

fourth edition

# Dictionary of ICT

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DICTIONARY OF  
**ICT**

FOURTH EDITION

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S.M.H. Collin

BLOOMSBURY

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*Editor*  
Steven Gregory  
Lecturer, York College

*Text Production and Proofreading*  
Katy McAdam, Heather Bateman, Emma Harris

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## **Preface**

This dictionary provides the user with a comprehensive up-to-date vocabulary used in information technology. It covers computers, programming, networks, communications, database design, the Internet, electronic mail, world wide web, electronics, music, graphics, multimedia, desktop publishing, and many other computer applications. In addition, the dictionary covers communications subjects including film, video, TV and radio.

The entries are each explained in clear and straightforward English. Examples are given to show how the words and phrases are used in context. General comments about particular items of interest, complex ideas or hardware or software applications are given in separate boxes. Quotations from a range of magazines and journals are given to show how the words are used in real text. The supplement at the back of the book provides extra information that would be useful for computing and communications studies.



# A

**A:** used in some operating systems to denote the first disk drive on the system

**A1** /,eɪ 'wɒn/, **A2**, **A3**, **A4**, **A5** *noun* ISO recommended international standard sizes of paper or sizes of screen ○ *a standard 300 d.p.i. black and white A4 monitor* ○ *You must photocopy the spreadsheet on A3 paper.* ○ *We must order some more A4 headed notepaper.*

**abandon** /ə'bændən/ *verb* to clear a document, file or work from a computer's memory without saving it ○ *Once you have abandoned your spreadsheet, you cannot retrieve it again.*

**abbreviation** /ə,bri:vɪ'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a short form of a word, command or instruction ○ *Within the text, the abbreviation proc is used instead of processor.*

**ABD** *abbr* Apple Desktop Bus

**abend** /'æbend/ *noun* an unexpected stoppage of a program that is being run, caused by a fault, error or power failure ○ *An interrupt from a faulty printer caused an abend.* Also called **abnormal end**, **abnormal termination**

**aberration** /,æbə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** distortion of a light beam or image caused by defects in the optical system **2.** distortion of a television picture caused by a corrupt signal or incorrect adjustment

**ablation** /ə'bleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a method of writing data to an optical storage device in which a laser burns a hole or pit, representing digital bits of data, into the thin metal surface of the storage device

COMMENT: A laser burns a hole or pit (which represents digital bits of data) into the thin metal surface of the storage device.

**abnormal** /æb'nɔ:m(ə)l/ *adjective* not normal ○ *It's abnormal for two consecutive disk drives to break down.*

**abnormal end** /æb,nɔ:m(ə)l 'end/ *noun* same as **abend**

**abnormally** /æb'nɔ:m(ə)lɪ/ *adverb* not as normal or not as usual ○ *The signal is abnormally weak.*

**abnormal termination** /æb,nɔ:m(ə)l ,tɜ:mɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* same as **abend**

**abort** /ə'bo:t/ *verb* to end a process in the event of a malfunction occurs by switching the computer off manually or by an internal

feature ○ *The program was aborted by pressing the red button.*

**About...** /ə'baʊt/ (*in the SAA CUA front end*) a menu selection that tells you who developed the program and gives copyright information

**above-the-fold** /ə,bʌv ðə 'fəʊld/ *adjective* referring to the part of a webpage that is seen by all users who call up the page, because they do not have to scroll down to read it. Compare **below-the-fold**

**above-the-line costs** /ə,bʌv ðə ,laɪn 'kɒsts/ *plural noun* variable costs involved in making TV films (such as scriptwriters, actors, sets, etc.) as opposed to below-the-line costs (film crew, technicians, etc.). Compare **below-the-line costs**

**AB roll** /,eɪ 'bi: ,rɒl/ *noun* (*in a multimedia application*) a sequence of two video or music segments that are synchronised so that one fades as the second starts

**absolute address** /,æbsəlu:t ə'dres/ *noun* a computer storage address that can only access one location. Also called **actual address**, **machine address**

**absolute cell reference** /,æbsəlu:t sel 'ref(ə)rəns/ *noun* a spreadsheet reference that always refers to the same cell, even when copied to another location

**absorb** /əb'zɔ:b/ *verb* to take in light, liquid or a signal

**absorptance** /əb'zɔ:ptəns/ *noun* a measure of how completely an object or substance absorbs radiant energy. Opposite **reflectance**

**absorption** /əb'zɔ:pʃən/ *noun* the power loss of a signal when travelling through a medium, due to its absorptance

**abstract** /'æbstrækt/ *noun* a short summary of a document ○ *It's quicker to search through the abstracts than the full text.*

**abstracting and indexing** /,æbstræktɪŋ ən 'ɪndeksɪŋ/ *verb* making summaries and indexes for articles and books

**ac** *abbr* academic organisation (NOTE: used in email and website addresses)

**AC** *abbr* alternating current

**Academy** The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences □ **Academy awards** the yearly presentation of the Oscar award by the Academy to artists and technicians for excellence in their area of the film world

**ACAP** /,eɪ si: eɪ 'pi:z/ *noun* an email system developed to work with the IMAP4 email protocol to provide extra features such as management of an address book. Full form **application configuration access protocol** (NOTE: It was originally termed IMSP (Interactive Mail Support Protocol).)

**ACC** /,eɪ si: 'si:z/ *noun* the most important internal CPU storage register, containing the data word that is to be processed. Full form **accumulator**

**accelerated graphics port** /æk ,selə'reɪtɪd 'græfɪks ,pɔ:t/ *noun* full form of **AGP**

**accelerated motion** /æk,selə'reɪtɪd 'məʊʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a special (film) effect in which the camera is run at a slower frame rate than the standard 24 frames per second which gives the effect of faster-than-average motion

**acceleration** /æk,selə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* ▶ **mouse acceleration**

**acceleration time** /æk,selə'reɪʃ(ə)n taɪm/ *noun* the time taken for a disk drive to spin a disk at the correct speed, from rest ○ *Allow for acceleration time in the access time.*

**accelerator** /æk'selə'reɪtə/ *noun* ▶ **accelerator key**

**accelerator board** /æk'selə'reɪtə bɔ:d/, **accelerator card** /æk'selə'reɪtə kɑ:d/ *noun* a circuit board that carries a faster or more advanced version of the same processor that runs a computer. Adding an accelerator board to a computer makes it run faster.

**accelerator key** /æk'selə'reɪtə ki:z/ *noun* a key that, when pressed together with another, carries out a function that would otherwise have to be selected from a menu using a mouse ○ *Instead of selecting the File menu then the Save option, use the accelerator keys Alt and S to do the same thing and save the file.*

**accent** /'æksənt/ *noun* a mark above a character to indicate a different pronunciation

**accented** /'æksəntɪd/ *adjective* (of a letter) with an accent on it

**accept** /æk'sept/ *verb* **1.** to agree to do something ○ *He accepted the quoted price for printing.* **2.** to take something which is being offered **3.** to establish a session or connection with another computing device

**acceptable** /æk'septəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be accepted ○ *The error rate was very low, and is acceptable.*

**acceptable use policy** /æk,septəb(ə)l ju:z 'pɒləsi/ *noun* a set of rules that describe what a user can write or do on the Internet without offending other users. Abbr **AUP**

**acceptance** /æk'septəns/ *noun* the action of accepting something

**acceptance test** /æk'septəns test/ *noun* a test to check that a piece of equipment will perform as required or will reach required standards

**acceptance testing** /æk'septəns 'testɪŋ/ *noun* the performing of an acceptance test

**access** /'ækses/ *noun* the fact of being allowed to use a computer and read or alter files stored in it. This is usually controlled by a security device such as a password. □ **to deny access** to refuse access to a circuit or system for reasons of workload or security

**access authority** /'ækses ɔ:θɒrəti/ *noun* permission to carry out a particular operation on data

**access-barred** /,ækses 'bɑ:d/ *adjective* prevented from accessing particular data

**access category** /'ækses ,kætəg(ə)ri/ *noun* a category that defines which files or data a user can access and which he or she cannot

**access code** /'ækses kəʊd/ *noun* a series of characters or symbols that must be entered to identify a user before access to a computer is permitted

**access control** /'ækses kən'trəʊl/ *noun* a security device such as a password that only allows selected users to use a computer system or read files

**access control list** /,ækses kən'trəʊl lɪst/ *noun* full form of **ACL**

**access head** /'ækses hed/ *noun* the part of a disk drive that moves to the correct part of the disk's surface and reads information stored on the disk ■ *verb* to call up (data) which is stored in a computer; to obtain data from a storage device ○ *She accessed the employee's file stored on the computer.*

**accessible** /æk'sesɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be reached or accessed ○ *Details of customers are easily accessible from the main computer files.*

**accession number** /æk'seɪʃ(ə)n ,nʌmbə/ *noun* **1.** a number in a record that shows in which order each record was entered **2.** a serial number used in a library indexing system

**accessions** /æk'seɪʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* new books which are added to a library

**access log** /'ækses lɒg/ *noun* a file on a website server computer that contains a record of every visitor to the website, showing when a person visited and which pages he or she viewed ○ *The access log is invaluable – we produce graphs of the pages that are most popular using an access log analyser program.*

**access method** /'ækses məθəd/ *noun* **1.** a means used for the internal transfer of data between memory and display or peripheral devices. Differences in the methods used are often the cause of compatibility problems. **2.** a set of rules that allows a device to send data onto a network. Token passing and CS-MA/CD are two methods commonly used in a local area network.

**accessor** /'æksesə/ *noun* a person who accesses data

**accessory** /æk'sesəri/ *noun* an extra, add-on device, e.g. a mouse or printer, that is attached to or used with a computer ○ *The printer comes with several accessories including a soundproof hood.* (NOTE: The plural is **accessories**.)

**access privilege** /'ækses ˌprɪvɪlɪdʒ/ *noun* the status granted to a user that allows him or her to see, read or alter files

**access provider** /'ækses prəˌvaɪdə/ *noun* same as **ISP**

**access rights** /'ækses raɪts/ *plural noun* the rights of a particular user to access a particular file or data object

**access time** /'ækses ˌtaɪm/ *noun* **1.** the total time that a storage device takes between the moment the data is requested and the return of the data ○ *The access time of this dynamic RAM chip is around 200ns – we have faster versions if your system clock is running faster.* **2.** the length of time required to find a file or program, either in main memory or a secondary memory source

**accidental** /,æksɪ'dent(ə)/ *adjective* which happens by accident ○ *Always keep backup copies in case of accidental damage to the master file.*

**accordion fold** /'ækə:diən fəʊld/, **accordion fanfold** *noun* method of folding continuous paper, one sheet in one direction, the next sheet in the opposite direction, allowing the paper to be fed into a printer continuously with no action on the part of the user. Also called **fanfold**

**account** /ə'kaʊnt/ *noun* (in a network or online system) a record of a user's name, password and rights to access a network or online system ○ *If you are a new user, you will have to ask the supervisor to create an account for you.* ■ **verb** to keep track of how much time and resources each user of a network or online system uses

**accounting package** /ə'kaʊntɪŋ ˌpækɪdʒ/ *noun* a piece of software that automates a business's accounting functions ○ *We now type in each transaction into the new accounting package rather than write it into a ledger.* Also called **accounts package**

**account name** /ə'kaʊnt neɪm/ *noun* the unique name of a user on a network or online system ○ *John Smith's account name is JSMITH.*

**accounts package** /ə'kaʊnts ˌpækɪdʒ/ *noun* same as **accounting package**

**accumulate** /ə'kju:mjuleɪt/ *verb* to gather several things together over a period of time ○ *We have gradually accumulated a large databank of names and addresses.* (NOTE: **accumulates – accumulating – accumulator**)

**accumulator** /ə'kju:mjuleɪtə/, **accumulator register** /,ɛɪ si: 'si:/ *noun* full form of **ACC** ○ *Store the two bytes of data in registers A and B and execute the add instruction – the answer will be in the accumulator.*

**accuracy** /'ækjʊərəsi/ *noun* the total number of bits used to define a number in a computer (NOTE: The more bits allocated the greater the accuracy of the definition.)

**accurate** /'ækjʊrət/ *adjective* correct; without any errors ○ *The printed bar code has to be accurate to within a thousandth of a micron.*

**accurately** /'ækjʊrətli/ *adverb* correctly or with no errors ○ *The OCR had difficulty in reading the new font accurately.*

COMMENT: Most high level languages allow numbers to be represented in a more accurate form by using two or more words to store the number.

**ACD** /,ɛɪ si: 'di:/ *noun* a specialised telephone system that can handle lots of incoming calls and direct them to a particular operator according to programmed instructions in a database. Full form **automatic call distribution**

**ACE** *noun* a 1000 watt spotlight (*film*)

**ACES** *noun* computer-operated camera movement system developed by Disney Studios which is designed to film repeatable camera moves on separate exposures. Full form **automatic camera effects system**

**acetate** /'æstɪt/ *noun* a sheet of transparent plastic used for making overlays

**acetate base** /'æstɪt beɪs/ *noun* plastic material used as the standard base for motion picture film

**acetate tape** /'æstɪt teɪp/ *noun* audio-tape consisting of acetate backing with magnetically sensitive oxide coating

**acetone** /'æsəˌtəʊn/ *noun* a clear, flammable liquid which is used to clean film print surfaces and splices and other editing and filming apparatus (*film*)

**achromatic** /,ɛɪkrə'mætɪk/ *noun, adjective* (an optical device) that has been corrected for chromatic aberration

**achromatic colour** /,eɪkrəmætɪk 'kʌlə/ *noun* a grey colour within the range between black and white displayed by a graphics adapter

**ACK** /,eɪ si: 'keɪ/ *noun* a signal that is sent from a receiver to indicate that a transmitted message has been received and that it is ready for the next one ○ *The printer generates an ACK signal when it has received data.* Full form **acknowledge**

**acknowledge** /ə'k'nɒlɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **ACK**

**acknowledged mail** /ə'k'nɒlɪdʒd 'meɪl/ *noun* a function that signals to the sender when an electronic mail message has been read by the recipient

**acknowledgements** /ə'k'nɒlɪdʒmənts/ *noun* text printed at the beginning of a book, where the author or publisher thanks people who have helped

**ACL** /,eɪ si: 'el/ *noun* a security system that has a list of user names and passwords that is checked by the operating system to find out if a particular user is allowed to access or use a resource or feature of the shared computer or network. Full form **access control list**

**acoustic** /ə'ku:stɪk/ *adjective* referring to sound

**acoustical feedback** /ə'ku:stɪk(ə)l 'fɪ:dbæk/ *noun* distortion in an audio signal, due to a part of an amplified signal being picked up by the microphone and amplified again until the amplifier is overloaded

**acoustic coupler** /ə'ku:stɪk 'kʌplə/ *noun* a device that connects to a telephone handset, converting binary computer data into sound signals to allow it to be transmitted down a telephone line

COMMENT: The acoustic coupler also converts back from sound signals to digital signals when receiving messages. It is basically the same as a modem but uses a handset on which a loudspeaker is placed to send the signals rather than a direct connection to the phone line. It is portable and clips over both ends of a normal telephone handset. It can be used even in a public phone booth. The acoustic coupler has generally been replaced by a direct cable link from the computer's modem to the standard telephone socket.

**acoustic hood** /ə'ku:stɪk hʊd/ *noun* a soundproof cover put over a line printer to cut down its noise

**acoustics** /ə'ku:stɪks/ *noun* study and science of sound waves

**acquisition** /,ækwɪ'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the accepting, capturing or collecting of information

**ACR** /,eɪ si: 'ɑ: / *noun* a type of videotape recorder

**Acrobat** ▶ **Adobe Acrobat**

**acronym** /'ækrənɪm/ *noun* an abbreviation, formed from various letters, which makes up a word which can be pronounced ○ *The acronym FORTRAN means Formula Translator.*

**actinic light** /'æktɪnɪk ˌlaɪt/ *noun* light which is able to cause chemical change in a material, such as film

**action** /'æksjən/ *noun 1. something which has been done 2. (in an SAA CUA front end) a user event 3. movement 4. the command to begin a performance, said by a director to an actor (*film*)*

**action bar** /'æksjən bɑ: / *noun* a top line of the screen that displays the menu names

**action bar pull-down** /,æksjən bɑ: 'pʊl ˌdaʊn/ *noun* (in an SAA CUA front end) a feature whereby the full menu is displayed below the menu name when a user moves the cursor to a particular menu name on the action bar

**activate** /'æktɪveɪt/ *verb* to start a process or to make a device start working ○ *Pressing CR activates the printer.*

**activated** /'æktɪveɪtɪd/ *adjective* button or field in a screen layout that has a script attached to it; the script is executed when the user clicks on the button (NOTE: If the button or field is not activated, it is normally displayed greyed out and does not respond if a user selects it.)

**active** /'æktɪv/ *adjective* busy, working or being used

**Active Document** /,æktɪv 'dɒkjʊmənt/ *noun* a standard Windows application that is accessed from within a web browser and controlled by special commands in the webpage

**active file** /,æktɪv 'faɪl/ *noun* a file that is currently being worked on

**active pixel region** /,æktɪv 'pɪks(ə)l ˌrɪ:ɪdʒən/ *noun* an area of a computer screen that can display graphic image information

**active printer** /,æktɪv 'prɪntə/ *noun* a printer that is currently connected to the computer's printer port

**active program** /,æktɪv 'prəʊgræm/ *noun* (in a multitasking system) a program that is currently in control of the processor

**active record** /,æktɪv 'rekɔ:d/ *noun* a record that is being updated or accessed

**Active Server Page** /,æktɪv 'sɜ:və peɪdʒ/ *noun* a webpage that is created only when accessed by a visitor, allowing the website to display up-to-date information or information from a database ○ *The database search results page is implemented as an Active Server Page.* Abbr **ASP**

**active streaming format** /,æktɪv 'stri:mɪŋ ,fɔ:mæt/ *noun* full form of **ASF**

**active video** /,æktɪv 'vɪdiəʊ/, **active video signal** /,æktɪv 'vɪdiəʊ ,sɪgn(ə)l/ *noun* a part of a video signal that contains picture information

**ActiveVRML** /,æktɪv vi: ɑ: em 'el/ *noun* **VRML**

**active window** /,æktɪv 'wɪndəʊ/ *noun* **1.** an area of the display screen where the operator is currently working **2.** (in a GUI or SAA CUA front end) the window that is currently the focus of cursor movements and screen displays. **▷ window**

**ActiveX** /,æktɪv 'eks/ a trade name for a programming language and program definition used to create small applications designed to enhance the functionality of a webpage. **▷ applet, Java, VBScript**

COMMENT: ActiveX applications, called applets, are often used to add database or multimedia effects to a website that cannot be supported with basic HTML commands. When a user visits the web page that uses the ActiveX applet, the program is automatically downloaded by the user's browser and run on the user's computer.

**activity** /æk'tɪvɪti/ *noun* being active or busy

**actual address** /,æktʃuəl ə'dres/ *noun* same as **absolute address**

**actual data transfer rate** /,æktʃuəl ,deɪtə 'trænsfɜ: ,reɪt/ *noun* the average number of data bits transferred in a period of time

**actuator** /'æktʃuəɪtə/ *noun* a mechanical device that can be controlled by an external signal, e.g. the read/write head in a disk drive

**ACU** /,eɪ si: 'ju:/ *noun* a device that allows a computer to call stations or dial telephone numbers automatically. Full form **automatic calling unit**

**acuity** /ə'kju:ɪti/ *noun* ability of the ear to detect frequency or volume changes

**actutance** /ə'kju:təns/ *noun* the ability of a lens to produce clear edges

**acute** /ə'kju:t/ *adjective* very sharp or clear

**AD** *noun* the person who carries out the director's instructions, oversees the work and whereabouts of the actors, technicians and rest of crew and works in close contact with the production unit (*film*) Full form **assistant director, associate director**

**A/D** *abbr* analog to digital

**ADA** /,eɪ di: 'eɪ/ *noun* a high-level programming language that is used mainly in military, industrial and scientific fields of computing

**adapt** /ə'dæpt/ *verb* to change, adjust or modify something so that it fits **○ Can this computer be adapted to take 5.25 inch disks?**

**adaptation** /,ædæp'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the ability of a device to adjust its sensitivity range according to various situations

**adapter** /ə'dæptə/, **adaptor** /ə'dæptə/ *noun* a device that allows two or more incompatible devices to be connected together **○ The cable adapter allows attachment of the scanner to the SCSI interface.**

**adaptive channel allocation** /ə ,dæptɪv 'tʃæn(ə)l ələ ,keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* provision of communications channels according to demand rather than a fixed allocation

**adaptive compression** /ə ,dæptɪv kəm 'preʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a data compression system that continuously monitors the data it is compressing and adjusts its own algorithm to provide the most efficient compression

**adaptive differential pulse code modulation** /ə ,dæptɪv dɪfə'renʃ(ə)l 'pʌls kəʊd mɒdju ,leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **ADPCM**

**adaptive interframe transform coding** /ə ,dæptɪv ,ɪntə'reɪm træns'fɔ:m ,kəʊdɪŋ/ *noun* a class of compression algorithms commonly used with video signals to reduce the data transmission rate

**adaptive packet assembly** /ə ,dæptɪv 'pækɪt ə ,sembli/ *noun* a method used by the MNP error correcting protocol to adjust the size of data packets according to the quality of the telephone line. The better the line, the bigger the packet size.

**adaptive routing** /ə ,dæptɪv 'ru:tɪŋ/ *noun* the ability of a system to change its communications routes in response to various events or situations such as line failure (NOTE: The messages are normally sent along the most cost-effective path unless there is a problem with that route, in which case they are automatically re-routed.)

**adaptive system** /ə ,dæptɪv 'sɪstəm/ *noun* a system that is able to alter its responses and processes according to inputs or situations

**adaptor** /ə'dæptə/ *noun* another spelling of **adapter**

**ADB™** *abbr* Apple Desktop Bus

**ADC** /,eɪ di: 'sɪ:/ *noun* an electronic device that converts an analog input signal to a digital form, which can be processed by a computer. Full form **analog to digital converter**

**add** /æd/ *verb* **1.** to put figures together to make a total **○ In the spreadsheet each column should be added to make a subtotal.** **2.** to put things together to form a larger group **○ The software house has added a new management package to its range of products.**

**added entry** /,ædɪd 'entri/ *noun* a secondary file entry in a library catalogue

**addend** /'ædənd/ *noun* the number added to the augend in an addition

**adder** /'ædə/ *noun* a device or routine that provides the sum of two or more inputs, either digital or analog

COMMENT: A parallel adder takes one clock cycle to add two words, a serial adder takes a time equal to the number of bits in a word to add.

**add-in** /'æd ɪn/ *noun, adjective* something that is added to something else

**additional** /ə'dɪʃ(ə)nəl/ *adjective* added or extra ○ *Can we link three additional workstations to the network?*

**additional dialogue replacement** /ə'dɪʃ(ə)nəl ,daɪələg rɪ'pleɪsmənt/ *noun* full form of **ADR**

**additive colour mixing** /,ædɪtɪv ,kʌlə 'mɪksɪŋ/ *verb* to mix different coloured lights to produce the colour which is wanted

**add-on** /'æd ɒn/ *adjective* added to a computer system to improve its performance ○ *The add-on hard disk will boost the computer's storage capabilities.* Opposite **built-in**

**address** /ə'dres/ *noun* **1.** a number allowing a central processing unit to reference a physical location in a storage medium in a computer system ○ *Each separate memory word has its own unique address.* **2.** a unique number that identifies a device on a network ○ *This is the address at which the data starts.*

■ *verb* to put the location data onto an address bus to identify which word in memory or storage device is to be accessed ○ *A larger address word increases the amount of memory a computer can address.*

'The world's largest open data network, the Internet, links more than 10,000 local networks and 3 million workstations in 50 countries. It has grown so fast that its address space is 'bust' and is being redesigned to allow further expansion.' [*Computing*]

**addressability** /ə,dresə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the control available over pixels on screen

**addressable** /ə'dresəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be addressed ○ *With the new operating system, all of the 5MB of installed RAM is addressable.*

**addressable point** /ə,dresəb(ə)l 'pɔɪnt/ *noun* a point or pixel in a graphics system that can be directly addressed

**address book** /ə'dres bʊk/ *noun* **1.** (in a network) a list of node addresses **2.** (in electronic mail) a list of the network addresses of other users to which electronic mail can be sent

**addressing** /ə'dresɪŋ/ *noun* the process of accessing a location in memory

**addressing machine** /ə'dresɪŋ mə'ʃɪn/ *noun* a machine which puts addresses on envelopes automatically

**address resolution protocol** /ə,dres ,rezə'lu:ʃ(ə)n ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **ARP**

**adjacent** /ə'dʒeɪs(ə)nt/ *adjective* which is near or next to something ○ *The address is stored adjacent to the customer name field.*

**adjunct register** /,ædʒʌŋkt 'redʒɪstə/ *noun* a 32-bit register in which the top 16 bits are used for control information and only the bottom 16 bits are available for use by a program

**adjust** /ə'dʒʌst/ *verb* to change something to fit new conditions or so that it works better ○ *You can adjust the brightness and contrast by turning a knob.*

**adjustment** /ə'dʒʌstmənt/ *noun* the making of a slight change made to something so that it works better, or a change made ○ *The brightness needs adjustment.*

**administrator** /əd'mɪnɪstreɪtə/ *noun* a person who is responsible for looking after a network, including installing, configuring and maintaining it

**Adobe Acrobat** /ə,dəʊbi 'ækrəbæt/ a trade name for a piece of software that converts documents and formatted pages into a file format that can be viewed on almost any computer platform or using a web browser on the Internet (NOTE: For example if you publish a newsletter, you could lay out the pages using a desktop publish system, print the pages for a paper version, and convert the files to Acrobat format allowing you to distribute the same formatted pages on CD-ROM or over the Internet.)

**Adobe Systems** /ə,dəʊbi 'sɪstəmz/ a software company that developed products including Acrobat, ATM, and PostScript

**Adobe Type Manager** /ə,dəʊbi taɪp 'mæniʒɜ/ a trade name for a standard for describing scalable fonts, used with Apple System 7 and Microsoft Windows to provide fonts that can be scaled to almost any point size, and printed on almost any printer. Abbr **ATM**

**ADP** /,eɪ di: 'pi:/ *noun* data processing done by a computer. Full form **automatic data processing**

**ADPCM** /,eɪ di: pi: si: 'em/ *noun* a CCITT standard that defines a method of converting a voice or analog signal into a compressed digital signal. Full form **adaptive differential pulse code modulation**

**ADR** *noun* the process of adding words or phrases to a section of film in post production; a continuous loop of film is shown to the artists in which the same scene is shown re-

peatedly to help them synchronise their speech with their filmed lip movements

**ADSL** /,eɪ dɪː es 'el/ *noun* high-speed transmission standard that uses the same copper telephone wires as a normal telephone service, but is much faster than a standard modem or a digital system such as ISDN. Full form **Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line** (NOTE: As well as the speed, ADSL provides a user with an 'always on' connection to the Internet – there is no need to dial an access number and no delay. Typically, companies provide ADSL for a fixed monthly rental; data is usually transferred from the Internet to the user's computer at 2Mbps but transferred from the user's computer to the Internet at a slower rate of 256Kbps.)

**advance** /əd'vɑːns/ *verb* to move forward; to make something move forward ○ *The paper is advanced by turning this knob.*

**advanced** /əd'vɑːnst/ *adjective* more complicated or more difficult to learn

**Advanced Interactive Executive** /əd'vɑːnst ,ɪntər,æktɪv ɪg'zɛkʃətɪv/ *noun* full form of **AIX**

**Advanced Micro Devices** /əd'vɑːnst 'maɪkrəʊ dɪ ,vaɪsɪz/ full form of **AMD**

**advanced peer-to-peer networking** /əd'vɑːnst ,piə tə ,piə 'netwɜːkɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **APPN**

**advanced power management** /əd'vɑːnst ,paʊə 'mænɪdʒmənt/ *noun* full form of **APM**

**advanced program to program communications** /əd'vɑːnst ,prəʊgræm tə ,prəʊgræm kə ,mjuː'nkeɪf(ə)nɪz/ *noun* full form of **APPC**

**Advanced Research Projects Agency Network** /əd'vɑːnst ,rɪsɜːtʃ ,prɒdʒektɪs ,eɪdʒ(ə)nsɪ 'netwɜːk/ *noun* full form of **ARPANET**

**advanced technology attachment** /əd'vɑːnst tek,nɒlədʒɪ ə'tætʃmənt/ *noun* full form of **ATA**

**Advanced Television Systems Committee** /əd'vɑːnst 'telɪvɪʒ(ə)n ,sɪstəmz kə ,mɪti/ *noun* full form of **ATSC**

**advanced version** /əd'vɑːnst 'vɜːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a program with more complex features for use by an experienced user

**advisory lock** /əd'vaɪz(ə)rɪ lɒk/ *noun* (in a multitasking system) a lock placed on a region of a file by one process to prevent any other process accessing the same data

**advisory system** /əd'vaɪz(ə)rɪ 'sɪstəm/ *noun* an expert system that provides advice to a user

**aerial** /'eəriəl/ *noun* a device for receiving or sending radio transmissions by converting

electromagnetic impulses into electrical signals and vice-versa ■ *adjective* in the air  
**aerial cable** /'eəriəl ,keɪb(ə)/ *noun* a wire stretched between poles which acts as an aerial

**aerial perspective** /,eəriəl pə'spektɪv/ *noun* a view of a three-dimensional landscape as if the viewer is above the scene

**aerial view** /,eəriəl 'vjuː/ *noun* a view from high above a scene

**affect** /ə'fekt/ *verb* to touch or to influence or to change something ○ *Changes in voltage will affect the way the computer functions.*

**affiliate** /ə'fɪliət/ *verb* to connect or join with

**affiliated** /ə'fɪliətɪd/ *adjective* connected with or owned by another company ○ *one of our affiliated companies*

**affiliate marketing** /ə'fɪliət ,mɑːkɪtɪŋ/ *noun* a type of marketing that uses a central website to advertise and sell products and services from other sites

**affirmative** /ə'fɜːmətɪv/ *adjective* meaning 'yes'

**AFIPS** *abbr* American Federation of Information Processing Societies

**AFNOR** /'æfnɔː/ *noun* (in France) the French standards organisation. Full form **Association Française de Normalisation**

**AFP** /,eɪ ef 'piː/ a protocol used to communicate between workstations and servers in a network of Apple Macintosh computers. Full form **Appletalk Filing Protocol**

**afterglow** /'ɑːftəgləʊ/ *noun* ♦ **persistence**

**after-image** /,ɑːftə 'ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* a copy of a block of data that has been modified

**AGC** *noun* an electronic circuit that adjusts the level of an incoming signal so that it is suitable for the next part of the circuit. Full form **automatic gain control**

**agenda** /ə'dʒendə/ *noun* a list of tasks or appointments or activities that have to be carried out on a particular day

**agent** /'eɪdʒənt/ *noun* a series of commands or actions that are carried out automatically on a particular file or data

**aggregate** /'ægrɪgət/ *noun* a collection of data objects

**AGP** /,eɪ dʒɪː 'piː/ *noun* a dedicated bus between a graphics controller and main memory that allows data to be transferred very quickly without using the main processor. Full form **accelerated graphics port** (NOTE: It is used with the Intel Pentium II processor to provide very high-speed three-dimensional graphics and video processing. This port does not replace a PCI bus but works with it.)

**AI** /,eɪ 'aɪ/ *noun* the design and development of computer programs that attempt to imitate human intelligence and decision-making functions, providing basic reasoning and other human characteristics. Full form **artificial intelligence**. ◇ **IKBS**

**aiming symbol** /,eɪmɪŋ 'sɪmbəl/, **aiming field** /fɪ:lɪd/ *noun* a symbol displayed on screen which defines the area in which a light-pen can be detected

**airbrush** /'eə brʌʃ/ *noun* (in *graphics software*) a painting tool that creates a diffuse pattern of dots, like an mechanical airbrush ○ *We used the airbrush to create the cloud effects in this image.*

**air gap** /'eə ɡæp/ *noun* a narrow gap between a recording or playback head and the magnetic medium

**AIX** a trade name for a version of UNIX produced by IBM to run on its range of PCs, minicomputers and mainframes. Full form **Advanced Interactive Executive**

**ALC** *abbr* automatic level control. ◇ **AGC**

**alert** /ə'ɪɜ:t/ *noun* a warning message sent from software to warn a person or application that an error or problem has occurred

**algebra** /'ældʒɪbrə/ *noun* the use of letters in certain mathematical operations to represent unknown numbers or a range of possible numbers

**algebraic language** /,ældʒɪbrɛɪk 'læŋɡwɪdʒ/ *noun* a context-free language

**ALGOL** /'ælgɒl/ *noun* a high-level programming language using algorithmic methods for mathematical and technical applications. Full form **algorithmic language**

**algorithm** /'ælgərɪð(ə)m/ *noun* a set of rules used to define or perform a specific task or to solve a specific problem

'...image processing algorithms are step by step procedures for performing image processing operations' [Byte]

'...the steps are: acquiring a digitized image, developing an algorithm to process it, processing the image, modifying the algorithm until you are satisfied with the result' [Byte]

**algorithmic** /,ælgə'rɪðmɪk/ *adjective* expressed using algorithms

**algorithmic language** /,ælgə'rɪðmɪk 'læŋɡwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **ALGOL**

**alias** /'eɪliəs/ *noun* **1.** a representative name given to a file, port, device or spreadsheet cell or range of cells ○ *The operating system uses the alias COM1 to represent the serial port address 3FCh.* **2.** an undesirable value within a digital sample – often because a very high input signal has exceeded the limits of the converter and is wrongly represented as a very low value ○ *The operating system uses*

*the alias COM1 to represent the serial port address 3FCh.*

**aliasing** /'eɪlɪəsɪŋ/ *noun* jagged edges that appear along diagonal or curved lines displayed on a computer screen caused by the size of each pixel

**alias name** /'eɪliəs neɪm/ *noun* another name that is used on a network instead of the user name

**alien** /'eɪliən/ *adjective* not fitting the usual system

**align** /ə'laɪn/ *verb* **1.** to make sure that the characters to be printed are spaced and levelled correctly, either vertically or horizontally **2.** to arrange numbers into a column with all figured lines up against the right hand side (**right-aligned**) or the left-hand side (**left-aligned**) **3.** to ensure that a read/write head is correctly positioned over the recording medium **4.** to tune two or more radio circuits together

**aligner** /ə'laɪnə/ *noun* a device used to make sure that the paper is straight in a printer

**aligning edge** /ə'laɪnɪŋ edʒ/ *noun* an edge of an optical character recognition system used to position a document

**alignment** /ə'laɪnmənt/ *noun* the correct spacing and levelling of printed characters

**allocate** /'ælə,keɪt/ *verb* to divide a period of time or a piece of work in various ways and share it out between users ○ *The operating system allocated most of main memory to the spreadsheet program.* (NOTE: **allocates – allocating – allocated**)

**allocation** /,ælə'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the dividing of something such as memory, disk space, printer use, operating system time, or a program or device in various ways ○ *allocation of time or capital to a project*

**allophone** /'æləfəʊn/ *noun* the smallest unit of sound from which speech can be formed. ◇ **phoneme**

**all points addressable mode** /,ɔ:l 'pɔɪnts ə'dresəb(ə)l 'məʊd/ *noun* a graphics mode in which each pixel can be individually addressed and its colour and attributes defined. Also called **APA mode**

**alpha** /'ælfə/ *noun* **1.** same as **alpha test** ○ *The new software is still in an alpha product stage.* **2.** an item of data that defines the properties of a pixel or part of an image

**ALPHA** /'ælfə/ *noun* a 64-bit RISC processor chip developed by Digital Equipment Corporation

**alphabet** /'ælfə,bet/ *noun* the 26 letters used to make words

**alpha beta technique** /,ælfə 'bi:tə tek 'ni:k/ *noun* a free structure technique used in

artificial intelligence for solving game and strategy problems

**alphabetically** /,ælfə'betɪklɪ/ *adverb* in alphabetical order ○ *The files are arranged alphabetically under the customer's name.*

**alphabetical order** /,ælfəbetɪk(ə)l 'ɔ:də/ *noun* the arrangement of records (such as files, index cards) in the order of the letters of the alphabet (A,B,C,D, etc.)

