## Get ready!

**1** Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

1 What is the purpose of requirements engineering?

2 How are software specifications organized?

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### ShorSoft Software Developers

**Requirements Engineering Department**

We understand that functional and **user-friendly** software comes from well-defined foundations. Therefore, we take great pride in our requirements engineering department. Our engineers perfect every **specification** for the software that we create.

We primarily create **market-driven** software for general consumers. However, we also create some **customer-driven** software for special projects. First, our team makes a detailed requirements document. This is based on **elicitation** of the requirements. Typically, the information comes from people who will likely use the software. Then, a separate team provides **validation** and **verification** for that document. This process prevents mistakes and ensures precision.

We organize requirements by the most appropriate parameters for the software. Specifications can be organized by the **mode**, **user class**, or **response**. In less-common cases, requirements documents are organized by real-life **objects**. Or they might be determined by some other **functional hierarchy**.

One way or another, we'll get the job done. For more information about requirements engineering services, contact our customer service department.

customer-driven

functional hierarchy

user class

validation

verification

## Reading

**2** Read the webpage. Then, choose the correct answers.

1 What is the purpose of the webpage?

   A to list job qualifications for a requirements engineering position

   B to define various requirements engineering concepts

   C to review a company's requirements engineering process

   D to describe the work experience of several requirements engineers

2 Which of the following is NOT a parameter used to organize requirements?

   A user class        C mode

   B objects           D verification

3 Why does a second team of engineers provide validation and verification?

   A to avoid errors in the requirements document

   B to organize requirements specifications

   C to ensure elicitation of important information

   D to determine the most appropriate functional hierarchy

## Vocabulary

**3** Match the words and phrases (1-8) with the definitions (A-H).

1 __ customer-driven        5 __ elicitation

2 __ market-driven          6 __ validation

3 __ specification          7 __ verification

4 __ requirements           8 __ user-friendly
     engineering

A designed in response to specific needs of potential users

B a precise definition of a problem

C designed for broad purposes

D the process of becoming apparent or realized

E the act of checking that requirements are correct

F the act of checking that requirements are stated correctly

G easy for most people to understand or use

H the practice of specifying the necessary features and functions of software
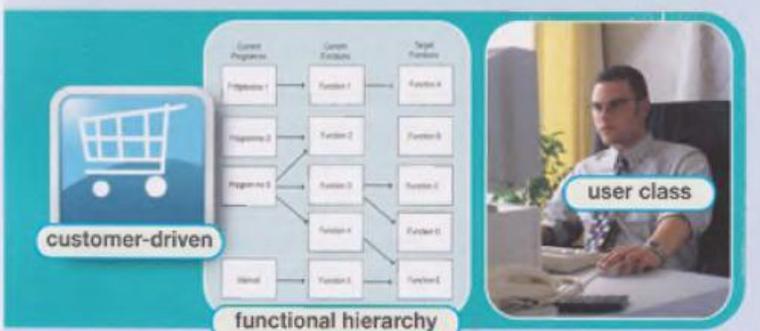
④ **Write a word or phrase that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.**

1  Some software is defined in terms of its relationship to <u>real life things that can be touched or seen</u>.   _ _ j _ c _ s _

2  Software specifications can change depending on the <u>status of the person who is using the software</u>.   _ s _ r  c _ _ s _

3  If no traditional specifications are appropriate, a requirements document can be organized by <u>any undefined system</u>.
   _ _ n _ _ i _ _ a _   _ _ e _ _ r _ h _

4  Software that changes according to the way it is used can be defined according to its <u>changeable system of operation</u>.
   _ _ d e

5  The type of <u>information provided by software upon request</u> is sometimes a specification in requirements documents.
   _ _ s _ o _ s _

⑤ 🎧 **Listen and read the webpage again. How do engineers identify errors in a requirements document?**

## Listening

⑥ 🎧 **Listen to a conversation between two engineers. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).**

1  __  The engineers recently assessed requirements for a software update.

2  __  The specifications were made with the wrong data.

3  __  The engineers missed an important deadline.

⑦ 🎧 **Listen again and complete the conversation.**

**Engineer 1:** Can you give me an update 1 _____ _____ _____ for the library catalog application?

**Engineer 2:** It's going slowly. It was good at first, but we found some major problems when we did 2 _____ _____.

**Engineer 1:** I don't like the sound of that. 3 _____ _____ ?

**Engineer 2:** 4 _____ _____ _____ _____ were based on old data. The requirements didn't include the library's new DVD catalog.

**Engineer 1:** Oh, that's right. Originally, they only included books. Will we able to fix the problem?

**Engineer 2:** We're 5 _____ _____ _____ now. Then we'll just plug it into the existing requirements document.

**Engineer 1:** How long will that take?

**Engineer 2:** We should have it done by the 6 _____ _____ _____ .

## Speaking

⑧ **With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.**

**USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:**

Can you give ...

How long ...

I was worried ...

**Student A:** You are an engineer. Talk to Student B about:

• a project your company is working on

• problems with the requirements document

• when the project will be completed

**Student B:** You are an engineer. Talk to Student A about a project your company is working on.

## Writing

⑨ **Use the conversation from Task 8 to complete the project update.**

### ShorSoft Software Developers

From the desk of: Allison Baxter

Hi Greg,

Here is an update on the _____ project.

Current stage: _____ .

Problems encountered: _____
_____ .

Next steps: _____
_____ .

Let me know if you have any questions.
-Allison