

4

Storage devices

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Get ready!

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

- 1 Which types of storage devices do people use?
- 2 What do people use USB flash drives for?



Suggestion Form

GENE*Tech*
Systems

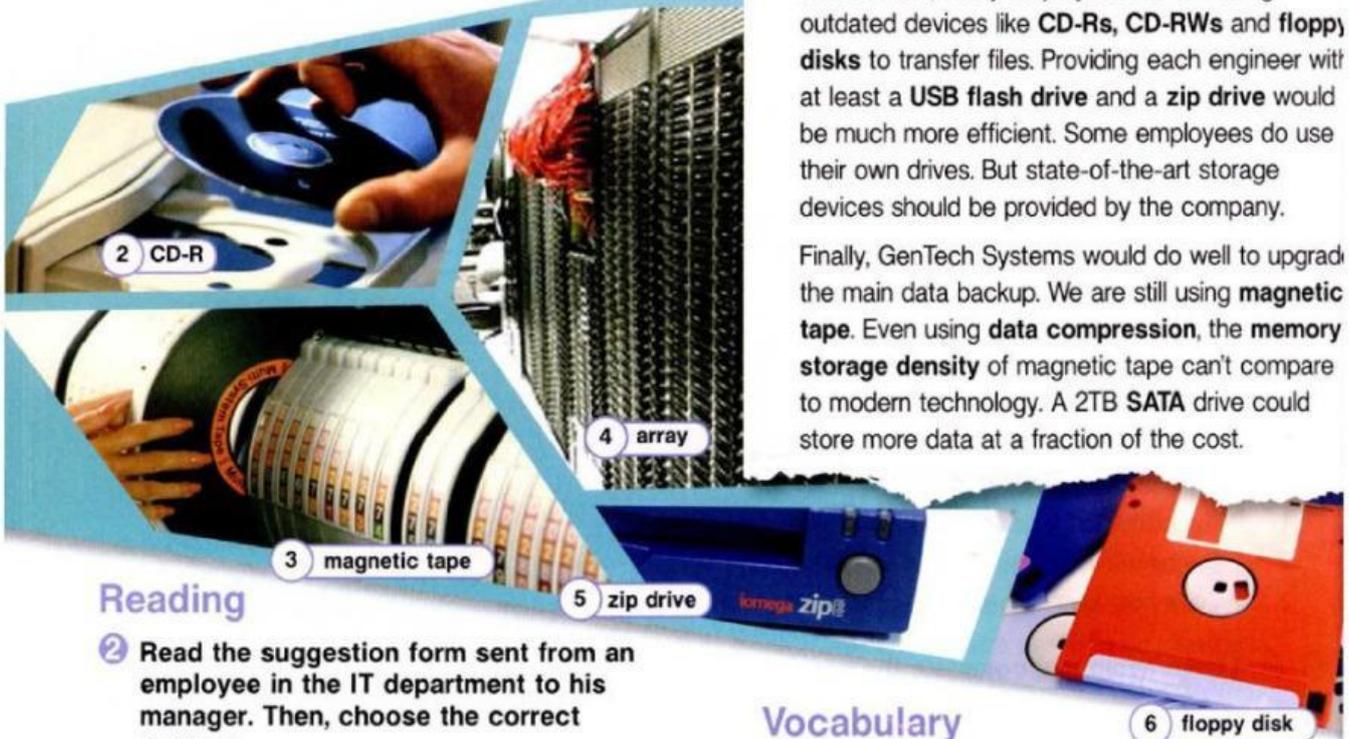
Name: Harold Gibbons

Department: IT Suggestion:

The IT department is in desperate need of new storage devices. To begin, we need a group of hard drives arranged in an **array**. That means we'll also need **RAID** software. Just last week, an engineer lost months of data in a drive **failure**. An array will help us avoid such costly losses in the future.

Furthermore, many employees are still using outdated devices like **CD-Rs**, **CD-RWs** and **floppy disks** to transfer files. Providing each engineer with at least a **USB flash drive** and a **zip drive** would be much more efficient. Some employees do use their own drives. But state-of-the-art storage devices should be provided by the company.

Finally, GenTech Systems would do well to upgrade the main data backup. We are still using **magnetic tape**. Even using **data compression**, the **memory storage density** of magnetic tape can't compare to modern technology. A 2TB **SATA** drive could store more data at a fraction of the cost.



Reading

2 Read the suggestion form sent from an employee in the IT department to his manager. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the main idea of the form?
 - A a request for new equipment
 - B suggestions on improving efficiency
 - C where to place new storage devices
 - D how to speed up file transfers
- 2 Which drive stores more data than magnetic tape?
 - A zip drive C SATA
 - B RAID D USB flash drive
- 3 It can be inferred the USB flash drives are...
 - A less reliable than magnetic tape.
 - B more efficient than floppy disks.
 - C more expensive than zip drives.
 - D less efficient than SATA drives.

Vocabulary

3 Fill in the blanks with the correct words and phrases from the word bank.

Word BANK

array memory storage density CD-R
zip drive data compression CD-RW
RAID

- 1 Set up a(n) _____ to combine drives.
- 2 The old drive has low _____ and holds little data.
- 3 A(n) _____ can only be written on once.
- 4 A(n) _____ uses removable disks to transfer data.
- 5 Without _____, no more data will fit on that drive.
- 6 A(n) _____ can be written again and again.

7 _____ software improves hard drive performance.

4 Check (✓) the sentence that uses the underlined parts correctly.

- 1 A Save the file on the USB flash drive.
- B Arrays are made from a series of floppy disks.
- 2 A SATA drives are used to increase processing speeds.
- B A drive failure means the data disk drive is inaccessible.
- 3 A RAID arrays are made of magnetic tape.
- B Floppy disks are an older technology.

5 Listen and read the suggestion form sent from an employee in the IT department to his manager again. What do GENETech Systems use to back up their main data?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between an IT employee and his manager. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 The company will purchase an array.
- 2 All of the requests were approved.
- 3 Management thinks a new main data backup device is too expensive.

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Manager: Management didn't like hearing about the 1 _____, so we're getting the array.

Employee: Yes, that was pretty bad. What about some of the 2 _____?

Manager: They weren't approved. It just seemed too expensive.

Employee: 3 _____, but I guess you've got to save money somehow. How about the main data backup?

Manager: We're interested in the savings you mentioned. Could you 4 _____ a more 5 _____?

Employee: Absolutely. When would you like that?

Manager: 6 _____.

Speaking

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

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

A few of the requests you sent in ...
What about some of the...?
What about the main data backup?

Student A: You are talking to your manager. Ask Student B about:

- approved requests
- unapproved requests
- writing a proposal

Student B: You are the manager. Answer Student A's questions. Make up a name for your subordinate.

Writing

9 You are an employee in IT. Use the conversation from task 8 to write a memo to your co-workers telling them which types of new equipment were approved for purchase and why.



Memorandum

From: _____

To: _____