**alphabetic character set** /,ælfəbetɪk 'kæriktə ,set/ *noun* the set of characters, both capitals and small letters, that make up the alphabet

**alphabetise** /'ælfəbetaɪz/, **alphabetize** *verb* to put items into alphabetical order ○ *Enter the bibliographical information and alphabetise it.* (NOTE: **alphabetises** – **alphabetising** – **alphabetised**)

**alpha channel** /'ælfə ,tʃæn(ə)l/ *noun* 1. (in 32-bit graphics systems) the top eight bits that define the properties of a pixel (NOTE: The lower 24 bits define the pixel's colour.) 2. a video channel, often used to hold mattes

**alphanumeric** /,ælfədʒi:əu'metrɪk/ *adjective* referring to a set of codes that instruct a teletext terminal to display various graphics patterns or characters

**alphamosaic** /,ælfəməu'zeɪɪk/ *adjective* (character set) used in teletext to provide alphanumeric and graphics characters

**alphanumeric** /,ælfənʊj'merɪk/ *adjective* using the letters of the alphabet, the Arabic numerals and punctuation marks

**alphanumeric data** /,ælfənʊmerɪk 'deɪtə/ *noun* data that represents the letters of the alphabet and the Arabic numerals

**alpha-particle** /'ælfə ,pɑ:ɪtɪk(ə)l/ *noun* an emitted alpha radiation particle

**alphaphotographic** /,ælfəfəʊtəʊ 'græfɪk/ *adjective* which represents pictures using predefined graphics characters, for teletext services

**alphasort** /,ælfə'sɔ:t/ *verb* to sort data into alphabetical order

**alpha test** /'ælfə test/ *noun* the first working attempt of a computer product. Also called **alpha**. ◊ **beta test**

**alpha wrap** /'ælfə ræp/ *noun* a method used for feeding tape into a helical scan video recorder to make sure the alignment is correct

**alt** /ɔ:lt/ *noun* a type of newsgroup on the Internet that contains discussions about alternative subjects. ◊ **newsgroup** (NOTE: These are not official newsgroups and are not supported or monitored by any company, and any user can write just about anything that he or she wants to say. Some online service providers do not allow their subscribers to

view all of the alt newsgroups because they may contain offensive and pornographic material.)

**alter** /'ɔ:ltə/ *verb* to change ○ *to alter the terms of a contract*

**alterable** /'ɔ:tərəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be altered. ◊ **EAPROM, EAROM**

**alteration** /,ɔ:ltə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a change which has been made ○ *The agreement was signed without any alterations.*

**alternate** *verb* /'ɔ:ltəneɪt/ to change from one state to another and back, over and over again (NOTE: **alternates** – **alternating** – **alternated**) ■ *adjective* /ɒl'tɜ:nət/ which change from one to another

**alternately** /ɔ:l'tɜ:nətli/ *adverb* switching from one to the other

**alternating current** /,ɔ:ltəneɪtɪŋ 'kʌrənt/ *noun* an electrical current whose value varies with time in a regular sinusoidal way, changing direction of flow each half cycle. Abbr **AC**

COMMENT: The mains electricity supply uses alternating current to minimise transmission power loss, with a frequency of 50 Hz in the UK, 60 Hz in the USA.

**alternative** /ɔ:l'tɜ:nətɪv/ *noun* something which can be done instead of something else ○ *What is the alternative to re-keying all the data?* ■ *adjective* other or which can take the place of something

**alternator** /'ɔ:ltə,neɪtə/ *noun* a device which produces an alternating current

**Alt key** /'ɔ:lt ki:/ *noun* a special key on a PC's keyboard used to activate special functions in an application ○ *Press Alt and P at the same time to print your document.*

COMMENT: The Alt key has become the standard method of activating a menu bar in any software running on a PC. For example, Alt-F normally displays the File menu of a program, Alt-X normally exits the program.

**ALU** /,eɪ el 'ju:/ *noun* a section of the CPU that performs all arithmetic and logical functions. Full form **arithmetic logic unit**. Also called **arithmetic unit**. ◊ **CPU**

**always on** /'ɔ:lweɪz ɒn/ *adjective* referring to a feature of high-speed broadband communications devices such as cable modems and ADSL that link your computer to the Internet whereby your computer appears to be permanently connected to the net and you do not need to dial up a special number

**AM** *abbr* amplitude modulation

**A-MAC** /,eɪ ,em eɪ 'si:/ *noun* a low bandwidth variation of MAC

**ambient** /'æmbɪənt/ *adjective* referring to normal background conditions

**ambiguous** /æm'bigjuəs/ *adjective* which has two or more possible meanings

**ambisonics** /,æmbi'sɒnɪks/ *noun* the process of recording more than one audio signal to give the effect of being surrounded by sound

**AMD** a company that develops and produces processor components including a range of processors that are compatible with Intel processors and are used in many PCs. Full form **Advanced Micro Devices**

**American National Standards Institute** /ə,merɪkən ,næʃ(ə)nəl 'stændədz ,ɪnstɪtju:t/ *noun* full form of **ANSI**

**American Standard Code for Information Interchange** /ə,merɪkən ,stændəd kəʊd fər ,ɪnfəmeɪʃ(ə)n 'ɪntəʃeɪndʒ/ *noun* full form of **ASCII**

**American Standards Association** /ə,merɪkən 'stændədz ə,səʊsɪeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an organisation that sets standards for the light sensitivity of photographic film emulsion – e.g., 100 ASA. The film is numbered in accordance to its sensitivity to light; the higher the number, the higher the film's sensitivity. Abbr **ASA**

**America Online** /ə,merɪkə 'ɒnlain/ a company that is the largest Internet service provider in the world. Abbr **AOL**

**AMM** *noun* a multimeter that uses a graduated scale and a moving needle as a readout for voltage, current and impedance levels. Full form **analog multimeter**. Compare **DMM**

**amount** /ə'maʊnt/ *noun* the quantity of data or paper, etc. ○ *What is the largest amount of data which can be processed in one hour?*

**amp** /æmp/ *noun* same as **ampere** (NOTE: used with figures: **a 13-amp fuse**)

**ampere** /'æmpeə/ *noun* the base SI unit of electrical current, defined as the current flowing through an impedance of one ohm which has a voltage of one volt across it. Abbr **A**

**ampersand** /'æmpə,sænd/ *noun* a printing sign (&) which means 'and'

**amplification** /,æmplɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the output-to-input signal strength ratio ○ *Increase the amplification of the input signal.*

**amplifier** /'æmplɪ,faiə/ *noun* an electronic circuit that magnifies the power of a signal

**amplify** /'æmplɪ,fai/ *verb* to magnify a signal power or amplitude ○ *The received signal needs to be amplified before it can be processed.* (NOTE: **amplifies** – **amplifying** – **amplified**)

**amplitude** /'æmplɪ,tju:d/ *noun* the strength or size of a signal

**amplitude modulation** /'æmplitju:d mɒdju,leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a method of carrying

data by varying the size of a carrier signal of fixed frequency according to the data

**analog** /'ænəlɒg/, **analogue** /'æn(ə)nɒg/ *noun* the representation and measurement of numerical data by continuously variable physical quantities, as for the size of electrical voltages. Compare **digital**

**analog display** /,ænəlɒg dɪ'spleɪ/ *noun* a display or monitor that can display an infinite range of colours or shades of grey, unlike a digital display that can only display a finite range of colours. VGA monitors are a form of analog display.

**analog multimeter** /,ænəlɒg 'mʌlɪtmɪ:tə/ *noun* a piece of testing equipment which uses a moving needle to indicate voltage, current or impedance levels. Abbr **AMM**

**analog to digital** /,ænəlɒg tə 'dɪdʒɪt(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to changing a signal from an analog form to a digitally coded form. Abbr **A/D**, **A to D**

**analog to digital converter** /,ænəlɒg tə ,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l kən'vɜ:tə/ *noun* full form of **ADC**

**analyse** /'ænəlaɪz/, **analyze** *verb* to examine in detail ○ *to analyse a computer printout*

**analyser** /'ænəlaɪzə/ *noun* a piece of electronic test equipment that displays various features of a signal (NOTE: The US spelling is **analyzer**.)

**analysis** /ə'næləʊsɪs/ *noun* a detailed examination and report ○ *market analysis*

**analyst** /'ænəlɪst/ *noun* a person who carries out an analysis of a problem

**analytical engine** /,ænəlɪtɪk(ə)l 'endʒɪn/ *noun* a mechanical calculating machine developed by Charles Babbage in 1833 that is generally considered the first general-purpose digital computer

**anamorphic** /,ænə'mɔ:frɪk/ *adjective* referring to an image that has unequal vertical and horizontal scaling, making it appear squashed or taller than the original

**anamorphic image** /,ænə'mɔ:frɪk 'ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* an image which has been distorted in one direction

**anamorphic lens** /,ænə'mɔ:frɪk lenz/ *noun* a motion picture camera lens which allows a wide picture to be compressed on to standard film. When in a projector, it lets the image expand to fill a wide screen. (*film*)

**ANAPROP** /'ænəprɒp/ *abbr* anomalous propagation ■ *noun* distortion of transmitted television signals due to atmospheric conditions

**anastigmatic** /,ænəstɪg'mætɪk/ *noun* a lens or optical device that has been corrected for astigmatism

**ancestral file** /æn,sestrəl 'faɪl/ *noun* a system of backing up files based on a son to father to grandfather file, where the son is the current working file

**anchor** /'æŋkə/ *noun* the main presenter of a television programme who sets the style and tone of the show (*film*)

**anchor cell** /'æŋkə sel/ *noun* a cell in a spreadsheet program that defines the start of a range of cells

**ancillary equipment** /æn,sɪləri ɪ 'kwɪpmənt/ *noun* equipment which is used to make a task easier but which is not absolutely necessary

**AND** /ænd/ *noun* an operator, often used in searches, that matches text that contains both search words. Compare **OR** (NOTE: For example searching for 'cat AND dog' finds all entries that contain both the words 'cat' and 'dog')

**AND circuit** /'ænd ,sɜ:ktɪ/, **AND element** /'ænd ,elɪmənt/ *noun* same as **AND gate**

**AND function** /'ænd ,fʌŋkʃən/ *noun* a logical function whose output is true if both its inputs are true. Also called **coincidence function**

COMMENT: If both inputs are 1, results of the AND will be 1. If one of the input digits is 0, then AND will produce a 0.

**AND gate** /'ænd geɪt/ *noun* electronic gate that performs a logical AND function on electrical signals. Also called **AND circuit**, **AND element**. Compare **coincidence gate**  
**AND operation** /'ænd ,ɒpəreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the processing of two or more input signals, outputting their AND function

**anechoic** /,ænek'əʊɪk/ *adjective* (room) that produces no echoes, used for testing audio equipment

**anechoic chamber** /,ænekəʊɪk 'tʃeɪmbə/ *noun* a perfectly quiet room in which sound or radio waves do not reflect off the walls

**ANG** *abbr* Anglia Television (*film*)

**angle** /'æŋɡəl/ *noun* a measure of the change in direction, usually as the distance turned from a reference line

**angled line** /,æŋɡləd 'laɪn/ *noun* a line with three or more points, e.g. a zig-zag

**Anglia Television** /,æŋɡliə 'telɪvɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* an independent commercial TV company based in Norwich and serving the surrounding east coast areas

**angstrom** /'æŋstrəm/ *noun* a unit of measurement equal to one thousand millionth of a metre

**ANI** /,eɪ en 'aɪ/ *noun* a telephone system which displays the telephone number of the caller. Full form **automatic number identification**

**animate** /'ænɪmeɪt/ *verb* to make a series of drawings which, when filmed, will create moving images

**animated GIF** /,ænɪ,meɪtɪd ,dʒi: aɪ 'ef/ *noun* a simple animation effect created by saving several small graphic images within one file so that they can be repeatedly displayed in sequence giving an impression of animation. It is often used to create animated buttons or other effects on a webpage. ♢

**transparent GIF**

**animated graphics** /,ænɪmeɪtɪd 'græfɪks/ *plural noun* images that move on the screen

**animatic** /,ænɪ'mætɪk/ *noun* a succession of drawings describing the story of a film, advertisement, animation or multimedia production before filming begins (*film*) ♢ **story board**

**animation** /,ænɪ'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* 1. the creation of the illusion of movement by displaying a series of slightly different images on screen very rapidly to give the effect of smooth movement. Also called **computer animation** 2. the process of filming puppets or still drawings in sequence in order to give the appearance of movement 3. the process of drawing images on film, especially using a computer to create moving graphical images, such as cartoons

**ANN** *noun* a voice over or a person on camera who gives information during a broadcast or who introduces and closes a radio or TV programme (*film*) Full form **announcer**

**annotation** /,ænə'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a comment or note in a program which explains how the program is to be used

**announce** /ə'naʊns/ *verb* to publicise a new or updated website by registering the domain name with the main search engines; (NOTE: **announces – announcing – announced**)

COMMENT: Each search engine allows a person to add a new website and enter a description and category. Because there are now several hundred search engines, special software utilities are available to automatically register the website with each engine.

**announcer** /ə'naʊnsə/ *noun* full form of **ANN**

**annunciator** /ə'nʌnsiətə/ *noun* a signal which can be heard or seen in order to attract attention

**anode** /'ænəʊd/ *noun* a positive electrical terminal of a device

**anomalistic period** /ə,nɒməlɪstɪk 'pɪəriəd/ *noun* the time taken for a satellite to travel between consecutive maximum points in its orbit

**anomalous propagation** /ə,nɒmələs ˌprɒpəˈgeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* distortion of transmitted television signals due to atmospheric conditions

**anonymiser** /əˈnɒnɪmaɪzə/, **anonymizer** *noun* a website that allows a person to browse the World Wide Web without leaving any traces of his or her identity

**anonymous FTP** /ə,nɒnɪməs ef ti: 'pi:/ *noun* a method commonly used on the Internet that allows a user to connect to a remote computer using the FTP protocol and log in as a guest to download publicly accessible files. ◊ **FTP** (NOTE: If you are using the FTP protocol to connect to a remote computer and you are asked for a login name and password, you can normally gain access to the remote computer's public areas by entering 'anonymous' as the login user name and your full email address as the password.)

**ANSI** /'ænsi/ *US* a US organisation which specifies computer and software standards, including those of high-level programming languages. Full form **American National Standards Institute**

**ANSI screen control** /,ænsi 'skri:n kən ˌtrəʊl/ *noun* a set of standard codes developed by ANSI that control how colours and simple graphics are displayed on a computer screen

**answer** /'ɑ:nsə/ *noun* a reply or solution to a question ■ *verb* **1.** to reply or provide the solution to a question **2.** to reply to a signal and set up a communications link ◊ *The first modem originates the call and the second answers it.*

**answerphone** /'ɑ:nsəfəʊn/ *noun* a cassette recorder attached to a telephone, which plays a prerecorded message and records messages from people dialling the number

**answer print** /'ɑ:nsə prɪnt/ *noun* the initial composite or graded print (copy) from an edited negative colour film which includes sound, music, titles (*film*)

**antenna** /æn'tenə/ *noun* an aerial or device for receiving or sending radio transmissions by converting electromagnetic impulses into electrical signals and vice-versa

**antenna array** /æn'tenə əˌreɪ/ *noun* a series of small transmitting or receiving elements connected in parallel, that make up a complex antenna

**antenna gain** /æn'tenə ɡeɪn/ *noun* the increase in transmitted signal power due to using a certain type of antenna

**anthropomorphic software** /,æŋθrəpəmɔ:ʃɪk 'sɒftweə/ *noun* artificial intelligence software that appears to react to what a user says

**anti-** /ænti/ *prefix* against

**anti-aliasing** /,ænti 'eɪliəsɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** a method of reducing the effects of jagged edges in graphics by using shades of grey to blend in along edges. Also called **dejagging**

**2.** a method of adding sound signals between the sound samples to create a smoother sound

**anti-virus program** /,ænti 'vaɪrəs ˌprəʊɡræm/ *noun* a software program that looks for virus software on a computer and destroys it before it can damage data or files

**anti-virus software** /,ænti 'vaɪrəs ˌsɒftweə/ *noun* software that removes a virus from a file

**AOL** *abbr* America Online

**APA** *abbr* all points addressable

**APA mode** /,eɪ pi: 'eɪ ˌməʊd/ *noun* same as **all points addressable mode**

**APC** *abbr* asynchronous procedure call

**APD** *abbr* avalanche photodiode

**aperture** /'æpətʃəl/ *noun* **1.** a lens diaphragm that allows the amount of light that reaches the film to be regulated according to the user's wishes **2.** an opening in a device that allows a certain amount of light or a signal to pass through it

**aperture illumination** /,æpətʃəl ɪˌlu:mɪ 'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a pattern generated from an aperture antenna

**API** /,eɪ pi: 'aɪ/ *noun* a set of standard program functions and commands that allow any programmer to interface a program with another application ◊ *If I follow the published API for this system, my program will work properly.* Full form **application programming interface**

**APL** /,eɪ pi: 'el/ *noun* a high-level programming language used in scientific and mathematical work. Full form **A programming language**

**APM** /,eɪ pi: 'em/ *noun* a specification that allows an operating system such as older Windows to control the power management features of a computer. Full form **advanced power management** (NOTE: This standard has been replaced by the ACPI standard in Windows 98 and Windows NT 5.0.)

**apochromatic lens** /,æpəkrəmətɪk 'lenz/ *noun* an optical lens that has been corrected for chromatic aberration

**apogee** /'æpədʒi/ *noun* the point in a satellite's orbit where it is at its maximum distance from the earth

**apostrophe** /ə'pɒstrəfi/ *noun* a printing sign ('), which generally indicates that a letter is missing or used in (')s, to indicate possession (NOTE: **computer's** can mean 'belonging to a computer' or 'the computer is': *The computer's casing is blue; The compu-*

*ter's broken and has to be repaired.* Note that this is different from **it's** = 'it is' as opposed to **its** = 'belonging to it': *It's easy to program; You cannot edit a disk when its write protect tag is closed.*

**APPC** /,eɪ pi: pi: 'si:/ *noun* a set of protocols developed by IBM that allows peer-to-peer communication between workstations connected to an SNA network. Full form **advanced program to program communications**. ▽ **LU**

**append** /ə'pend/ *verb* **1.** to add data to an existing file or record ○ *If you enter the DOS command COPY A+B, the file B will be appended to the end of file A.* **2.** to add a file or data to the end of an existing file

**appendix** /ə'pendɪks/ *noun* a section at the back of a book, containing additional information ○ *For further details see the appendices.* (NOTE: The plural is **appendices**.)

**Apple Computer Corporation** /,æp(ə)l kəm'pjʊ:tə ,kɔ:pəreɪf(ə)n/ a company, formed in 1975, that has developed a range of personal computers including the Apple II, Apple Lisa and, more recently, the Apple Mac

'Apple Computer has fleshed out details of a migration path to the PowerPC RISC architecture for its 7 million Apple Macintosh users. Developments in the pipeline include PowerPC versions of the AppleTalk Remote Access networking protocol.' [Computing]

**Apple Desktop Bus** /,æp(ə)l ,desktp 'bʌs/ a trade name for a serial bus built into Apple Macs that allows low-speed devices, e.g. the keyboard and mouse, to communicate with the processor

**Apple file exchange** /,æp(ə)l 'faɪl ɪks ,tʃeɪndʒ/ a trade name for a software program that runs on an Apple Mac allowing it to read disks from a PC

**Apple filing protocol** /,æp(ə)l 'faɪlɪŋ ,prəʊtəkɒl/ a trade name for a protocol used to communicate between workstations and servers in a network of Apple Macintosh computers. Abbr **AFP**

**Apple Key** /'æp(ə)l ki:/ a trade name for a special key on the keyboard of an Apple Mac that, when pressed with another key, provides a short-cut to a menu selection

**Apple Mac** /'æp(ə)l mæk/, **Apple Macintosh computer** /,æp(ə)l ,mæktɪntɒʃ kəm 'pjʊ:tə/ a trade name for any of a range of personal computers developed by Apple Computer Corporation that has a graphical user interface and uses the 68000 family of processors

**AppleScript** /'æp(ə)lskrɪpt/ a trade name for a script language built into the operation

system of an Apple Mac that allows a user to automate simple tasks

**Appleshare** /'æp(ə)lʃeə/ a trade name for software that allows Apple Macs to share files and printers using a file server

**applet** /'æplət/ *noun* **1.** a small utility within Microsoft Windows, originally any of the icons in the Control Panel window, but now any piece of software that is used to configure the computer ○ *There are applets to help format your disk and configure your keyboard.* **2.** a small applications on the Internet designed to enhance the functionality of a webpage. ▽ **ActiveX, Java, VBScript** (NOTE: For example if you want to add multimedia effects to your webpage, you cannot carry out these functions with standard HTML commands, but you could write a small ActiveX program, called an applet, that is automatically downloaded by the user's browser and run on the user's computer.)

**AppleTalk™** /'æp(ə)ltɔ:k/ a trade name for a communications protocol developed by the Apple Computer Corporation that carries data over network hardware between two or more Apple Macs and peripherals (NOTE: AppleTalk is similar to the seven-layer OSI protocol model. It can link up to 32 devices, uses a CSMA-CA design, and transmits data at 230Kbps.)

**AppleTalk Filing Protocol** /,æp(ə)ltɔ:k 'faɪlɪŋ ,prəʊtəkɒl/ full form of **AFP**

**appliance** /ə'plaɪəns/ *noun* a machine, especially one used in the home ○ *All electrical appliances should be properly earthed.*

**appliance computer** /ə'plaɪəns kəm 'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* a ready-to-run computer system that can be bought in a shop, taken home and used immediately for a particular purpose. ▽ **turnkey system**

**applicant** /'æplɪkənt/ *noun* a person who applies for something ○ *applicant for a job or job applicant* ○ *There were thousands of applicants for shares in the new company.*

**application** /,æplɪ'keɪf(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** asking for something, usually in writing ○ *application for an account on the system* **2.** a task which a computer performs or a problem which a computer solves

'How do users interact with a computer system? Via a terminal or PC. So what application layer OSI protocol do we need first? The Virtual Terminal. And what do we get? File Transfer Access and Maintenance.' [Computing]

**application configuration access protocol** /,æplɪkeɪf(ə)n kən ,fɪgʃəreɪf(ə)n 'ækses ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **ACAP**

**application icon** /,æplɪ'keɪf(ə)n ,aɪkɒn/ *noun* a small image or graphical symbol that

represents an application program in a graphical user interface

**application package** /,æplɪ'keɪf(ə)n ,pækɪdʒ/ *noun* a set of computer programs and manuals that cover all aspects of a particular task, e.g. payroll, stock control or tax. Also called **applications package**

**application program** /,æplɪ'keɪf(ə)n ,prəʊgræm/ *noun* a piece of application software ○ *The multi-window editor is used to create and edit applications programs.*

**application programming interface** /,æplɪkeɪf(ə)n 'prəʊgræmɪŋ ,ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* full form of **API** ○ *If I follow the published API for this system, my program will work properly.*

**application service provider** /,æplɪkeɪf(ə)n 'sɜːvɪs prəˌvaɪdər/ *noun* a specialist company that installs, configures and manages software on its own server and then allows any business to use the software via the Internet or a private network. Abbr **ASP** (NOTE: The user does not realise that the software is located on a distant server, and the business does not need to buy or support the software, just rent it.)

**application software** /,æplɪkeɪf(ə)n 'sɒftweə/ *noun* software designed to make the computer do what is required and perform particular tasks ○ *The multi-window editor is used to create and edit applications programs.* Also called **applications software**

**applications package** /,æplɪ'keɪf(ə)nɪz ,pækɪdʒ/ *noun* same as **application package**

**application specific integrated circuits** /,æplɪkeɪf(ə)n spəˌsɪfɪk ,ɪntɪgreɪtɪd 'sɜːkɪts/ *noun* full form of **ASIC**

**applications software** /,æplɪ'keɪf(ə)nɪz ,sɒftweə/ *noun* same as **application software**

**apply** /ə'plai/ *verb* **1.** to ask for something, usually in writing **2.** to affect or to touch ○ *This formula applies only to data received after the interrupt signal.*

**APPN** /,eɪ piː 'piː 'en/ *noun* an extension to the IBM SNA protocol that allows workstations to share information on a peer-to-peer basis without the need for a central mainframe. Full form **advanced peer-to-peer networking** (NOTE: It is often used to route information around a network and dynamically adjusts the route if part of the network is damaged.)

**appoint** /ə'pɔɪnt/ *verb* to choose someone for a job ○ *to appoint James Smith (to the post of) manager* ○ *We have appointed a new computer services manager.* (NOTE: you appoint a person to a job)

**appointee** /ə'pɔɪntiː/ *noun* a person who is appointed to a job

**appointment** /ə'pɔɪntmənt/ *noun* **1.** an arrangement to meet □ **appointments book** desk diary in which appointments are noted **2.** being appointed to a job □ **on his appointment as manager** when he was made manager □ **letter of appointment** letter in which someone is appointed to a job **3.** a job □ **staff appointment** job on the staff □ **computer appointments vacant** list (in a newspaper) of jobs which are available in the computer industry

**approval** /ə'pruːv(ə)l/ *noun* an agreement that something can be used ○ *A BABT approval is needed for modems.*

**approve** /ə'pruːv/ *verb* to agree to something ○ *to approve the terms of a contract*

**approximate** /ə'prɒksɪmət/ *adjective* not exact, but almost correct ○ *We have made an approximate calculation of the time needed for keyboarding.*

**approximately** /ə'prɒksɪmətli/ *adverb* almost correctly ○ *Processing time is approximately 10% lower than during the previous quarter.*

**approximating** /ə'prɒksɪmeɪtɪŋ/ *adjective* which is nearly correct

**approximation** /ə,prɒksɪ'meɪf(ə)n/ *noun* a rough calculation ○ *approximation of keyboarding time*

**A programming language** /,eɪ 'prəʊgræmɪŋ ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **APL**

**APT** /,eɪ piː 'tiː/ *noun* a programming language used to control numerically controlled machines. Full form **automatically programmed tools**

**arbitrator** /'ɑːbɪtreɪtər/ *noun* software that is responsible for allocating resources to devices, often used to manage the way Plug and Play adapters use other resources in a computer

**arcade game** /ɑː'keɪd geɪm/ *noun* an adventure game played on a machine in a public place

**archetype** /'ɑːkɪtaɪp/ *noun* a document or book that illustrates the styles of a particular time and subject

**Archie** /'ɑːtɪːfɪː/ *noun* a system of servers on the Internet that catalogue the public files available on the Internet

**Archimedes** /,ɑːkɪ'miːdiːz/ *noun* a personal computer developed by Acorn Computers; the Archimedes is based around a RISC central processor and is not compatible with either the IBM PC or Apple Macintosh

**architecture** /'ɑːkɪtektʃəl/ *noun* the layout and interconnection of a computer's in-

ternal hardware and the logical relationships between CPU, memory and I/O devices

'Software giant Microsoft is also interested in using Xerox' Glyph technology as part of its Microsoft At Work architecture that seeks to unite office computers with fax machines and copiers.'  
[Computing]

**archival quality** /'ɑ:kɑ:v(ə)l ˌkɔwləti/ *noun* the length of time that a copy can be stored before it becomes illegible

**archive** /'ɑ:kɑ:v/ *noun* storage of data over a long period ■ *verb* to put data in storage (NOTE: **archives** – **archiving** – **archived**)

**archived copy** /'ɑ:kɑ:vɪd 'kɔpi/ *noun* a copy kept in storage

**archive file** /'ɑ:kɑ:v faɪl/ *noun* a file containing data which is out of date but which is kept for future reference

**archive storage** /,ɑ:kɑ:v 'stɔ:ɪrɪdʒ/ *noun* storage of data for a long period of time

**area** /'eəriə/ *noun* **1.** a measurement of the space taken up by something, calculated by multiplying the length by the width. ○ *The area of this office is 3,400 square feet.* **2.** a section of memory or code that is reserved for a certain purpose

**area fill** /'eəriə fɪl/ *noun* (in graphics) an instruction to fill an area of the screen or an enclosed pattern with a colour or pattern

**area manager** /,eəriə 'mænɪdʒə/ *noun* a manager who deals with a certain part of the country

**arg** /ɑ:g/ *noun* same as **argument**

**argue** /'ɑ:gju:/ *verb* to discuss something about which you do not agree ○ *They argued over or about the design of the cover.* (NOTE: you argue **with** someone **about** or **over** something)

**argument** /'ɑ:gjʊmənt/ *noun* **1.** the process of discussing something without agreeing ○ *They got into an argument with the customs officials over the documents.* **2.** a variable acted upon by an operator or function ○ *If you enter the words 'MULTIPLY A, B', the processor will recognise the operator, MULTIPLY, and use it with the two arguments, A and B.* ◊ **operand.** Abbr **arg**

**arithmetic** /'æriθmətik/ *noun* a science concerned with mathematical functions such as addition, subtraction, division and multiplication

**arithmetic logic unit** /,æriθmetɪk 'lɒdʒɪk ˌju:nɪt/ *noun* full form of **ALU**

**arithmetic unit** /,æriθmetɪk 'ju:nɪt/ *noun* same as **ALU**

**ARP** /,eɪ ɑ: 'pi:/ *noun* a protocol within the TCP/IP standard that is used to determine whether the source and destination address in a packet are in the data-link control or Internet protocol format. Full form **address res-**

**olution protocol** (NOTE: Once the format of the address is known, the packet can be correctly routed over a network.)

**ARPANET** /'ɑ:pənet/ *noun* the original network of interconnected computers, linked by leased lines, that formed the first prototype for the current Internet. It was developed by the US Department of Defense. Full form **Advanced Research Projects Agency Network**

**ARQ** /,eɪ ɑ: 'kju:/ *noun* an error correction system, used in some modems, which asks for data to be re-transmitted if it contains errors. Full form **automatic repeat request**

**array** /ə'reɪ/ *noun* an ordered structure containing individually accessible elements referenced by numbers, used to store tables or sets of related data

**array processor** /ə'reɪ ˌprəʊsesə/ *noun* a computer that can act upon several arrays of data simultaneously, for very fast mathematical applications ○ *The array processor allows the array that contains the screen image to be rotated with one simple command.*

**arrow key** /'æərəʊ ki:/ *noun* each of a set of four keys on a keyboard that move the cursor or pointer around the screen, controlling movement up, down, left and right

**arrow pointer** /,æərəʊ 'pɔɪntə/ *noun* a small arrow on-screen that you can move using the mouse

**art file** /'ɑ:t faɪl/ *noun* a digital picture store which has extra graphic and painting facilities (film)

**article** /'ɑ:tɪk(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** one message in a newsgroup **2.** a section of a newspaper or magazine ○ *He wrote an article about the user group for the local newspaper.* **3.** a section of an agreement ○ *See article 8 of the contract.*

**artifacts** /'ɑ:tɪfækt/ *plural noun* very small errors in a digital version of an analog signal

**artificial intelligence** /,ɑ:tɪfɪʃ(ə)l ɪn 'telɪdʒ(ə)ns/ *noun* full form of **AI**

**artificial neural network** /,ɑ:tɪfɪʃ(ə)l 'nɪʒərəl ˌnetwɜ:k/ *noun* a system for processing information that is made up of interconnected elements that behave in a similar way to the neurons in the human nervous system and have the ability to learn through experience

**artwork** /'ɑ:t,wɜ:k/ *noun* graphical work or images

**ASA** *abbr* American Standards Association (film)

**ascend** /ə'send/ *verb* to increase

**ascender** /ə'sendə/ *noun* a part of a character that rises above the main line of printed characters, e.g. the upward line of a 'b' or 'd'

**ASCII** /'æski:/ *noun* a code which represents alphanumeric characters in binary code. Full form **American Standard Code for Information Interchange**

**ASCII character** /'æski ,kærɪktə/ *noun* a character which is in the ASCII list of codes

**ASCII file** /'æski faɪl/ *noun* a stored file containing only ASCII coded character data  
 ○ *Use a word processor or other program that generates a standard ASCII file.*

**ASCII text** /'æski tekst/ *noun* the set of letter and number characters with an ASCII code between 0 and 127

**ASF** /,eɪ es 'ef/ *noun* a multimedia delivery format developed by Microsoft for delivery over the Internet and used in its NetShow product. Full form **active streaming format**

**ASIC** /,eɪ es ət 'si:/ *plural noun* specially designed ICs for one particular function or to special specifications. Full form **application specific integrated circuits**

**ASP** *abbr* **1.** Active Server Page **2.** application service provider

**aspect** /'æspekt/ *noun* the way in which something appears

**aspect ratio** /,æspekt 'reɪʃiəʊ/ *noun* the ratio of the width to the height of pixel shapes

**ASR** /,eɪ es 'ɑ:/ *noun* a device or terminal that can transmit and receive information. Full form **automatic send/receive**. Compare **KSR**

COMMENT: An ASR terminal can input information via a keyboard or via a tape cassette or paper tape. It can receive information and store it in internal memory or on tape.

