English for Computer Science and Engineering

Unit 1

Personal Compuers

legitimize	authorize, legalize
dominant	controlling, important
convenience	comfort, ease
cumbersome	uncomfortable
miniaturized	tiny, very small
to take up	occupy
permanent	lasting, invariable
state-of-the-art	modern

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configuration	formation, structure
dock	connect two computers using an electrical wire
expand	grow larger
slot	narrow opening
footprint	surface area taken by a particular hardware device
to gain ground	to become more successful

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courier	messenger
stylus	light pen
poised to	ready to move
insurance	to guarantee safety
tickler	to-do list
to distinguish from	differentiate, recognize
souped-up	more powerful
crunching	chewing
to fall short	be less than enough

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to set apart	separate
precision	exactness, accuracy

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slogan	motto, getting phrase used in advertising
glimpse	brief view
virtual	computer simulated
pioneer	pathfinder
aisle	walkway (between rows of seats)
to transmit	to send out electronic signals
grab	take tightliy and suddenly
cart	carriage
fraction	part of a whole

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redeem	get sth back
hassle	inconvenience

Language focus A

Contextual reference

Transitional markers are words used to link ideas together so that the text is easier to read. When pronouns such as *it, they, them, I, he, she, which, who, whose, that, such, one,* and demonstrative adjectives such as *this, that, these* and *those,* are used as transitional markers, they refer to a word, or words, mentioned earlier in the sentence or paragraph. Their function is to take your thoughts back to something that has already been mentioned. Other words which are often used to refer backwards are *the former, the latter, the first, second,* etc., *the last.*

Sample paragraph:

A computer, like any other machine, is used because it does certain jobs better and more efficiently than humans. It can receive more information and process it faster than any human. The speed at which a computer works means it can replace weeks or even months of pencil-and-paper work. Therefore, computers are used when the time saved offsets their cost, which is one of the many reasons they are used so much in business, industry, and research.

Exercise 1

Using the sample paragraph as a model, draw a rectangle around the word, or words, that the circled words refer to. Then join the ○ and the ▭ with arrows.

Modern accounting firms use spreadsheet software to do complicated calculations. They can provide their clients with an up-to-date report whenever it is needed. This software has many functions and can be integrated with other software. The spreadsheet's basic component is a cell. This may contain a formula which performs a mathematical operation. It could also contain a label or data. The former describes the information on the worksheet. The latter is the information itself.

The worksheet is the basic work area of a spreadsheet program. It is made up of cells arranged in rows and columns. The number of these varies depending on the software you are using. You can change the width and format of cells. Such parameters are usually quite easy to change with just a few keystrokes.

Exercise 2   Using the line reference given, look back at the reading passage in Unit 1, page 6, and find the reference for the words in *italics*.

1   anyone can make *them* (line 25)
2   the ideas that *they* put (line 34)
3   *This* was a graphical interface (line 37)
4   *it* became the standard machine (line 44)
5   *these* are operating systems (line 50)
6   *it* has become a minor player (line 68)
7   *this* could be upgraded (line 76)

The American Heritage Dictionary Pronunciation Key

EXAMPLES	AHD		EXAMPLES	AHD
pat	ă		boot	o͞o
pay	ā		out	ou
care	âr		pop	p
father	ä		roar	r
bib	b		sauce	s
church	ch		ship, dish	sh
deed, milled	d		tight, stopped	t
pet	ĕ		thin	th
bee	ē		this	*th*
fife, phase, rough	f		cut	ŭ
gag	g		urge, term, firm, word, heard	ûr
hat	h		valve	v
which	hw		with	w
pit	ĭ		yes	y
pie, by	ī		zebra, xylem	z
pier	îr		vision, pleasure, garage	zh
judge	j		about, item, edible, gallop, circus	ə
kick, cat, pique	k		butter	ər
lid, needle 1	l(nēd´l)			
mum	m			
no, sudden1	n(sŭd´n)			
thing	ng			
pot	ŏ		**FOREIGN**	**AHD**
toe	ō		*French* f**eu**, *German* sch**ö**n *French* **oeu**f, *German* zw**ö**lf	œ
caught, paw, for, horrid, hoarse 2	ô		*French* t**u**, *German* **ü**ber	ü
noise	oi		*German* i**ch**, *German* a**ch**, *Scottish* lo**ch**	ᴋʜ
took	o͝o		*French* bo**n** (bôɴ) 3	ɴ

Note 1. In English the consonants *l* and *n* often constitute complete syllables by themselves.

Note 2. Regional pronunciations of -*or*- vary.In pairs such as **for, four; horse, hoarse;** and **morning, mourning,** the vowel varies between (ô) and (ō). In this Dictionary these vowels are represented as follows: **for** (fôr), **four** (fôr, fōr); **horse** (hôrs), **hoarse** (hôrs, hōrs); and **morning** (môr´ning), **mourning** (môr´ning, mōr´-).Other words for which both forms are shown include **more, glory,** and **borne.** A similar variant occurs in words such as **coral, forest,** and **horrid,** where the pronunciation of *o* before *r* varies between (ô) and (ŏ).In these words the (ôr) pronunciation is given first: **forest** (fôr´ist, fŏr´-).

Note 3. The Dictionary uses ᴺto reflect that the preceding vowel is nasalized. In French four nasalized vowels occur, as in the phrase *un bon vin blanc:* **AHD** (œᴺ bôᴺ vāᴺ bläᴺ)