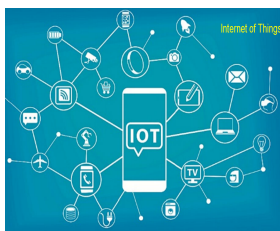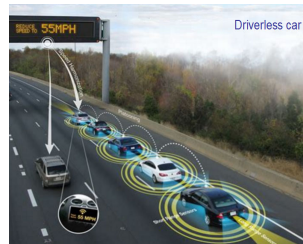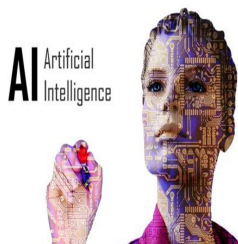# Unit **1**   Information Technology

Part One   Warm-up

Task 1   Which of the following pictures involve the application of information technology (IT)? Check the boxes below the corresponding pictures.

☐   ☐   ☐

☐   ☐   ☐

Task 2   Match each of the names of computer hardware with its

corresponding picture.

☐   ☐   ☐

mouse   monitor   keyboard   CPU   printer   memory

☐   ☐   ☐

Part Two　Listening & Speaking

Section A　Listening

. Listen to the following two dialogues, and choose the best answer to each of the questions you have heard.

Dialogue 1: Best Invention

1. Why does the woman think Windows is the best invention in this information age?
   A. It can help people earn more money.
   B. It can shorten the distance between people.

C. It can save people from too much work.

D. It can complicate people's easy life.

2. Why is the boss reluctant to buy a new machine combining fax machine, copy machine and printer in one according to the woman?

A. Because the boss is too poor.

B. Because the boss is a thrifty man.

C. Because the company has run out of money.

D. Because the company has purchased a new one recently.

Word Tips:

1. communication

2. convenience

3. functional

4. printer

5. copy machine

Dialogue 2: Getting a New Computer

1. What is the reason for buying a new computer for Christine?

A. It is not fashionable.

B. Its screen is not big enough.

C. It is too weak.

D. The manager wants to change a new one.

2. Does the man agree to accept the woman's advice to buy a new one?

A. Yes, he thinks it is a must to buy.

B. Yes, he will consider it.

C. Yes, he will order the accounting department to buy a new one.

D. No, he doesn't think it is necessary to buy a new one.

Word Tips:

1. accounting
2. purchase

. Listen to the following dialogue. Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. The woman will be responsible for inviting the clients to the conference.
2. The man gets the contact info of the guests from the computer.
3. The clients will end up living in the Shangri-La Hotel.
4. The man doesn't have to print out the meeting agenda for the woman to look over.
5. The man has to return the rolodex to the manager's apartment when he is done with it.

Word Tips:

1. info=information
2. rolodex   ;
3. agenda

. Listen to the following paragraph three times and fill in the blanks with what you have heard.

Computers are increasingly competing against (1) _____ to see whether man or machine is smarter. In the latest demonstration of artificial intelligence or (2) _____, a computer went up against humans in live, public debates. The debates—held this week in San Francisco—provided a new (3) _____ of how computers are fast improving to think and sound more like humans. The event was a demonstration of an AI system developed by major (4) _____

company IBM. It is called Project Debater. IBM said it was the first time ever that an AI system has competed in a live, (5) _____ debate with humans.

Word Tips:

1. compete
2. demonstration
3. artificial intelligence
4. humans
5. San Francisco

Section B　Speaking

Dialogue 1: Introduction

A: Hello, David, good to see you again.

B: Hello, Tom. How's business?

A: Oh, can't complain.

B: And the family?

A: Fine, thanks.

B: Good. Tom, I'd like to introduce a colleague, Quentin Richardson. Quentin'd just joined us from EA, and he served for after you from now on. He'll be your day-to-day contact.

C: Hello, Mr. Thomas.

A: Tom, please. "Mr. Thomas" makes me sound old.

C: Fine, Tom. I'm Quentin. I look forward to working with you.

B: I want you to take good care of him, Quentin. He is one of our best customers.

C: I'll do my best.

B: I'm sure you will, Quentin.

C: Well, to start the ball rolling, how about having lunch together?

A: You know all my favorite restaurants, David.

Dialogue 2: Personal Digital Assistant

A: What's that, a new video game?

B: Nope! It's the largest generation of PDA! You won't believe what it can do.

A: For instance?

B: It has a built-in camera unit that takes digital color stills. It also plays MP3 files, which I can save on media cards and then transfer to the hard drive of my computer.

A: Wow! Anything else?

B: This one comes with its own folding keyboard. It has a pre-installed handwriting recognition program. I can use the stylus to write on the screen.

A: What if I want to use CD-ROMs or floppies?

B: Just plug in a peripheral CD or floppy drive and you're ready to go!