**assemble** /ə'semb(ə)/ *verb* **1.** to put a hardware or software product together from various smaller parts ○ *The parts for the disk drive are made in Japan and assembled in France.* (NOTE: **assembles – assembling – assembled**) **2.** to translate assembly code into machine code ○ *There is a short wait during which time the program is assembled into object code.*

**assemble edit** /ə'semb(ə)l 'edit/ *verb* adding new images, sounds, control tracks or timecodes to previous material on a videotape when in the process of editing (*film*)

**assembler** /ə'semblə/ *noun* a program which converts a program written in assembly language into machine code. Also called **assembler program**

**assembler program** /ə'semblə ,prəʊgræm/ *noun* same as **assembler**

**assembly** /ə'sembli/ *noun* **1.** the process of putting an item together from various parts ○ *There are no assembly instructions to show you how to put the computer together.* **2.** the

process of converting a program into machine code

**assertion** /ə'sɜ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a program statement of a fact or rule

**assets** /'æsets/ *plural noun* separate data elements such as video, audio and image that are used in a multimedia application

**assign** /ə'saɪn/ *verb* **1.** to give a computer or person something to do ○ *He was assigned the job of checking the sales figures.* **2.** to set a variable equal to a string of characters or numbers **3.** to keep part of a computer system for use while a program is running

**assigned numbers** /ə'saɪnd 'nʌmbəz/ *plural noun* unique numbers that are each assigned to an Internet or network manufacturer's device, protocol or other resource (NOTE: Manufacturers apply for a unique ID number from the IANA organisation.)

**assignment** /ə'saɪnmənt/ *noun* **1.** a particular job of work **2.** the process of setting a variable equal to a value or string or character **3.** the transfer of a property or of a right ○ *assignment of a copyright*

**assignor** /,æsaɪ'nɔ:/ *noun* a person who assigns something to someone

**assist** /ə'sɪst/ *verb* to help ○ *Can you assist the stock controller in counting the stock?* ○ *He assists me with my income tax returns.* (NOTE: you assist someone in doing something or with something)

**assistant cameraman** /ə,sɪst(ə)nt 'kæm(ə)rəmæn/ *noun* the person who carries out camera operations under the instruction of the director of photography

**assistant director** /ə,sɪst(ə)nt daɪ'rektə/ *noun* the person who carries out the director's instructions, oversees the work and whereabouts of the actors, technicians and rest of crew and works in close contact with the production unit. Also called **associate director**

**associate** /ə'səʊsiət/ *adjective* linked ■ *noun* a person who works in the same business as someone ○ *She is a business associate of mine.*

**associated document** /ə,səʊsiətɪd 'dɒkjʊmənt/, **associated file** /faɪl/ *noun* a document or file that is linked to its originating application (NOTE: When you select the file, the operating system automatically starts the originating application.)

**associate director** /ə,səʊsiət daɪ'rektə/ *noun* same as **assistant director**

**associate producer** /ə,səʊsiət prə'dju:sə/ *noun* a personal assistant to the producer who is likely to have a particular understanding of the subject of the film or programme being made (*film*)

**associational editing** /ə,səʊsiəlf(ə)nəl 'edɪtɪŋ/ *noun* a way of editing a film or video so as to present together scenes which are similar to others

**associative addressing** /ə,səʊsiətɪv ə 'dresɪŋ/ *noun* the identification of a location by its contents rather than its address. Also called **content-addressable addressing**

**associative processor** /ə,səʊsiətɪv 'prəʊsesə/ *noun* a processor that uses associative memory

**AST** *noun* a system which permits broadcast quality videotape pictures to be broadcast at different speeds or frame rates (*film*) Full form **automatic scan tracking**

**astable multivibrator** /,eɪstəɪb(ə)l 'mʌltɪvəbreɪtə/ *noun* an electronic current that repeatedly switches an output between two voltage levels

**asterisk** /'æstərɪsk/ *noun* a graphical symbol (\*) used in programming as a sign for multiplication

**astigmatism** /ə'stɪgmətɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a camera lens defect which causes focal problems such as out-of-focus or blurred images (*film*)

**Asymetrix™** /,eɪsɪ'metrɪks/ *noun* a software company that publishes the ToolBook multimedia authoring software package

**asymmetric compression** /,æsɪ'metrɪk kəm'preʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a method of reducing the space taken by data

**Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line** /,æsɪ'metrɪk ,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l səb'skraɪbə ,laɪn/ *noun* full form of **ADSL**

**asymmetric system** /,æsɪ'metrɪk 'sɪstəm/ *noun* a system that requires more equipment to compress the data than to decompress it

**asymmetric transmission** /eɪsɪ'metrɪk trænʒ'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a method of data transmission which has two different speeds for data received by the computer and data transmitted by the computer

**asymmetric video compression** /eɪsɪ'metrɪk 'vɪdɪəʊ kəm'preʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the use of a powerful computer to compress video, allowing it to be played back on a less powerful computer

**async** /eɪ'sɪŋk/ *adjective* same as **asynchronous** (*informal*)

**asynchronous** /ə'sɪŋkrənəs/ *adjective* referring to serial data or equipment which does not depend on being synchronised with another piece of equipment

**asynchronous cache** /eɪ,sɪŋkrənəs 'kæʃ/ *noun* a type of cache memory that provides the slowest performance and uses a type of SDRAM that is cheap but slow

**asynchronous communication** /eɪ'sɪŋkrənəs kə'mju:nɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* data transmission between devices that is not synchronised to a clock, but is transmitted when ready

**asynchronous procedure call** /eɪ'sɪŋkrənəs prə'sɪ:dʒə ,kɔ:l/ *noun* a program function that runs separately from the main program and will execute when a particular set of conditions exist. Abbr **APC**

**asynchronous sound** /eɪ,sɪŋkrənəs 'saʊnd/ *noun* sound which is not synchronised to each particular frame but is related to the general action (*film*)

**asynchronous transfer mode** /eɪ'sɪŋkrənəs 'trænsfɜː ,məʊd/ *noun* full form of **ATM**

**asynchronous transmission** /eɪ'sɪŋkrənəs trænʒ'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* data transmission that uses handshaking signals rather than clock signals to synchronise data pulses

**AT** /,eɪ 'tiː/ *noun* a trade name for a standard of PC originally developed by IBM that uses a 16-bit 80286 processor

COMMENT: AT originally meant IBM's Advanced Technology personal computer, but is now used to describe any IBM PC compatible that uses a 16-bit processor.

**ATA** /,eɪ tiː 'eɪ/ *noun* hard disk drive technology in which the controller is part of the disk drive rather than being part of the main computer or located on the motherboard. Full form **advanced technology attachment**. Also called **AT attachment**

**ATD** /,eɪ tiː 'diː/ *noun* a standard command for compatible modems used to dial a telephone number; defined by Hayes Corporation. Full form **attention, dial**

**ATM<sup>1</sup>** /,eɪ tiː 'em/ *abbr* Adobe Type Manager

**ATM<sup>2</sup>** /,eɪ tiː 'em/ *noun* **1.** method of transferring data very rapidly, at up to 155 Mbps, across an ISDN link or network **2.** a CCITT and ANSI standard defining cell relay transmission ► full form **asynchronous transfer mode**

**ATM<sup>3</sup>** /,eɪ tiː 'em/ *noun* electronic machine in a bank that dispenses cash when you insert a magnetic card. Full form **automated teller machine**

**atmosphere** /'ætməs,fɪə/ *noun* a gas which surrounds the earth

**atmospheric interference** /,ætməs ,ferɪk ,ɪntə'fɪərəns/ *noun* electrical disturbances in the earth's atmosphere which cause hissing and crackling sounds on radio or TV channels

**A to D** /,eɪ tə 'diː/ *adjective* same as **analog to digital**

**atom** /'ætəm/ *noun* the smallest particle of an element that has the same properties as the element

**atomic** /ə'tɒmɪk/ *adjective* referring to atoms

**ATSC** /,eɪ ti: es 'sɪz/ *noun* a committee that defines the SDTV and HDTV standards for use in the USA. Full form **Advanced Television Systems Committee**

**attach** /ə'tætʃ/ *verb* to connect a node or login to a server on a network

**attachment** /ə'tætʃmənt/ *noun* **1.** a device which is attached to a machine for a special purpose ○ *There is a special single sheet feed attachment.* **2.** a named file which is transferred together with an electronic mail message ○ *There is an attachment with my last mail message – it contains the sales report.*

**attack** /ə'tæk/ *noun* the shape of the start of a sound signal over time

**attended operation** /ə,tendɪd ɒpə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a process which has an operator standing by in case of problems

**attend to** /ə'tend tu:/ *verb* to give careful thought to (something) and deal with it ○ *The managing director will attend to your complaint himself.* ○ *We have brought in experts to attend to the problem of installing the new computer.*

**attention, dial** /ə,tenʃən 'daɪəl/ *noun* full form of **ATD**

**attention code** /ə'tenʃən kəʊd/ *noun* the two characters 'AT' that are used to preface a command to a Hayes-compatible modem (NOTE: For example 'ATD123' tells the modem to dial the number '123')

**attenuate** /ə'tenju'eɪt/ *verb* to reduce the strength or size of peaks (of a signal)

**attenuation** /ə,tenu'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the difference between transmitted and received power measured in decibels ○ *If the cable is too long, the signal attenuation will start to cause data errors.* Opposite **gain**

**attribute** /'ætrɪbjʊ:t/ *noun* **1.** a piece of information concerning the display or presentation of information **2.** a set of control data stored with and controlling particular functions or aspects of the file in some operating systems such as DOS and OS/2 **3.** a single bit that defines whether the font has a particular characteristic, e.g., whether it is displayed in normal, bold or underlined

**audible** /'ɔ:dɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be heard ○ *The printer makes an audible signal when it runs out of paper.*

**audience** /'ɔ:diəns/ *noun* people who watch a TV programme or listen to a radio programme

**audience rating** /'ɔ:diəns ˌreɪtɪŋ/ *noun* the rating of a programme by calculating the number of people who have watched it

**audio** /'ɔ:diəʊ/ *adjective* referring to sound or to things which can be heard

**audio file** /'ɔ:diəʊ faɪl/ *noun* a digital sound sample stored on disk

**audio range** /'ɔ:diəʊ reɪndʒ/ *noun* the frequency range between 50–20,000 Hz that can be detected by a human ear

**audiotape** /'ɔ:diəʊteɪp/ *noun* tape treated with magnetisable metallic oxide in order to allow sound to be recorded (*film*)

**audiotex** /'ɔ:diəʊteks/ *noun* an interactive voice response over the telephone in which a computer asks the caller questions and the caller responds by pressing numbers on his telephone

**audio/video interleaved** /,ɔ:diəʊ ˌvɪdiəʊ ɪntə'li:vɪd/ *noun* full form of **AVI**  
**audio-video support system** /,ɔ:diəʊ ˌvɪdiəʊ sə'pɔ:t/ *noun* full form of **AVSS**

**audiovisual** /,ɔ:diəʊ 'vɪʒuəl/ *adjective* which uses sound and images

**audiovisual aids** /,ɔ:diəʊvɪʒuəl 'eɪdɪz/ *plural noun* equipment used in teaching, which includes both sound and pictures

**audiovisual scripts** /,ɔ:diəʊvɪʒuəl 'eskɪpts/ *plural noun* scripts that indicate and separate live and mechanical sources

**audit** /'ɔ:dɪt/ *noun* the process of noting tasks carried out by a computer ■ *verb* to examine the state of a system and check that it is still secure or working properly

**audit trail** /'ɔ:dɪt treɪl/ *noun* a record of details of the use made of a system by noting transactions carried out, used for checking on illegal use or malfunction

**augend** /'ɔ:gend/ *noun* the number to which another number, the addend, is added to produce the sum

**augment** /ɔ:g'ment/ *verb* to increase

**augmenter** /,ɔ:g'mentə/ *noun* a value added to another

**AUI connector** /,eɪ ju: 'aɪ kə,nektə/ *noun* a D-connector used to connect thick Ethernet cable to a network adapter

**aural** /'ɔ:ɹəl/ *adjective* by ear

**authentic** /ɔ:'θentɪk/ *adjective* which is true

**authenticate** /ɔ:'θentɪ,keɪt/ *verb* to say that something is true or genuine

**authentication** /ɔ:'θentɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of making sure that something is authentic

**authenticator** /ɔ:'θentɪkeɪtə/ *noun* a trustworthy company that provides authentication for digital signatures on the Internet (NOTE: This process is used by secure web-

sites (shopping or payment sites) to prove to a visitor that the website has been created by the authorised publisher.)

**author** /'ɔ:θə/ *noun* the person who wrote a program ■ *verb* to create a multimedia application by combining sound, video and images

'The authoring system is a software product that integrates text and fractally compressed images, using any wordprocessor line editor, to create an electronic book with hypertext links between different pages.' [Computing]

**authoring language** /,ɔ:θəriŋ 'læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* a programming language used to write CAL and training programs

**authoring software** /,ɔ:θəriŋ 'sɒftweɪ/,

**authoring system** /,ɔ:θəriŋ 'sɪstəm/ *noun*

**1.** a special application that allows you to create multimedia titles. Authoring software lets you design the pages of the multimedia book and place video clips, images, text and sound on a page. (NOTE: Almost all multimedia developers use some type of authoring software rather than a traditional programming language because it's a much faster and easier way to create multimedia programs.)

**2.** same as **webpage design software**

**authorisation** /,ɔ:θəraɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/, **authorization** *noun* the process of giving a user permission to access a system

**authorisation code** /,ɔ:θəraɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n kəʊd/ *noun* a code used to restrict access to a computer system to authorised users only

**authorised user** /,ɔ:θə,raɪzɪd 'ju:zə/, **authorized user** *noun* person who is allowed to access a system

**authority** /ɔ:'θɒrəti/ *noun* the power to do something ○ *He has no authority to delete your account.*

**authorize** /'ɔ:θə,raɪz/ *verb* **1.** to give permission for something to be done ○ *to authorise the purchase of a new computer system* **2.** to give someone the authority to do something

**authorized** /'ɔ:θəraɪzɪd/ *adjective* permitted

**author level** /,ɔ:θə 'lev(ə)l/ *noun* the mode of an authoring software package that is used by the author to design the application (NOTE: The user uses the finished application at user level.)

**auto** /'ɔ:təʊ/ *adjective, prefix* automatic or which works without the user needing to act '...expansion accessories include auto-dial and auto-answer' [Electronic & Wireless Worlds]

**autocue** /'ɔ:təʊkju:z/ *noun* a method that enables a person to read out a rolling text which is projected on to an angled mirror in front of the camera lens (*film*) ○ *Autocue enables a TV presenter to read a script without*

*looking down.* ○ *An autocue operator controls the speed.*

**AUTOEXEC.BAT** /,ɔ:təʊɪg'zek bæt/ *noun* (in an IBM PC running the MS-DOS operating system) a batch file that contains commands that are executed when the computer is first switched on or reset

**autoflow** /'ɔ:təʊfləʊ/ *noun* a feature of DTP or wordprocessing software that automatically flows text around a graphic image or from one page to the next

**autofocus** /'ɔ:təʊfəʊkəs/ *noun* an infrared sensors in cameras or camcorders that activate the focusing operation (*film*)

**automate** /'ɔ:tə,meɪt/ *verb* to install machines to do work previously done by people

**automated teller machine** /,ɔ:təmeɪtɪd 'telə mə,ʃi:n/ *noun* full form of **ATM**

**automatic** /,ɔ:tə'mætɪk/ *adjective* which works by itself, without being worked by an operator

**automatically** /,ɔ:tə'mætɪkli/ *adverb* (machine) working without a person giving instructions ○ *The compiler automatically corrected the syntax errors.* ◇ **APT**

**automatically programmed tools** /,ɔ:tə'mætɪkli ,prəʊgræmd 'tu:lz/ *plural noun* full form of **APT**

**automatic backup** /,ɔ:tə'mætɪk 'bækʌp/ *noun* same as **auto save**

**automatic call distribution** /,ɔ:tə'mætɪk 'kɔ:l ,dɪstrɪbjʊ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **ACD**

**automatic calling unit** /,ɔ:tə'mætɪk 'kɔ:lɪŋ ,ju:nɪt/ *noun* full form of **ACU**

**automatic camera effects system** *noun* full form of **ACES**

**automatic data processing** /,ɔ:tə'mætɪk 'deɪtə ,prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **ADP**

**automatic frequency switching** /,ɔ:tə'mætɪk 'frɪ:kwənsɪ ,swɪtʃɪŋ/ *noun* same as **automatic mode**

**automatic gain** /,ɔ:tə'mætɪk 'geɪn/ *noun* an electronic circuit which automatically increases the volume when someone is speaking quietly and drops it when someone is speaking loudly

**automatic gain control** /,ɔ:tə'mætɪk ,geɪn kən'trəʊl/ *noun* full form of **AGC**

**automatic mailing list** /,ɔ:tə'mætɪk 'meɪlɪŋ ,lɪst/ *noun* ♦ **listserv**

**automatic mode** /,ɔ:tə'mætɪk məʊd/ *noun* a feature of a monitor that can adjust its internal circuits to the different frequencies used by different video standards. Also called **automatic frequency switching**

**automatic number identification**/ˌɔ:təmætɪk 'nʌmbə aɪ,dentɪfɪkeɪʃ(ə)n/  
*noun* full form of **ANI****automatic repeat request**/ˌɔ:təmætɪk rɪ'pi:t rɪ,kwest/ *noun* full form of **ARQ****automatic scan tracking***noun* full form of **AST****automatic send/receive**/ˌɔ:təmætɪk ,send rɪ'si:v/ *noun* full form of **ASR****automatic volume control**/ˌɔ:təmætɪk 'vɒljʊ:m kən,trol/ *noun* full form of **AVC****automation**/ˌɔ:tə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the use of machines to do work with very little supervision by people**autopositive**/ˌɔ:təʊ'pɒzɪtɪv/ *noun* a photographic process that produces a positive image without a negative stage**auto-reliable mode**/ˌɔ:təʊ rɪ'laɪəb(ə)l ,mɒd/ *noun* a feature of a modem in which the modem will try and establish a reliable connection with another modem using error correction**auto save**/'ɔ:təʊ seɪv/ *noun* a feature of some application programs, e.g. word-processor or database software, that automatically saves the file being used every few minutes in case of a power failure or system crash. Also called **automatic backup****auto scan**/'ɔ:təʊ skæn/ *noun* the ability of a monitor to maintain the same rectangular image size when changing from one resolution to another**autosizing**/ˌɔ:təʊ'saɪzɪŋ/ *noun* the ability of a monitor to maintain the same rectangular image size when changing from one resolution to another**auto trace**/'ɔ:təʊ treɪs/ *noun* a feature of some graphics programs that will transform a bit-mapped image into a vector image by automatically locating the edges of the shapes in the image and drawing lines around them**AUX**/ˌeɪ ju: 'eks/ *noun* a serial communications port under the DOS operating system. Full form **auxiliary****AUX**

a trade name for a version of the Unix operating system for the Apple Mac range of computers

**auxiliary**/ˌɔ:g'zɪliəri/ *adjective* which helps ○ *The computer room has an auxiliary**power supply in case there is a mains failure.*■ **noun** full form of **AUX****auxiliary device**/ˌɔ:g'zɪliəri dɪ'vaɪs/ *noun* a piece of computer hardware that is not part of the central processing unit but is controlled by it, e.g. a printer or scanner. Same as **peripheral****a/v abbr** audiovisual**avalanche**'ævələ:ntʃ/ *noun* a sequence of actions in which each action starts another○ *There was an avalanche of errors after I pressed the wrong key.***avalanche photodiode***noun* full form of **APD****avatar**'ævətɑ:z/ *noun* 1. the graphical image that is used to represent a real person in a cyberspace or three-dimensional system, e.g. the image of a person in a three-dimensional adventure game 2. the name for the superuser account on a UNIX system. Also called **root****AVC<sup>1</sup>**/ˌeɪ vi: 'si:/ *noun* an electronic circuit that maintains a constant sound level despite undesired differences in strength of the incoming signal. Full form **automatic volume control****AVC<sup>2</sup>**

/ˌeɪ vi: 'si:/ a trade name for multimedia software developed by IBM that works with its Audio Capture and Video Capture boards

**AVI**/ˌeɪ vi: 'aɪ/ *noun* a Windows multimedia video format developed by Microsoft. Full form **audio/video interleaved****AVSS**/ˌeɪ vi: es 'es/ *noun* a digital video system, originally for MS-DOS, used to play back video and audio files on a computer. Full form **audio-video support system****A wind**'eɪ waɪnd/ *noun* a videotape wound onto a reel so that it winds in a clockwise direction; the oxide layer being on the inside (*film*)**axis**'æksɪs/ *noun* 1. a line around which something turns ○ *The CAD package allows an axis to be placed anywhere.* (NOTE: The plural is **axes**.) 2. a reference line which is the basis for coordinates on a graph**azerty keyboard**/ə,zɜ:ti 'ki:bɔ:d/ *noun* a method of arranging the keys on a keyboard where the first line begins AZERTY, used mainly in Continental Europe. Compare **QWERTY keyboard****azimuth**'æzɪmθ/ *noun* the angle of a tape head to a reference, e.g. a tape plane

# B

**b** *abbr* bit

**B<sup>1</sup>** *abbr* byte

**B<sup>2</sup>** *symbol* the hexadecimal equivalent of the decimal number 11

**B:** used in personal computers to indicate the second disk drive, normally a floppy disk drive ○ *Copy the files from the hard drive, C:, to the floppy drive, B:.*

**B2B** /,bi: tə 'bi:/ *adjective* referring to advertising or marketing that is aimed at other businesses rather than at consumers. Full form **business-to-business**

**B2C** /,bi: tə 'si:/ *adjective* referring to advertising or marketing that is aimed at consumers rather than at other businesses. Full form **business-to-consumer**

**babble** /'bæb(ə)/ *noun* crosstalk or noise from other sources which interferes with a signal

**BABT** /,bi: eɪ bi: 'ti:/ *noun* an independent organisation that tests and certifies telecommunications equipment ○ *If you design a new modem, you must have BABT approval before you can sell it.* Full form **British Approvals Board for Telecommunications**

**babyp** /'beɪbi/ *noun* a spotlight with a 1000 watt bulb (*film*)

**baby legs** /'beɪbi legz/, **tripod** /'traɪpɒd/ *noun* a small tripod which is used when shooting low angle shots (*film*)

**back** /bæk/ *noun* the opposite side to the front ○ *There is a wide range of connectors at the back of the main unit.*

'The V3500 has on-board Ethernet and SCSI interfaces, up to 32Mb local DRAM, two programmable timers, a battery-backed real-time clock with 32Kb RAM and four serial ports.' [*Computing*]

**backbone** /'bæk,bəʊn/ *noun* a high-speed, high-capacity connection path that links smaller sub-networks, usually used to connect servers on a network ○ *We have linked the servers in each office using a high-speed backbone.* (NOTE: Smaller workgroups or networks are connected to the backbone as segments or ribs.)

**back buffer** /,bæk 'bʌfə/ *noun* a section of memory used as a temporary storage for graphics before they are displayed on screen (NOTE: The image is built up in the back buffer memory area then transferred to the main video memory area for display.)

**backdate** /bæk'deɪt/ *verb* to put an earlier date on a cheque or a document ○ *Backdate your cheque to April 1st.* ○ *The pay increase is backdated to January 1st.*

**backdrop** /'bækdɒp/ *noun* a static background image in front of which are displayed actors or scenes

**back-end network** /,bæk end 'netwɜ:k/ *noun* a connection between a mainframe computer and a high-speed mass storage device or file server

**back-end server** /,bæk end 'sɜ:və/ *noun* a computer connected to a network that carries out tasks requested by client workstations

**back focus** /,bæk 'fəʊkəs/ *noun* the distance between the electronic camera transducer (that converts light into electronic signals) and the rear part of a zoom lens; this gap is adjusted when the lens is set to its widest point to produce a sharp image (*film*)

**background** /'bækgraʊnd/ *noun* **1.** past work or experience ○ *His background is in the computer industry.* **2.** the part of a picture which is behind the main object of interest ○ *The new graphics processor chip can handle background, foreground and sprite movement independently.* **3.** a system in a computer where low-priority work can be done in the intervals when very important work is not being done

**background colour** /,bækgraʊnd 'klɔ:/ *noun* the colour of a computer screen display, different from that of characters and graphics ○ *White background colour with black characters is less stressful for the eyes.*

**background image** /,bækgraʊnd 'ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* an image displayed as a backdrop behind a program or windows of a GUI (NOTE: The background image does not move and does not interfere with any programs.)

**background mode** /'bækgraʊnd ,məʊd/ *noun* in a computer system in which two modes for program execution are possible, the mode that is for housekeeping and other necessary system programs. Compare **foreground mode**

**background plane** /,bækgraʊnd 'pleɪn/ *noun* † **backdrop**

**background processing** /,bækgraʊnd 'prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the execution of a low-

priority job when there are no higher priority activities for the computer to attend to **2**, a process which does not use the on-line capabilities of a system. Opposite **foreground**

**background projection** /ˌbækˌgrəʊnd prəˈdʒekʃən/ *noun* a special effect in which actors seem to be performing in front of an actual moving background when instead, they are acting in front of images being projected onto the back of a screen (*film*)

**backing memory** /ˌbækɪŋ ˈmem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* same as **backing store**

**backing storage** /ˌbækɪŋ ˈstɔːrɪdʒ/ *noun* same as **backing store**

**backing store** /ˌbækɪŋ stɔː/, **backing storage** /ˌbækɪŋ ˈstɔːrɪdʒ/, **backing memory** /ˌbækɪŋ ˈmem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* a permanent storage medium onto which data can be recorded before being processed by the computer or after processing for later retrieval ○ *By adding another disk drive, I will increase the backing store capabilities.*

**backlash** /ˈbæklæʃ/ *noun* a fault when slack film, caused by a fault in mechanics, is broken or damaged; common when using take-up or rewind wheels (*film*)

**back-level** /ˈbæk ˌlev(ə)/ *noun* the earlier release of a product which may not support a current function

**backlight** /ˈbæklɑɪt/ *noun* light behind a liquid crystal display unit that improves the contrast of characters on the screen and allows it to be read in dim light

**backlit display** /ˌbæklɪt drɪˈspleɪ/ *noun* a liquid crystal display unit that has a backlight fitted to improve the contrast of the display

**backlog** /ˈbækˌlɒɡ/ *noun* work or tasks that have yet to be processed ○ *The programmers can't deal with the backlog of programming work.*

**back office** /ˌbæk ˈɒfɪs/ *noun* a secure area of e-commerce software containing details of a company's store properties and products and tax tables ■ *adjective* relating to the internal administration of a business, not to its contacts with the public

**backout** /ˌbækˈaʊt/ *verb* to restore a file to its original condition before any changes were made

**back pack** /ˈbæk pæk/ *noun* lightweight television recording equipment which the cameraman carries on his back when filming (*film*)

**back panel** /ˌbæk ˈpæn(ə)/ *noun* a panel at the rear of a computer which normally holds the connectors to peripherals such as keyboard, printer, video display unit and mouse

**backplane** /ˈbækpleɪn/ *noun* part of the body of a computer which holds the circuit boards, buses and expansion connectors (the backplane does not provide any processing functions). ◇ **motherboard**, **rack** (NOTE: The backplane does not provide any processing functions.)

**back projection** /ˌbæk prəˈdʒekʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the projection of an image from behind a screen (NOTE: It is often used in animation where the static scene is displayed with back projection, then the foreground characters are displayed and the composite scene photographed.)

**backscatter** /ˈbækskætə/ *noun* a reflected or scattered radio wave travelling in the opposite direction to the original signal

**backslash** /ˈbækslæʃ/ *noun* ASCII character 92, \, the sign which is used in MS-DOS to represent the root directory of a disk, such as C: or to separate subdirectories in a path, such as C:

**backspace** /ˈbækˌspeɪs/ *noun* a movement of a cursor or printhead left or back by one character

**backspace key** /ˈbækˌspeɪs kiː/ *noun* the key which moves the cursor left on the screen or back by one character ○ *If you make a mistake entering data, use the backspace key to correct it.*

**backstage** /bæk ˈsteɪdʒ/ *noun* the area behind a theatrical stage or film set which is not seen by the audience or camera (*film*)

**backtab** /ˈbæktæb/ *verb* (in an SAA CUA front end) to move the cursor back to the previous field (NOTE: **backtabbing** – **backtabbed**)

**backtime** /ˈbæktɑɪm/ *noun* a method of timing the length of rewinding from a specific end point in material to establish a specific start point in order to permit the end point to occur at a precise time (*film*)

**back up** /ˈbæk ʌp/ *verb* **1**, to support something or help someone ○ *He brought along a file of documents to back up his claim.* **2**, to make a copy of a file or data or disk ○ *The company accounts were backed up on disk as a protection against fire damage.*

**backup** /ˈbækʌp/ *noun* **1**, the providing of help ○ *We offer a free backup service to customers.* **2**, a copy of a file or data or disk made as a security precaution. Also called **backup copy**, **backup version** **3**, the process of making a copy of a file or data or disk as a security precaution

...the previous version is retained, but its extension is changed to .BAK indicating that it's a 'back-up' [*Personal Computer World*]

**backup copy** /ˈbækʌp ˌkɒpi/ *noun* same as **backup** **3**

**backup disk** /'bækʌp dɪsk/ *noun* a disk which contains a copy of the information from other disks, as a security precaution

**backup file** /'bækʌp faɪl/ *noun* a copy of a file, made as a security precaution

**backup plan** /'bækʌp plæn/ *noun* a set of rules that take effect when normal operation has gone wrong ○ *The normal UPS has gone wrong, so we will have to use our backup plan to try and restore power.*

**backup procedure** /,bækʌp prə'si:dʒəl/ *noun* a method of making backup copies of files

**backup server** /,bækʌp 'sɜ:və/ *noun* a second computer on a network that contains duplicate files and up-to-date data in case of a problem with the main server

**backward** /'bækwəd/, **backwards** *adjective*, /A/ *adverb* towards the back or in the opposite direction

COMMENT: Backward recovery is carried out by passing the semi-processed data from the crashed computer through a routine that reverses the effects of the main program to return the original data.

**backwards compatible** /,bækwədʒ kəm'pætəb(ə)l/ *adjective* 1. able to work with older versions or systems 2. referring to a new piece of software that provides the same functions as the previous version and can read the files created in the previous version

**BACS** /bæks/ *noun* a system to transfer money between banks using computer linked via a secure network. Full form **Bankers Automated Clearing Services**

**bacterium** /bæk'tɪəriəm/ *noun* ▶ **virus**

**bad break** /,bæd 'breɪk/ *noun* a hyphen inserted in the wrong place within a word, a problem sometimes caused by the automatic hyphenation feature of word-processing software

**bad copy** /,bæd 'kɒpi/ *noun* an illegible or badly edited manuscript which the typesetter will not accept

**badge reader** /'bædʒ ,ri:də/ *noun* a machine that reads data from an identification badge ○ *A badge reader makes sure that only authorised personnel can gain access to a computer room.*

**bad sector** /,bæd 'sektə/ *noun* a disk sector that has been wrongly formatted or which contains an error or fault and is unable to be correctly written to or read from ○ *You will probably receive error messages when you copy files that are stored on bad sectors on a disk.*

**baffle** /'bæf(ə)l/ *noun* a sound absorber and deflector which is a moveable unit used in recording studios and film and television sets

**BAFTA** /'bæftə/ *abbr* British Academy of Film and Television Arts (*film*)

**BAK file extension** /,bæk faɪl ɪg 'stenʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a standard three-letter file extension used in MS-DOS systems to signify a backup or copy of another file

**balance** /'bæləns/ *noun* 1. the placing of text and graphics on a page in an attractive way ○ *The dip package allows the user to see if the overall page balance is correct.* 2. the positioning of musical instruments so that they may be recorded to their best advantage 3. amplitude control of left and right audio signals in a stereo system 4. the adjustment of the blue, green and red TV camera signals in order to create a neutral chart of tones ranging from black to white. This is done to enable the production of a true colour picture on television. 5. lighting equal to that in other takes shot on the same set ■ *verb* 1. to plan something so that two parts are equal 2. to calculate the amount needed to make the two sides of an account equal ○ *I have finished balancing the accounts for March.*

**band** /bænd/ *noun* a range of frequencies between two limits

**B and C** /,bi: ən 'si:/ *noun, adjective* (videotape) ready for editing; the tape includes the timecode, control track and colour black signals (*film*) Full form **black and coded bandlimited** /'bændlɪmɪtɪd/ *adjective* (signal) whose frequency range has been limited to one band

**bandpass filter** /'bændpɑ:s ,fɪltə/ *noun* an electronic filter that allows a range of frequencies to pass but attenuates all frequencies outside the specified range

**bandwidth** /'bændwɪð/ *noun* 1. a range of frequencies 2. a measure of the amount of data that can be transmitted along a cable or channel or other medium ○ *This fibre-optic cable has a greater bandwidth than the old copper cable and so it can carry data at higher speeds.*

**bandwidth on demand** /,bænd,wɪð ən dɪ'mɑ:nd/ *noun* a system used with a switching service, e.g. ISDN, in a wide area network that allows a user to send as much information as he or she wants because the network will adjust to transmit this amount of information

**bank** /bæŋk/ *noun* a collection of similar devices ○ *A bank of minicomputers process all the raw data.*

COMMENT: Memory banks are used to expand the main memory of a CPU (often above the addressing range of the CPU) by having a number of memory chips arranged into banks. Each bank operates over the same address range but is selected independently by a special code.

