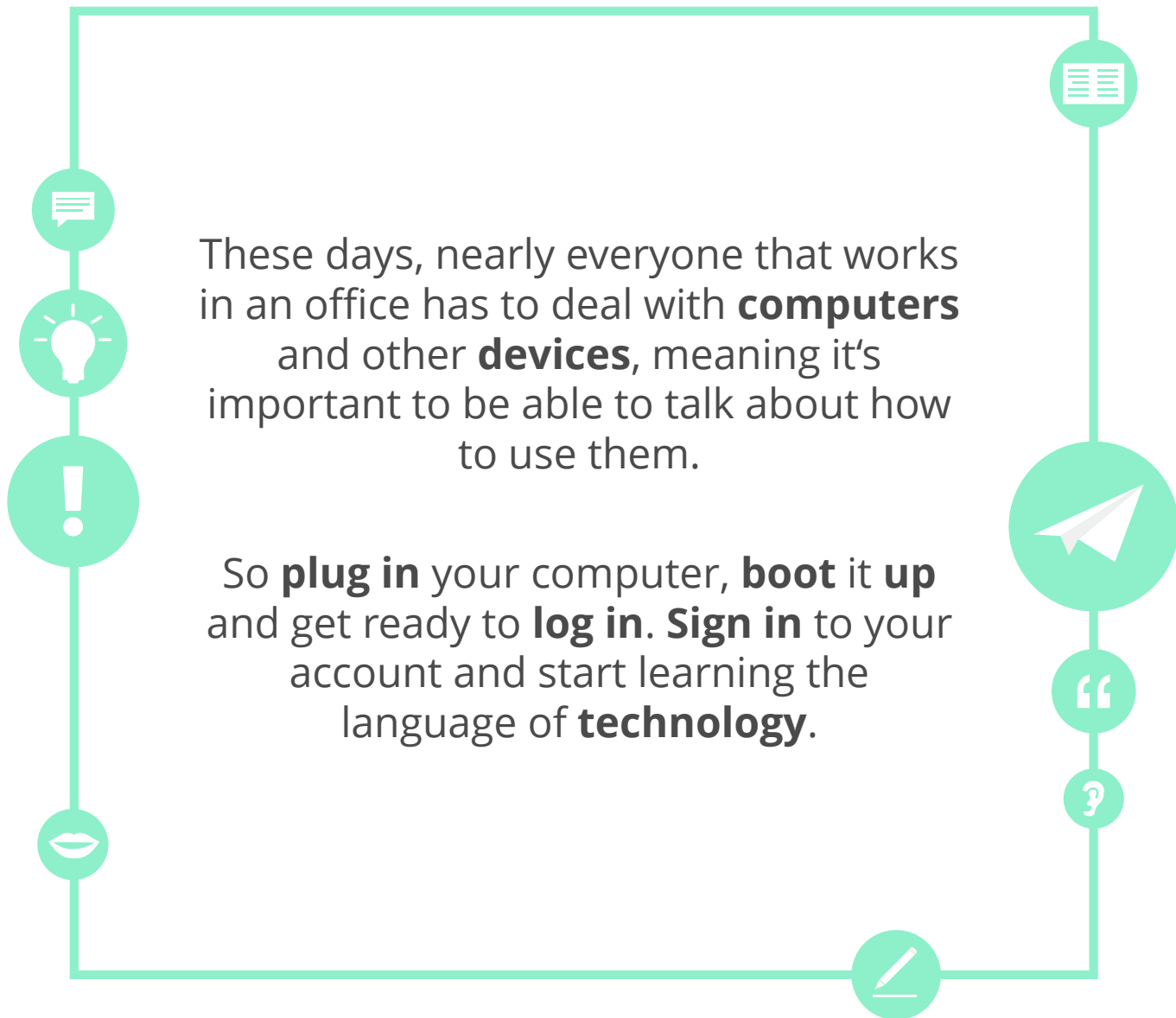




## Goals

- 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.







## 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 <b>set up</b> the new system.	The class <b>setup</b> is rather odd.
You have to <b>log in</b> to the system.	Do you have a <b>login</b> for this computer?
<b>Plug in</b> the computer before you start.	Websites generally have lots of <b>plugins</b> .



