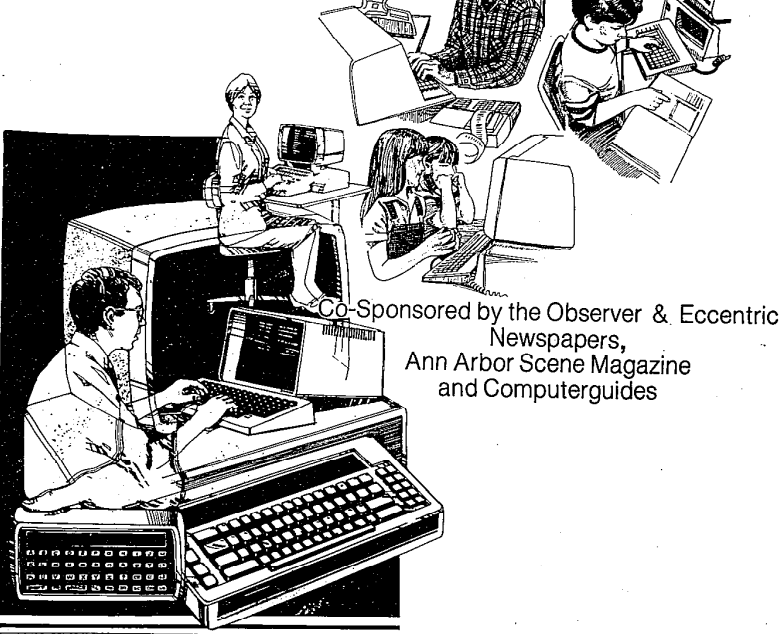


First command: Learn computer terms

- **Bit:** A binary digit, 0 or 1; a single character.
- **Byte:** A "word" containing eight bits or characters.
- **Cathode ray tube (CRT):** The picture tube in your TV set, the display tube in a computer.
- **Central processor unit (CPU):** The "brains" of any computer. It manipulates data and processes instructions contained within programs coming from the computer operator.
- **Chip:** The thin wafer of selectively impregnated silicon that is the core of the microelectronics revolution. Each chip contains thousands of electronic components on its surface.
- **COBOL:** A higher-level computer language (acronym for Common Business Oriented Language) designed for business applications.
- **Cursor:** The bright spot on a CRT display that indicates where the computer is accepting input or providing output.
- **Data:** Information in quantified form — the input and output of a computer.
- **Digital:** The term used for information that is represented by discrete symbols, such as bits, as contrasted with analog information which is continuous, rather than discrete in nature. Personal and most larger computers work with digital information.
- **Floppy disk:** A thin disk of plastic coated with magnetic material, resembling the shape of a 45-RPM phonograph record. The floppy disk is the most frequently used secondary storage medium in the middle price range of personal computers.
- **FORTRAN:** An acronym for Formula Translation, a higher level language used extensively by mathematicians, engineers and scientists.
- **Friendly:** A term used to describe a software-hardware combination that is easy on the human who is using the computer.
- **Hardware:** The circuit boards, keyboards, displays, disk drives, etc., which are used to make up a computer.
- **Interface:** The boundary between two components of a system. It refers to a device that controls signal traffic between two elements, as in disk interface or communications interface.
- **Microcomputer:** Any computer that contains a stored program, memory for data and instructions, a microprocessor and input/output facilities for communication with the external world.
- **Microprocessor:** The semiconductor chip or chips that contains all of the arithmetic and logic functions, program registers required to perform computer functions.
- **Modem:** A modulator/demodulator. A device used as an interface between a computer, or computer terminal and a telephone line. To convert the digital signals used by the computer into the analog signals required by the telephone line and vice versa.
- **Operating system:** The collection of software used to manage the data transfer among various components of a computer system.
- **Printer:** A peripheral that turns out a permanent or "hard" copy. Many printers look like keyboardless typewriters.
- **Program:** The ordered set of instructions that tell the computer to perform a specific task or sequence of tasks.
- **Semiconductor:** A quasi-metallic natural element with unusual electrical properties that is a basic building block. The most common semiconductor are silicon and germanium.
- **Software:** A program or information part of computing activities, including all computer instructions which are alterable.
- **Videodisc:** A medium for the permanent storage of large quantities of information via video-recording techniques.

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