**Bankers Automated Clearing Services** /ˌbæŋkəz ˌɔ:təmeɪtɪd ˈklɪərɪŋ ˌsɜ:vɪsɪz/ *noun* full form of **BACS**

**bank Internet payment system** /ˌbæŋk ɪntənət ˈpeɪmənt ˌsɪstəm/ *noun* a protocol that enables bank payments to be made over the Internet and gives each financial institution a unique identification number for the purposes of Internet transactions. Abbr **BIPS**

**banner** /ˈbænə/, **banner advertisement** /ˌbænə ədˈvɜ:tɪsmənt/, **banner ad** /ˈbænə əd/ *noun* **1.** an image that carries an advertising slogan, logo or message and is displayed on a web page **2.** a heading or title extending to the width of a page

COMMENT: A long, narrow strip is now the unofficial standard format for advertisements that appear on almost every commercial website on the Internet. Some banner ads are images, others include animation to attract the viewer's attention. If you click on a banner ad, you will usually jump to the advertiser's own site. If you would rather not see banner advertisements when you surf, you can install special software that blocks them. Websites normally charge advertisers according either to the number of times the banner ad is displayed (called the number of impressions) or the number of times that a user clicks on the ad (called the click-through rate).

**bar** /bɑː/ *noun* a thick line or block of colour  
 ■ *verb* to stop someone from doing something

**bar chart** /ˈbɑː tʃɑ:t/ *noun* a graph on which values are represented as vertical or horizontal bars. Also called **bar graph**

**bar code** /ˈbɑː kəʊd/ *noun* data represented as a series of printed stripes of varying widths

COMMENT: Bar codes are found on most goods and their packages; the width and position of the stripes is sensed by a light pen or optical wand and provides information about the goods such as price and stock quantities.

**bar code reader** /ˈbɑː kəʊd ˌriːdə/ *noun* an optical device that reads data from a bar code

**bar graph** /ˈbɑː grɑ:f/ *noun* same as **bar chart**

**bar graphics** /ˈbɑː ˌgræfɪks/ *noun* US same as **bar code**

**barndoor** /bɑːnˈdɔː/ *noun* hinged metal shutters at the front of a studio spotlight used to shield or direct the light (*film*)

**barney** /ˈbɑːni/ *noun* a piece of heavy cloth which is put over a film camera when recording sound in order to help prevent the noise of the camera being heard (*film*)

**barrel** /ˈbærəl/ *noun* a conducting post in a terminal

**barrel distortion** /ˌbærəl drɪˈstɔːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an optical lens distortion causing sides of objects to appear curved

**barrel printer** /ˌbærəl ˈprɪntə/ *noun* a type of printer where characters are located around a rotating barrel

**barrier box** /ˈbæriə bɒks/ *noun* a device that electrically isolates equipment from a telephone line to prevent damage

**barya paper** /bəˈrɪə ˌpeɪpə/ *noun* a coated matt paper used to produce final high quality proofs before printing

**base** /beɪs/ *noun* **1.** the lowest or first position **2.** a collection of files used as a reference. † **database** **3.** a place where a company has its main office or factory or a place where a businessman has his office ○ *The company has its base in London and branches in all European countries.* **4.** an initial or original position **5.** notation referring to a number system ■ *verb* **1.** to start to calculate something from a position ○ *We based our calculations on the basic keyboarding rate.* **2.** to set up a company or a person in a place ○ *The European manager is based in our London office.* (NOTE: **bases – basing – based**)

**base 2** /ˈbeɪs tuː/ *noun* the binary number system, using the two digits 0 and 1

**base 8** /ˈbeɪs eɪt/ *noun* the octal number system, using the eight digits 0 – 7

**base 10** /ˌbeɪs ˈten/ *noun* the decimal number system, using the ten digits 0 – 9

**base 16** /ˌbeɪs sɪksˈtiːn/ *noun* the hexadecimal number system, using the ten digits 0 – 9 and the six letters A – F

**baseband** /ˈbeɪsbænd/, **base band** /ˈbeɪs bænd/ *noun* **1.** the frequency range of a signal before it is processed or transmitted ○ *Voice baseband ranges from 20 Hz to 15 KHz.* **2.** digital signals transmitted without modulation **3.** information modulated with a single carrier frequency

**base film** /ˈbeɪs fɪlm/ *noun* transparent material which bears the light sensitive emulsion of a film or the magnetic oxide of magnetic recording tape (*film*)

**base hardware** /ˌbeɪs ˈhɑːdweə/ *noun* the minimum hardware requirements that a particular software package needs in order to run

**base level synthesizer** /ˌbeɪs ˌlev(ə)l ˈsɪnθesaɪzə/ *noun* (on a sound card) a synthesiser that supports three melodic instruments and can play six notes simultaneously

**basic** /ˈbeɪsɪk/ *adjective* normal or from which everything starts ○ *The basic architecture is the same for all models in this range.*

**BASIC** /'beɪsɪk/ *noun* a high-level programming language for developing programs in a conversational way, providing an easy introduction to computer programming. Full form **beginner's all-purpose symbolic instruction code**

**basically** /'beɪsɪkli/ *adverb* seen from the point from which everything starts ○ *The acoustic coupler is basically the same as a modem.*

**basic control system satellite** /,beɪsɪk kən, trəʊl ,sɪstəm 'sætələɪt/ *noun* a system that runs dedicated programs or tasks for a central computer. It is controlled by using interrupt signals. Abbr **BCS**

**basic encoding rules** /,beɪsɪk ɪn 'kəʊdɪŋ ,ru:lz/ *plural noun* full form of **BER**

**basic input/output operating system** /,beɪsɪk ɪnput ,aʊtput 'ɒpəreɪtɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **BIOS**

**basic rate access** /,beɪsɪk reɪt 'æksɛs/ *noun* full form of **BRA**

**basis** /'beɪsɪs/ *noun* the point or number from which calculations are made ○ *We calculated keyboarding costs on the basis of 5,500 keystrokes per hour.*

**bass** /beɪs/ *noun, adjective* low range of audible frequencies that make up a sound

**batch** /bætʃ/ *noun* **1.** a group of items which are made at one time ○ *The last batch of disk drives are faulty.* **2.** a group of documents which are processed at the same time ○ *today's batch of orders* **3.** a group of tasks or amount of data to be processed as a single unit ○ *We deal with the orders in batches of fifty.* ■ *verb* **1.** to put data or tasks together in groups **2.** to put items together in groups

**batch mode** /'bætʃ məʊd/ *noun* a method of operating in which several tasks are specified in advance and run without user intervention. Compare **conversational mode**

**batch number** /'bætʃ ,nʌmbə/ *noun* a reference number attached to a batch

**batch processing** /'bætʃ ,prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* a system of data processing where information is collected into batches before being processed by the computer in one machine run

COMMENT: Batch processing is the opposite of interactive processing, where the user gives instructions and receives an immediate response.

**BAT file extension** /,bæt faɪl ɪk 'stenʃən/ *noun* a standard three-letter file extension used in MS-DOS systems to signify a batch file

**battery** /'bæt(ə)ri/ *noun* a chemical device that produces electrical current

**battery backup** /,bæt(ə)ri 'bækʌp/ *noun* a battery to provide power to volatile storage

devices to retain data after a computer has been switched off

**baud rate** /'bɔ:d reɪt/ *noun* a measure of the number of signal changes transmitted per second ○ *The baud rate of the binary signal was 300 bits per second.*

COMMENT: Baud rate is often considered the same as bits per second, but in fact it depends on the protocol used and the error checking (300 baud is roughly equivalent to 30 characters per second using standard error checking).

**bay** /beɪ/ *noun* a space within a computer's casing where a disk drive is fitted. Also called **drive bay**

**bazooka** /bə'zu:kə/ *noun* an adjustable pole used as a camera support in restricted locations where a tripod is too big (*film*)

**BBC** *abbr* British Broadcasting Corporation (*film*)

**BBS** /,bi: bi: 'es/ *noun* an information and message database accessible by modem and computer link. Full form **bulletin board system**

**bcc** *noun* a feature of many electronic mail programs that allows a user to send one message to several users at a time but does not display this list to the recipients. Full form **blind carbon copy**. Also called **blind copy receipt**

**BCC<sup>1</sup>** /,bi: si: 'si:/ *noun* an error detection method for blocks of transmitted data. Full form **block character check**

**BCC<sup>2</sup>** /,bi: si: 'si:/ *abbr* Broadcasting Complaints Commission

**BCD** /,bi: si: 'di:/ *noun* a representation of single decimal digits as a pattern of four binary digits ○ *The BCD representation of decimal 8 is 1000.* Full form **binary coded decimal**

**BCNF** /,bi: si: en 'ef/ *noun* † **normal form**

**BCPL** /,bi: si: pi: 'el/ *noun* a high level programming language

**BCS** *abbr* **1.** British Computer Society **2.** basic control system satellite

**BCU** *noun* a camera shot that is so close it only reveals part of the subject in the picture frame (*film*) Full form **big close up**

**beacon** /'bi:kən/ *verb* a signal transmitted repeatedly by a device that is malfunctioning on a network

**beacon frame** /'bi:kən freɪm/ *noun* a special frame within the FDDI protocol that is sent after a network break has occurred

**bead** /bi: d/ *noun* a small section of a program that is used for a single task

**beam** /bi: m/ *noun* a narrow set of light or electron rays ○ *A beam of laser light is used in this printer to produce high-resolution graphics.*

**beam diversity** /'bi:m daɪ,vɜ:si:ti/ *noun* the process of using a single frequency communications band for two different sets of data

**beam splitter** /'bi:m ,splɪtə/ *noun* an optical device to redirect part of a light beam

**beard** /bɪəd/ *noun* a blank section between bottom of a character and the type face limit

**bearding** /'bɪədɪŋ/ *noun* a fault that occurs when the electronic limits of a television system have been exceeded and is visible with marks between the horizontally adjacent light and dark areas of a television picture (*film*)

**Beaulieu** /'bju:li/ *noun* a lightweight motion picture camera that is popular with people making documentaries or news programmes (*film*)

**beep** /bi:p/ *noun* an audible warning noise ○ *The printer will make a beep when it runs out of paper.* ■ *verb* to make a beep ○ *The computer beeped when the wrong key was hit.* ◊ **bleep**

**begin** /bɪ'gɪn/ *verb* to start ○ *The company began to lose its market share.* ○ *He began to keyboard the changes to the customer address file.* (NOTE: you begin something or begin to do something or begin with something. Note also: **beginning** – **began** – **has begun**)

**beginner's all-purpose symbolic instruction code** /bɪ,gɪnəz ɔ:l ,pɜ:pəs sɪm ,bɒlɪk ɪn'strʌkʃən ,kəʊd/ *noun* full form of **BASIC**

**beginning** /bɪ'gɪnɪŋ/ *noun* the first part of something

**beginning of file** /bɪ,gɪnɪŋ əv 'faɪl/ *noun* a character or symbol that shows the start of a valid section of data. Abbr **bof**

**beginning of information mark** /bɪ ,gɪnɪŋ əv ,ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n ,mɑ:k/ *noun* full form of **BIM**

**behind-the-lens filter** /bɪ,hænd ðɪ lenz 'fɪltə/ *noun* a gelatin filter which is able to cut out chosen colours when placed behind the camera lens and in front of the film (*film*)

**bel** /bel/ *noun* a unit used when expressing ratio of signal power in logarithmic form ( $P$  bels =  $\text{Log}(A/B)$  where  $A$  and  $B$  are signal power)

**BEL** *noun* bell character (equivalent to ASCII code 7)

**bell character** /'bel ,kæɪrktə/, **BEL** *noun* a control code that causes a machine to produce an audible signal, equivalent to ASCII code 7

**Bell-compatible modem** /,bel kəm ,pætɪb(ə)l 'məʊdem/ *noun* a modem that operates according to standards set down by AT&T

**bells and whistles** /,belz ənd 'wɪs(ə)lɪz/ *plural noun* advanced features or added extras to an application or peripheral ○ *This word-processor has all the bells and whistles you would expect – including page preview.*

**below-the-fold** /bɪ,ləʊ də 'fəʊld/ *adjective* referring to the lower part of a webpage that is seen only by a user who scrolls down the page and that is therefore less commercially valuable. Compare **above-the-fold**

**below-the-line costs** /bɪ,ləʊ də laɪn 'kɒsts/ *plural noun* costs of crew and technicians used in making a TV programme (as opposed to scriptwriters, actors, etc., who are above-the-line costs)

**benchmark** /'bentʃmɑ:k/ *noun* 1. a point in an index which is important, and can be used to compare with other figures 2. a program used to test the performance of software or hardware or a system ○ *The magazine gave the new program's benchmark test results.*

**benchmarking** /'bentʃmɑ:kɪŋ/ *noun* the testing of a system or program with a benchmark

**bending** /'bendɪŋ/ *noun* distortion in videotape playback which is a result of defects in the tape or in the video machine itself (*film*)

**BER** /,bi: ɪ: 'ɑ:/ *noun* a standard method of encoding data that is stored in the ASN language, often used in libraries and other Internet data sites. Full form **basic encoding rules**

**Berkeley UNIX** /,bɜ:kli 'ju:nɪks/ *noun* a version of the UNIX operating system developed by the University of California, Berkeley

**bespoke software** /bɪ,spəʊk 'sɒftweə/ *noun* software that has been written especially for a customer's particular requirements

**best boy** /,best 'bɔ:/ *noun* the second in command on the electrical team on a film set

**best fit** /,best 'fɪt/ *noun* 1. something which is the nearest match to a requirement 2. a function that selects the smallest free space in main memory for a requested virtual page

**Betacam™** /'bi:təkæm/ *noun* a standard developed for video player and cameras

**Betacam SP** /,bi:təkæm es 'pi:/ *noun* a more accurate and sharper version of the Betacam system (*film*) Full form **Betacam superior performance**

**beta site** /'bi:tə saɪt/ *noun* a company or person that tests new software before it is released in a real environment to make sure it works correctly

**beta software** /'bi:tə ,sɒf(t)weə/ *noun* software that has not finished all its testing before release and so may still contain bugs

**beta test** /'bi:tə ,tɛst/ *noun* a second stage of tests performed on new software just before it is due to be released ○ *The application has passed the alpha tests and is just entering the beta test phase.*

'The client was so eager to get his hands on the product that the managing director bypassed internal testing and decided to let it go straight out to beta test.' [*Computing*]

**beta version** /'bi:tə ,vɜ:ʒn/ *noun* a version of a software application that is almost ready to be released ○ *We'll try out the beta version on as many different PCs as possible to try and find all the bugs.*

**bezel** /'beɪz(ə)l/ *noun* the front cover of a computer's casing or disk drive unit

**Bézier curve** /'beziɛr kɜ:ɪv/ *noun* a geometric curve with the overall shape defined by two midpoints, called control handles

COMMENT: Bézier curves are a feature of many high-end design software packages. They allow a designer to create smooth curves by defining a number of points. The PostScript page description language uses Bézier curves to define the shapes of characters during printing.

**BFI** *abbr* British Film Institute

**BGP** /,bi: dʒi: 'pi:/ *noun* a protocol that allows routers to share routing information to allow each router to calculate the most efficient path for information. Full form **border gateway protocol** (NOTE: This protocol is most often used between routers installed at Internet Service Providers (ISPs).)

**bias** /'baɪəs/ *noun* **1.** an electrical reference level **2.** the deviation of statistical results from a reference level **3.** a high frequency signal added to recorded information to minimise noise and distortion (the high frequency is removed on playback)

**biased** /'baɪəst/ *adjective* which has a bias

**bibliographic** /,bɪbliə'græfɪk(ə)l/, **bibliographical** *adjective* referring to books or to bibliographies

**bibliography** /,bɪbli'nɒgrəfi/ *noun* **1.** a list of documents and books which are relevant to a certain subject ○ *He printed a bibliography at the end of each chapter.* **2.** a catalogue of books

**bid** /bɪd/ *verb* (of a computer) to gain control of a network in order to transmit data ○ *The terminal had to bid three times before there was a gap in transmissions on the network.*

**bi-directional** /,baɪ daɪ'rekʃ(ə)n(ə)l/ *adjective* (operation or process) that can occur in forward and reverse directions ○ *bi-directional file transfer*

**bifurcation** /,baɪfə'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a system where there are only two possible results

○ *The result of a binary multiplication is a bifurcation: the result is either 1 or 0.*

**big close up** /,bɪg 'kləʊs ,ʌp/ *noun* full form of **BCU**

**binlinear filtering** /baɪ,lɪnɪə 'fɪltərɪŋ/ *noun* a method of removing unwanted image defects, particularly on a texture-mapped object, by looking at the four adjacent pixels that surround each pixel to check that there is no sudden change in colour

**billion** /'bɪljən/ *noun* a number equal to one thousand million. Abbr **bn**

**BIM** /,bi: aɪ 'em/ *noun* a symbol indicating the start of a data stream stored on a disk drive. Full form **beginning of information mark**

**bin** /bɪn/ *noun* a tray used to hold a supply of paper ready to be fed into a printer

**binary** /'baɪnəri/ *adjective* referring to the number notation system which uses only the digits 0 and 1 ■ *noun* same as **binary digit**

**binary bit** /'baɪnəri bɪt/ *noun* same as **binary digit**

**binary chop** /'baɪnəri tʃɒp/ *noun* same as **binary search**

**binary coded decimal** /,baɪnəri ,kəʊdɪd 'desɪm(ə)l/ *noun* full form of **BCD**

**binary digit** /,baɪnəri 'dɪdʒɪt/ *noun* smallest single unit in binary notation, either a 0 or a 1. Also called **binary**, **binary bit**, **binary number**, **bit**

**binary field** /'baɪnəri fi:ld/ *noun* a field in a database record that contains binary digits, often one capable of holding any information, including data, text, graphics images, voice and video

**binary large object** /,baɪnəri lɑ:ɔ:ʒ 'ɒbdʒekt/ *noun* a field in a database record that can contain a large quantity of binary data, normally a bitmap image. Full form of **blob**

**binary look-up** /,baɪnəri 'lʊk ʌp/ *noun* same as **binary search**

**binary number** /,baɪnəri 'nʌmbə/ *noun* same as **binary digit**

**binary search** /'baɪnəri sɜ:tʃ/ *noun* a search method for use on ordered lists of data. Also called **binary chop**, **binary look-up** (NOTE: The search key is compared with the data in the middle of the list and one half is discarded. This is repeated with the remaining half until only the required data item is left.)

**binary system** /'baɪnəri ,sɪstəm/ *noun* the use of binary digits, or the data system that operates with binary digits

**binary tree** /'baɪnəri tri:/ *noun* a data system where each item of data or node has only two branches. Also called **btree**

**binaural** /baɪn'ɔ:ɹəl/ *adjective* method of recording two audio channels

**binaural sound** /baɪn'ɔ:ɹl saʊnd/ *noun* a method of recording sound so that it gives the impression of stereophony when played back. ♢ **Dolby Digital™**

**bind** /baɪnd/ *verb* to glue or attach sheets of paper along their spine to form a book

**bindery** /'baɪndəri/ *noun* **1.** a program that converts object code into a form that can be executed **2.** a company which specialises in binding books **3.** a substance used to join the metallic oxide particles together and to the base film (*film*)

**Bindery** /'baɪndəri/ *noun* a special database used in a Novell NetWare network operating system to store user account, access and security details

**binding** /'baɪndɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the action of putting a cover on a book **2.** the cover of a book

**binding offset** /,baɪndɪŋ 'ɒfset/ *noun* an extra wide margin on the inside of a printed page to prevent text being hidden during binding (NOTE: It is the left margin on a right hand page, the right margin on a left hand page.)

**BIOS** /'baɪɔs/ *noun* a set of system routines that interface between high-level program instructions and the system peripherals to control the input and output to various standard devices. Full form **basic input/output operating system** (NOTE: This often includes controlling the screen, keyboard, and disk drives.)

**biosensor** /'baɪəʊ,sensə/ *noun* a device that allows electrical impulses from an organism to be recorded ○ *The nerve activity can be measured by attaching a biosensor to your arm.*

**bi-pack** /'baɪpæk/ *noun* (*film*) **1.** two sections of film that are run in contact through a motion picture camera in order to be printed as one **2.** the camera which is used for this method of filming

**biphase** /'baɪfeɪz/ *noun* an electronic signal that gives information about film speed and direction (*film*)

**bipolar** /baɪ'pəʊlə/ *adjective* with two levels

**BIPS** *abbr* bank Internet payment system

**birdseye** /'bɜ:dzɛɪ/ *noun* a reflector type of spotlight (*film*)

**bis** *adjective* used to describe an extension of the V-standards that cover the features of modems providing error detection and correction. ♢ **CCITT, V series**

**B-ISDN** /,bi: 'aɪ sɛ di: 'en/ *abbr* broadband ISDN

**bistable** /baɪ'steɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to a device or circuit that has two possible states, on and off

**bit** /bɪt/ *noun* **1.** same as **binary digit** **2.** the smallest unit of data that a system can handle

**bit blit** /'bɪt blɪt/ *noun* same as **blit**

**bit block transfer** /,bɪt blɒk 'trænsfɜ: / *noun* full form of **blit**

**BITC** *abbr* burned-in time code

**bit image** /'bɪt ,ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* a collection of bits that represent the pixels that make up an image on screen or on a printer

**bitmap** /'bɪtmæp/ *noun* **1.** an image whose individual pixels can be controlled by changing the value of its stored bit ○ *In Windows, every icon picture is stored as a small bitmap image.* (NOTE: One is on, zero is off. In colour displays, more than one bit is used to provide control for the three colours red, green and blue.) **2.** a binary representation in which each bit or set of bits corresponds to some object such as an image or font or to some condition **3.** a file format for storing images in which data in the file represents the value of each pixel. Compare **vector**. *Abbr* **bitmp**

'...microcomputers invariably use raster-scan cathode ray tube displays, and frequently use a bit-map to store graphic images' [*Soft*]

**bit-map** /'bɪt mæp/, **bitmap** /'bɪtmæp/ *verb* to define events or data using an array of single bits, which can be, e.g., an image or graphics or a table of devices in us (NOTE: **bitmapping – bitmapped**)

'...the expansion cards fit into the PC's expansion slot and convert bit-mapped screen images to video signals' [*Publish*]

**bit-mapped font** /,bɪt mæpt 'fɒnt/ *noun* a font whose characters are made up of patterns of pixels

**bit-mapped graphics** /,bɪt mæpt 'græfɪks/ *plural noun* images whose individual pixels can be controlled by changing the value of stored bits (NOTE: One is on, zero is off. In colour displays, more than one bit is used to provide control for the three colours red, green and blue.)

**bit-mapped register** /,bɪt mæpt 'redʒɪstə/ *noun* a memory location that holds configuration information in a processor in which each separate bit within the location has a different use or meaning (NOTE: For example a register that refers to a mouse might be one byte (eight bits) wide and each bit could indicate whether a mouse button is up or down.)

**bitmp** /'bɪtmæp/ *abbr* bit-map

**BitNet** /'bɪtnet/ *noun* a network used to connect mostly academic sites and computers and allows transfer of electronic mail and

listserver application (NOTE: BitNet is similar to the Internet and is connected to allow the transfer of electronic mail to and from academic users to other users on the Internet.)

**bit rate** /'bit reɪt/ *noun* a measure of the number of bits transmitted per second

**bits per inch** /,bɪts pɜː 'ɪntʃ/ *noun* full form of **BPI**

**bits per pixel** /,bɪts pɜː 'pɪks(ə)l/ *noun* full form of **BPP**

**bits per second** /,bɪts pɜː 'sekənd/ *noun* a measure of the number of binary digits transmitted every second. Abbr **bps**

**bit stream** /'bit stri:m/ *noun* a binary data sequence that does not consist of separate, distinct character codes or groups

**biz** /bɪz/ *noun* a type of newsgroup that contains business discussions and opportunities (NOTE: For example 'biz.opportunities' contains messages from users that are offering ways of making money. Only the biz series of newsgroups are supposed to discuss commercial aspects: the rest of the newsgroups are for technical or academic discussion.)

**black and white** /,blæk ən 'waɪt/ *noun* **1.** the use of shades of grey to represent colours on a monitor or display **2.** an image in which each pixel is either black or white with no shades of grey

**black level** /'blæk ,lev(ə)l/ *noun* a level of a video signal that represents absolutely no light: total blackness

**black list** /'blæk lɪst/ *noun* a list of goods or people or companies which have been blacked

**blacklist** /'blæk lɪst/ *verb* to put goods or people or a company on a black list ○ *His firm was blacklisted by the government.*

**blackout** /'blæk aʊt/, **black-out** /'blæk aʊt/ *noun* a complete loss of electrical power. Compare **brown-out**

**black writer** /'blæk ,raɪtə/ *noun* a printer in which toner sticks to the points hit by the laser beam when the image drum is scanned ○ *A black writer produces sharp edges and graphics, but large areas of black are muddy.*

**blank** /blæŋk/ *adjective* empty or with nothing written on it ■ *noun* a space on a form which has to be completed ○ *Fill in the blanks and insert the form into the OCR.*

**blanking**<sup>1</sup> /'blæŋkɪŋ/ *noun* the process of preventing a television signal from reaching the scanning beam on its return trace

**blanking**<sup>2</sup> /'blæŋkɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** a state in which a screen displays nothing, in between two images or during the picture beam fly-back **2.** the short period of time when the picture beam in a television picture either moves from right to left after each line (horizontal

blanking) or from bottom to top after each field (vertical blanking) (*film*)

**blanking interval** /'blæŋkɪŋ ,ɪntəvəl/ *noun* the period during which a screen displays nothing, in between two images or during the picture beam fly-back ■ the time taken for the scanning beam in a TV to return from the end of a picture at the bottom right of the screen to top left

**blanking pulse** /'blæŋkɪŋ pʌls/ *noun* the electrical signal used to start the blanking of a TV signal

**blast-through alphanumeric** /,blɑːst θruː ,ælfənjuː'merɪks/ *plural noun* characters that can be displayed on a videotext terminal when it is in graphics mode

**bleed** /bli:d/ *noun* **1.** a line of printing that runs off the edge of the paper **2.** a badly adjusted colour monitor in which colours of adjoining pixels blend

**bleep** /bli:p/ *noun* an audible warning noise ○ *The printer will make a bleep when it runs out of paper.* ■ *verb* to make a bleep. † **beep**

**bleeper** /'bli:pə/ *noun* a device which beeps (often used to mean radio pager) ○ *The doctor's beeper began to ring, and he went to the telephone.* ○ *He is in the factory somewhere – we'll try to find him on his beeper.*

**blessed folder** /,blesɪd 'fəʊldə/ *noun* the Apple Mac System Folder that contains files loaded automatically when the Mac is switched on

**blimp** /blɪmp/ *noun* a soundproofed film camera case which prevents camera noise being detected by the microphone (*film*)

**blind carbon copy** /,blaɪnd ,kɑːbən 'kɒpi/ *noun* full form of **bcc**

**blind certificate** /,blaɪnd sə'tɪfɪkət/ *noun* a means of tracking visitors to websites that identifies the user's system but not his or her name

**blind copy receipt** /,blaɪnd ,kɒpi rɪ'si:t/ *noun* same as **bcc**

**blind dialling** /,blaɪnd 'daɪəlɪŋ/ *noun* the ability of a modem to dial out even if the line appears dead, used on certain private lines

**blink** /blɪŋk/ *noun* the way a cursor flashes on and off to show you where you are positioned on the screen or in a document

**blinking** /'blɪŋkɪŋ/ *noun* a flashing effect caused by varying the intensity of a displayed character

**blip** /blɪp/ *noun* a small mark on a tape or film counted to determine the position

**blister pack** /'blɪstə pæk/ *noun* a type of packing where the item for sale is covered with a thin plastic sheet sealed to a card backing

**blit** /blɪt/ *verb* (in computer graphics) the act of moving a block of bits from one memory location to another. Full form **bit block transfer**. Also called **bit blit**

**blitter** /'blɪtə/ *noun* an electronic component designed to process or move a bit-mapped image from one area of memory to another ○ *The new blitter chip speeds up the graphics display.*

**blob** /blɒb/ *noun* a field in a database record that can contain a large quantity of binary data, usually a bitmap image. Full form **binary large object**

**block** /blɒk/ *noun* **1.** a series of items grouped together **2.** a number of stored records treated as a single unit **3.** a wide printed bar **4.** a piece of metal from which a halftone or line drawing is printed ■ *verb* to stop something taking place ○ *The system manager blocked his request for more CPU time.*

**block capitals** /,blɒk 'kæpɪt(ə)l/ *plural noun* capital letters, e.g. A,B,C ○ *Write your name and address in block letters.* Also called **block letters**

**block character check** /,blɒk 'kærɪktə tʃek/ *noun* full form of **BCC**<sup>1</sup>

**blocking factor** /'blɒkɪŋ ,fæktə/ *noun* the number of records in a block

**block letters** /,blɒk 'letəz/ *plural noun* same as **block capitals**

**blogging** /'blɒgɪŋ/ *noun* the act of creating or maintaining a weblog

'Over the past year, blogging has grown, in both importance and size. The original hardcore blogging community is still there, and still vociferous. But every month, thousands of others are trying their hand at this unique publishing form.' [The Guardian]

**blond** /blɒnd/ *noun* a film business name for a 20000 watt variable-beam floodlight (film)

**bleeding** /'blɒdɪŋ/ *noun* (film) **1.** the application of a particular opaque ink, paint or tape **2.** the process of using a triangular opaque patch when dealing with a photographic sound-track to cover up noise caused by a join

**bloom** /blu:m/ *noun* a bright spot on the screen of a faulty television

**blooming** /'blu:mɪŋ/ *noun* distortion of a picture on television due to a too high brightness control setting

**bloop** /blu:p/ *verb* to pass a magnet over a tape to erase signals which are not needed

**blow** /bləʊ/ *verb* to program a PROM device with data. Also called **burn** (NOTE: **blew** – **blown**)

**blow-up** /'bləʊ ʌp/ *noun* the enlargement of a picture from a 16mm to a 35mm film (film)

**blue packing shot** /,blu: 'pækɪŋ ,ʃɒt/ *noun* a foreground action shot in front of a blue background in order to enable the director to mix the scene with another using a travelling matte or chroma key processes; the final picture appears with the blue background replaced (film)

**Bluetooth** /'blu:tʊθ/ a trade name for a short-range radio communications system that is designed to provide a simple way for computer, Internet and input devices to communicate (NOTE: For example a palm-top computer could transfer information to a mobile phone using a Bluetooth link. The technology was developed by a group of computer and telecommunications companies that included Ericsson, IBM, Intel, Nokia and Toshiba.)

**blur** /blɜ:z/ *noun* an image in which the edges or colours are not clear ■ *verb* to make the edges or colours of an image fuzzy ○ *The image becomes blurred when you turn the focus knob.* (NOTE: **blurring** – **blurred**)

**BMP** /,bi: em 'pi:z/ *noun* a three-letter extension to a filename that indicates that the file contains a bitmapped graphics image ○ *This paint package lets you import BMP files.* ♢ **GIF, JPEG, TIFF**

**bn** /'bɪljən/ *abbr* billion

**BNC connector** /,bi: en 'si: kə,nektə/ *noun* a cylindrical metal connector with a copper core that is at the end of coaxial cable and is used to connect cables together (NOTE: It attaches by pushing and twisting the outer cylinder onto two locking pins.)

**BNC T-piece connector** /,bi: en ,si: 'ti: pi:s kə,nektə/ *noun* a T-shaped metal connector used to connect an adapter card to the ends of two sections of RG-58 'thin' coaxial cable, used in many Ethernet network installations

**board** /bɔ:d/ *noun* a flat insulation material on which electronic components are mounted and connected

**body** /'bɒdi/ *noun* **1.** the main section of text in a document **2.** the main part of a program

**bof, BOF** *abbr* beginning of file

**boilerplate** /'bɔɪləpleɪt/ *noun* a final document that has been put together using standard sections of text held in a word-processor

**boilerplating** /'bɔɪləpleɪtɪŋ/ *noun* the putting together of a final document out of various standard sections of text

**bold face** /'bɔʊld feɪs/ *noun* a thicker and darker form of a typeface

**bomb** /bɒm/ *noun* a routine in a program designed to crash the system or destroy data at a particular time ■ *verb (of software)* to fail (*informal*) ○ *The program bombed, and we lost all the data.*

**bond paper** /'bɒnd ,peɪpə/ *noun* a heavy grade writing paper

**book** /bʊk/ *noun* **1.** a multimedia title. ♢ **ebook** (NOTE: The name comes from the fact that most multimedia titles are arranged as a series of different pages, which together form a book.) **2.** a set of sheets of paper attached together ○ *They can print books up to 96 pages.* ○ *The book is available in paperback and hard cover.*

**booklet** /'bʊklət/ *noun* a small book with a paper cover

**bookmark** /'bʊkmɑ:k/ *noun* a code inserted at a particular point in a document that allows the user to move straight to that point at a later date

**book palette** /'bʊk ,pælət/ *noun* a set of colours that is used in a particular multimedia application (NOTE: Two different applications could use different palettes, and each must load its own palette otherwise the colours will appear corrupted.)

