

## 1 Interacting with your computer

Read the description of input devices and then label the pictures (1–8) with words from the text.

**Input devices** are the pieces of hardware which allow us to enter information into the computer. The most common are the **keyboard** and the **mouse**. We can also

interact with a computer by using one of these: a **light pen**, a **scanner**, a **trackball**, a **graphics tablet**, a **game controller** or a **microphone**.



1 \_\_\_\_\_



2 \_\_\_\_\_



3 \_\_\_\_\_



4 \_\_\_\_\_



5 \_\_\_\_\_



6 \_\_\_\_\_



7 \_\_\_\_\_



8 \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Describing input devices



**A** Listen to a computer technician describing three input devices. Write which devices he's talking about.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_



**B** Listen again and complete these extracts.

- 1 This device is \_\_\_\_\_ enter information into the computer.
- 2 ... it may also \_\_\_\_\_ function keys and editing keys \_\_\_\_\_ special purposes.
- 3 This is a device \_\_\_\_\_ the cursor and selecting items on the screen.
- 4 It usually \_\_\_\_\_ two buttons and a wheel.
- 5 ... the user \_\_\_\_\_ activate icons or select items and text.
- 6 It \_\_\_\_\_ detecting light from the computer screen and is used by pointing it directly at the screen display.
- 7 It \_\_\_\_\_ the user \_\_\_\_\_ answer multiple-choice questions and ...

### 3 Describing functions and features

**A** Look at the HELP box and then use the notes below to write a description of the Sony PlayStation 3 controller.



#### Sony PlayStation 3 controller

##### Functions

- control video games
- hold it with both hands, use thumbs to handle directional sticks and face buttons

##### Features

- six-axis sensing system (capable of sensing motion in six directions: up, down, left, right, forwards and backwards)
- wireless controller (Bluetooth)
- USB mini port and cable for wired play and automatic battery charging

#### HELP box

##### Describing functions

In the listening, the mouse was described using **for + gerund**:

*This is a device **for controlling** the cursor and selecting items on the screen.*

There are other ways of describing a device's function:

- **used + to + infinitive**  
*It's **used to control** ...*
- **relative pronoun + verb**  
*This is a device **which controls** ...*
- **relative pronoun + used + to + infinitive**  
*This is a device **which/that is used to control** ...*
- **work by + gerund**  
*It **works by detecting** light from the computer screen.*

##### Describing features

We can describe features like this:


*An optical mouse **has** an optical sensor instead of a ball underneath.*

*It usually **features** two buttons and a wheel.*

*You **can** connect it to a USB port.*

*A wireless mouse **works/operates** without cables.*

*It **allows** the user **to** answer multiple-choice questions and ...*

**B**  In pairs, choose one of these input devices and describe its functions and features. Try to guess which device your partner is describing.



Bar code reader



Touchpad on a portable PC




Webcam



Touch screen



## 6 **Speech recognition systems**

**A**  **Listen to an interview with Anne Simpson, an expert in voice input technologies and tick (✓) the features she mentions.**

Speech recognition systems:

- ☐ need a good sound card and a microphone.
- ☐ can take dictation with accuracy.
- ☐ allow you to create and compile a computer program.
- ☐ allow you to execute programs and navigate around menus using voice commands.
- ☐ allow you to surf the Web by speaking.
- ☐ allow you to design graphics.

**B**  **Listen again and answer these questions.**

- 1 What do people usually use to communicate with a computer?
- 2 How do you get the best results from speech recognition software?
- 3 What rate of accuracy is possible with the software?
- 4 How can you train the software to be more accurate?
- 5 What kinds of words aren't in the software's dictionary?

**C**  **In groups, discuss these questions.**

- 1 What are the benefits of speech recognition software?
- 2 What kind of tasks would you find speech recognition useful for?
- 3 Who would benefit most from advances in speech recognition technology?
- 4 What is the future of this kind of technology?  
Do you think it will ever be possible to control your computer using only your thoughts?

*You talk, it types – speech recognition software lets you operate computers by voice command*

