

FACT FILE: Computers

FUN FACTS:

- More than 3 billion people use the internet!
- More than 200 billion emails are sent every day!
- The first computer mouse was made of wood!

Computers can do lots of jobs. They can do maths, store information, or play music. You can use a computer to write or to play games. What do you know about the history of computers?



The first computers were very big. They were the size of a room! They were so big that people didn't have them at home. Early computers could also only do simple maths, like a calculator. In the 1930s Alan Turing had the idea for a computer you could program to do different things.

In 1958 Jack Kilby invented the microchip. Microchips are tiny but can store lots of information. They helped make computers smaller. In the 1970s computers were smaller and cheaper so people started to use them at home. In the 1980s computer games were very popular. Lots of people bought computers just to play games.



In 1989 Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web, which is a way to organise information on the internet. Now people all over the world can look for and share information on websites.

Today people can use smartphones to play games, email and go on the internet. In the past a simple computer was the size of a room. Now it can go in your pocket!



1. How many people use the Internet nowadays?

- a) Near three billion people
- b) Over two hundred billion people
- c) Over three billion people

2. What is true about the very first computers?

- a) People used them to send information to other computers
- b) They were as big as a room and could do maths
- c) People had them at home to use them as calculators

3. When did games start to be popular?

- a) In the 1970s
- b) In the 1980s
- c) In 1989

4. Why did computers start to be smaller?

- a) Thanks to the invention of the microchip
- b) Thanks to the World Wide Web
- c) Thanks to the invention of smartphones

5. What material was the first mouse made of?

- a) Wool
- b) Plastic
- c) Wood

6. What is false about smartphones?

- a) They are the size of a room
- b) They are replacing computers
- c) They can go in your pocket

LISTENING: Will is giving a talk to some students about his job. Look at Olivia's notes. Are they true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Will sometimes worked with his father when he was younger _____
- 2 Will was often bored at his dad's business _____
- 3 Will found his present job online _____
- 4 Will never works more than 8 hours a day _____
- 5 Will learns a lot from his boss _____
- 6 Will says some customers are difficult _____
- 7 Will enjoys working in the office more than in the factory _____
- 8 Will makes hot air balloons _____