**Boolean algebra** /,bu:liən 'ældʒɪbrə/ *noun* a set of rules that define, simplify and manipulate logical functions, based on statements which are true or false. ♢ **AND, NOT function, OR.** Also called **Boolean logic**

**Boolean logic** /,bu:liən 'lɒdʒɪk/ *noun* same as **Boolean algebra**

**boom** /bu:m/ *noun* a long metal arm that allows the operator to position a microphone close to the sound source; also used to position a video camera

**boost** /bu:st/ *verb* to make something increase ○ *The extra hard disk will boost our storage capacity by 25MB.*

**boot** /bu:t/ *verb* to execute a set of instructions automatically in order to reach a required state

**boot block** /'bu:t blɒk/ *noun* the first track, track 0, on a boot disk of an IBM-compatible floppy disk. Also called **boot record**

**boot disk** /'bu:t disk/ *noun* a special disk that contains a bootstrap program and the operating system software ○ *After you switch on the computer, insert the boot disk.*

**booting** /'bu:tɪŋ/ *noun* same as **boot up**

**bootleg** /'bu:t ,leg/ *noun* an illegal copy of recorded material

**BOOTP** /,bi: əʊ əʊ ti: 'pi:/ *noun* an Internet protocol used by a diskless workstation to find out its IP address, then load its operating system from a central server. Full form **bootstrap protocol**. ♢ **IP** (NOTE: This protocol allows a workstation to start up and load all its

software over the network: Ordinarily, a workstation would load its operating system and software from an internal floppy or hard disk drive.)

**boot partition** /,bu:t pɑ:'tɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a partition on a hard disk that contains the bootstrap and operating system

**boot record** /'bu:t ,rekɔ:d/ *noun* same as **boot block**

**bootstrap, bootstrap loader** *noun* a set of instructions that are executed by the computer before a program is loaded, usually to load the operating system once the computer is switched on. Compare **loader**

**bootstrap protocol** /,bu:ɪstræp 'prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **BOOTP**

**boot up** /,bu:t 'ʌp/ *noun* automatic execution of a set of instructions usually held in ROM when a computer is switched on. Also called **booting**

**border** /'bɔ:də/ *noun* **1.** an area around printed or displayed text **2.** a thin boundary line around a button or field or a graphic image

**border style** /'bɔ:də ,stɑɪl/ *noun* an attribute that determines the type of border around a button or field, e.g. a single line, a shadow or a double line

**Borland™** a software company which has developed a wide range of programming languages, database management systems and spreadsheet applications, including Turbo C++, Paradox, and QuatroPro

**borrow** /'bɒrəʊ/ *noun* an operation in certain arithmetic processes such as subtraction from a smaller number

**bot** /bɒt/ *noun* a robot utility program that helps a user or another application carry out a particular task – e.g. a search bot will help a user search the Internet by submitting the query to several engines at once; a link bot will check that all the hyperlinks on a website are correct

**bottom** /'bɒtəm/ *noun* the lowest part or point of something □ **bottom price** lowest price □ **bottom line** last line on a balance sheet indicating profit or loss □ **the boss is interested only in the bottom line** he is only interested in the final profit □ **bottom space** blank lines at the bottom of a page of printed text

**bottom space** /,bɒtəm 'speɪs/ *noun* blank lines at the bottom of a page of printed text

**bottom up method** /,bɒtəm ʌp 'meθəd/, **bottom up programming** /'prəʊgræmɪŋ/ *noun* a method in which low-level instructions are combined to form a high-level instruction, which can then be further combined

**bounce** /bəʊns/ *noun* **1.** a multiple key contact caused by a faulty switch **2.** an electronic mail message that could not be correctly delivered and is returned to the sender **3.** vertical film image distortion when being projected

**boundary** /'baʊnd(ə)ri/ *noun* a line or marker that indicates the limits of something

**bounding box** /'baʊndɪŋ bɒks/ *noun* a rectangle that determines the shape and position of an image that has been placed in a document or on screen

**box** /bɒks/ *noun* **1.** a cardboard or wood or plastic container **2.** a square of ruled lines round a text or illustration ○ *The comments and quotations are printed in boxes.*

**boxed** /bɒkst/ *adjective* put in a box or sold in a box

**box in** /,bɒks 'ɪn/ *verb* to surround a section of text with ruled lines

**Boyce-Codd normal form** /,bɔɪs kɒd 'nɔ:məl ,fɔ:m/ *noun* ▶ **normal form.** Abbr **BCNF**

**bozo bit** /'bəʊzəʊ bɪt/ *noun* (in an Apple Macintosh system) an attribute bit that prevents a file being copied or moved

**BPI, bpi** *noun* the number of bits that can be recorded per inch of recording medium. Full form **bits per inch**

**BPP** /,bi: pi: 'pi:/ *noun* the number of bits assigned to store the colour of each pixel. One bit provides black or white, four bits give 16 colour combinations, eight bits give 256 colour combinations. Full form **bits per pixel**

**bps** /,bi: pi: 'es/ *abbr* bits per second ○ *Their transmission rate is 60,000 bits per second (bps) through a parallel connection.*

**Bps** /,bi: pi: 'es/ *abbr* bytes per second

**bps rate** /,bi: pi: 'es reɪt/ *noun* the rate at which information is sent, equal to the number of bits transmitted or received per second

**BRA** /,bi: ɑ: 'et/ *noun* a basic ISDN service that provides two data channels capable of carrying data at a rate of 64Kbps together with a signalling channel used to carry control signals at 16Kbps. Full form **basic rate access**

**braces** /'breɪsɪz/ *plural noun* curly bracket characters ( { } ) used in some programming languages to enclose a routine

**bracket** /'bræktɪ/ *noun* a printing sign to show that an instruction or operation is to be processed separately

**bracketed** /'bræktɪd/ *adjective* (characters) joined together with small lines between serif and main part

**bracketing** /'bræktɪŋ/ *noun* the process of photographing the same scene with different exposures to make sure there is one good picture

**Braille** /breɪl/ *noun* a system of writing using raised dots on the paper to indicate letters, which allows a blind person to read by passing his fingers over the page □ **Braille marks** raised patterns on equipment or in books to permit identification by touch

**branch** /brɑ:ntʃ/ *noun* **1.** a possible path or jump from one instruction to another **2.** a line linking one or more devices to the main network ○ *The faulty station is on this branch.*

■ *verb* to jump from one section of a program to another, often using a test or decision with two or more possible results that lead to two different points in the program

COMMENT: In BASIC, the instruction GOTO makes the system jump to the line indicated; this is an unconditional branch. The instruction IF...THEN is a conditional branch, because the jump will only take place if the condition is met.

**branching** /'brɑ:ntʃɪŋ/ *noun* a decision with two or more possible results that lead to two different points in the program

**brand** /brænd/ *noun* a make of product, which can be recognised by a name or by a design ○ *the number one brand of software*

**brand new** /,brænd 'nju:/ *adjective* quite new or very new

**breach** /bri:tʃ/ *noun* a failure to carry out the terms of an agreement

**breach of warranty** /,bri:tʃ əv 'wɒrənti/ *noun* the act of failing to do something which is a part of a contract

**breadboard** /'bredbɔ:d/ *noun* a device that allows prototype electronic circuits to be constructed easily without permanent connections or soldering

**break** /breɪk/ *noun* an action performed, or a key pressed, to stop the execution of a program ■ *verb* to decipher a difficult code ○ *He finally broke the cipher system.*

**break down** /,breɪk 'daʊn/ *verb* to stop working because of mechanical failure ○ *The modem has broken down.*

**breakdown** /'breɪk,daʊn/ *noun* the process of stopping work because of mechanical failure ○ *We cannot communicate with our New York office because of the breakdown of the telex lines.*

**breakout box** /'breɪkaʊt bɒks/ *noun* a device that displays the status of lines within an interface, cable or connector ○ *The serial interface doesn't seem to be working – use the breakout box to see which signals are present.*

**breakpoint** /'breɪkpɔɪnt/ *noun* a symbol inserted into a program which stops its execution at that point to allow registers, variables and memory locations to be examined (NOTE: Breakpoints are often used when debugging a program.)

**breathing** /'bri:ðɪŋ/ *noun* a fault in which the image on screen continually comes in and out of focus; caused by buckling of the film during exposure or during high intensity projection (*film*)

**breezeway** /'bri:zweɪ/ *noun* a signal used to separate the colour information from the horizontal synchronising pulse in a television signal

**bricks-and-mortar** /,brɪks ən 'mɔ:tə/ *adjective* referring to businesses that operate using buildings such as shops and warehouses, as opposed to operating only or mainly via the Internet. Compare **clicks-and-mortar**

**bridge** /brɪdʒ/ *verb* to use bridgeware to help transfer programs and data files to another system (NOTE: A bridging product is available for companies with both generations of machines.) ■ *noun* **1.** a device that connects two networks together and allow information to flow between them. ◊ **router, brouter** (NOTE: Bridges function at the data link layer of the OSI network model.) **2.** a process of ensuring that pieces of computer equipment match, so that power losses between them are kept to a minimum **3.** hardware or software that allows parts of an old system to be used on a new system ○ *A bridging product is available for companies with both generations of machines.*

'Lotus Development and IMRS are jointly developing a bridge linking their respective spreadsheet and client server reporting tools. It will allow users of IMRS' Hyperion reporting tool to manipulate live data from Lotus Improv.' [*Computing*]

**bridgeware** /'brɪdʒweə/ *noun* hardware or software used to make the transfer from one computer system to another easier, by changing e.g. file format and translation

**Briefcase utility** /'bri:fkets ju:tɪlɪti/ *noun* (*in Windows*) a special utility that allows you to keep files stored on a laptop and a desktop PC up to date

**brightness** /'braɪtnəs/ *noun* the intensity of the light emitted by an image on a screen ○ *A control knob allows you to adjust brightness and contrast.*

**brightness range** /'braɪtnəs reɪndʒ/ *noun* the variation in the intensity of the light emitted by something

**brightness setting** /'braɪtnəs 'setɪŋ/ *noun* TV brightness control position

**brilliance** /'brɪljəns/ *noun* the luminance of an object as seen in a picture

**brilliant** /'brɪljənt/ *adjective* (*of light or colour*) very bright and shining

**bring up** /,brɪŋ 'ʌp/ *verb* to start a computer system

**British Approvals Board for Telecommunications** /,brɪtɪʃ ə,pru:vəlz bɔ:d fɔ: ,telɪkəmʃjʊ:nɪ'keɪf(ə)nɪz/ *noun* full form of **BABT**

**British Standards Institute** /,brɪtɪʃ 'stændədz ,ɪnstɪtju:t/ *noun* full form of **BSI** (*UK*)

**broad** /brɔ:d/ *noun* a wide-angled floodlight (*film*)

**broadband** /'brɔ:dbænd/ *noun* (*in local area networks or communications*) a transmission method that combines several channels of data onto a carrier signal and can carry the data over long distances. Compare **baseband**. Also called **wideband**

COMMENT: The three most popular broadband communication devices are ISDN, cable modems and ADSL, which is part of the wider DSL standard. Each country has different prevalent standards and pricing models. For example, ISDN provides a digital link that can transfer data at the rate of 64Kbps; it dials an access number and provides a link when required. ADSL, in contrast, provides a direct connection that appears to be 'always on' using a network adapter to link the computer to the Internet provider. ADSL normally supports a transfer speed of up to 2Mbps.

**broadband communication device** /,brɔ:dbænd kə,mju:nɪ'keɪf(ə)n dɪ,vʌs/ *noun* a communication channel and device that allow a computer to connect to the Internet at a very high speed, often several thousand times faster than a dial-up modem connected to a telephone line

**broadband ISDN** /,brɔ:dbænd ,aɪ es di: 'en/ *noun* a high-speed data transfer service that allows data and voice to be transmitted over a wide area network. Abbr **B-ISDN**

**broadcast** /'brɔ:dkɑ:st/ *noun* **1.** (*in radio communications*) a data transmission to many receivers **2.** (*in a network*) a message or data sent to a group of users ■ *verb* to distribute information over a wide area or to a large audience ○ *He broadcast the latest news over the WAN.* (NOTE: **broadcasts – broadcasting – broadcast**)

**broadcast message** /,brɔ:dkɑ:st 'mesɪdʒ/ *noun* a message sent to everyone on a network ○ *Five minutes before we shut down the LAN, we send a broadcast message to all users.*

**broadcast network** /,brɔ:dkɑ:st 'netwɜ:k/ *noun* a network for sending data to a number of receivers

**broadcast quality** /,brɔ:dkɑ:st 'kwɒlti/ *noun* a quality of video image or signal that is the same as that used by professional television stations ○ *We can use your multimedia presentation as the advert on TV if it's of broadcast quality.*

**broadsheet** /'brɔ:dsi:t/ *noun* an uncut sheet of paper or paper which has printing on one side only

**broadside** /'brɔ:dsaid/ *noun* *US* a publicity leaflet

**brochure** /'brɔ:ʃə/ *noun* a publicity booklet ○ *We sent off for a brochure about holidays in Greece or about maintenance services.*

**brochure site** /'brɔ:ʃə saɪt/ *noun* a simple, often one-page, website that advertises a company's products and gives its contact details

**bromide** /'brəʊmaɪd/, **bromide print** /'brəʊmaɪd prɪnt/ *noun* **1.** a positive photographic print from a negative or the finished product from a phototypesetting machine ○ *In 24 hours we had bromides ready to film.* **2.** a lithographic plate used for proofing

**router** /'brɔ:ʊtə/ *noun* a device that combines the functions of a router and bridge to connect networks together ○ *The router provides dynamic routing and can bridge two local area networks.* † **bridge, router**

**brown-out** /'brəʊn aʊt/ *noun* a power failure caused by a low voltage level rather than no voltage level

**browse** /braʊz/ *verb* **1.** to view data in a database or online system **2.** to search through and access database material without permission

**browse mode** /'braʊz məʊd/ *noun* a mode of operation in multimedia software that allows a user to move between pages in no fixed order

**browser** /'braʊzə/ *noun* a software program that is used to navigate through webpages stored on the Internet. A browser program asks the Internet server to send it a page of information, stores, decodes and displays the page, and will jump to other pages if you click on hyperlinks. † **HTML, Netscape, IE**

COMMENT: A browser program asks the Internet server (called the HTTP server) to send it a page of information; this page is stored in the HTML layout language that is decoded by the browser and displayed on screen. The browser displays any hotspots and will jump to another page if the user clicks on a hyperlink.

**brush** /brʌʃ/ *noun* a tool in paint package software that draws pixels on screen ○ *The paint package lets you vary the width of the brush (in pixels) and the colour it produces.*

**brush style** /'brʌʃ staɪl/ *noun* the width and shape of the brush tool in a paint package ○ *To fill in a big area, I select a wide, square brush style.*

**brute** /bru:t/ *noun* a large 10,000 watt spotlight, generally an arc lamp (*film*)

**brute force method** /,bru:t fɔ:s 'meθəd/ *noun* a problem-solving method which depends on computer power rather than elegant programming techniques

**BS** *abbr* backspace

**BSI** /,bi: es 'aɪ/ *noun* an organisation that monitors design and safety standards in the UK. Full form **British Standards Institute**

**BTL filter** /,bi: ti: 'el ,fɪltə/ *noun* same as **behind-the-lens filter** (*film*)

**btree** /'bi: tri:/ *noun* same as **binary tree**

**bubble jet printer** /,bʌb(ə)l dʒet 'prɪntə/ *noun* † **ink-jet printer**

**bubble memory** /,bʌb(ə)l 'mem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* a method of storing binary data using the magnetic properties of certain materials, allowing very large amounts of data to be stored in primary memory

**bubble pack** /'bʌb(ə)l pæk/ *noun* same as **blister pack**

**bubble sort** /'bʌb(ə)l sɔ:t/ *noun* a sorting method which repeatedly exchanges various pairs of data items until they are in order

**bucket** /'bʌkɪt/ *noun* a storage area containing data for an application

**buckle switch** /'bʌk(ə)l swɪtʃ/ *noun* an automatic circuit breaker in a film camera which is activated by a film jam and shuts off the motor to prevent the film tearing or buckling (*film*)

**buckling** /'bʌklɪŋ/ *noun* the distortion and bending of a film due to heat or dryness

**buffer** /'bʌfə/ *noun* **1.** a circuit that isolates and protects a system from damaging inputs from driven circuits or peripherals. † **driver** **2.** a temporary storage area for data waiting to be processed ■ *verb* to use a temporary storage area to hold data until the processor or device is ready to deal with it

COMMENT: Buffers allow two parts of a computer system to work at different speeds, e.g. a high-speed central processing unit and a slower line printer.

**bug** /bʌg/ *noun* an error in a computer program which makes it run incorrectly (*informal*)

**buggy** /'bʌgi/ *noun* a small computer-controlled vehicle (NOTE: The plural is **buggies**.)

**build** /bɪld/ *noun* a particular version of a program ○ *This is the latest build of the new software.*

**building block** /'bɪldɪŋ blɒk/ *noun* a self-contained unit that can be joined to others to form a system

**buildup** /'bɪldʌp/ *noun* a blank tape inserted into a videotape or film sequence in order to leave spaces for scenes that have not yet been filmed (*film*)

**built-in** /,bɪlt 'ɪn/ *adjective* already included in a system ○ *The built-in adapter card makes it fully IBM compatible.* Opposite **add-on**

**built into** /,bɪlt 'ɪntə/ *adjective* (feature) that is already a physical part of a system ○ *There are communications ports built into all modems.*

**bulk** /bɒlk/ *noun* a large quantity of something

**bulk eraser** /,bɒlk ɪ'reɪzə/ *noun* the removal of recorded material on a magnetic tape or film by the repositioning of all iron dioxide molecules (*film*)

**bulk update terminal** /,bɒlk 'ʌpdɛɪt ,tɜ:mɪn(ə)/ *noun* a device used by an information provider to prepare videotext pages off-line, then transmit them rapidly to the main computer

**bullet** /'bʊlɪt/ *noun* a symbol, often a filled circle ● or square ■, placed in front of a line of text and used to draw attention to a particular line in a list

'For a bullet chart use four to six bullet points and no more than six to eight words each' [*Computing*]

**bulleted** /'bʊlɪtɪd/ *adjective* marked with a bullet in front of the line of text ○ *a bulleted list*

**bulletin board system** /,bʊlɪn bɔ:d 'sɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **BBS**

'The Council of European Professional Informatics Societies has instituted an experimental Bulletin Board System based at the University of Wageningen.' [*Computing*]

**bullets** /'bʊlɪts/ *noun* **1.** a solid area of typeset tone indicating the required image intensity **2.** a method of indicating an important section of text by the use of large dots on the page

**bundle** /'bʌnd(ə)/ *noun* **1.** a number of optic fibres gathered together **2.** a package containing a computer together with software or accessories offered at a special price ○ *The bundle now includes a PC with CD-rewriter, digital camera and scanner for just £599.* ■ **verb** to market at a special price a package that contains a computer together with a range of software or accessories

**bundled software** /,bʌnd(ə)ld 'sɒftweɪ/ *noun* software included in the price of a computer system

**bureau** /'bjʊərəʊ/ *noun* **1.** an office that specialises in keyboarding data or processing batches of data for other small companies ○ *The company offers a number of bureau services, such as printing and data collection.* **2.** a company that specialises in typesetting from disks or outputting DTP or graphics files to bromide or film

'IMC has a colour output bureau that puts images onto the uncommon CD-ROM XA format.' [*Computing*]

**burn** /bɜ:n/ *verb* same as **blow**

**burned-in time code** /,bɜ:nd ɪn 'taɪm ,kəʊd/ *noun* time code information included in the video signal as an image that is visible on any TV or monitor. Abbr **BITC**

**burner** /'bɜ:nə/ *noun* a device which burns in programs onto PROM chips or CD

**burn in** /,bɜ:n 'ɪn/ *verb* **1.** to mark a television or monitor screen after displaying a high-brightness image for too long **2.** to write data into a PROM chip **3.** to increase the exposure for a part of a photographic image

**burn-in** /'bɜ:n ɪn/ *noun* **1.** a heat test for electronic components **2.** the addition of an image or title over the projected action (*film*)

**burn out** /,bɜ:n 'aʊt/ *noun* excess heat or incorrect use that causes an electronic circuit or device to fail

**burst** /bɜ:st/ *noun* a short isolated sequence of transmitted signals

**burster** /'bɜ:stə/ *noun* a machine used to separate the sheets of continuous fanfold paper

**bus** /bʌs/ *noun* **1.** a communication link consisting of a set of leads or wires which connects different parts of a computer hardware system, and over which data is transmitted and received by various circuits in the system. Also called **highway** **2.** a central source of information that supplies several devices

**business computer** /'bɪznɪs kəm ,pjʊ:tə/ *noun* a powerful small computer which is programmed for special business tasks

**business package** /'bɪznɪs ,pækɪdʒ/ *noun* same as **business system**

**business system** /'bɪznɪs ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a set of programs adapted for business use, comprising e.g. payroll, invoicing and customers file

**business-to-business** /,bɪznɪs tə 'bɪznɪs/ *adjective* full form of **B2B**

**business-to-consumer** /,bɪznɪs tə kɒn 'sju:mə/ *adjective* full form of **B2C**

**bus network** /'bʌs ,netwɜ:k/ *noun* a network of computers where the machines are connected to a central bus unit which transmits the messages it receives

**busy** /'bɪzi/ *adjective* **1.** occupied in doing something or in working ○ *When the busy line goes low, the printer will accept more data.* **2.** (of a signal) indicating that a device is not ready to receive data **3.** distracting or detailed (background to a film shot)

**button** /'bʌt(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a switch on a mouse or joystick that carries out an action ○ *Use the mouse to move the cursor to the icon and start the application by pressing the mouse button.* **2.** a square shape displayed that will carry out a particular action if selected with a pointer or keyboard ○ *There are two buttons at the bottom of the status window, select the left button to cancel the operation or the right to continue.*

**button bar** /'bʌt(ə)n bɑ:/ *noun* a line of small buttons along the top of the screen, just below the menu bar, in many applications such as Microsoft Word, Works and Excel. Each button on the bar contains an icon that helps describe its function and is equipped with bubble-help.

**butt splice** /'bʌt splaɪs/ *noun* a join in film or tape which has been taped together

with the edges touching in order to prevent overlapping (*film*)

**buzz** /bʌz/ *noun* a sound like a loud hum ■ *verb* to make a loud hum

**buzzer** /'bʌzə/ *noun* an electrical device which makes a loud hum

**buzz track** /'bʌz træk/ *noun* the sound track of a test film which is used to position correctly the visual film in an optical sound reproduction system (*film*)

**buzzword** /'bʌzwɜ:d/ *noun* a word which is popular among a certain group of people (*informal*)

**BVA** *abbr* British Videogram Association (*film*)

**B/W, B and W** *abbr* black-and-white

**bypass** /'baɪ,pɑ:s/ *noun* an alternative route around a component or device, usually a faulty one, so that it is not used ○ *There is an automatic bypass around any faulty equipment.*

**byte** /baɪt/ *noun* a group of usually eight bits or binary digits that a computer operates on as a single unit

**bytes per second** /,baɪts pɜ: 'sekənd/ *noun* the number of bytes that can be transmitted per second. *Abbr Bps*

# C

**C<sup>1</sup>** *symbol* the hexadecimal number equivalent to decimal 12

**C<sup>2</sup>** *noun* a high level programming language developed mainly for writing structured systems programs (NOTE: The C language was originally developed for and with the UNIX operating system.)

**C++** /,si: pləs 'pləs/ *noun* a high-level programming language based on its predecessor, C, but providing object-oriented programming functions

**cable** /'keɪb(ə)l/ *noun* a flexible conducting electrical or optical link ○ *The cable has the wrong connector for this printer.*

**cable modem** /,keɪb(ə)l 'məʊdəm/ *noun* a device that links a computer to the Internet via an existing cable television line. This system provides high speed access to the Internet by sharing the coaxial cable that is used to distribute cable television signals.

**cabling** /'keɪblɪŋ/ *noun* cable as a material ○ *Using high-quality cabling will allow the user to achieve very high data transfer rates.*

'It has won a £500,000 contract to supply a structured voice and data cabling system to the bank and its stockbroking subsidiary.' [Computing]

**cache** /kæʃ/ *noun* a section of memory used to store a temporary copy of selected data for faster access. Also called **cache memory** ■ *verb* to file or store in a cache ○ *This CPU caches instructions so improves performance by 15 percent.*

**cache memory** /'kæʃ 'mem(ə)ri/ *noun* same as **cache**

**CAD** /kæd/ *noun* the use of a computer and graphics terminal to help a designer in his work ○ *All our engineers design on CAD workstations.* Full form **computer-aided design, computer-assisted design**

'John Smith of CAD supplier CAD/CAM Limited has moved into sales with responsibilities for the North of England. He was previously a technical support specialist.' [Computing]

**CAD/CAM** *noun* interaction between computers used for designing and those for manufacturing a product

**caddy** /'kædi/ *noun* ▶ **CD caddy**

**CAE** /,si: eɪ 'i:/ *noun* the use of a computer to help an engineer solve problems or calculate design or product specifications. Full form **computer-aided engineering, computer-assisted engineering**

**CAI** /,si: eɪ 'aɪ/ *noun* the use of a computer to assist in teaching a subject. Full form **computer-aided instruction, computer-assisted instruction**

**CAL** /,si: eɪ 'el/ *noun* the use of a computer to assist pupils to learn a subject. Full form **computer-aided learning, computer-assisted learning**

**calculate** /'kælkjʊ,leɪt/ *verb* **1.** to find the answer to a problem using numbers ○ *The DP manager calculated the rate for key-boarding.* **2.** to estimate ○ *I calculate that we have six months' stock left.*

**calculating machine** /'kælkjʊleɪtɪŋ mə 'ʃi:n/ *noun* a machine which calculates

**calculation** /,kælkjʊ'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the answer to a problem in mathematics

**calculator** /'kælkjʊ,leɪtə/ *noun* an electronic machine which works out the answers to numerical problems ○ *My pocket calculator needs a new battery.*

**Calculator** /'kælkjʊ,leɪtə/ a software utility that is supplied with Windows, works just like a normal calculator and is started by double-clicking on the Calculator icon in the Accessories group

**calibrate** /'kælibreɪt/ *verb* to adjust a monitor or joystick so that it is responding correctly and accurately to the signals or movements

**call** /kɔ:l/ *noun* a conversation (between people or machines) on the telephone ■ *verb* to transfer control from a main program to a separate program or routine

**callback** /'kɔ:lbæk/ *noun* a security system that is used to reduce the risk of any unauthorised user connecting to a computer if dial-in networking is installed. With callback, the communications software and modem are used to dial the remote computer and enter a name and password. The remote computer then hangs up the telephone line and calls back on a preset telephone number. **Abbr CB**

**call discrimination** /,kɔ:l dɪ'skrɪmɪ 'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a feature of a modem that allows it to check if an incoming telephone call is from a fax machine, another computer with a modem or from a person

**call diverter** /'kɔ: daɪ,vɜ:tə/ *noun* a device which, on receiving a telephone call, contacts another point and re-routes the call

**caller** /'kɔ:lə/ *noun* a person who telephones or requests a call

**call handler** /'kɔ:l ,hændlə/ *noun* ▶ **handler**

**callier effect** /'kæliə ɪ, fekt/ *noun* the scattering of light as it passes through one or more lenses

**calligraphy** /kə'liɡrəfi/ *noun* the art of handwriting

**call in** /,kɔ:l 'ɪn/ *verb* to telephone to make contact ○ *We ask the representatives to call in every Friday to report the weeks' sales.*

**call logger** /'kɔ:l ,lɒɡə/ *noun* a device which keeps a record of telephone calls

**call scheduling** /'kɔ:l ,ʃɛdju:lɪŋ/ *noun* (in a fax server) the process of arranging calls so that long-distance calls are made at off-peak times

**call up** /,kɔ:l 'ʌp/ *verb* to ask for information from a backing store to be displayed ○ *All the customers addresses were called up.*

**CAM** /,si: eɪ 'em/ *noun* the use of a computer to control machinery or assist in a manufacturing process. Full form **computer-aided manufacture**, **computer-assisted manufacturing**

**Cambridge ring** /,kæmbrɪdʒ 'rɪŋ/ *noun* a local area networking standard used for connecting several devices and computers together in a ring with simple cable links

**camcorder** /'kæmkɔ:də/ *noun* a compact, portable video camera with built-in video cassette recorder and microphone; records onto VHS, S-VHS or Hi-8 format cassettes (film)

**cameo** /'kæmiəʊ/ *noun* **1.** reverse characters, that is, white on a black background **2.** a front-lit subject filmed in front of a dark background

**camera** /'kæm(ə)rə/ *noun* **1.** a photographic device that transfers a scene onto a piece of film, usually via a lens **2.** a device that transforms a scene into electronic signals that can be displayed on a television

**camera chain** /'kæm(ə)rə tʃeɪn/ *noun* the pieces of equipment necessary to operate a television camera

**camera crew** /'kæm(ə)rə kru:/ *noun* a group of people who man a TV camera

**camera exposure sheets** /,kæm(ə)rə ɪk'spəʊʒə ,ʃi:ts/ *plural noun* in animation photography, the frame by frame instruction sheet for the camera operator

**camera operator** /'kæm(ə)rə ,ɒpəreɪtə/ *noun* the main camera technician who is in charge of the lighting and photography of a shot

**camera original** /,kæm(ə)rə ə'ɪrɪdʒɪnəl/ *noun* the original film in the camera which was used to photograph a scene

**camera ready copy** /,kæm(ə)rə 'redi ,kɒpi/ *noun* the final text or graphics ready to be photographed before printing. Abbr **CRC**

**camera script** /'kæm(ə)rə skɪpt/ *noun* the script on which information of shots, lighting and sound are listed

**camera speed** /'kæm(ə)rə spi:d/ *noun* the speed with which film moves through camera; rate is measured by frames per second, in feet, or metres per minute

**campus environment** /,kæmpəs ɪn 'vairənmənt/ *noun* a large area or location that has lots of users connected by several networks, such as a university or hospital

**campus network** /,kæmpəs 'netwɜ:k/ *noun* a network that connects together the smaller local area networks in each department within a building or university site

**cancel** /'kænsəl/ *verb* to stop a process or instruction before it has been fully executed

**cancellation** /,kænsə'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the action of stopping a process which has been started

**candela** /kæn'di:lə/ *noun* the SI unit of measurement of light intensity

**canonical schema** /kə,nɒnɪkl 'ski:mə/ *noun* a model of a database that is independent of hardware or software available

**cans** /kænz/ *plural noun* headphones (film)

**capability** /,keɪpə'bɪləti/ *noun* being able to do something ○ *resolution capabilities*

**capable** /'keɪpəb(ə)l/ *adjective* able to do something ○ *That is the highest speed that this printer is capable of.* (NOTE: a device is capable of something)

**capacitance** /kæ'pæsɪtəns/ *noun* the ability of a component to store electrical charge

**capacitor** /kə'pæsɪtə/ *noun* an electronic component that can store charge

**capacity** /kə'pæsɪti/ *noun* **1.** the amount which can be produced or amount of work which can be done ○ *industrial or manufacturing or production capacity* **2.** the amount of storage space available in a system or on a disk

**capitalisation** /,kæpɪt(ə)laɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/, **capitalization** *noun* function of a word-processor to convert a line or block of text into capitals

**capitals** /'kæpɪt(ə)lz/, **caps** *plural noun* letters in their large form, A,B,C,D, etc., as opposed to lower-case letters, a,b,c,d, etc. ○ *The word BASIC is always written in caps.*

**caps lock** /'kæps lɒk/ *noun* a key on a keyboard that allows all characters to be entered

as capitals ○ *The LED lights up when caps lock is pressed.*

**capstan** /'kæpstən/ *noun* a spindle of a tape player or tape backup unit that keeps the tape pressed against the magnetic read/write head or pinch roller

**caption** /'kæpʃən/ *noun* a descriptive text that appears at the top of a window, in white text on a blue background

**caption generator** /'kæpʃən ˌdʒenəreɪtə/ *noun* a computer or electronic device that allows a user to add titles or captions to a video sequence

**capture** /'kæptʃə/ *verb* **1.** to take data into a computer system **2.** (in a *Token-Ring network*) to remove a token from the network in order to transmit data across the network. ♢

**Token Ring network** **3.** to store the image currently displayed on screen in a file; useful when creating manuals about a software product ○ *The software allows captured images to be edited.* ○ *Scanners usually capture images at a resolution of 300 dots per inch (dpi).*

**carbon** /'kɑ:bən/ *noun* **1.** carbon paper ○ *You forgot to put a carbon in the typewriter.* **2.** a carbon copy, a copy made with carbon paper ○ *Give me the original, and file the carbon copy.* ♢ **NCR paper**

**carbon copy** /'kɑ:bən 'kɒpi/ *noun* full form of **cc**

**carbonless** /'kɑ:bənləs/ *adjective* which makes a copy without using carbon paper □

**carbonless paper** paper that transfers writing without carbon paper

**carbon microphone** /'kɑ:bən 'maɪkrəfəʊn/ *noun* a microphone that uses changes of resistance in carbon granules due to sound pressure to produce a signal

**carbon paper** /'kɑ:bən ˌpeɪpə/ *noun* thin paper with a coating of ink on one side, used to make copies in a typewriter or printer

**carbon ribbon** /'kɑ:bən 'rɪbən/ *noun* a thin plastic ribbon, coated with black ink, used in printers. Compare **fibre ribbon**

**carbon set** /'kɑ:bən set/ *noun* forms with carbon paper attached

**carbon tissue** /'kɑ:bən 'tɪʃu:/ *noun* light sensitive material used to transfer an image to the printing plate of a photogravure process

**card** /kɑ:d/ *noun* **1.** a small piece of stiff paper or plastic **2.** a punched card **3.** a sheet of insulating material on which electronic components can be mounted **4.** a single page within a HyperCard program; each card can have text, images, sound, video and buttons on it

'A smart card carries an encryption chip, which codifies your ID and password prior to their being transmitted across a network.' [Computing]

**CardBus** /'kɑ:dbʌs/ a high-speed, up to 33MHz, version of the original PCMCIA PC Card standard that allows 32-bits of data to be transferred in one operation compared to the 16-bit capability of the original PC Card standard

**cardinal number** /'kɑ:dɪn(ə)l 'nʌmbə/ *noun* a positive whole number ○ *13, 19 and 27 are cardinal numbers, -2.3 and 7.45 are not.*

**cardioid response** /'kɑ:diɔɪd rɪ'spɒns/ *noun* the heart-shaped response curve of an antenna or microphone when a signal source is moved around it

**cardoid microphone** /'kɑ:diɔɪd 'maɪkrəfəʊn/ *noun* a highly sensitive microphone which is used to pick up sound in a specific area. It is not used for general noise recording. (film)

**card reader** /'kɑ:d ˌri:də/ *noun* a device which reads data from the magnetic strip on the back of a identity or credit card

**caret** /'kærət/ *noun* symbol '^' that is often used to mean the Control key

**caret mark** /'kærət mɑ:k/, **caret sign** /'kærɪt 'saɪn/ *noun* a proofreading symbol to indicate that something has to be inserted in the text

**carpal tunnel syndrome** /'kɑ:p(ə)l 'tʌn(ə)l ˌsɪndrəʊm/ *noun* same as **repetitive strain injury**

**carriage** /'kæriɪdʒ/ *noun* the mechanical section of a printer that correctly feeds or moves the paper that is being printed

**carriage return** /'kæriɪdʒ rɪ'tɜ:n/ *noun* a code or key to indicate the end of an input line and to move the cursor to the start of the next line. Abbr **CR**

**carriage return key** /'kæriɪdʒ rɪ'tɜ:n ˌki:/ *noun* a key that moves a cursor or print-head to the beginning of the next line on screen or in printing

**carrier** /'kæriə/ *noun* **1.** a device that holds a section of microfilm **2.** a continuous high-frequency waveform that can be modulated by a signal **3.** a substance that holds the ink for photocopying or printing processes

**carrier sense multiple access-collision avoidance** /'kæriə sens ˌmʌltɪp(ə)l ˌæksəs kə'liʒ(ə)n əˌvɔɪdəns/ *noun* full form of **CSMA-CA**

**carrier sense multiple access-collision detection** /'kæriə sens ˌmʌltɪp(ə)l ˌæksəs kə'liʒ(ə)n dɪˌtektʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **CSMA-CD**

**carrier telegraphy** /'kæriə tə'legrəfi/ *noun* a system of transmitting telegraph signals via a carrier signal

**carrier wave** /'kæriə weɪv/ *noun* a waveform used as a carrier

**carry** /'kæri/ *verb* to move (something) from one place to another ○ *The fibre optic link carried all the data.*

**cartridge** /'kɑ:trɪdʒ/ *noun* a removable cassette, containing a disk or tape or program or data, usually stored in ROM

**cartridge paper** /'kɑ:trɪdʒ ,peɪpə/ *noun* good quality white paper for drawing or printing

**CAS** /,si: eɪ 'es/ *noun* a standard developed by Intel and DCA to allow communication software to control a fax modems. Full form **communicating applications specification**

**cascading menu** /kæ,skeɪdɪŋ 'menju:/ *noun* a secondary menu that is displayed to the side of the main pull-down menu

**cascading style sheet** /kæ,skeɪdɪŋ 'staiɪl ,ʃi:t/ *noun* a method of describing the font, spacing and colour of text within a webpage and storing this information in a style sheet that can be applied to any text within the page. Abbr **CSS**

**cascading windows** /kæ,skeɪdɪŋ 'wɪndəʊz/ *plural noun* (in a GUI) multiple windows that are displayed overlapping so that only the title bar at the top of each window is showing

**case** /keɪs/ *noun* **1.** a protective container for a device or circuit **2.** a programming command that jumps to various points in a program depending on the result of a test

**case sensitive** /,keɪs 'sensətɪv/ *adjective* referring to a command or operation that will only work when the characters are entered in a particular case ○ *The password is case sensitive.*

**case sensitive search** /,keɪs 'sensətɪv 'sɜ:tʃ/ *noun* a search function that succeeds only if both the search word and the case of the characters in the search word match

**casin** /'keɪsɪŋ/ *noun* a solid protective box in which a computer or delicate equipment is housed

**cassette** /kə'set/ *noun* a hard container used to store and protect magnetic tape

**cassette recorder** /kə'set rɪ,kɔ:də/ *noun* a machine to transfer audio signals onto magnetic tape

**cassette tape** /kə'set teɪp/ *noun* narrow reel of magnetic tape housed in a solid case for protection (NOTE: Using cassette tape allows data to be stored for future retrieval. It is used instead of a disk system on small computers or as a slow, serial access, high-capacity back-up medium for large systems.)

