What is Computer?

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The word computer means to compute or to calculate. So a computer is normally considered to be a calculating device.

More than 90% of the work done by computer today is of non-mathematical.

Hence, a computer may be defined as a device that operates upon data or information.

Computer can be defined as a machine in which we can

- Store data or information,
- Process data or information,
- Retrieve data or information

With our requirements

we can say, computer takes facts known as data and, following instructions, it processes these facts to produce information.

Computers can process vast amount of data in very short time.

- Data and information can be numbers, letters, sounds, pictures and symbols. Pictures and symbols, which a computer produces, are called graphics.

A computer cannot think for itself. It will do exactly as it is told – no more and no less.

We often talk about "computer error", but usually this means human error.

If you received a computerised electricity bill for thousand of Rupees when you only use one light bulb, it means that the computer has been given the wrong instructions.

Computer = Hardware + Software

Hardware is the computer machinery – the parts you can see and touch, like the monitor, keyboard and all the electronic devices and circuits inside it.

Software is the instruction or the set of instructions that a computer receives in order to carry out its tasks. All the different sets of instructions are called programs. e.g. songs recorded on the tape. Here songs are software and tape is hardware.

Computers are now affecting every sphere of human activity and bringing about many changes in industry, government, education, medicine, scientific research, law, social sciences, and even in arts like music and painting.

- Aid in teaching
- Play games like chess and video games
- Design buildings, bridges and machines
- Control space vehicles
- Assist in railway reservation
- Control inventories to minimise material cost
- Grade examinations and process results
- Systematically store and quickly retrieve data on crimes and criminals

- The areas of applications of computers are confined only by limitations on human creativity and imagination

CHARACTERISTICS OF COMPUTERS

The interesting characteristics or features of a computer are :

- **Easy to operate :** Instructions are extremely simple; e.g., add, subtract, read a character, write a character, compare numbers, characters, etc.

- **Speed :** Most instructions are carried out in less than a millionth of a second.

- **Obedient :** Instructions are carried out obediently with no questions asked.

- **Accuracy :** Instructions are carried out without any mistakes.
- **Diligence** : Unlike human beings, a computer is free from monotony, tiredness, lack of concentration, etc. and hence can work for hours together without creating any error and without complaining.
- **Storage Capacity:** It can store data as per storage capacity for indefinite time, in permanent storage.

Thank you for Reading!

For any question please leave your comment.......

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