

2 Information

- ▶ comparative phrases
- ▶ verbs relating to IT
- ▶ expressions for giving information

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crash
in the loop
patch
plug-in
stretched

2.2 Vocabulary Information systems and communication

Discussion

1 'Information is too valuable to be left to IT departments. In today's business world, every manager should be a computer specialist.' To what extent do you agree?

Language focus

2 Decide whether these phrases indicate a small or a large difference.

a bit more expensive a whole lot more expensive considerably more expensive
far more expensive marginally more expensive infinitely more expensive
slightly more expensive somewhat more expensive

3 Use expressions from Exercise 2 and appropriate adjectives to compare:

- 1 two computers you have used.
- 2 two ways you communicate with your business contacts or your friends.
- 3 two software applications you have used.
- 4 two ways you use the Internet.
- 5 two printers you have used.
- 6 two electronic devices you would like to own.

4 Explain the difference between each pair of computing terms.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 a server and a PC | 5 a virus and a bug |
| 2 a laptop and a tablet PC | 6 a crash and a hard-disk failure |
| 3 a suite and an application | 7 the Internet and an intranet |
| 4 a patch and a plug-in | 8 a workgroup and a workstation |

Reading and vocabulary

5 George Skopelitis is in charge of IT user support at First Northeast Bank. Choose the correct verbs to complete the email he sent to his boss.

✉ EMAIL

Maurice,

As you know, our IT resources are more and more stretched as we try to cope with an ageing system. We desperately need to (1) *advance / upgrade / promote* the operating system: software applications are (2) *crashing / collapsing / falling* more and more frequently, and the server (3) *fell down / went down / dropped down* three times last week. There have also been several cases where important documents have been (4) *rubbed out / blanked / deleted*. Of course, I have (5) *inserted / installed / placed* patches and (6) *uploaded / downloaded / unzipped* new drivers wherever possible, but we can't go on like this. What's more, there's no time for new projects like (7) *setting up / fixing up / pulling up* mobile Internet connections so that our sales teams can (8) *register / note / enter* data on the system when they're on the road. We really need investment now!

6 Complete these sentences with the correct verbs from Exercise 5.

- 1 Most PCs come complete with an office package, but sometimes you have to _____ it yourself.
- 2 On average, when a company's IT system _____, it takes ten days to fix everything.
- 3 IT users lack imagination. When asked to _____ a password, the most common choice is 'password'.
- 4 There are several programs which can rescue your data if you accidentally _____ files.
- 5 An incorrect memory address is the most common reason why PCs _____.
- 6 It only takes minutes to _____ a webmail account that you can access from anywhere in the world.
- 7 One of the few remaining advantages of desktops is that it's easier to _____ components.
- 8 Research suggests that people who _____ illegal mp3s are also big spenders on legal music sites.