**cast** /kɑ:st/ *noun* **1.** (in a programming language) an instruction that converts data from one type to another ○ *To convert the variable*

*from an integer to a character type, use the cast command.* **2.** (in a multimedia presentation or animation) each individual part of a multimedia presentation or animation. The members of a cast can be individual images, sound clips or text.

**cast-based animation** /,kɑ:st beɪs ,æni'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a type of animation in which everything is an object and has its defined movement, colour and shape, and the actions of each object are controlled by a script

**caster machine** /,kɑ:stə mə'ʃi:n/ *noun* a machine that produces metal type

**casting agent** /,kɑ:stɪŋ 'eɪdʒənt/ *noun* a person who chooses the performers for a film or television production (*film*)

**casting off** /'kɑ:stɪŋ ɒf/ *noun* the process of calculating the amount of space required to print text in a certain font

**cast member** /'kɑ:st ,membə/ *noun* a single object, e.g. text, an image or an animated object, within a cast used in a presentation

**cast off** /,kɑ:st 'ɒf/ *noun* the amount of space required to print a text in a certain font

■ *verb* to calculate the amount of space needed to print a text in a certain font

**CAT** /kæt/ *noun* **1.** the use of a computer to demonstrate to and assist pupils in learning a skill. Full form **computer-aided training**, **computer-assisted training** **2.** the use of a computer to test equipment or programs to find any faults. Full form **computer-aided testing**, **computer-assisted testing**

**catadiatric lens** /,kætəɪətrɒpɪk 'lenz/ *noun* a telephoto lens incorporating mirrors which are used to diminish the lens size (*film*)

**catalogue** /'kæt(ə)lɒg/ *noun* a list of contents or items in order ■ *verb* to make a catalogue of items stored ○ *All the terminals were catalogued, with their location, call sign and attribute table.*

**cataloguer** /'kætəlɒgə/ *noun* a person who makes a catalogue

**catastrophe** /kə'tæstrəfi/ *noun* a serious fault, error or breakdown of equipment, usually leading to serious damage and shutdown of a system

**catastrophic error** /,kætəstrɒfɪk 'erə/ *noun* an error that causes a program to crash or files to be accidentally erased

**catastrophic failure** /,kætəstrɒfɪk 'feɪljə/ *noun* a complete system failure or crash

**cathode** /'kæθəd/ *noun* the negative electrical terminal of a device or battery. Opposite **anode**

**cathode ray tube** /,kæθəʊd 'reɪ tjuːb/ *noun* full form of **CRT**

COMMENT: Cathode ray tubes are used in traditional-style television sets, computer monitors and VDUs. A CRT consists of a vacuum tube, one end of which is flat and coated with phosphor, while the other end contains an electron beam source. Characters or graphics are visible when the controllable electron beam strikes the phosphor, causing it to glow.

**cathode-ray tube storage** /,kæθəʊd reɪ tjuːb 'stɔːrɪdʒ/ *noun* a cathode ray tube with a long-persistence phosphor screen coating that retains an image for a long time

**CATV** *noun* a cable television system using a single aerial to pick up television signals and then distribute them over a wide area via cable. Full form **community antenna television**

**CAV** /,siː eɪ 'viː/ *noun* a CD-ROM that spins at a constant speed. The size of each data frame on the disc varies so as to maintain a regular data throughput of one frame per second. Full form **constant angular velocity**

**CB<sup>1</sup>** *noun* a cheap popular system of radio communications, usually between vehicles. Full form **citizens band radio**

**CB<sup>2</sup>** *abbr* callback

**C band** /'siː bænd/ *noun* a microwave communications frequency range of 3.9 – 6.2GHz

**CBI** /<sup>n</sup>/ *abbr* computer-based instruction

**CBL** /,siː biː 'el/ *noun* education or learning using special programs running on a computer. Full form **computer-based learning**

**CBMS** /,siː biː em 'es/ *noun* the use of a computer system to allow users to send and receive messages from other users, usually in-house. Full form **computer-based message system**. ◊ **BBS**

**CBT** /,siː biː 'tiː/ *noun* the use of a computer system to train students. Full form **computer-based training**

**CBX** *abbr* computerised branch exchange

**cc** /,siː 'siː/ *noun* a feature of electronic mail software that allows you to send a copy of a message to another user. Full form **carbon copy**. ◊ **bcc**

**CCD** *abbr* charge-coupled device

**CCIR 601** /,siː siː aɪ ɑː 'sɪks əʊ 'wʌn/ *noun* a recommended standard for defining digital video

**CCITT** /,siː siː aɪ tiː 'tiː/ *noun* an international committee that defines communications protocols and standards. Full form **Comité Consultatif International Téléphonique et Télégraphique**

**CCR** *abbr* camera cassette recorder. ◊ **cam-corder**

**CCTV** /,siː siː tiː 'viː/ *abbr* closed circuit television

**CCU** *abbr* communications control unit

**CD<sup>1</sup>** /,siː 'diː/ *noun* a system instruction in MS-DOS and UNIX that moves you around a directory structure ◊ *Type in CD DOCS to move into the DOCS subdirectory*. Also called **CHDIR**. Full form **change directory**

**CD<sup>2</sup>** /,siː 'diː/ *abbr* compact disc

**CD32** /,siː diː θɜːti 'tuː/ *noun* a unit with a processor and CD-ROM drive developed by Commodore that uses its Amiga computer

**CD-audio** /,siː ,diː 'ɔːdiəʊ/ *noun* a standard that defines how music can be stored in digital form, i.e. as a series of numbers, on a compact disc

**CD-bridge** /,siː 'diː brɪdʒ/ *noun* an extension to the CD-ROM XA standard that allows extra data to be added so that the disc can be read on a CD-i player

**CD caddy** /,siː 'diː ,kædi/ *noun* a flat plastic container that is used to hold a compact disc

**CD-DA** /,siː ,diː ,diː 'eɪ/ *abbr* compact disc-digital audio (NOTE: also called **Red Book audio**)

**CD-E** /,siː 'diː iː/ *noun* a format that allows data to be saved to and erased from a compact disc

**CD+G** /,siː diː plʌs 'dʒiː/, **CD+Graphics** /,siː diː plʌs 'græfɪks/ *noun* a CD format that adds a text track to an audio disc – used to store song title information

**CD-i** /,siː diː 'aɪ/ *noun* hardware and software standards that combine sound, data, video and text onto a compact disc and allow a user to interact with the software stored on a CD-ROM. The standard defines encoding, compression and display functions.

**CD-I** /,siː 'diː aɪ/ *noun* set of enhancements to the normal CD-ROM standard, developed by Philips, and aimed for home use. The system uses its own special hardware console with speakers, joystick and a connection to a television screen to display the images. The special feature of CD-I is that it allows you to interact with what you see on the television screen and choose options or respond to questions or a game.

**CD-i digital audio** /,siː diː aɪ ,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'ɔːdiəʊ/ *noun* a format that enables a CD-i disc to record audio in digital format in one of four ways, either mono or stereo and at two different sample rates

**CD-i digital imaging** /,siː diː aɪ ,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'ɪmɪdʒɪŋ/ *plural noun* the compression method used to store images and video frames on a CD-i disc

**CD-i sector** /,si: di: 'aɪ ,sektə/ *noun* a unit of storage on a CD-i disc that can store 2352 bytes

**CD Player** /,si: 'di: ,pleɪə/ *noun* a utility supplied with Windows that allows a user to play back audio CDs in the PC's CD-ROM drive

**CD quality** /,si: 'di: ,kwɒlɪti/ *adjective* able to provide recording quality similar to a compact disc. The term normally refers to equipment that can store 16-bit samples at a sample rate of over 44,000 samples per second. ○ A *sound card in a computer might have several modes of operation: low-quality for general use that does not use up too much memory and CD quality recording mode for final recordings.*

**CD-R** /,si: di: 'ɑ: / *noun* technology that allows a user to write data to and read from a CD-R disc. Full form **compact disc recordable**

**CD real time operating system** /,si:di: ,rɪəl taɪm 'ɒpəreɪtɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **CDRTOS**

**C: drive** /'si: draɪv/ *noun* the main hard disk drive, denoted by the letter C in many operating systems, including DOS, Windows and OS/2. ♪ **floppy disk, hard disk**

COMMENT: Usually, a PC has two or three disk drives within its casing. The convention is to provide one floppy disk, called 'A': and one hard disk called 'C:'. If you have a second floppy disk, this is called 'B': and a CD-ROM drive is usually 'D:'. When talking about the different disk drives, you say 'Drive A' for the floppy drive, but usually write 'A:'. If you are using DOS, when your PC starts up it will usually show what's called the C-prompt (which looks like 'C:> your screen); this means you are currently looking at the hard disk. If you want to change to drive A to read data from a floppy disk, enter 'A:' and press return.

**CD-ROM** /,si: di: 'rɒm/ *noun* a small plastic disc that is used as a high capacity ROM storage device that can store 650Mb of data; data is stored in binary form as holes etched on the surface which are then read by a laser "Customers' images will be captured, digitised, and stored on optical disk or CD-ROM, and produced if queries arise about responsibility for ATM transactions." [Computing]

**CD-ROM drive** /,si: 'di: rɒm/ *noun* a mechanical device that spins a compact disc and reads data stored on the surface of the disc using a tiny laser beam

**CD-ROM Extended Architecture** /,si: 'di: rɒm ɪk'stendɪd 'ɑ:kɪtektʃə/ *noun* an extended CD-ROM format that defines how audio, images and data are stored on a CD-ROM disc. Abbr **CD-ROM/XA**

**CD-ROM Extensions** /,si: 'di: rɒm/ *plural noun* the software required to allow an operating system to access a CD-ROM drive

**CD-ROM mode 1** /,si: 'di: rɒm məʊd/ *noun* the standard, original method of storing data in the High Sierra file format

**CD-ROM mode 2** /,si: 'di: rɒm məʊd/ *noun* the higher-capacity storage format that stores data in the space used in mode 1 for error correction

**CD-ROM player** /,si: 'di: rɒm/ *noun* a disc drive that allows a computer to read data stored on a CD-ROM; the player uses a laser beam to read etched patterns on the surface of the CD-ROM that represent data bits

**CD-ROM Re-Writable** /,si: 'di: rɒm reɪ/ *noun* a disc technology that can read a standard CD-ROM, write to a CD-R or write data many times to the same CD-R

**CD-ROM/XA** *abbr* CD-ROM Extended Architecture

**CDRTOS** /,si: di: ɑ: ti: əʊ 'es/ *noun* an operating system used to run a CD-i hardware platform

**CD-RW** /,si: di: ɑ: 'dʌb(ə)ljʊ:/ *noun* a compact disc that can have its contents erased and something else recorded onto it many times

**CDS** *noun* digital sound recorded on a film track (*film*) Full form **cinema digital sound**

**CDTV** /,si: di: ti: 'vi:/ *noun* a CD-ROM standard developed by Commodore that combines audio, graphics and text. This standard is mainly intended as an interactive system for home use, with the player connected to a television and also able to play music CDs.

**CD-V** /,si: 'di: vi:/ *noun* a format, now no longer used, for storing 5 minutes of video data on a 3-inch disc in analog form

**CD-video** /,si: di: 'vɪdiəʊ/ *noun* a compact disc used to store and play back video images

**CD-WO** /,si: ,dʌb(ə)l jʊ: 'əʊ/ *noun* a CD-ROM disc and drive technology that allows a user to write data to the disc once only. It is useful for storing archived documents or for testing a CD-ROM before it is duplicated.

**cel** /sel/ *noun* a single frame in an animation sequence

**cell** /sel/ *noun* 1. a single function or number in a spreadsheet program 2. a single memory location, capable of storing a data word, accessed by an individual address

**cell address** /'sel ə,dres/ *noun* (*in a spreadsheet*) a code that identifies the position of a cell by row and column. The rows are normally numbered and the columns use the letters of the alphabet.

**cell phone** /,məʊbaɪl 'fəʊn/ *noun* *US* a small, portable device that lets someone make and receive telephone calls. Same as **mobile phone**

COMMENT: Older cell phone standards transmitted the user's voice as an analog radio signal; current phones convert the voice to digital data and transmit this via a radio signal. New cell phones provide data and messaging services as well as basic telephone functions: some include built-in modems to provide dial-up access to the Internet, many allow text messages to be transmitted to other phone users and some incorporate an electronic diary, organiser and address book. Current cell phones transmit information using the GSM, PCS or GPRS standard and can provide basic Internet access using WAP and GPRS.

**cellular** /'seljʊlə/ *adjective* clear plastic sheet used for animation and for overhead projectors

**cellular phone** /,seljʊlə 'fəʊn/ *noun* same as **mobile phone**

**celluloid** /'seljʊləɪd/ *noun* cellulose nitrate which was used as a film base in the past (*film*)  $\diamond$  **acetate**

**centering** /'sentərɪŋ/ *noun* the action of putting text in the centre of the screen  $\circ$  *Centering of headings is easily done, using this function key.*

**centi-** /senti/ *prefix* meaning one hundred or one hundredth

**centimetre** /'sentɪmi:tə/ *noun* one hundredth of a metre

**central** /'sentrəl/ *adjective* in the middle

**centralized** /'sentrəlaɪzd/ *adjective* which is located in a central position

**central memory** /,sentrəl 'mem(ə)ri/ *noun* full form of **CM**

**central processing unit** /,sentrəl ,prəʊsesɪŋ 'ju:nɪt/, **central processor** /,sentrəl ,prəʊ'sesa/ *noun* full form of **CPU**

**centre** /'sentə/ *noun* the point in the middle of something ■ *verb* **1.** to align the read/write head correctly on a magnetic disk or tape **2.** to place a piece of text in the centre of the paper or display screen  $\circ$  *Which key do you press to centre the heading?*

**centre text** /,sentə 'tekst/ *noun* an option in a word-processing or DTP package that changes the formatting of a line of text so that it is in the centre of the page or frame

**Centronics interface** /sen'trɒnɪks ,ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* a parallel printer interface devised by Centronics Inc

**Centronics port** /sen'trɒnɪks ,pɔ:t/ *noun* a standard that defines the way in which a parallel printer port on a PC operates

**CEPT standard** *noun* a videotex character standard defined by the Conference of European Post Telephone and Telegraph

**ceramic** /sə'ræmɪk/ *adjective* made from baked clay.  $\diamond$  **capacitor**

**CERN** /sɜ:ɪn/ *noun* the research laboratory in Switzerland where the world wide web was originally invented. Full form **Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire**

**certificate** /sə'tɪfɪkət/ *noun* a unique set of numbers that identifies a person or company and is used to prove the person's identity during network transmissions

COMMENT: A certificate is normally used to provide security over the Internet for secure e-mail or secure website transactions. A trusted company, such as VeriSign ([www.verisign.com](http://www.verisign.com)) or Thawte ([www.thawte.com](http://www.thawte.com)) issues the certificate once it is satisfied that the person or company is legitimate, authentic, and who they claim to be. The company can now use this certificate to prove its identity, create secure messages, or setup a secure website to accept payments online.

**certificate authority** /sə'tɪfɪkət ə: ,θɜ:rtɪti/ *noun* an independent server or company on the Internet that supplies or validates a special digital certificate to prove that another company is genuine (NOTE: The certificate authority issues a special encrypted number that complies with the X.509 standard and is encrypted with a public-key encryption system.)

**certificate of approval** /sə'tɪfɪkət əv ə 'pru:v(ə)l/ *noun* a document showing that an item has been approved officially

**C-format** /'si: ,fɔ:mæt/ *noun* a popular, broadcast-quality videotape format that uses 1-inch magnetic tape to store analog video recordings; often used before conversion to digital format (*film*)

**CGI** /,si: dʒi: 'aɪ/ *noun* a standard that defines how a webpage can call programs or scripts stored on an Internet server to carry out functions and exchange information with the program, e.g., to provide a search function. Full form **common gateway interface**.  $\diamond$  **Perl**

**CGM** /,si: dʒi: 'em/ *noun* a device-independent file format that provides one method of storing an image as objects. Full form **computer graphics metafile**

**chad** /tʃæd/ *noun* a waste material produced from holes punched in tape or card

**chain** /tʃeɪn/ *noun* **1.** a series of files or data items linked sequentially **2.** a series of instructions to be executed sequentially

**chaining** /'tʃeɪnɪŋ/ *noun* the execution of a very large program by executing small seg-

ments of it at a time. This allows programs larger than memory capacity to be run.

**change** /tʃeɪndʒ/ *verb* to make something different; to use one thing instead of another

**change directory** /tʃeɪndʒ daɪˈrekt(ə)ri/ *noun* full form of **CD**, **CHDIR**

**changeover cue** /tʃeɪndʒəʊv kjuː/ *noun* visual warnings, usually circles or dots, towards the end of a reel of film to warn the operator to change from one projector to the other (*film*)

**changer** /tʃeɪndʒə/ *noun* a device which changes one thing for another

**channel** /tʃæŋ(ə)/ *noun* **1.** a physical connection between two points that allows data to be transmitted, e.g. a link between a CPU and a peripheral **2.** a way in which information or goods are passed from one place to another **3.** a signal path for transporting information between two points (*communications*) **4.** a term used to refer to an individual plane within an image that can store a matte or special effect or one part of the final picture **5.** a method of identifying individual tracks or instruments in a MIDI setup. There are 16 channel numbers and an instrument can be set to respond to the instructions on one particular channel; each channel also has a patch associated with it that defines the sound that is played. **6.** a method of organising cast members in a presentation. Each channel can hold a cast member, background or a special effect according to time – these are played back together to create the final presentation. ■ *verb* to send signals or data via a particular path

**channelling** /tʃæŋəliŋ/ *noun* a protective pipe containing cables or wires

**chapter** /tʃæptə/ *noun* **1.** a sequence of frames on a videodisc **2.** a section of a book or document

**char** /tʃɑː/ *noun* (*in programming*) a data type which defines a variable as containing data that represents a character using the ASCII code

**character** /ˈkærɪktə/ *noun* a graphical symbol which appears as a printed or displayed mark such as one of the letters of the alphabet, a number or a punctuation mark

**characteristic** /ˌkærɪktəˈrɪstɪk/ *noun* **1.** the value of exponent in a floating point number ○ *The floating point number 1.345 x 10<sup>3</sup>, has a characteristic of 3.* **2.** a measurement or property of a component ■ *adjective* which is typical or special ○ *This fault is characteristic of this make and model of personal computer.*

**character set** /ˈkærɪktə set/ *noun* a list of all the characters that can be displayed or printed

**characters per inch** /ˌkærɪktəz pɜːr ˈɪntʃ/ *plural noun* the number of printed characters that fit within the space of one inch ○ *You can select 10 or 12 cpi with the green button.* Abbr **cpi**

**characters per second** /ˌkærɪktəz pə ˈsekənd/ *noun* the number of characters that are transmitted or printed per second

**charge** /tʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* **1.** a quantity of electricity **2.** the number of, excess of or lack of electrons in a material or component ■ *verb* to supply a device with an electric charge

**chargeable** /tʃɑːdʒəb(ə)/ *adjective* which can be charged

‘Compaq Computer and Duracell are developing a new type of standard-size re-chargeable battery for portable computers that lasts 40% longer than those now available.’ [*Computing*]

**charge-coupled device** /tʃɑːdʒ ˌkʌp(ə)ld ɪr ˈvaɪs/ *noun* an electronic device operated by charge. Abbr **CCD**

**chart** /tʃɑːt/ *noun* a diagram showing information as a series of lines or blocks

**chassis** /ˈʃæsi/ *noun* a metal frame that houses the circuit boards together with the wiring and sockets required in a computer system or other equipment. ♢ **rack**

**chat** /tʃæt/ *verb* to send and receive messages, in real time, with other users on the Internet

**chat group** /tʃæt grʊːp/ *noun* a group of people, often with a common interest, who exchange messages online

**chat room** /tʃæt ruːm/ *noun* an area of a website where visitors can exchange messages with other visitors in real time. Special software displays the name of the visitor as he or she types in a message to all the other visitors, allowing them to ‘talk’ to each other.

**CHCP** /ˌsiː aɪtʃ siː ˈpiː/ *noun* (*in MS-DOS and OS/2 operating systems*) a system command that selects which code page to use

**CHDIR** /ˌsiː aɪtʃ diː aɪ ˈɑː/ *abbr* change directory. ♢ **CD**<sup>1</sup>

**cheapernet** /tʃiːpənet/ *noun* same as **thin-Ethernet** (*informal*)

**check** /tʃek/ *noun* **1.** the act of making sure that something is correct **2.** examination ○ *a routine check of the fire equipment* ○ *The auditors carried out checks on the company accounts.* **3.** *US* a mark on paper to show that something is correct ○ *Make a check in the box marked ‘R’.* ■ *verb* **1.** to examine or to make sure that something is in good working order ○ *The separate parts of the system were all checked for faults before being packaged.* **2.** *US* to mark with a sign to show that something is correct ○ *Check the box marked ‘R’.* (NOTE: The UK term is **tick**.)

'Four bits control three multiplexers within the function unit. The last bit is a check bit to read the block's output.' [*Computing*]

**check box** /'tʃek bɒks/ *noun* a small box displayed with a cross inside it if the option has been selected, or empty if the option is not selected ○ *Select the option by moving the cursor to the check box and pressing the mouse button.*

**check character** /'tʃek ˌkærɪktə/ *noun* an additional character inserted into transmitted data to serve as an error detection check, its value being dependent on the text

**check digit** /'tʃek ˌdɪdʒɪt/ *noun* an additional digit inserted into transmitted text to monitor and correct errors

**checking** /'tʃekɪŋ/ *noun* examination ○ *The maintenance engineer found some defects whilst checking the equipment.*

**checkout** /'tʃekaʊt/ *noun* a place where you pay for the goods you have bought

**checksum** /'tʃek ˌtəʊt(ə)l/, **check total** *noun* a program that checks that data retrieved from memory is correct, summing it and comparing the sum with a stored value ○ *The data must be corrupted if the checksum is different.*

**chemical** /'kemɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to the interaction of substances □ **chemical reaction** interaction between two substances or elements ■ *noun* a product resulting from the interaction of other substances or elements

**child process** /'tʃaɪld ˌprəʊses/, **child program** /'tʃaɪld ˌprəʊgræm/ *noun* a routine or program called by another program which remains active while the second program runs

**child window** /'tʃaɪld ˌwɪndəʊ/ *noun* a window within a main window. The smaller window cannot be moved outside the boundary of the main window and is closed when the main window is closed.

**chinese** /tʃaɪ'niːz/ *noun* a camera movement which consists of a zoom out travel with a pan left or right (*film*)

**chip** /tʃɪp/ *noun* a device consisting of a small piece of a crystal of a semiconductor onto which are etched or manufactured a number of components such as transistors, resistors and capacitors, which together perform a function

**chip set** /ˌtʃɪp ˈset/ *noun* a set of chips that together will carry out a function

**CHKDSK** /'tʃekdɪsk/ *noun* (in MS-DOS) a system command that runs a check on the status of a disk drive and installed RAM

**choke** /tʃəʊk/ *noun* ▶ **inductor**

**Chooser™** /'tʃuːzə/ an operating system utility supplied with the Apple Macintosh

that allows a user to select the type of printer, network and other peripherals that are connected

**chop** /tʃɒp/ ▶ **binary search**

**chord keying** /'kɔːd kiːɪŋ/ *noun* the action of pressing two or more keys at the same time to perform a function

COMMENT: As an example, to access a second window, you may need to press control and F2; pressing shift and character delete keys at the same time will delete a line of text.

**chow's foot** /'tʃaʊz fʊt/ *noun* a metal stand for a camera tripod (*film*)

**chroma** /'krəʊmə/ *noun* a measure of colour hue and saturation. Also called **chrominance**

**chroma key** /'krəʊmə kiː/ *noun* (in video) a special effect in which an object is photographed against a normally blue background, which is then replaced with another image to give the impression that the object appears against the image. To give the appearance of flying, e.g., record a video sequence of a person against a blue background, then electronically replace this blue colour, the chroma key with footage of sky. ▶ **colour key**

**chromatic** /krə'mætɪk/ *adjective* referring to colours

**chromaticity** /ˌkrəʊmə'tɪsɪti/ *noun* the quality of light according to its most prominent colour and purity

**chrominance** /'krəʊmɪnəns/ *noun* same as **chroma**

**chrominance signal** /'krəʊmɪnəns ˌsɪgn(ə)l/ *noun* the section of a colour monitor signal containing colour hue and saturation information

**CIDR** /ˌsiː aɪ diː 'ɑː/ *noun* a system of organising IP addresses that is more compact and efficient than the older system, adding a slash and a new IP Prefix number that represents a number of individual addresses. For example, the old system used an IP address such as '194.124.0.0' whereas CIDR would replace this with '194.124.0.0/12'. The IP Prefix number 12 represents 4,096 unique addresses, and the lower the number the more addresses are represented.

**CIE** /ˌsiː aɪ 'iː/ *noun* the international group that defines colour and illumination standards. Full form **Commission International de l'Eclairage**

**CIF** /ˌsiː aɪ 'ef/ *abbr* common intermediate format

**CIF videophone** /ˌsiː aɪ ef 'vɪdɪəʊfəʊn/ *noun* an ISDN standard for video image transmission over a telephone link which displays colour images at a resolution of

352x288 pixels. This standard uses two ISDN B channels.

**CIM** /,si: ai 'em/ *noun* **1.** the coordinated use of microfilm for computer data storage and the method of reading the data. Full form **computer input microfilm** **2.** the coordinated use of computers in every aspect of design and manufacturing. Full form **computer-integrated manufacturing**

**cine-** /sini/ *prefix* meaning moving pictures or film

**cine camera** /'sini ,kæm(ə)rə/ *noun* a camera that records motion pictures onto a roll of film

**cine film** /'sini fɪlm/ *noun* normally refers to 8mm or 16mm photographic film used to record motion pictures with an optional sound track

**cinema** /'sɪnɪmə/ *noun* a building where films are shown to the public

**cinema digital sound** /,sɪnɪmə 'dɪdʒɪt(ə)l saʊnd/ *noun* full form of **CDS**

**Cinemascope™** /'sɪnɪmæskəʊp/ *noun* the first wide-screen filming system to be extensively used (*film*)

**cinematographer** /,sɪnɪmə'tɒgrəfə/ *noun* the person responsible for lighting and photography on a film set (*film*)

**cinematography** /,sɪnɪmə'tɒgrəfi/ *noun* (*film*) **1.** motion picture photography **2.** special effects giving impression of motion

**cine-orientated image** /,sɪni ,ɔ:riəntɪd 'ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* data or graphics on a microfilm where the image is at right angles to the long edge of the roll of film

**cine-oriented** /'sɪni ,ɔ:riəntɪd/ *adjective* (*in a film or video clip*) referring to an image that is oriented parallel to the outside edge of the medium

**cine spool** /'sɪni spu:l/ *noun* a magnetic tape spool usually made of plastic and not more than 7 inches in width

**cipher** /'saɪfəl/ *noun* a system that transforms a message into an unreadable form with a secret key ○ *Always use a secure cipher when sending data over a telephone line.* (NOTE: The message can be read normally after it has passed through the cipher a second time to decrypt it.)

**ciphertext** /'saɪfətɛkst/ *noun* data output from a cipher. Opposite **plaintext**

**circuit** /'sɜ:kɪt/ *noun* a connection between the electronic components that perform a function

**circuit board** /'sɜ:kɪt bɔ:d/ *noun* an insulating board used to hold components which are then connected together electrically to form a circuit

'The biggest shock was to open up the PC and find the motherboard smothered in patch wires

(usually a sign that a design fault in the printed circuit board was rectified at the last minute).'

[*Computing*]

**circuit diagram** /'sɜ:kɪt ,daɪəgræm/ *noun* a graphical description of a circuit ○ *The CAD program will plot the circuit diagram rapidly.*

**circuitry** /'sɜ:kɪtri/ *noun* a collection of circuits ○ *The circuitry is still too complex.*

**circular** /'sɜ:kjʊlə/ *adjective* **1.** which goes round in a circle **2.** sent to many people

**circularize** /'sɜ:kjʊləraɪz/ *verb* to send a circular to ○ *The committee has agreed to circularise the members.* ○ *They circularised all their customers with a new list of prices.*

**circular reference** /,sɜ:kjʊlə 'ref(ə)rəns/ *noun* (*in a spreadsheet*) an error condition that occurs when two equations in two cells reference each other

**circulate** /'sɜ:kjʊ,leɪt/ *verb* **1.** to go round in a circle, and return to the first point **2.** to send information to ○ *They circulated a new list of prices to all their customers.*

**circulating** /'sɜ:kjʊleɪtɪŋ/ *adjective* which is moving about freely

COMMENT: Circulating storage devices are not often used now, being slow (serial access) and bulky: typical devices are acoustic or mercury delay lines.

**circulation** /,sɜ:kjʊ'leɪf(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** movement ○ *The company is trying to improve the circulation of information between departments. **2.** the number of copies sold ○ *a specialised paper with a circulation of over 10,000* ○ *What is the circulation of this computer magazine?**

**circumflex** /'sɜ:kəmfleks/ *noun* a printed accent (like a small 'v' printed upside down) placed above a letter, which may change the pronunciation or distinguish the letter from others

**CIS** /,si: ai 'es/ *noun* a scanner in which the detectors, a flat bar of light-sensitive diodes, touch the original, without any lens that might distort the image. Full form **contact image sensor**

**CISC** /,si: ai es 'si:/ *noun* a type of CPU design whose instruction set contains a number of long, complex instructions that make program writing easier, but reduce execution speed. Full form **complex instruction set computer**. Compare **RISC**

**citizens band radio** /,sɪtɪz(ə)ns bænd 'reɪdɪəʊ/ *noun* a cheap popular system of radio communications, usually between vehicles. Also called **CB radio**

**cladding** /'klædɪŋ/ *noun* protective material surrounding a conducting core ○ *If the cladding is chipped, the fibre-optic cable will not function well.*

**claim frame** /'kleɪm freɪm/ *noun* (in an FDDI protocol network) a special frame that is used to determine which station will initialise the network

**clamp** /klæmp/ *verb* to find the voltage of a signal

**clamper** /'klæmpə/ *noun* a circuit which limits the level of a signal from a scanning head or other input device to a maximum before this is converted to a digital value. Clampers are used to cut out noise and spikes.

