Certainly! In a nutshell, a **virtual machine (VM)** is a virtual environment that functions as a virtual computer system with its own CPU, memory, network interface, and storage. It is created on a physical hardware system, either located off- or on-premises. [A **hypervisor** software separates the machine’s resources from the hardware and provisions them appropriately for use by the VM1](https://www.redhat.com/en/topics/virtualization/what-is-a-virtual-machine).

Here are **five free reference links** where you can learn more about virtual machines:

1. **Red Hat**[: Provides an overview of VMs, how they work, types of hypervisors, and why to use themRead more1](https://www.redhat.com/en/topics/virtualization/what-is-a-virtual-machine).
2. **Google Cloud**[: Explains VMs as digital versions of physical computers, their capabilities, and maintenance requirements](https://www.redhat.com/en/topics/virtualization/what-is-a-virtual-machine)[Learn more2](https://cloud.google.com/learn/what-is-a-virtual-machine).
3. **Robots.net**[: Covers VMs as software emulations of physical computer systems, allowing multiple OSes and applications to run on a single host machine](https://www.redhat.com/en/topics/virtualization/what-is-a-virtual-machine)[Explore3](https://robots.net/tech/what-is-virtual-machine/).
4. **Udemy**[: Offers beginner-friendly courses on virtualization concepts, setting up VMs, and understanding key tools like VMware and VirtualBox](https://www.redhat.com/en/topics/virtualization/what-is-a-virtual-machine)[Get started4](https://www.udemy.com/course/virtualization-one-hour-crash-course/).
5. **YouTube**[: Watch tutorials on using Oracle VirtualBox, including installation, setup, and running VMs](https://www.redhat.com/en/topics/virtualization/what-is-a-virtual-machine)[Watch here5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvdnQX9UkMY).

Feel free to explore these resources to deepen your understanding of virtual machines! 🚀