READING

TALKING POINTS

Computers can now do a lot of clever things. But are they more intelligent than us? Why / Why not?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The history OF COMPUTERS

205BCE

The Antikythera Mechanism

In 1900, a group of people diving near the Greek island of Antikythera found this machine on the sea floor. For many years, no one understood what it was or how it worked. Scientists now say it was used to find out the positions of the sun, moon and stars. Many people call it the world's earliest 'computer'.

1940s

Alan Turing

Alan Turing wasn't well known when he was alive, but he's now one of the most famous scientists of the 20th century. His ideas on computer science changed the world. He worked on the first digital computer – it was called Colossus, weighed 30 tonnes, and was as big as a large living room.

around 2,700 BCE to today

The abacus

People still use abacuses today in many parts of the world, especially to teach maths to children. Of course, they are very different from modern computers, but the idea is the same – to answer difficult maths questions much more quickly than a human can.

1791–1871 and 1815–1852

Charles Babbage and Ada Lovelace

The modern computer was Charles Babbage's idea. The machine he wanted to build, called a 'difference engine', was special because it had all the parts that a modern computer has. It could save information and was also a kind of printer. Ada Lovelace was the first computer programmer. She had the idea for 'software' – a way of telling a computer to do different things.

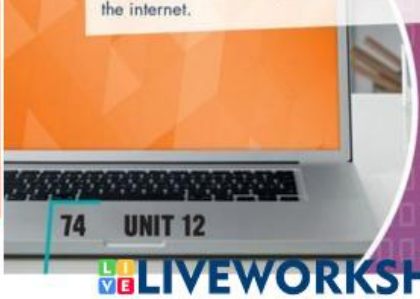
READING

1 Do you know the names of any early computers? Read the article once and check your ideas.

From the 1950s

Modern computers

From the 1950s, computers got smaller, faster and cheaper. Today, the smallest mobile phones have more memory than the biggest early computers. And computers are getting better all the time. However, they are not perfect. One of the worst problems is computer viruses. You can lose a lot of information when one gets on your machine. Be careful about what you download from the internet.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Complete the sentences with one or two words from the article.

1 Some children use an abacus to learn how to do _____.

2 Charles Babbage's computer had several different _____.

3 The first person to program a computer was _____.

4 Colossus was as big as a _____.

5 Modern _____ are small but can do more than the biggest computers of the past.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

VOCABULARY

1 **Write the missing word in the sentences.**

1 When you _____ something, you copy information onto your computer.

2 A _____ is smaller than a laptop, but bigger than a mobile phone. You can play games on it and use it to go online.

3 _____ describes cameras and clocks that record information as 0s or 1s.

4 A dangerous computer programme is called a _____.

5 _____ have moving parts and help humans to do work.

6 You use a _____ to write words and numbers on a computer.

7 _____ is how much information a computer can hold.

8 You can use your _____ to move information on your screen.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 **Complete the sentences with words from the box. There are some words you do not need to use.**

buy	chat	do	download	goes	playing
spend	surf	visit	watching		

1. I went online to _____ some new clothes for my last holiday.
2. My sister often _____ online to find information for school projects.
3. Mobile phones have a lot of memory so you can _____ a lot of songs.
4. I like _____ the latest videos on YouTube.
5. Why don't you use your tablet to _____ to your friends in Scotland?
6. Do you often _____ websites to help you with your homework?
7. I think that _____ games is more boring than watching films.
8. I sometimes _____ the internet to find cheap flights and hotels.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 Circle the correct option, *A*, *B*, *C* or *D*

1 I prefer to travel by plane because it is the _____.
A fast **B** fastest **C** faster **D** more fast

2 Diamonds are the _____ expensive presents.
A very **B** most **C** more **D** great

3 The _____ city in the world is London; it is amazing.
A goodest **B** bestest **C** good **D** best

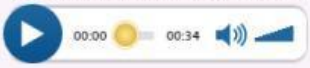
4 I think our pet is the _____ cat in our town.
A fatest **B** fattest **C** fatter **D** fat

5 The _____ thing in my bedroom is the games console.
A nicerest **B** nicer **C** niccest **D** nicest

LIVEWORKSHEETS

ə PRONUNCIATION | Stress in superlatives

5 Listen and repeat the words. Then put them into the correct column of the table. Listen again and check.



the biggest the cleverest the friendliest the most exciting
the most expensive the nicest the quickest the worst

o0	o0o	o0oo	ooo0o
_____	*the biggest*	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____		

LIVEWORKSHEETS