Topic: Introduction to Computers

When I am done this lesson, I will know:

- What a computer system is
- Why computers are important in all parts of life

Pre and Post Self-Assessment

	Pre	Pre	Post	Post
	Yes, I know this	No, I want to learn this	Yes, I know this	I still need more practice to learn this
I know the difference between a desktop and a laptop computer				
I know the ways computers are used at work				
I know how computers are used for learning				
I know how computers can help me with everyday tasks				

New Words and Terms

hardware
software
peripheral device
desktop
laptop

What is a Computer System?

A computer system has three main parts:

- hardware
- software
- people

Hardware is the equipment. It is the physical parts. It includes the parts you can see and some parts that you can't see. Hardware includes the processor, memory, storage, communication ports and peripheral devices. Peripheral devices are connected to the computer. Some examples are the display, the keyboard, a mouse, speakers, or a printer. The processor is what makes the computer work. It is like the "brains" of the computer.

Software is a set of instructions or a computer program that tells the hardware what to do. The operating system of a computer is one type of software. There are also thousands of other types of software programs that you can use on a computer. Some of the most common software programs you might use are Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat. Software is written by a computer programmer.

People use the software to tell the computer what they want it to do for them.

There are different types of computers. They can have different computing power, capacity, size, mobility and other factors. Some different types of computers are:

- desktop computers
- laptop computers
- minicomputers
- handheld computers and devices
- mainframes or supercomputers

	Watch this to learn more about what a computer is. Source: GCFGlobal.org	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cXEOWAStq4

You are probably using a **desktop computer** or a **laptop computer**.

Desktop Computer	Laptop Computer
• A desktop computer has a few different parts. • A desktop computer needs to have a place to sit. It usually sits on a desk which is why it is called a desktop. • A desktop computer needs to be plugged in to work.	• All the parts are combined in a laptop computer. • A laptop computer can be moved around. You can even have it on your lap which is why it is called a laptop computer. • A desktop computer has a built-in battery. You need to plug a laptop computer into a power source to charge the battery. If the battery is charged, you can use it unplugged. • Sometimes laptop computers are called notebook computers.

☑ **Check Your Knowledge**

What are the three main parts of a computer system?

1.

2.

3.

What are two differences between a desktop computer and a laptop computer?

_____

_____

Computers are used in all parts of our lives today. We use computers in the workplace, in school settings and in our everyday lives.

Examples of Computers at Work

	Retail associates look up customer names, addresses and product information on a computer.
	Factory workers need to use computer scanners to look up product information.
	Office workers use word processing software to write letters.
	Mechanics use computers to match fault codes with engine problems.

💬**Discussion Question**

Can you think of any other examples?

Examples of Computers at School

	Students apply to schools online.
	Some courses are done on a computer.

	Assignments are usually done on a computer.
	Many teachers have online class websites.

💬**Discussion Question**

Can you think of any other examples?

Examples of Computers in our Everyday Lives

	Many people store photos online.
	You can message with friends and family using social media.
	Most people do at least some of their banking online.
	Shopping online is getting more and more popular.

💬**Discussion Question**

Can you think of any other examples?

☑**Check Your Knowledge**

Write down three different places computers are used:

1.

2.

3.

Share your answers with the group.

ⓘ**Optional: I Want to Learn More**

Complete the GCFGlobal: Computer Basics – What is a Computer Course**:**
https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/computerbasics/what-is-a-computer/1/

🖼️ Bridge Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework Connection	
Competency	**Task Group(s) (Levels)**
Find and Use Information	• Read Continuous Text (L3) • Interpret Documents (L2- tables, simple format/sequences, pre-post tests) • Extract Information from Films, Broadcasts and Presentations (not leveled)
Communicate Ideas and Information	• Interact with Others (L2 - brainstorm to improve learning environment using technology, exchange opinions, discuss ideas, informal) • Complete and Create Documents (L3)

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