READING "The wonderful world of computers"

1. **Read the text. Match the paragraphs to the titles.**

The wonderful world of computers

(A) British mathematician and inventor Charles Babbage designed the Analytical Engine in 1833.

It was the first computer and it was mechanical. Babbage spent 37 years trying to build this machine but the technology was too difficult for him. However, modern computers are based on his original design and he is remembered as 'the father of the computer'.

(B) 'Hackers' are the biggest worry for computer companies. They can enter a company's computer network through an open port or an Internet connection, crack the entry passwords and steal the secret data.

(C) For more than two decades before the 1990s, floppy disks were the best way to store, transfer or back up data. Like all things in the computer industry, the capacity of the floppy disk has changed considerably over the years. The most popular floppy disk can hold up to 1.44 megabytes of data (about 700 pages of text). Modern USB flash drives, portable external hard disk drives, optical discs, memory cards, and computer networks are data storage devices with much greater capacity. Although now considered almost obsolete, the floppy disk still has some limited uses. The floppy disk symbol is still used by software on user interface elements related to saving files, the 'Save' icon in most computer programs is a picture of a floppy.

(D) The first electronic computer was developed in 1946, filled an entire room and weighed over 30 tons! It could do an impressive 5,000 calculations per second.

(E) The first computer game, Pong, (a version of table tennis) was created in 1972 by a student from the USA. Today there are thousands of games. Companies have brought a lot of new technology into the gaming world to produce the highest quality graphics. The games are becoming much more real.

(F) Today computers come in all shapes and sizes — from the enormous super computers and mainframes, that have to be kept in special temperature-controlled rooms, to handhelds. Some handhelds including the iPhone have mini thumb touch keyboards, and others handhelds have touch screens that you use with your finger or a pen-like tool called a stylus.

A .	1. The father of the computer
B.	2. A great variety of modern computers
C.	3. The heaviest calculator of the past
D.	4. Computer thieves
E.	5. How the symbol of the "Save" icon appeared
F.	6. Some words about computer games

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2. Read the statements and tick the ones which describe good points of computers

1. They make our life easier.
2. It is a good way to entertain oneself and not feel bored.
3. The computer users become addictive.
4. It improves communication, saving time and money
5. They emit dangerous rays.
6. They are bad for your eyes.
7. They make people more isolated and inactive.

3. There are a lot of synonyms among the computer terms. You are to read two columns and find the words with the same meanings

1. Data	A. to keep
2. an icon	B. to choose
3. dependent	C. thieves
4. hackers	D. information
5. a display	E. addictive
6. to select	F. a sign
7. to store	G. a screen

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