

## Reading 3

### Skills:

- Details
- Author's attitude
- Make inferences
- Scanning

**Getting started:** Is there a specific computer you would like to buy? Why?

### SURFACE BOOK

Able to work as a laptop, a tablet computer, or a touch-sensitive canvas, the Microsoft Surface Book shows how computers are changing to match the way we live and work. This fully portable and highly flexible **gadget** provides super-fast file transfer and a whole experience for people who like to play video games, design, edit videos, make movies, or for 2-D/3-D animation, and other graphic-intensive tasks. The Surface Book is a laptop with a detachable screen that can function separately as a tablet computer. To work as a tablet, the screen **houses** the memory, storage, processor, and a battery. The keyboard base has an additional battery.



The keyboard and trackpad are both comfortable to use, and the port selection is one of the greatest features of this computer, which includes some full-sized USB **ports** and an SD card reader. This laptop stands out due to its fast performance and even longer battery life than other models. It also includes a **stylus pen** that can be used for drawing and navigation on the screen. The pen can be connected to

the computer by Bluetooth. The laptop is encased in magnesium, a tough but lightweight metal. The whole device weighs about 31/3 lb (1.5 kg) and is just under an **inch** (23 mm) thick when folded shut.

Laptops have come a long way since the Osborne 1, which was released in 1981. It weighed nearly 10 times as much as a Surface Book and was four times the price. Its main drawback, however, was its tiny 5 in<sup>2</sup> (13 cm<sup>2</sup>) screen.

\*Adapted from *How Super Cool Tech Works*. DK Publishing.

#### **Glossary:**

- **Gadget:** a small tool or device that does something useful.
- **Port:** a place on a computer where you can attach another piece of equipment, often using a cable.
- **Stylus pen:** a stylus is an object similar to a pen that people use to point, sign, and draw on all types of touchscreens and electronic devices.
- **Inch** (in.): a unit for measuring length or height, equal to 2.54 centimeters. There are 12 inches in a foot.

1. Considering the author's attitude towards the Microsoft Surface Book, what's a word that would describe the computer?
  - a. Heavy
  - b. Inexpensive
  - c. Multifunctional
  - d. Hard to operate
2. Who is less likely to use the Microsoft Surface Book?
  - a. An office assistant
  - b. A gamer
  - c. A filmmaker
  - d. A graphic designer
3. The word **houses** in paragraph 1 can be replaced by
  - a. builds
  - b. contains
  - c. ejects
  - d. separates

4. What can be stated about the Osborne 1?

- a. It wasn't an expensive computer.
- b. It must have weighed around 10 kilograms.
- c. It had a huge display.
- d. It was the inspiration to design the Microsoft Surface Book.

5. In each paragraph, look for synonyms of the following words:

**Paragraph 1:** gives, complete, removable

**Paragraph 2:** characteristics, contains, strong

**Paragraph 3:** launched, almost, nevertheless

### What do you think?

Is the Microsoft Surface Book a good option?