**clapper** /'klæpə/ *noun* the mechanical part of a dot matrix printer that drives the printing needles onto the ribbon to print a character on the paper

**clapperboard** /'klæpəbɔ:d/ *noun* a board on which is written all relevant information to a shot in a film (*film*)

**clarity** /'klærɪti/ *noun* being clear ○ *The atmospheric conditions affect the clarity of the signal.*

**classification** /,klæsɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a way of putting into classes

**classify** /'klæsɪfaɪ/ *verb* to put into classes or under various headings ○ *The diagnostic printouts have been classified under T for test results.*

**class interval** /,kla:s 'ɪntəv(ə)l/ *noun* the range of values that can be contained in a class

**claw** /klo:/ *noun* a mechanism in a camera or projector which moves the film through contact with the holes in the edge of the film (*film*)

**clean** /kli:n/ *adjective* containing no errors ○ *I'll have to start again – I just erased the only clean copy.* ■ *verb* to make something clean

**clean copy** /,kli:n 'kɒpi/ *noun* a copy which is ready for keyboarding and does not have many changes to it

**clear** /klɪə/ *adjective* easily understood ○ *The program manual is not clear on how to copy files.* ■ *verb* **1.** to wipe out or erase or set to zero a computer file or variable or section of memory ○ *Type CLS to clear the screen.* **2.** to release a communications link when transmissions have finished

**clearance** /'klɪərəns/ *noun* authority to access a file ○ *You do not have the required clearance for this processor.*

**clear to send** /,klɪə tə 'send/ *noun* full form of **CTS**

**click** /kɪk/ *noun* **1.** a short duration sound, often used to indicate that a key has been pressed **2.** the act of pressing a mouse button or a key on a keyboard ○ *You move through text and graphics with a click of the button.*

**click rate** /'kɪk reɪt/ *noun* a figure representing the number of times that a particular site in an Internet advertisement is visited, and calculated as a percentage of the number of times that the advertisement is viewed

**clicks-and-mortar** /,kɪks ən 'mɔ:tə/ *noun* referring to businesses that use both the Internet and physical shops to sell their products. Compare **bricks-and-mortar**

**click through** /'kɪk θru:/ *noun* the act of clicking on a banner advertisement and jumping to the advertiser's website

**click through rate** /'kɪk θru: ,reɪt/ *noun* full form of **CTR**

**client** /'klaɪənt/ *noun* (in a network) a workstation or PC or terminal connected to a network that can send instructions to a server and display results

**client application** /,klaɪənt ,æplɪ 'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an application that can accept linked or embedded objects from a server application or an application that is used in a client-server system

**client area** /'klaɪənt ,eəriə/ *noun* (in a GUI) an area inside a window that can be used to display graphics or text

**client-server architecture** /,klaɪənt ,sɜ:və 'ɑ:kɪtektʃə/ *noun* a distribution of processing power in which a central server computer carries out the main tasks in response to instructions from terminals or workstations, the results being sent back across the network to be displayed on the terminal that sent the instruction. The client, i.e. the terminal or workstation, does not need to be able to directly access the data stored on the server, nor does it need to carry out a lot of processing.

**client-server network** /,klaɪənt 'sɜ:və ,netwɜ:k/ *noun* a method of organising a network in which one central dedicated computer, the server, looks after tasks such as security, user accounts, printing and file sharing, while clients, the terminals or workstations connected to the server, run standard applications

**client-side** /'klaɪənt saɪd/ *adjective* referring to data or a program that runs on the client's computer rather than on the server, e.g. a JavaScript program runs on the user's web browser and is a client side application

**clip** /klɪp/ *verb* **1.** to select an area of an image that is smaller than the original **2.** to remove the peaks of a waveform ○ *The voltage signal was clipped to prevent excess signal level.*

**clip-art** /'klɪp ɑ:t/ *noun* a set of pre-drawn images or drawings that a user can incorporate into a presentation or graphic ○ *We have*

used some clip-art to enhance our presentation.

**clipboard** /'klɪp,bɔ:d/ *noun* a temporary storage area for data ○ *Copy the text to the clipboard, then paste it back into a new document.*

**Clipper chip** /'klɪpə tʃɪp/ *noun* an electronic component, e.g. an integrated circuit, or chip, that was designed in accordance with the instructions of the US Government to provide a data encryption feature for computers, Internet traffic, telephones, and television programmes. In the original scheme the US Government held the master key to the chip and so could decrypt and read any encrypted messages. This angered many groups concerned with freedom of speech and the US Government has since redesigned the original scheme and suggested an alternative.

**clipping** /'klɪpɪŋ/ *noun* the process of cutting off the outer edges of an image or the highest and lowest parts of a signal

**clock** /klɒk/ *noun* **1.** a machine which shows the time ○ *The micro has a built-in clock.* **2.** a circuit that generates pulses used to synchronise equipment

**clock rate** /'klɒk reɪt/ *noun* the number of pulses that a clock generates every second

**clock speed** /'klɒk spi:d/ *noun* same as **clock rate**

**clogging** /'klɒŋɪŋ/ *noun* the build up of oxide and binder on a playback head or tape recording which results in drop-outs (*film*)

**clone** /kləʊn/ *noun* a computer or circuit that behaves in the same way as the original it was copied from ○ *They have copied our new personal computer and brought out a cheaper clone.*

*'On the desktop, the IBM/Motorola/Apple triumvirate is planning to energise a worldwide clone industry based on the PowerPC chip.'* [*Computing*]

**close** /kləʊz/ *verb* to shut down access to a file or disk drive

**CLOSE** /kləʊz/ *noun* (*in a programming language*) a command that means the program has finished accessing a particular file or device

**closed captioning** /,kləʊzd 'kæpʃənɪŋ/ *noun* a system that transfers text information with a video signal, so that the text data can be decoded and displayed at the bottom of the television screen

**closed user group** /,kləʊzd 'ju:zə 'gru:p/ *noun* full form of **CUG**

**close file** /'kləʊs faɪl/ *noun* to execute a computer instruction to shut down access to a stored file

**close menu option** /,kləʊz 'menju: ɒpʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a menu option, normally un-

der the File menu, that will shut the document that is currently open, but will not exit the application. If you have not saved the document, the application will warn you before it closes the document and give you the chance to save any changes.

**close up** /,kləʊz 'ʌp/ *verb* to move pieces of type or typeset words closer together ○ *If we close up the lines, we should save a page.*

**close-up** /'kləʊs ʌp/ *noun* a photograph taken very close to the subject

**close-up lens** /'kləʊs ʌp ,lenz/ *noun* an extra lens that permits the ordinary lens to focus closer to the subject than normal

**close-up shot** /'kləʊs ʌp ,ʃɒt/ *noun* a camera shot very close to the subject

**CLS** /,si: el 'es/ *noun* (*in MS-DOS*) a system command to clear the screen, leaving the system prompt and cursor at the top, left-hand corner of the screen

**cluster** /'klʌstə/ *noun* **1.** one or more sectors on a hard disk that are used to store a file or part of a file **2.** a number of terminals, stations, devices or memory locations, grouped together in one place and controlled by a cluster controller

**CLUT** /,si: el ju: 'ti:/ *noun* a table of numbers used in Windows and graphics programs to store the range of colours used in an image. Full form **colour look-up table**. ◊ **palette**

**CLV** /,si: el 'vi:/ *noun* a disk technology in which the disk spins at different speeds according to the track that is being accessed. Full form **constant linear velocity**

**CM** /,si: 'em/ *noun* an area of memory whose locations can be directly and immediately addressed by the CPU. Full form **central memory**

**C-MAC** /,si: em ei 'si:/ *noun* a new direct-broadcast TV standard using time division multiplexing for signals

**CMI** *abbr* computer-managed instruction

**CMIP** /,si: em ai 'pi:/ *noun* a protocol officially adopted by the ISO that is used to carry network management information across a network. Full form **common management information protocol**

**CMIP over TCP** /,si: em ai 'pi: əʊvə ,ti: si: 'pi:/, **CMIS over TCP** full form of **CMOT**

**CMIS** /,si: em ai 'es/ *noun* a powerful network management system. Full form **common management information specification**

**CML** *abbr* computer-managed learning

**CMOS** /,si: em əʊ 'pi:/ *noun* an integrated circuit design and construction method that uses a pair of complementary p- and n-type transistors. Full form **complementary metal oxide semiconductor**

'Similarly, customers who do not rush to acquire CMOS companion processors for their mainframes will be rewarded with lower prices when they finally do migrate.' [*Computergram*]

COMMENT: The CMOS package uses very low power but is relatively slow and sensitive to static electricity as compared to TTL integrated circuits. Its main use is in portable computers where battery power is being used.

**CMOT** /,si: em əʊ 'ti:/ *noun* the use of CMIP and CMIS network management protocols to manage gateways in a TCP/IP network. Full form **CMIP over TCP, CMIS over TCP**

**CMYK** /,si: em wai 'ket/ *noun* (in *graphics or DTP*) a method of describing a colour by its four component colours. Full form **cyan-magenta-yellow-black**

**CNC** /,si: en 'si:/ *noun* automatic operation of a machine by computer. Full form **computer numeric control**.  $\diamond$  **numerical control**

**coat** /kəʊt/ *verb* to cover with a layer of liquid  $\square$  **coated papers** papers which have been covered with a layer of clay to make them shiny

**coating** /'kəʊtɪŋ/ *noun* a material covering something  $\circ$  *paper which has a coating of clay*

**co-axial cable** /kəʊksəl/, **coax** *noun* a cable made up of a central core, surrounded by an insulating layer then a second shielding conductor. Compare **twisted-pair cable** (NOTE: Co-axial cable is used for high frequency, low loss applications including thin Ethernet network cabling and Arcnet network cabling.)

**COBOL** /'kəʊbəl/ *noun* a programming language mainly used in business applications. Full form **common ordinary business-oriented language**

**cobweb site** /'kɒbweb saɪt/ *noun* a website that has not been updated for a long time

**code** /kəʊd/ *noun **1.** rules used to convert instructions or data from one form to another **2.** a sequence of computer instructions **3.** a system of signs or numbers or letters which mean something  $\blacksquare$  *verb* **1.** to convert instructions or data into another form **2.** to write a program in a programming language*

**CODEC** /'kəʊdek/ *noun* a device which encodes a signal being sent or decodes a signal received. Full form **coder/decoder**

**codepage** /'kəʊdpeɪdʒ/ *noun* the definition of the character that is produced by each key on the keyboard; in order to use your computer when typing in a different language you need to change the keyboard layout and the font that is used for the characters – both are defined by the codepage

**coder** /'kəʊdə/ *noun* a device which encodes a signal

**coder/decoder** /,kəʊdə di:'kəʊdə/ *noun* full form of **CODEC**

**coding** /'kəʊdɪŋ/ *noun* the act of putting a code on something

**coercivity** /,kəʊzɪ'sɪvɪti/ *noun* a magnetic field required to remove any flux saturation effects from a material

**coherent** /kəʊ'hɪərənt/ *adjective* referring to waveforms which are all in phase

**coherent bundle** /kəʊ,hɪərənt 'bʌnd(ə)l/ *noun* a number of optical fibres, grouped together so that they are all the same length and produce coherent signals from either end

**coil** /kɔɪl/ *noun* a number of turns of wire  $\circ$  *An inductor is made from a coil of wire.*

**coincidence circuit** /kəʊ,ɪn'sɪd(ə)ns 'sɜ:kɪt/, **coincidence element** /'elɪmənt/ *noun* same as **coincidence gate**

**coincidence function** /kəʊ,ɪn'sɪd(ə)ns ,fʌŋkʃən/ *noun* same as **AND function**

**coincidence gate** /kəʊ,ɪn'sɪd(ə)ns geɪt/, **coincidence circuit** /kəʊ,ɪn'sɪd(ə)ns 'sɜ:kɪt/, **coincidence element** /kəʊ,ɪn'sɪd(ə)ns 'elɪmənt/ *noun* a gate that produces a logical output depending on various input coincidences. An AND gate requires the coincidence in time of all logically true inputs.  $\diamond$  **AND**

**coincidence operation** /kəʊ,ɪn'sɪd(ə)ns ,ɒpəreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* same as **AND operation**

**cold** /kəʊld/ *adjective* **1.** not hot  $\circ$  *The machines work badly in cold weather.* **2.** without being prepared

**cold boot** /,kəʊld 'bu:t/ *noun* the act of switching on a computer, or the act of restarting a computer by switching it off and then on again. Compare **warm boot**

**coldboot** /'kəʊldbʊ:t/ *verb* to switch on a computer, or to restart a computer by switching it off and then on again. Compare **warm-boot**

**cold fault** /'kəʊld fɔ:lt/ *noun* a computer fault or error that occurs as soon as it is switched on

**cold standby** /kəʊld 'stændbaɪ/ *noun* a backup system that will allow the equipment to continue running but with the loss of any volatile data. Compare **hot standby, warm standby**

**cold start** /,kəʊld 'stɑ:t/ *noun* the act of switching on a computer or to run a program from its original start point

**collaboration** /kə,ləbə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* two or more people working together to produce or use a multimedia application

**collate** /kə'leɪt/ *verb* **1.** to compare and put items in order **2.** to put signatures in order for sewing and binding

**collator** /kə'leɪtə/ *noun* a machine which takes sheets or printed signatures and puts them in order for stapling or binding

**collision** /kə'ɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* an event that occurs when two electrical signals meet and interfere with each other over a network, normally causing an error

**co-location** /,kəʊ ləʊ'keɪf(ə)n/ *noun* an arrangement whereby a computer used as an Internet server is located at a specialist site that is designed to support and maintain servers on behalf of their customers

COMMENT: If you want to set up a website, you might start by renting web space from your ISP or web hosting provider. If your website grows in popularity or requires complex or secure e-commerce facilities, you might find it effective to rent or purchase a server computer dedicated to serving your website – you could locate this server computer anywhere, for example in your office, but you would need to install a high-speed link to the Internet and maintain the computer and its software. A more cost-effective solution is co-location: moving the server to a specialist site, often provided by an ISP, who takes on the job of supporting the high-speed link and the computer.

**colon** /'kəʊlən/ *noun* a printing sign (:) which shows a break in a string of words

**colophon** /'kɒləfən/ *noun* a design or symbol or company name, used on a printed item to show who are the publisher and the printer

**colorisation** /,kɒləraɪ'zeɪf(ə)n/ *noun* an electronic process of adding colour to a videotape transfer of a black and white film to be transmitted on television (*film*)

**colour** /'kʌlə/ *noun* a sensation sensed by the eye, due to its response to various frequencies of light

'...as a minimum, a colour graphics adapter (CGA) is necessary, but for best quality of graphic presentation an enhanced graphics adapter (EGA) should be considered' [*Micro Decision*]

**colour balance** /'kʌlə ,bæləns/ *noun* the adjustment of the red, green and blue primary colours to produce a pure white colour. When a colour monitor is configured, a colour sensor is placed on the screen and the red, green and blue electron gun settings are adjusted to produce a pure white colour.

**colour depth** /'kʌlə dəpθ/ *noun* the number of different colours that can be displayed by any single pixel in a display, which is determined by the number of colour bits in each pixel

**colour display** /,kʌlə dɪ'spleɪ/ *noun* a display device able to represent characters or graphics in colour

**colour key** /'kʌlə ki:/ *noun* an image manipulation technique used to superimpose one image on another. It is often used with two video sources to create special effects. One image is photographed against a coloured background, the matte, when then has another image superimposed on it to produce a combined picture. ♢ **chroma key**

**colour look-up table** /,kʌlə 'lʊk ʌp ,teɪb(ə)l/ *noun* full form of **CLUT**

**colour monitor** /,kʌlə 'mɒnɪtə/ *noun* a screen that has a demodulator that shows information in colour ○ *The colour monitor is great for games.*

**colour palette** /,kʌlə 'pælət/ *noun* the selection of colours that are currently being used in an image

**colour printer** /,kʌlə 'prɪntə/ *noun* a printer that can produce hard copy in colour

**colour saturation** /,kʌlə ,sætʃə 'reɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the purity of a colour signal

**colour separation** /,kʌlə ,sepə'reɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the process of separating a colour image into its constituent colours in order to produce printing plates for colour printing. Full colour printing needs four-colour separation to produce four printing plates for the cyan, magenta, yellow and black inks that together create a colour image.

**colour standard** /'kʌlə ,stændəd/ *noun* one of three international standards, NTSC, PAL and SECAM, used to describe how colour TV and video images are displayed and transmitted

**colour temperature** /'kʌlə ,tempɪtʃə/ *noun* the hue or shade of the colour white seen if pure carbon is heated to a particular temperature measured in Kelvin. The standard for many TV and video systems is a colour temperature of 6500K, known as Illuminant D65.

**colour tool** /'kʌlə tu:l/ *noun* a utility or icon in a graphics or DTP application that allows the user to create custom colours by specifying the CMYK or RGB values and then draw or fill an area with this colour

**column** /'kɒləm/ *noun* **1.** a series of characters, numbers or lines of text printed one under the other ○ *to add up a column of figures* **2.** a section of printed words in a newspaper or magazine

**columnar** /kə'ɪlɪmnəl/ *adjective* in columns

**com** /kɒm/ *suffix* a suffix that means that the Internet domain name is a company, usually one based in the USA ○ *www.amazon.com is*

the website address of the US version of the Amazon Internet bookshop.

**COM** /,si: əu 'em/ *noun* **1.** a standard defined by Microsoft to standardise the way an application can access an object. Full form **Component Object Model** (NOTE: This is a rival standard to CORBA.) **2.** the process of recording the output from a computer directly onto microfilm. Full form **computer output on microfilm**

**COM1** /,kɒm 'wʌn/ *noun* a name used in PCs to represent the first serial port on the computer. There are normally two serial ports, COM1 and COM2, in a PC, although it can support four. Some PCs have a mouse plugged into the first serial port and the modem plugged into the second port. † **AUX**

**coma** /'kəʊmə/ *noun* a lens aberration

**COMAL** /'kəʊbæl/ *noun* a structured programming language similar to BASIC. Full form **common algorithmic language**

**comb filter** /kəʊm 'fɪltə/ *noun* an electronic device used to separate the luma, Y, and chroma, C, signals from a composite video signal. † **S-Video, Y/C**

**combination** /,kɒmbɪ'neɪf(ə)n/ *noun* several things which are joined together; series of numbers which open a lock

**combinational** /,kɒmbɪ'neɪf(ə)nəl/ *adjective* which combines a number of separate elements

**combine** /kəm'baɪn/ *verb* to join together

**combi player** /'kɒmbɪ ,pleɪə/ *noun* a hardware drive that can read two or more different CD-ROM formats

**combo box** /'kɒmbəʊ bɒks/ *noun* a box that displays a number of different input and output objects

**COM file** /'kɒm faɪl/ *noun* (in operating systems for the PC) a file with the three-letter extension .com to its name that indicates that the file contains a machine code in binary format and so can be executed by the operating system.

**comic-strip oriented** /,kɒmɪk stri:p 'ɔ:riəntɪd/ *adjective* referring to a film image that is oriented at right angles to the outer edge of the film. Compare **cine-oriented**

**Comité Consultatif International Téléphonique et Télégraphique** *noun* full form of **CCITT**

**comma** /'kɒmə/ *noun* a symbol (,) that is often used to separate data or variables or arguments

**command** /kə'mɑ:nd/ *noun* **1.** an electrical pulse or signal that will start or stop a process **2.** a word or phrase which is recognised by a computer system and starts or terminates an action ○ *interrupt command*

**COMMAND.COM** /kə'mɑ:nd kɒm/ *noun* (in MS-DOS) a program file that contains the command interpreter for the operating system. This program is always resident in memory and recognises and translates system commands into actions. ○ *MS-DOS will not work because you deleted the COMMAND.COM file by mistake.*

**command line interface** /kə,mɑ:nd laɪn 'ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* a user interface in which the user controls the operating system or program by typing in commands; e.g., DOS is a command line interface

**command line operating system** /kə ,mɑ:nd laɪn 'ɒpəreɪtɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a computer system software that is controlled by a user typing in commands, as in MS-DOS, rather than allowing a user to control the system through images

**command prompt** /kə'mɑ:nd prɒmpt/ *noun* a symbol displayed by the operating system to indicate that a command is expected

**comment** /'kɒment/ *noun* a helpful note in a program to guide the user ○ *The lack of comments is annoying.*

**commentary** /'kɒmənt(ə)rɪ/ *noun* spoken information which describes a film

**comment field** /'kɒment fi:ld/ *noun* a section of a command line in an assembly language program that is not executed, but provides notes and comments

**commerce** /'kɒmɜ:s/ † **e-commerce**

**commercial** /kə'mɜ:ʃ(ə)l/ *noun* an advertising film on TV

**commercial Internet exchange** /kə ,mɜ:ʃ(ə)l 'ɪntənət ɪks,tʃeɪndʒ/ *noun* a connection point for commercial Internet service providers

**Commission International de l'Eclairage** full form of **CIE**

**Commodore Dynamic Total Vision** /,kɒmə'dɔ: daɪ,næmɪk ,təʊt(ə)l 'vɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* a CD-ROM standard developed by Commodore that combines audio, graphics and text; this standard is mainly intended as an interactive system for home use; the player connects to a television and can also play music CDs. Abbr **CDTV**

**common** /'kɒmən/ *adjective* **1.** which happens very often ○ *This is a common fault with this printer model.* **2.** belonging to several different people or programs or to everyone

**common algorithmic language** /,kɒmən ,ælgərɪðmɪk 'læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **COMAL**

**common gateway interface** /,kɒmən 'geɪtwɛɪ ,ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* full form of **CGI**

**common intermediate format** /,kɒmən ,ɪntəmi:diət 'fɔ:mət/ *noun* a

standard for video images that displays an image 352 pixels wide and 288 pixels high. Abbr **CIF**

**common management information protocol** /,kɒmən ,mænidʒmənt ,ɪnfə 'meɪf(ə)n ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **CMIP**

**common management information specification** /,kɒmən ,mænidʒmənt ,ɪnfə'meɪf(ə)n ,spesɪfɪkeɪf(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **CMIS**

**common ordinary business-oriented language** /,kɒmən ,ɔ:d(ə)n(ə)ri ,bɪznɪs ,ɔ:riəntɪd 'læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **COBOL**

**common real-time applications language** /,kɒmən ,riəl taɪm ,æplɪ'keɪf(ə)nz ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **CORAL**

**common user access** /,kɒmən ,ju:zə 'ækses/ *noun* full form of **CUA**

**communicate** /kə'mju:nɪ,keɪt/ *verb* to pass information to someone ○ *He finds it impossible to communicate with his staff.*

**communicating applications specification** /kə,mju:nɪkeɪtɪŋ ,æplɪkeɪf(ə)nz ,spesɪfɪ'keɪf(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **CAS**

**communicating word processor** /kə ,mju:nɪkeɪtɪŋ 'wɜ:d ,prəʊsesə/ *noun* a word processor workstation which is able to transmit and receive data

**communication** /kə,mju:nɪ'keɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the passing of information ○ *Communication with the head office has been made easier by the telex.*

**communications channel** /kə,mju:nɪ'keɪf(ə)nz ,tʃæ'n(ə)l/ *noun* a physical link over which data can be transmitted

**communications control unit** /kə ,mju:nɪkeɪf(ə)nz kən'trəʊl ,ju:nɪt/ *noun* an electronic device that controls data transmission and routes in a network

**communications link** /kə,mju:nɪ'keɪf(ə)nz lɪŋk/ *noun* the physical path that joins a transmitter to a receiver

**communications network** /kə,mju:nɪ'keɪf(ə)nz ,netwɜ:k/ *noun* a group of devices such as terminals and printers that are interconnected with a central computer, allowing the rapid and simple transfer of data

**communications package** /kə,mju:nɪ'keɪf(ə)nz ,pækɪdʒ/ *noun* a package of software that allows a user to control a modem and use an online service

**communications protocol** /kə,mju:nɪ'keɪf(ə)nz ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* the parameters that define how the transfer of information will be controlled ○ *The communications protocol for most dial-up online services is eight-bit words, no stop bit and even parity.*

**communications server** /kə,mju:nɪ'keɪf(ə)nz ,sɜ:və/ *noun* a computer with a modem or fax card attached that allows users on a network to share the use of the modem

**communications software** /kə,mju:nɪ'keɪf(ə)nz ,sɒftweə/ **communications package** /kə,mju:nɪ'keɪf(ə)nz ,pækɪdʒ/ *noun* software that allows a user to control a modem and use an online service

**community** /kə'mju:nɪti/ *noun* a group of people living or working in the same place □ **the local business community** the business people living and working in the area

**community antenna television** /kə ,mju:nɪti æn'tenə ,telɪ'vɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* a cable television system using a single aerial to pick up television signals and then distribute them over a wide area via cable. Abbr **CATV**

**compact** /kəm'pækt/ *adjective* (thing) which does not take up much space

**compact disc** /,kɒmpækt 'dɪsk/ *noun* a small plastic disc that contains information such as audio signals or data in digital form that can be read by a laser beam. Abbr **CD-I**

**compact disc-digital audio** /,kɒmpækt ,dɪsk ,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'ɔ:diəʊ/ *noun* a standard that defines how music can be stored in digital form, i.e. as a series of numbers, on a compact disc. Abbr **CD-DA**. Also called **CD-audio**

**compact disc erasable** /,kɒmpækt ,dɪsk ɪ'reɪzəb(ə)l/ *noun* a format that allows data to be saved to and erased from a compact disc. Abbr **CD-E**

**compact disc player** /,kɒmpækt 'dɪsk ,pleɪə/ *noun* a machine that reads the digital data from a CD and converts it back to its original form

**compact disc ROM** /,kɒmpækt ,dɪsk 'rɒm/ *noun* same as **CD-ROM** ○ *The compact disc ROM can store as much data as a dozen hard discs.*

**compact disc write once** /,kɒmpækt ,dɪsk ,raɪt 'wʌnz/ *noun* CD-ROM disc and drive technology that allows a user to write data to the disc once only. Full form **CD-WO**

**companding** /kɒm'pændɪŋ/ *noun* two processes which reduce or compact data before transmission or storage then restore packed data to its original form. Full form **compressing and expanding**

**compandor** /kɒm'pændə/ *noun* a device used for companding signals. Full form **compressor/expander**

**COMPAQ** /'kɒmpæk/ a US personal computer company, founded in 1983, that was the first manufacturer to produce a clone to the IBM PC

**comparability** /,kɒmp(ə)rə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* being able to be compared (NOTE: no plural)

□ **pay comparability** similar pay system in two different companies

**comparable** /'kɒmp(ə)rəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be compared ○ *The two sets of figures are not comparable.*

**comparator** /kəm'pærətə/ *noun* a logical device whose output is true if there is a difference between two inputs

**compare** /kəm'peə/ *verb* to check the differences between two pieces of information

**compare with** /kəm'peə wɪð/ *verb* to put two things together to see how they differ

**comparison** /kəm'pærɪs(ə)n/ *noun* a way of comparing

**compatibility** /kəm,pætɪ'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the ability of two hardware or software devices to function together (NOTE: Compatibility of hardware and software, which means that those of one manufacturer or organisation conform to the standards of another, allows programs and hardware to be interchanged without modification.)

'The manufacturer claims that this card does not require special drivers on the host machine... and therefore has fewer compatibility problems.' [Computing]

**compatible** /kəm'pætɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* used to describe two hardware or software devices that function correctly together ■ *noun* a hardware or software device that functions correctly with other equipment ○ *Buy an IBM PC or a compatible.*

'...this was the only piece of software I found that wouldn't work, but it does show that there is no such thing as a totally compatible PC clone' [Personal Computer World]

**compilation** /,kɒmpɪ'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the translation of an encoded source program into machine readable code

'This utility divides the compilation of software into pieces and performs the compile in parallel across available machines on the network.' [Computergram]

**compile** /kəm'paɪl/ *verb* to convert a high-level language program into a machine code program that can be executed by itself ○ *compiling takes a long time with this old version*

**compiler** /kəm,paɪlə 'prɒʊgrəm/, **compiler program** *noun* a piece of software that converts an encoded program into a machine code program ○ *The new compiler has an in-built editor.* Compare **interpreter**

**complement** /'kɒmplɪment/ *noun* an inversion of a binary digit ○ *The complement is found by changing the 1s to 0s and 0s to 1s.* ■ *verb* to invert a binary digit

**complementary** /,kɒmplɪ'ment(ə)ri/ *adjective* (two things) that complete each other or go well together

**complementary colours** /,kɒplɪment(ə)ri 'kʌləz/ *plural noun* colours resulting from subtracting a specific colour from white light, therefore the complementary colour to red is 'minus red', which is cyan (blue-green)

**complementary metal oxide semiconductor** /,kɒmplɪment(ə)ri ,met(ə)l ,ɒksaɪd 'semɪkən,dʌktə/ *noun* full form of **CMOS**

**complementation** /,kɒmplɪmənt(ə)n/ *noun* a number system used to represent positive and negative numbers

**complete** /kəm'pli:t/ *verb* to finish a task ○ *When you have completed the keyboarding, pass the text through the spelling checker.*

**completion** /kəm'pli:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the point at which something is complete ○ *Completion date for the new software package is November 15th.*

**complex** /'kɒmpleks/ *adjective* very complicated or difficult to understand ○ *The complex mathematical formula was difficult to solve.*

**complex instruction set computer** /,kɒmpleks ɪn'strʌkʃən ,set kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* full form of **CISC**

**complexity** /kəm'pleksɪti/ *noun* being complicated

**compliant** /kəm'plaɪənt/ *adjective* that conforms to a particular set of standards ○ *If you want to read PhotoCD compact discs in your computer you must be sure that the CD-ROM drive is PhotoCD or CD-ROM XA compliant.*

**complicated** /'kɒmplɪkeɪtɪd/ *adjective* with many different parts or difficult to understand ○ *This program is very complicated.*

**component** /kəm'pəʊnənt/ *noun* 1. a piece of machinery or section which will be put into a final product 2. an electronic device that produces an electrical signal

**Component Object Model** /kəm ,pəʊnənt 'ɒbdʒekt ,mɒd(ə)l/ *noun* full form of **COM**

**component video** /kəm'pəʊnənt ,vɪdɪəʊ/ *noun* a method of transmitting video information, used in professional video systems, that has separate signals for the luminance and two chrominance channels to avoid interference

**COM port** /'kɒm pɔ:t/ *noun* same as **COM1**

**compose** /kəm'pəʊz/ *verb* to arrange the required type, in the correct order, prior to printing □ **composing room** room in a typesetters or in a newspaper, where the text is composed by compositors

**composite circuit** /,kɒmpəzɪt 'sɜːkɪt/ *noun* an electronic circuit made up of a number of smaller circuits and components

**composite display** /,kɒmpəzɪt dɪ'spleɪ/ *noun* a video display unit that accepts a single composite video signal and can display an infinite number of colours or shades of grey

**composite monitor** /,kɒmpəzɪt 'mɒnɪtə/ *noun* a colour monitor that receives one video signal from a graphics display adapter, which must then be electronically separated inside the monitor into the red, green and blue colour signals

**composite print** /'kɒmpəzɪt prɪnt/ *noun* a copy of a film (called the print) that includes both audio and visual effects (*film*)

**composite video** /,kɒmpəzɪt 'vɪdɪəʊ/ *noun* a video signal that combines the colour signals and the monochrome signal into one single signal ○ *Most TV set and video players expect a composite video feed.*

**composite video signal** /,kɒmpəzɪt 'vɪdɪəʊ ,sɪɡn(ə)/ *noun* a single television signal containing synchronising pulse and video signal in a modulated form

**composition** /,kɒmpə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of creating typeset text, either using metal type or by keyboarding on a computer typesetter □ **composition size** printing type size

**compositor** /kəm'pɒzɪtə/ *noun* a person who sets up the required type prior to printing

**compound device** /,kɒmpaʊnd dɪ'vaɪs/ *noun* a Windows MCI multimedia device that requires a data file

**compound document** /'kɒmpaʊnd ,dɒkjʊmənt/ *noun* a document that contains information created by several other applications

**compound file** /'kɒmpaʊnd faɪl/ *noun* a number of individual files grouped together in one file

**compound statement** /,kɒmpaʊnd 'steɪtmənt/ *noun* a number of program instructions in one line of program ○ *The debugger cannot handle compound statements.*

**compress** /kəm'pres/ *verb* to squeeze something to fit into a smaller space ○ *Use the archiving program to compress the file.*

**compressed video** /,kɒmprest 'vɪdɪəʊ/ *noun* video signals that have been compressed to reduce the data rate required to transmit the information. Whereas a normal television picture is transmitted at around 5090Mbits/second, a compressed video signal can be transmitted at around one tenth of the data rate.

**compression** /kəm'preʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of reducing the size of a file by en-

coding the data in a more efficient form. For example, if the file contains five letter 'A's in line, which take up five bytes of space, the compression software could encode this to 5A which takes two bytes of space.

