Where Are Computers Used?

Computers have an enormous range of applications in many different fields.

A. Computers have opened a new era in manufacturing and consumer-product development. In design offices, special programs enable engineers and architects to create 3D- models on a computer screen. In factories other
applications help managers to plan production and control automated machinery.

B. Researchers use computers to collect, store, manipulate and analyse data. Running simulations is an important application: data representing a real-life system is entered into the computer, and the data is manipulated to study how the system behaves in different conditions. Chemists, for example, use computer simulations to design and test models of new drugs. Meteorologists base their predictions on simulated models of weather conditions.

C. Computers play a vital role in national and local administration. They are essential, for example, in compiling population data and other statistics, paying social security benefits, handling tax records, maintaining criminal records and innumerable other administrative tasks.

D. All modern systems are dependent on computers. They operate telephone systems, coordinate satellite operations and control the equipment for television and radio broadcasting. Local area networks connect the computers in separate departments of businesses and other institutions while the Internet links computers all over the world.

E. Computers are increasingly being used for teaching in schools and universities. Computerised lessons range from simple repetitive exercises to complex interactive simulations. Certain programs have become essential teaching tools in medical schools and simulators to train pilots. Many reference works are available either on CD/DVD or through the Internet, and traditional textbooks are being replaced by e-books read on computers.

F. Video games are one of the most popular PC applications. The constantly improving graphics and sound capabilities of PCs have made them popular tools for artists and musicians. Painting and drawing programs enable artists to create realistic images and animated displays. Musicians can use computers to create multiple-voice compositions and to play back music with complex variations. The film industry is a major user of computer technology to create special effects and computer-generated images.

GLOSSARY	
Increasingly: sempre piu'	Behave (v): comportarsi
Training centre: centro di formazione	Drug: farmaco
Painting: relativo alla pittura	Compile (v): compilare
Musician: musicista	Task: compito, attivita'
Range: gamma, varietà	Equipment: attrezzatura
Enable (v): rendere in grado di, consentire	All over the world: in tutto il mondo
Machinery: macchinari industriali	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

CHOOSE THE CORRECT HEADING FOR EACH PARAGRAPH

1 EDUCATION 2 GOVERNMENT 3 ENTERTAINMENT 4 INDUSTRY 5 SCIENCE
6 TELECOMMUNICATIONS

READING COMPREHENSION

CONSTRUCT 6 SENTENCES BY CHOOSING ONE OPTION FROM 1 TO 6, AND LINKING THEM TO ONE OPTION FROM A TO F.

	use computers to…
1 ARCHITECTS	A. COLLECT AND ORGANIZE BUREAUCRATIC INFORMATION
2. FILM DIRECTORS	B. CONSTRUCT PRECISE MODELS OF BUILDINGS
3. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES	C. CREATE SPECTACULAR SPECIAL EFFECTS
4. SCIENTISTS	D. ALLOW PRACTICE IN SIMULATED REAL-LIFE SITUATIONS
5. TELECOMS ENGINEERS	E. IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF TELEPHONE NETWORKS
6. TRAINING INSTITUTIONS	F. TEST THEORIES IN VARYING SIMULATED CONDITIONS

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