## 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?

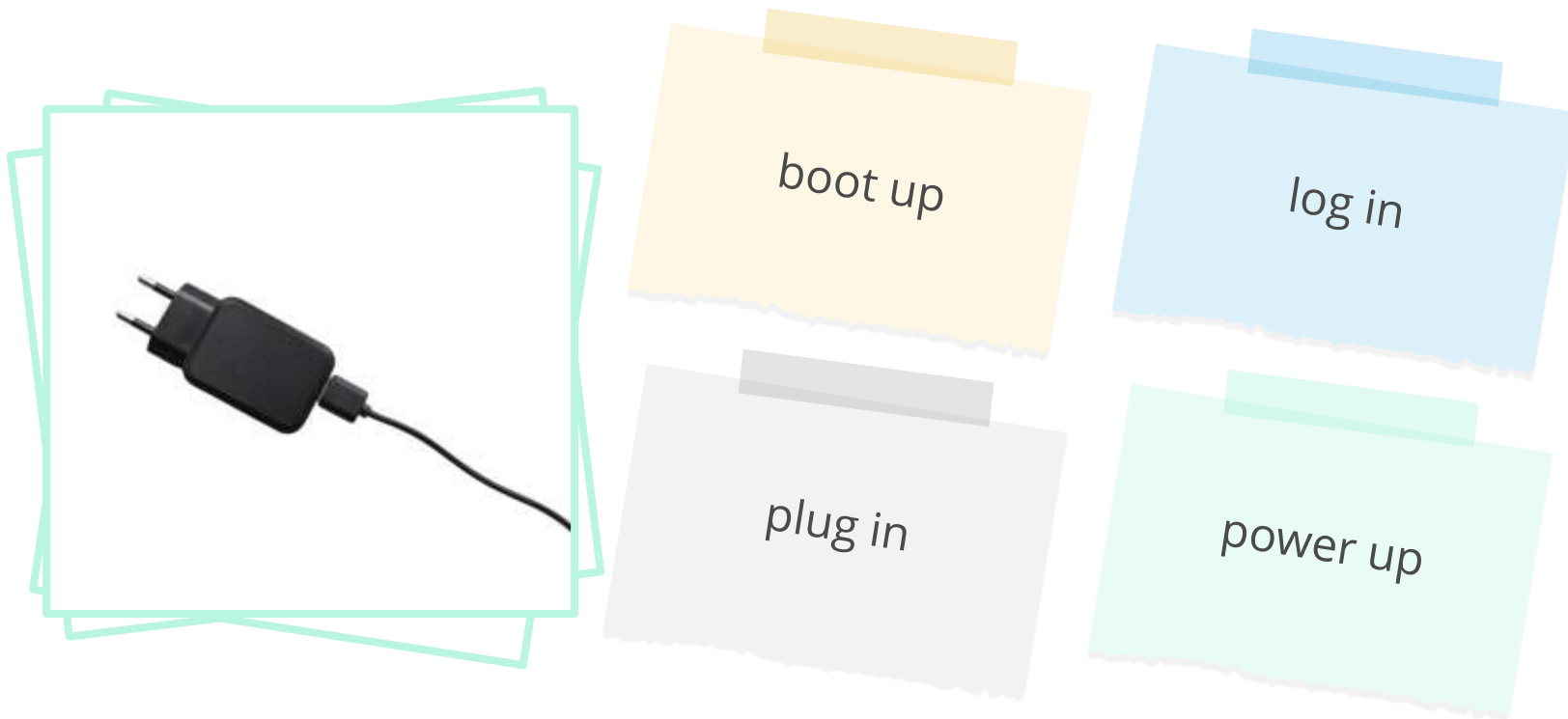
3

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?





## 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**.





## The internet

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





## 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





## 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. <i>All the bells and whistles</i> means without any special features.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. If you <i>pull the plug</i> you start a new project.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. <i>Cutting edge</i> technology is the most up-to-date technology.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. If someone <i>pushes your buttons</i> they make you angry or annoy you.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. <i>A well-oiled machine</i> always has problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. If you <i>blow a fuse</i> you are really happy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Complete the sentences

Fill in the gap with the missing words and then answer the questions.

*batteries, bells, blow, buttons, wires*

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?





