UNIT 3 - COMPUTERS

Reading 1

Skills:

- Details

Getting started: Do you use a computer every day? What do you use a computer for mostly?

TYPES OF COMPUTERS

There are a lot of terms used to describe computers. Most of these words imply the size, expected use or capability of the computer. While the term computer can apply to virtually any device that has a **microprocessor** in it, most people think of a computer as a device that receives **input** from the user through a mouse or keyboard, then processes it, and displays the result on a screen.

1. PC

PC is a general term. The personal computer (PC) defines a computer designed for all-purpose use by a single person. While a Mac is a PC, most people relate the term with systems that run the Windows **operating system**. PCs were first known as microcomputers because they were a complete computer but built on a smaller scale than the huge systems in use by most businesses.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. Desktop

A PC that is not designed for portability is a desktop computer. The expectation with desktop systems is that you will set the computer up in a permanent location. Most desktops offer more power, storage and versatility for less cost than their portable version.

3. Laptop

Also called notebooks, laptops are portable computers that integrate the screen, keyboard, a pointing device or **touchpad** (incorporated mouse), processor, memory and hard drive. All this comes in a battery-operated package slightly larger than an average book.

4. Tablet

A tablet computer, commonly shortened to tablet, is a mobile device, typically with a mobile operating system and **touchscreen** display. It has a rechargeable battery in a single, thin and flat package. Tablets do what other personal computers do, but they lack some input/output abilities that others have. Modern tablets largely resemble modern smartphones, the only differences being that tablets are relatively larger than smartphones, with screens 7 inches (18 cm) or larger.

5. Workstation

The fifth type of computer is a workstation. A workstation is simply a desktop computer that has a more powerful processor, additional memory and enhanced capabilities for performing a special group of tasks, such as 3D Graphics or game development.

**Adapted from https://computer.howstuffworks.com/10-types-of-computers.htm#pt10*

Glossary:

- **Microprocessor**: A microprocessor is a component that performs the instructions and tasks involved in computer processing.
- **Input**: the act of putting information into a computer.

- **Operating system:** An operating system (OS) is system software that manages computer hardware, software resources, and provides common services for computer programs.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- **Touchpad:** The touchpad on a laptop does the same job as the mouse on a desktop PC. It is sometime also called a trackpad. The touchpad is used to control the mouse pointer, also known as the cursor.
- **Touchscreen:** A touch screen is a display device that allows the user to interact with a computer b using their fingers.

Match the descriptions with the type of computers:

1. PC	a. It's a light computer you can take with you. It includes a mouse.	____
2. Desktop	b. It's more sophisticated and has better components than a desktop.	____
3. Laptop	c. It's bigger than a cellphone and you can control it with your fingers.	____
4. Tablet	d. It's a standard name to refer to computers.	____
5. Workstation	e. Bigger than a laptop and more efficient. You keep it at home.	____

LIVEWORKSHEETS