Section C   Speaking Practice

Task: Work in pairs. Make a dialogue based on the following outlines and act it out in pairs.

Outlines:

1. Michelle just enters a new international computer corporation as a software engineer, and her boss Isabelle introduces her to many co-workers.

2. Michelle enjoys a good time at the new company, and she is very happy to get a brand-new PDA as a present on her birthday from her co-workers. However, she doesn't know how to operate it, and Chris explains the basic functions of the PDA to her.

Part Three   Practical Reading

Reading A   Basic Computer Components

1. Key Computer Components

Build up Your Vocabulary

A computer is a fast and accurate system that is organized to accept store and process data and produce results under the direction of a stored program. Key

elements in a computer system include the CPU (Central Processing Unit) memory input devices, and output devices. The input/output devices are sometimes called peripheral devices.

CPU: The brain of any computer system is the CPU. There are three main sections in the CPU of a typical personal computer system: the arithmetic logic unit, the control section, and the memory section. These three sections are found in CPUs of all sizes.

Memory: The term memory often refers to random access memory (RAM) in a computer system. A computer system's memory is crucial to its operation; without memory, a computer could not read programs or retain data. Memory stores data electronically in memory cells contained in chips. The two most common types of memory chips are DRAM and SRAM.

Input devices: Computer systems use many devices for input purposes. Some input devices allow direct human-machine communication, while some require data to be recorded on an input medium first. Some typical input devices are: keyboards, mice, touch screens, and input pens.

Output devices: Like the input devices, output devices are instruments of interpretation and communication between humans and computer systems. These devices convert output results from the computer into a form that can be used by people.

In personal computer systems, monitors and desktop printers are popular output devices.

2. Personal Computers

Build up Your Vocabulary

The term "PC" is originally used to describe an IBM-compatible personal computer, which has an Intel CPU as its microprocessor. Basically it would run a typical Windows operating system. Other types of machines that are often not considered as PCs are Macs and servers running UNIX or Linux. A great number of companies produce PCs, and the PC is the most popular type of computer on the market. It comes in the form of a desktop computer, which includes separate components such as a case, a monitor, a keyboard, a mouse, and speakers; or in the form of a laptop computer, which has all those features in one unit. The PC makes using the computer easier, especially with the Windows environment. This easy-to-use interface has made it possible for novice computer users to figure out how to use the computer. This is a major reason why personal computers are so popular today.

3. Server Computers

A server is a computer on a network that is dedicated to a particular purpose and stores all information and performs the critical functions for that purpose. For example, a Web server would store all files related to a website and perform all the work necessary for hosting the website. Most offices have at least one server that is dedicated as both a network server and a file server. This means

that, in its network server role, the computer is responsible for managing the processes that enable everyone in the office to access and use the network; and in its file server role, it holds the central computer files and the CMS database.

Task 1: Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. Key elements in a computer system include memory, input devices, and output devices.

2. Keyboards, mice, input pens, and printers are input devices.

3. There is only one main section in the CPU of a typical personal computer system: the control section.

4. The input/output devices are also called peripheral devices.

5. Personal computers come in the form of a desktop computer, which involves separate components such as cases, monitors, keyboards, speakers, and mice.

Task 2: Choose the best answer to each question.

1. All of the following words can be used to describe a computer's functional features EXCEPT_____.

　　A. fast　　　　　　　　　B. expensive

　　C. accurate　　　　　　　D. organized

2. Which of the following elements can be called the key element of a computer?

　　A. Printer.　　　　　　　B. CPU.

　　C. Mouse.　　　　　　　D. Keyboard.

3. Which section can be found in the CPU of a typical PC?

　　A. The digital-analog section.

　　B. The remote control section.

　　C. The upload section.

　　D. The control section.

4. Which of the following CAN NOT be called an output device?

　　A. Monitor.　　　　　　　B. Printer.

　　C. Speaker.　　　　　　　D. Mouse.

5. According to the passage, what is the major reason why people love PCs?

A. They store much more information than a server does.

B. The speed keeps improving.

C. Their easy-to-use interfaces make them comfortable for novices.

D. They are becoming cheaper and cheaper.

Task 3: Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. A computer is a fast and accurate system that is organized to accept, store and process data, and produce results under the direction of a stored program.

2. Like input devices, output devices are instruments of interpretation and communication between humans and computer systems.

3. This means that, in its network server role, the computer is responsible for holding the files and managing the processes that enable everyone in the office to access and use the network.

Reading B   Information Technology

Build up Your Vocabulary

We use the term information technology or IT to refer to an entire industry. In fact, information technology is the use of computers and software to manage information. In some companies, this is referred to as Management Information Services (MIS) or simply as Information Services (IS). The information technology department of a large company would be responsible for storing, protecting, processing, transmitting the information, and later retrieving the information as necessary.