## On the same wavelength

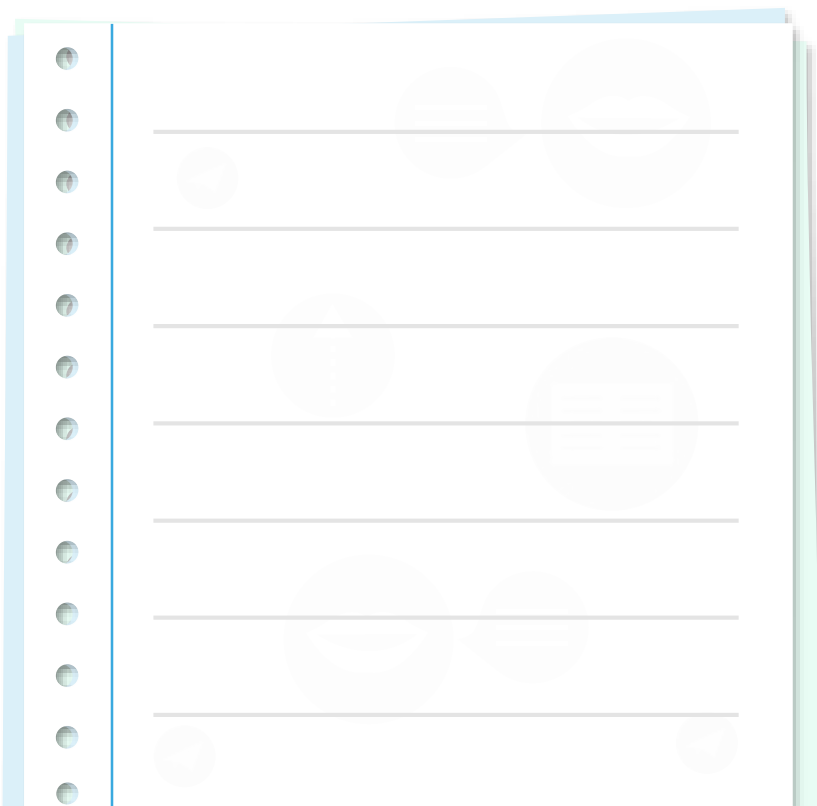
Among all of your colleagues  
and friends, who do you think is  
**on the same wavelength**  
as you?





## 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. 8**  
1c, 2d, 3b, 4a

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

**Exercise p. 10**  
plug in and plug in

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

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

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



## Answer key (2/2)

### Exercise p. 21

A. cog in the machine, B. wires crossed, C. bells and whistles, D. push someone's buttons

### Exercise p. 22

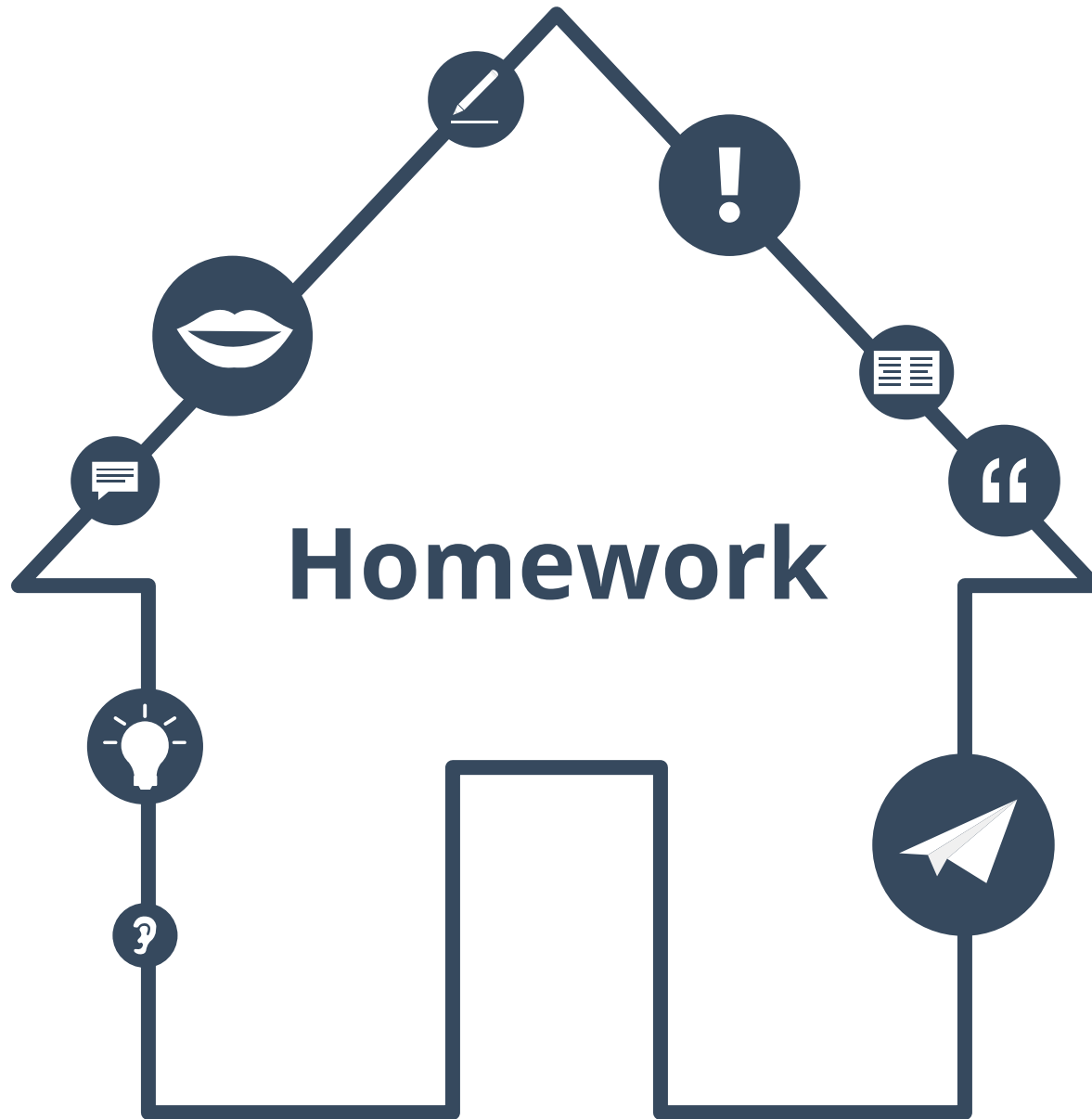
a cog in the machine – a part of a machine that turns other parts  
to recharge your batteries – to put power into batteries again  
to pull the plug – to take a plug out from the power supply  
fuse – part of a wire that melts if too much current flows through it

