

Expanding notes

5 Complete the article with a comparative phrase suggested by the prompts. The first two are done for you.

Since 1965, Moore's law has observed that computer chips become *twice as powerful* (powerful x 2) every 24 months. A similar formula, Kryder's law, says that hard disk space is only *half as expensive* (1/2 expensive) as it was two years ago. Gordon Moore says his law is (1) _____ (+ beautiful) he had first realized: contrary to Murphy's law—anything that can go wrong, will—Moore's law means everything gets

(2) _____ (+ good + good).

However, the picture is not

(3) _____ (= positive) it

once seemed. Yet another law,

Wirth's law, states that software

gets slower (4) _____

(+ rapidly) hardware gets faster!

Moore's law also means that new

products must be developed

(5) _____ (+ quick + quick).

Any product which is launched

just two or three months late will

be 10–15% (6) _____

(+ slow), (7) _____

(+ bulky) or (8) _____

(– generous) in storage capacity than the competition.

Moreover, physical barriers like temperature make it almost

impossible to run PCs at speeds

(9) _____ (+ high) 5 GHz.

It now makes sense to use more

memory space to accelerate disk

access, since space is becoming

(10) _____ (– expensive)

than computer processing speed.

6 Match the two halves of these quotations.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 The nicer I am, | a) the more I have of it. (Thomas Jefferson) |
| 2 The more you chase money, | b) the less I call it work. (Richard Bach) |
| 3 The more I want to get something done, | c) the more people think I'm lying. (Andy Warhol) |
| 4 I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, | d) the harder it is to catch it. (Mike Tatum) |

7 With a partner, complete these sentences to make your own quotations.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 The older I get, the ... | 4 The more I ..., the ... |
| 2 The more money you earn, the ... | 5 The _____er the ..., the ... |
| 3 The harder you work, the ... | |

Dealing with requests

8 Cross out the inappropriate response to these requests for help, as in the example.

- Will you get me a cup of coffee, please?
 - ~~No, I won't.~~
 - Yes, if I can have one of your biscuits.
 - Sorry, I've got too much to carry.
- Can you tell me how to switch this projector on?
 - Yes, I can.
 - No idea, I'm afraid.
 - I'm sorry, I never use it myself.
- Could you possibly get me a sandwich when you go out to the post office?
 - Yes, with pleasure.
 - Sure, if you could answer the phone while I'm out.
 - Yes, I could possibly.
- I wonder if you could spare the time to make a few photocopies for me?
 - Yes, I would.
 - I don't see why not.
 - I should think so.
- Would you mind giving me a hand with this table? It's rather heavy.
 - No problem.
 - Yes.
 - Not at all.

Internet research

Search for the keywords *Murphy's computer laws*. Hold a class opinion poll to find your three favourite laws.

Negotiating

9 Work with a partner to practise asking for help. Write a list of five things you need to do tomorrow. Then negotiate to delegate to your partner the ones you don't want to do.