### Exercise p. 23

1F, 2F, 3T, 4F, 5F, 6F

### Exercise p. 24

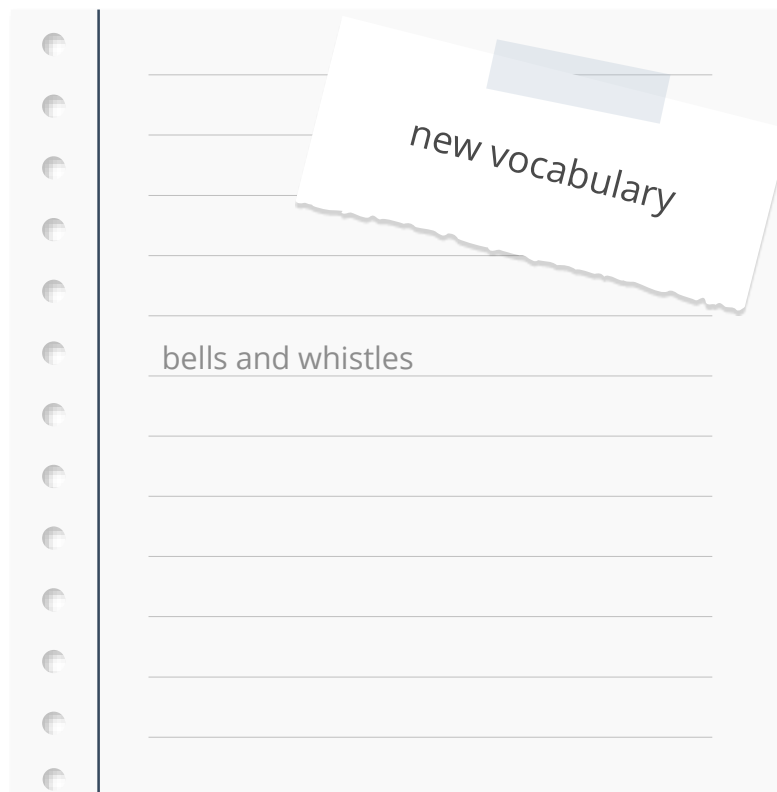
1. batteries, 2. blow, 3. buttons, 4. bells, 5. wires





## Vocabulary

**Write down any new vocabulary here.**





## Writing

**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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