**compression ratio** /kəm'preʃ(ə)n ,reɪʃɪəʊ/ *noun* a ratio of the size of an original, uncompressed file to the final, compressed file that has been more efficiently encoded

**compressor** /kəm'presə/ *noun* 1. a program or device that provides data compression 2. an electronic circuit which compresses a signal

**comptometer** /kɒmp'tɒmɪtə/ *noun* a machine which counts automatically

**CompuServe** /'kɒmpjuːsɜːv/ an online service provider and information service

**computable** /kəm'pjʊ:təb(ə)/ *adjective* which can be calculated

**computation** /,kɒmpjʊ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a calculation

**computational** /,kɒmpjʊ'teɪʃ(ə)nəl/ *adjective* referring to computation

**compute** /kəm'pjʊ:t/ *verb* to calculate or to do calculations (especially when using a computer) ○ *Connect charges were computed on an hourly rate.*

**computer** /kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* a machine that receives or stores or processes data very quickly using a program kept in its memory

**computer-** /kəmpju:tə/ *prefix* referring to a computer

**computer-aided** /kəm,pju:tə'etɪd/ *adjective* that uses a computer to make the work easier. Also called **computer-assisted**

**computer-aided design** /kəm,pju:tə'etɪd dɪ'zaɪn/ *noun* full form of **CAD**

**computer-aided engineering** /kəm,pju:tə'etɪd ,endʒɪ'nɪərɪŋ/ *noun* use of a computer to help an engineer solve problems or calculate design or product specifications. Full form of **CAE**

**computer-aided instruction** /kəm,pju:tə'etɪd ɪn'strʌkʃən/ *noun* full form of **CAI**

**computer-aided learning** /kəm,pju:tə'etɪd 'lɜːnɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **CAL**

**computer-aided manufacture** /kəm,pju:tə'etɪd ,mænʃʊ'fæktʃə/ *noun* full form of **CAM**

**computer-aided testing** /kəm,pju:tə'etɪd 'testɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **CAT**

**computer-aided training** /kəm,pju:tə'etɪd 'treɪnɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **CAT**

**computer animation** /kəm,pju:tə ,ænɪ'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* same as **animation**

**computer applications** /kəm,pju:tə ,æpli'keɪf(ə)nz/ *plural noun* the tasks and uses that a computer can carry out in a particular field or job

**computer-assisted** /kəm,pju:tər ə 'sɪstɪd/ *adjective* same as **computer-aided**

**computer-assisted design** /kəm ,pju:tər ə ,sɪstɪd dɪ'zain/ *noun* full form of **CAD**

**computer-assisted engineering** /kəm,pju:tər ə ,sɪstɪd ,endʒɪ'nɪərɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **CAE**

**computer-assisted instruction** /kəm ,pju:tər ə ,sɪstɪd ɪn'strʌkʃən/ *noun* full form of **CAI**

**computer-assisted learning** /kəm ,pju:tər ə ,sɪstɪd 'lɜ:nɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **CAL**

**computer-assisted manufacture** /kəm,pju:tər ə ,sɪstɪd ,mænʃʊ'fæktʃə/ *noun* full form of **CAM**

**computer-assisted testing** /kəm ,pju:tər ə ,sɪstɪd 'testɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **CAT**

**computer-assisted training** /kəm ,pju:tər ə ,sɪstɪd 'treɪnɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **CAT**

**computer-based instruction** /kəm ,pju:tə beɪst ɪn'strʌkʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **CBi**

**computer-based learning** /kəm ,pju:tə beɪst ɪn'strʌkʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **CBL**

**computer-based message system** /kəm,pju:tə beɪst 'mesɪdʒ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **CBMS**

**computer-based training** /kəm,pju:tə beɪst 'treɪnɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **CBT**

**computer code** /kəm'pju:tə kəʊd/ *noun* a programming language that consists of commands in binary code that can be directly understood by the central processing unit, without the need for translation

**computer conferencing** /kəm,pju:tə 'kɒnf(ə)rənsɪŋ/ *noun* the use of a number of computers or terminals connected together to allow a group of users to communicate

**computer crime** /kəm'pju:tə kraɪm/ *noun* theft, fraud or other crimes involving computers

**computer dating** /kəm,pju:tə 'deɪtɪŋ/ *noun* the use of a computer to match single people who may want to get married

**computer department** /kəm'pju:tə dɪ ,pɑ:tmənt/ *noun* a department in a company that manages the company's computers

**computer file** /kəm'pju:tə faɪl/ *noun* a section of information on a computer, e.g. the

payroll, list of addresses or customer accounts

**computer fraud** /kəm'pju:tə frɔ:d/ *noun* the theft of data, dishonest use of data or other crimes involving computers

**computer generation** /kəm,pju:tə ,dʒenə'reɪf(ə)n/ *noun* any one in a series of classifications used to define the advances in the field of computing

COMMENT: The development of computers has been divided into a series of 'generations'. The first generation consisted of computers constructed using valves and having limited storage. The second generation of computers were restricted using transistors. The third generation used integrated circuits. The fourth generation, which includes the computers most often used at present, uses low-cost memory and IC packages. The fifth generation comprises future computers using very fast processors, large memory, and allowing human input/output.

**computer graphics** /kəm,pju:tə 'græfɪks/ *plural noun* information represented graphically on a computer display

**computer graphics metafile** /kəm ,pju:tə ,græfɪks 'metəfaɪl/ *noun* full form of **CGM**

**computer illiterate** /kəm,pju:tə ɪ 'lɪtərət/ *adjective* unable to understand computer-related expressions or operations

**computer image processing** /kəm ,pju:tə 'ɪmɪdʒ ,prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* the analysis of information in an image, usually by electronic means or using a computer, also used for recognition of objects in an image

**computer input microfilm** /kəm ,pju:tə ɪnpʊt 'maɪkrəʊfɪlm/ *noun* full form of **CIM**

**computer-integrated manufacturing** /kəm,pju:tə ɪntɪgreɪtɪd ,mænʃʊ 'fæktʃərɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **CIM**

**computerisation** /kəm,pju:tərəɪ 'zeɪf(ə)n/, **computerization** *noun* the process of introducing a computer system or of changing from a manual to a computer system ○ *Computerisation of the financial sector is proceeding very fast.*

**computerise** /kəm'pju:tərəɪz/, **computerize** *verb* to change from a manual system to one using computers ○ *Our stock control has been completely computerised.*

**computer literacy** /kəm,pju:tə 'lɪ(ə)rəsi/ *noun* understanding of the basic principles of computers, related expressions and concepts, and the ability to use computers for programming or applications

**computer-literate** /kəm,pju:tə 'lɪ(ə)rət/ *adjective* able to understand ex-

pressions relating to computers and how to use a computer

**computer-managed instruction** /kəmˌpju:təˌmænidʒdɪnˈstrʌkʃən/ *noun* the use of a computer to assist students in learning a subject. Abbr **CMi**

**computer-managed learning** /kəmˌpju:təˌmænidʒdɪˈlɜ:nɪŋ/ *noun* the use of a computer to teach students and assess their progress. Abbr **CML**

**computer network** /kəmˌpju:təˈnetwɜ:k/ *noun* the shared use of a series of interconnected computers, peripherals and terminals

**computer numerical control** /kəmˌpju:təˌnju:merɪk(ə)l kənˈtrəʊl/ *noun* same as **numerical control**. full form of **CNC**

**computer operator** /kəmˌpju:təˌɒpəreɪtə/ *noun* a person who operates a computer

**computer output on microfilm** /kəmˌpju:təˌaʊtpʊt ɒn ˈmaɪkrəʊfɪlm/ *noun* full form of **COM**

**computer program** /kəmˌpju:təˌprəʊgræm/ *noun* a series of instructions to a computer, telling it to do a particular piece of work ○ *The user cannot write a computer program with this system.*

**computer programmer** /kəmˌpju:təˌprəʊgræmə/ *noun* a person who writes computer programs

**computer-readable** /kəmˌpju:təˈrɪ:dəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be read and understood by a computer ○ *computer-readable codes*

**computer science** /kəmˌpju:təˈsaɪəns/ *noun* the scientific study of computers, the organisation of hardware and the development of software

**computer setting** /kəˈmpju:təˌsetɪŋ/ *noun* the process of typesetting using a computerised typesetting machine

**computer virus** /kəmˌpju:təˌvaɪrəs/ *noun* a program which adds itself to an executable file and copies or spreads itself to other executable files each time an infected file is run. A virus can corrupt data, display a message or do nothing.

**computing** /kəmˌpju:tɪŋ/ *adjective, noun* referring to computers

**computing power** /kəmˌpju:tɪŋˌpaʊə/ *noun* a measure of the speed of a computer and its ability to perform calculations

**computing speed** /kəmˌpju:tɪŋˌspi:d/ *noun* the speed at which a computer calculates

**CON** /kɒn/ *noun* (in *IBM-PC compatible systems*) a name used to identify the console, i.e. the keyboard and monitor

**concatenate** /kənˈkætəneɪt/ *verb* to join together two or more sets of data

**concatenation** /kənˌkætəˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the joining together of two or more sets of data

**concatenation operator** /kənˌkætəˈneɪʃ(ə)nˌɒpəreɪtə/ *noun* an instruction that joins two pieces of data or variables together

**concave lens** /ˌkɒŋkəɪvˈleɪnz/ *noun* a lens that is thinner in the centre than at the edges, bending light out

**conceal** /kənˈsi:l/ *verb* to hide information or graphics from a user, or not to display them ○ *The hidden lines are concealed from view with this algorithm.*

**concentrate** /ˈkɒnsəntreɪt/ *verb* 1. to combine a number of lines or circuits or data to take up less space ○ *The concentrated data was transmitted cheaply.* 2. to focus a beam onto a narrow point

**concentrator** /ˈkɒnsəntreɪtə/ *noun* 1. (in a *Token-Ring network*) a device at the centre of a Token-Ring network, which provides a logical star topology in which nodes are connected to the concentrator, but which connects each arm of the star as a physical ring within the device 2. (in an *FDDI network*) a node which provides access for one or more stations to the network 3. (in an *10Base-T Ethernet network*) the device at the centre of a star-topology 10Base-T Ethernet network that receives signals from one port and regenerates them before sending them out to the other ports 4. (in *general networking*) a device in which all the cables from nodes are interconnected

**conceptual model** /kənˌseptʃuəlˈmɒd(ə)l/ *noun* a description of a database or program in terms of the data it contains and its relationships

**concertina fold** /ˌkɒnsəˈtɪ:nəˌfəʊld/ *noun* a method of folding continuous paper, one sheet in one direction, the next sheet in the opposite direction, allowing the paper to be fed into a printer continuously with no action on the part of the user. Same as **accordion fold**

**concurrency** /kənˈkʌrənsɪ/ *noun* data or a resource that is accessed by more than one user or application at a time

**concurrent** /kənˈkʌrənt/ *adjective* almost simultaneous (actions or sets) ○ *Each concurrent process has its own window.*

*'The system uses parallel-processing technology to allow support for large numbers of concurrent users.'* [Computing]

**concurrently** /kən'kʌrəntli/ *adverb* running at almost the same time. † **SISD, SIMD**  
**condenser lens** /kən'densə lens/ *noun* an optical device, usually made of glass, that concentrates a beam of light onto a certain area

**condition** /kən'dɪf(ə)n/ *verb* to modify data that is to be transmitted so as to meet set parameters ○ *Condition the raw data to a standard format.*

**conditional** /kən'dɪf(ə)n(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** provided that certain things take place **2.** referring to a process that is dependent on the result of another

**conditional jump** /kən'dɪf(ə)nəl dʒʌmp/ *noun* a programming instruction that provides a jump to a section of a program if a certain condition is met ○ *The conditional branch will select routine one if the response is yes and routine two if no.*

**conduct** /kən'dʌkt/ *verb* to allow an electrical current to flow through a material ○ *to conduct electricity*

**conduction** /kən'dʌkʃən/ *noun* the ability of a material to conduct ○ *The conduction of electricity by gold contacts.*

**conductive** /kən'dʌktɪv/ *adjective* referring to the ability of a material to conduct

**conductor** /kən'dʌkt/ *noun* a substance such as a metal that conducts electricity ○ *Copper is a good conductor of electricity.* †

**semiconductor**

**conduit** /'kɒndju:t/ *noun* a protective pipe or channel for wires or cables ○ *The cables from each terminal are channelled to the computer centre by metal conduit.*

**cone** /kəʊn/ *noun* the moving section in most loudspeakers

**conference** /'kɒnf(ə)rəns/ *noun* a meeting of people to discuss problems

**conferencing** /'kɒnf(ə)rənsɪŋ/ *noun* discussion between remote users using computers linked by a modem or a network

'Small organisations and individuals find it convenient to use online services, offering email, conferencing and information services.' [Computing]

**confidence** /'kɒnfɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* feeling sure or being certain ○ *The sales teams do not have much confidence in their manager.* ○ *The board has total confidence in the new system.*

**confidence level** /'kɒnfɪd(ə)ns ,lev(ə)l/ *noun* the likelihood that a particular number will lie within a range of values

**confident** /'kɒnfɪd(ə)nt/ *adjective* certain or sure ○ *I am confident the sales will increase rapidly.* ○ *Are you confident the sales team is capable of handling this product?*

**confidential** /,kɒnfɪ'denʃəl/ *adjective* secret ○ *a confidential report on the new product*

**CONFIG.SYS** /kən'fɪg sɪs/ *noun* (in MS-DOS) a configuration text file that contains commands to set parameters and load driver software. This file is read automatically once the PC is switched on and the operating system has loaded. ○ *If you add a new adapter card to your PC, you will have to add a new command to the CONFIG.SYS file.*

**configuration** /kən,fɪgjə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the way in which the hardware and software of a computer system are planned and set up

'He said only Banyan Vines had the network configuration and administration capabilities required for implementing an international business plan based on client-server computing.' [Computing]

**configure** /kən'fɪgə/ *verb* to select hardware, software and interconnections to make up a special system ○ *This terminal has been configured to display graphics.*

**configured-in** /kən,fɪgəd 'ɪn/ *adjective* referring to a device whose configuration state indicates that it is ready and available for use

**confirm** /kən'fɜ:m/ *verb* action to indicate that you agree with a particular action ○ *Click on the OK button to confirm that you want to delete all your files.*

**conform** /kən'fɔ:m/ *verb* to work according to set rules ○ *The software will not run if it does not conform to the operating system standards.*

**congestion** /kən'dʒestʃən/ *noun* a state that occurs when communication or processing demands are greater than the capacity of a system

**connect** /kə'nekt/ *verb* to link together two points in a circuit or communications network

**connection** /kə'nektʃən/ *noun* a link or something which joins

**connectivity** /,kɒnek'tɪvɪti/ *noun* the ability of a device to connect with other devices and transfer information

**connector** /kə'nektə/ *noun* a physical device with a number of metal contacts that allow devices to be easily linked together ○ *The connector at the end of the cable will fit any standard serial port.*

**consecutive** /kən'sekjʊtɪv/ *adjective* following one after another ○ *The computer ran three consecutive files.*

**consecutively** /kə'sekjʊtɪvli/ *adverb* one after the other ○ *The sections of the program run consecutively.*

**Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire** *noun* full form of CERN

**consistency check** /kən'sɪstənsi tʃek/ *noun* a check to make sure that objects, data or items conform to their expected formats

**console** /'kɒnsəʊl/ *noun* a unit consisting of a keyboard, VDU, and usually a printer, which allows an operator to communicate with a computer system ○ *The console consists of input device such as a keyboard, and an output device such as a printer or CRT.* †

**CON**

**constant** /'kɒnstənt/ *noun* an item of data whose value does not change. Opposite **variable** ■ *adjective* which does not change ○ *The disk drive motor spins at a constant velocity.*

**constant linear velocity** /,kɒnstənt ˌlɪniə və'ləʊsɪti/ *noun* full form of **CLV**

**constrain** /kən'streɪn/ *verb* to set limits that define the maximum movement of an object on screen

**construct** /kən'strʌkt/ *verb* to build or to make (a device or a system)

**construction** /kən'strʌkʃən/ *noun* the building or making of a system ○ *Construction of the prototype is advancing rapidly.*

**consult** /kən'sʌlt/ *verb* to ask an expert for advice ○ *He consulted the maintenance manager about the disk fault.*

**consultancy** /kən'sʌltənsi/ *noun* the act of giving specialist advice ○ *a consultancy firm* ○ *He offers a consultancy service.*

**consultant** /kən'sʌltənt/ *noun* a specialist who gives advice ○ *They called in a computer consultant to advise them on the system design.*

**consumables** /kən'sju:məb(ə)lz/ *plural noun* small cheap extra items required in the day-to-day running of a computer system, e.g. paper and printer ribbons ○ *Put all the printer leads and paper with the other consumables.*

**consumer market** /kən'sju:mə ˌmɑ:kɪt/ *noun* the potential market for a product that is based on the general public buying advertised products from a shop rather than a specialist or academic market

**consumption** /kən'sʌmpʃən/ *noun* the act of buying or using goods or services (NOTE: no plural)

**contact** /'kɒntækt/ *noun* the section of a switch or connector that provides an electrical path when it touches another conductor ○ *The circuit is not working because the contact is dirty.* ■ *verb* to try to call a user or device in a network

**contact image sensor** /,kɒntækt ˈɪmɪdʒ ˌsensə/ *noun* full form of **CIS**

**contain** /kən'teɪn/ *verb* to hold something inside ○ *Each carton contains two computers and their peripherals.*

**container** /kən'teɪnə/ *noun* 1. a box or bottle or can, etc. which can hold goods ○ *The ink is sold in strong metal containers.* ○ *The container burst while it was being loaded.* 2. a very large metal case of a standard size for loading and carrying goods on trucks, trains and ships ○ *container ship* ○ *container port* ○ *container terminal* ○ *to ship goods in containers* 3. something that can be set to a value; e.g., a variable is a container, as is an object's colour or position or other properties

**containerisation** /kən,teɪnəraɪ 'zeɪf(ə)n/, **containerization** *noun* the process of putting into containers, or carrying goods in containers

**containerize** /kən'teɪnəraɪz/ *verb* to put goods into containers; to ship goods in containers

**content** /'kɒntent/ *noun* information, ideas, text, images or data that form a letter, document, web page, database or book

**content-addressable addressing** /,kɒntent ə,dresəb(ə)l ə'dresɪŋ/ *noun* same as **associative addressing**

**contention** /kən'tenʃən/ *noun* a situation that occurs when two or more devices are trying to communicate with the same piece of equipment

**content provider** /'kɒntent prə,vɑɪdə/ *noun* a company that supplies information, e.g. text, news stories, images, video, software, for a publication in a website or other medium

**contents** /'kɒntents/ *plural noun* things contained or what is inside something ○ *The contents of the bottle poured out onto the computer keyboard.*

**context** /'kɒntekst/ *noun* words and phrases among which a word is used ○ *The example shows how the word is used in context.*

**context-sensitive** /,kɒntekst 'sensɪtɪv/ *adjective* that relates to the particular context

**context-sensitive help** /,kɒntekst ˌsensɪtɪv 'help/ *noun* a help message that gives useful information about the particular function or part of the program you are in rather than general information about the whole program

**context-switching** /'kɒntekst ˌswɪtʃɪŋ/ *noun* a process in which several programs are loaded in memory, but only one at a time can be executed

COMMENT: Unlike a true multitasking system which can load several programs into memory and run several programs at once, context-switching only allows one program to be run at a time.

**contiguous** /kən'tɪgjuəs/ *adjective* which touches

'If you later edit the file again, some of the new data clusters will not be contiguous with the original clusters but spread around the disk.' [Computing]

**contiguous graphics** /kən,tɪgjuəs 'græfɪks/ *plural noun* graphic cells or characters which touch each other ○ *Most display units do not provide contiguous graphics: their characters have a small space on each side to improve legibility.*

**contingency plan** /kən'tɪndʒənsɪ plæn/ *noun* a secondary plan that will be used if the first fails to work

**continual** /kən'tɪnjuəl/ *adjective* which happens again and again ○ *The continual system breakdowns have slowed down the processing.*

**continually** /kən'tɪnjuəli/ *adverb* again and again

**continuation** /kən,tɪnju'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of continuing

**continue** /kən'tɪnjuː/ *verb* to go on doing something or to do something which you were doing earlier

**continuity** /,kɒntɪ'njuːɪti/ *noun* **1.** a clear conduction path between two points **2.** the process of checking that the details of one scene in a film continue into the next scene to be shown, even if the two have been shot at different times

**continuous** /kən'tɪnjuəs/ *adjective* with no end or with no breaks; which goes on without stopping

**continuously** /kən'tɪnjuəsli/ *adverb* without stopping ○ *The printer overheated after working continuously for five hours.*

**continuous tone** /kən'tɪnjuəs təʊn/ *noun* an image such as a photograph that uses all possible values of grey or colours,

**contouring** /'kɒntʊərɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** (in a graphics application) a process that converts a wire-frame drawing into a solid-looking object by adding shadows and texture **2.** (in a graphics application) a function that creates realistic-looking ground, e.g. in a virtual-reality system, or a surface

**contrast** *noun* /'kɒntrɑːst/ **1.** the difference between black and white or between colours ○ *The control allows you to adjust brightness and contrast.* **2.** a control knob on a display that alters the difference between black and white tones or between colours ■ *verb* /kən'trɑːst/ to examine the differences between two sets of information ○ *The old data was contrasted with the latest information.*

**contrasting** /kən'trɑːstɪŋ/ *adjective* which show a sharp difference ○ *a cover design in contrasting colours*

**contrast setting** /'kɒntrɑːst 'setɪŋ/ *noun* TV contrast control position

**control** /kən'trəʊl/ *verb* to be in charge of something or to make sure that something is kept in check ■ *noun* **1.** the process of restricting or checking something or making sure that something is kept in check **2.** conditional program statements **3.** a key on a computer keyboard which sends a control character **4.** power or being able to direct something ○ *The company is under the control of three directors.* ○ *The family lost control of its business.*

**controllable** /kən'trəʊləb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be controlled

**controller** /kən'trəʊlə/ *noun* a hardware or software device that controls a peripheral such as a printer, or that monitors and directs the data transmission over a local area network

'...a printer's controller is the brains of the machine. It translates the signals coming from your computer into printing instructions that result in a hard copy of your electronic document' [Publish]

**control panel** /kən'trəʊl ,pæn(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** a panel with indicators and switches that allows an operator to monitor and control the actions of a computer or peripheral **2.** a utility that displays the user-definable options such as keyboard, country-code and type of mouse

**control unit** /kən'trəʊl ,juːnɪt/ *noun* the section of the CPU which selects and executes instructions

**conventional memory** /kən ,venf(ə)n(ə)l 'mem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* (in an IBM-PC compatible system) the random access memory region installed in a PC from 0 up to 640Kb. This area of memory can be directly controlled by MS-DOS. Compare **high memory, expanded memory**

**convergence** /kən'vɜːdʒəns/ *noun* **1.** the combination of two or more different technologies producing a new technology. For example, fax machines are the product of the convergence of telephone, scanning and printing technologies. **2.** (in a colour monitor) the accuracy with which the picture beam strikes the three colour dots that form each colour pixel ▶ ♢ **picture beam, pixel**

**conversational mode** /,kɒnvə 'seɪʃ(ə)n(ə)l məʊd/ *noun* a method of operating that provides immediate responses to a user's input. ♢ **interactive mode.** Compare **batch mode**

**conversion** /kən'vɜːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a change from one system to another

**conversion tables** /kən'vɜ:ʃ(ə)n ,teɪb(ə)lz/ *plural noun* a list of source codes or statements and their equivalent in another language or form ○ *Conversion tables may be created and used in conjunction with the customer's data to convert it to our system codes.* Also called **translation tables**

**convert** /kən'vɜ:t/ *verb* to change one thing into another

**converter** /kən'vɜ:tə/ *noun* a device or program that translates data from one form to another ○ *The converter allowed the old data to be used on the new system.*

**convertibility** /kən,vɜ:tə'bɪləti/ *noun* ability to be changed

**convertible** /kən'vɜ:təb(ə)l/ *adjective* that can be converted

**convertor** /kən'vɜ:tə/ *noun* another spelling of **converter**

**convex lens** /kɒnveks 'lenz/ *noun* a lens that is thicker in the centre than the edges, bending light in

**convey** /kən'veɪ/ *verb* to carry or import information ○ *The chart conveyed the sales problem graphically.*

**conveyor** /kən'veɪə/ *noun* a method of carrying paper using a moving belt

**cookie** /'kʊki/ *noun* a tiny file that is stored on your computer when you connect to a remote Internet site using a browser. The cookie is used by the remote site to store information about your options which can then be read when you next visit the site.

**cookie file** /'kʊki faɪl/ *noun* a file that contains the cookie data supplied by the remote Internet site

**cooperative processing** /kəʊ ,ɒp(ə)rətɪv 'prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* a system in which two or more computers in a distributed network can each execute a part of a program or work on a particular set of data

**coordinate** /kəʊ'ɔ:dɪnət/ *verb* to organise complex tasks, so that they fit together efficiently ○ *She has to coordinate the keyboarding of several parts of a file in six different locations.*

**coordination** /kəʊ,ɔ:dɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of organising complex tasks

**copperplate printing** /,kɒpə,plɛɪt 'prɪntɪŋ/ *noun* a printing method that uses a copper plate on which the image is etched

**coprocessor** /kəʊ'prəʊsesə/ *noun* an extra, specialised processor, e.g. an array or numerical processor, that can work with a main CPU to increase execution speed

'Inmos is hiring designers to create highly integrated transputers and co-processors for diverse computer and telecoms systems.' [Computing]

**copy** /'kɒpi/ *noun* **1.** a document which looks the same as another; duplicate of an

original **2.** a document ■ *verb* to make a second document which is like the first, or to duplicate original data ○ *He copied all the personnel files at night and took them home.*

**copy protect** /,kɒpi prə'tekt/ *noun* a switch that prevents copies of a disk being made

**copy protection** /'kɒpi prə'tekʃən/ *noun* the act of preventing copies from being made ○ *A hard disk may crash because of copy protection.*

**copyright** /'kɒpraɪt/ *verb* to state the copyright of a written work by printing a copyright notice and publishing the work ■ *adjective* covered by the laws of copyright ○ *It is illegal to take copies of a copyrighted work.*

**copyrighted** /'kɒpraɪtɪd/ *adjective* in copyright

**copy typing** /'kɒpi ,taɪpɪŋ/ *noun* the process of typing documents from handwritten originals, not from dictation (NOTE: no plural)

**CORAL** /'kɒpi/ *noun* a computer programming language used in a real-time system. Full form **common real-time applications language**

**cord** /kɔ:d/ *noun* a wire used to connect a device to a socket

**cordless telephone** /,kɔ:dləs 'telɪfəʊn/ *noun* a telephone which is not connected to a line by a cord, but which uses a radio link

**core** /kɔ:/ *noun* the central conducting section of a cable

**coresident** /kəʊ'rezɪd(ə)nt/ *adjective* referring to two or more programs that are stored in the main memory at the same time

**corona** /kə'rəʊnə/ *noun* an electric discharge that is used to charge the toner within a laser printer

**corporate video** /,kɔ:p(ə)rət 'vɪdɪəʊ/ *noun* a video produced for internal training or as a publicity tool for a company and not intended to be broadcast

**correct** /kə'rekt/ *adjective* accurate or right ■ *verb* to remove mistakes from something

**correction** /kə'rekʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of making something correct; a change which makes something correct

**corrective maintenance** /kə'rektɪv 'meɪntənəns/ *noun* actions to trace, find and repair a fault after it has occurred

**correspond** /,kɒrɪ'spɒnd/ *verb* **1.** □ **to correspond with someone** to write letters to someone **2.** □ **to correspond with something** to fit or to match something

**correspondence** /,kɒrɪ'spɒndəns/ *noun* **1.** letters and messages sent from one person to another (NOTE: no plural) □ **business cor-**

**respondence** letters concerned with a business □ **to be in correspondence with someone** to write letters to someone and receive letters back **2.** the way in which something fits in with something

**correspondent** /ˌkɒrɪ'spɒndənt/ *noun* **1.** a person who writes letters **2.** a journalist who writes articles for a newspaper on specialist subjects ○ *the computer correspondent* ○ *the 'Times' business correspondent* ○ *He is the Paris correspondent of the 'Telegraph'*.

**corrupt** /kə'rʌpt/ *adjective* that contains errors ■ *verb* to introduce errors into data or a program ○ *Power loss during disk access can corrupt the data.*

**cost per action** /ˌkɒst pɜː 'æksjən/ full form of **CPA**

**co.uk** a domain name suffix that indicates a business based in the UK ○ *The Peter Collin Publishing domain name is 'pcp.co.uk'* † **domain**

**coulomb** /'kuːlɒm/ *noun* the SI unit of electrical charge

**count** /kaʊnt/ *verb* **1.** to add figures together to make a total ○ *He counted up the sales for the six months to December.* **2.** to include ○ *Did you count the sales of software as part of the home sales figures?*

**counter** /'kaʊntə/ *noun* **1.** a device which counts ○ *The loop will repeat itself until the counter reaches 100.* **2.** a register or variable whose contents are increased or decreased by a set amount every time an action occurs ○ *The number of items changed are recorded with the counter.*

**counting perforator** /ˌkaʊntɪŋ 'pɜːfəreɪtə/ *noun* a paper tape punch, used in typesetting, that keeps a record of the characters, their widths, etc., to allow justification operations

**country file** /'kʌntri faɪl/ *noun* a file within an operating system that defines the parameters, e.g. character set and keyboard layout, for different countries

**couple** /'kʌp(ə)l/ *verb* to join together ○ *The two systems are coupled together.*

**coupler** /'kʌplə/ *noun* **1.** a mechanical device that is used to connect three or more conductors **2.** a chemical that forms a dye when it reacts with another substance in a copying machine

**Courier** /'kʊriə/ *noun* a fixed-space or monospace typeface

**courseware** /'kɔːswɛə/ *noun* the software, manuals and video that make up a training package or CAL product

**coverage** /'kʌv(ə)rɪdʒ/ *noun* the size of the potential audience capable of receiving a broadcast ○ *the company had good media*

*coverage for the launch of its new model* □ **press coverage, media coverage** reports about something in the newspapers or on TV, etc. ○ *the company had good media coverage for the launch of its new model*

**cp** *noun* a UNIX command to make a copy of a file

**CPA** *noun* the cost of displaying a banner advertisement once to one visitor to a website. Full form **cost per action.** † **banner**

**cpi** /ˌsiː piː 'aɪ/ *abbr* characters per inch

**CPM** *abbr* critical path method

**cps** /ˌsiː piː 'es/ *abbr* characters per second  
**CPU** /ˌsiː piː 'juː/ *noun* a group of circuits that performs the basic functions of a computer. The CPU is made up of three parts, the control unit, the arithmetic and logic unit and the input/output unit. Full form **central processing unit**

**CR** *abbr* **1.** card reader **2.** carriage return

**crab** /kræb/ *verb* move a camera or microphone sideways (*film*)

**crane** /kreɪn/ *noun* a large camera stand which holds the camera operator and camera (*film*) † **dolly**

**crash** /kræʃ/ *noun* a failure of a component or a bug in a program during a run, which halts and prevents further use of the system ■ *verb* to come to an sudden stop (*of a computer or program*) ○ *The disk head has crashed and the data may have been lost.*

COMMENT: It is sometimes possible to recover data from a crashed hard disk before reformatting, if the crash was caused by a bad sector on the disk rather than contact between the r/w head and disk surface.

**crash-protected** /'kræʃ prə'tektɪd/ *adjective* that uses a head protection or data corruption protection system ○ *If the disk is crash-protected, you will never lose your data.*

**crawl** /krɔːl/ *noun* a mechanical device that moves television or film titles down in front of a camera, to give the impression that they are moving up the screen

**crawling title** /ˌkrɔːlɪŋ 'taɪt(ə)l/ *noun* a line of titles moving across the screen (*film*)

**CRC** *abbr* **1.** cyclic redundancy check **2.** camera ready copy

**create** /kri'eɪt/ *verb* to make ○ *A new file was created on disk to store the document.*

**crew** /kruː/ *noun* a group of technical staff who work together (as on filming a TV programme, recording an outside broadcast, etc.) ○ *the camera crew had to film all day in the snow*

**crispener** /'kriːsp(ə)nə/ *noun* an electronic device used to sharpen the edges of objects in an image (*film*)

**critical error** /,krɪtɪk(ə)l 'erə/ *noun* an error that stops processing or crashes the computer

**critical fusion frequency** /,krɪtɪk(ə)l 'fju:ʒ(ə)n ,frɪkʷənsɪ/ *noun* (on a video, computer or film screen) the rate of display of frames of graphics or text that makes them appear flicker-free

**critical path analysis** /,krɪtɪk(ə)l 'pɑ:θ ə,nælə'sɪs/ *noun* the definition of tasks or jobs and the time each requires arranged in order to achieve certain goals. Also called PERT – Program Evaluation and Review Techniques.

'Surprisingly, critical path analysis and project management, frequently the next career step for engineers, did not seem to warrant a mention.' [Computing]

**critical path method** /,krɪtɪk(ə)l 'pɑ:θ ,meθəd/ *noun* the use of analysis and the projection of each critical step in a large project to help a management team. Abbr **CPM**

**CR/LF** *abbr* carriage return/line feed

**crop** /krɒp/ *verb* **1.** to reduce the size or margins of an image **2.** to cut out a rectangular section of an image

**crop mark** /'krɒp mɑ:k/ *noun* (in DTP software) one of the printed marks that show the edge of a page or image and allow it to be cut accurately

**cropping** /'krɒpɪŋ/ *noun* the removal of areas of artwork or of a photograph which are not needed ○ *The photographs can be edited by cropping, sizing, touching up, etc.*

**cross-** /krɒs/ *prefix* running from one side to another

**cross-platform** /,krɒs 'plætʃfɔ:m/ *adjective* available for more than one type of computer or operating system

**cross-reference** /,krɒs 'ref(ə)rəns/ *noun* a reference in a document to another part of the document ■ *verb* to make a reference to another part of the document ○ *The SI units are cross-referenced to the appendix.*

**crosstalk** /'krɒstɑ:k/ *noun* interference between two communication cables or channels

**CRT** /,si: ɑ: 'ti:/ *noun* a device used for displaying characters, figures or graphical information, similar to a TV set. Full form **cathode ray tube**

COMMENT: CRTs are used in television sets, computer monitors, and VDUs. A CRT consists of a vacuum tube, one end of which is flat and coated with phosphor, the other end containing an electron beam source. Characters or graphics are visible when the controllable electron beam strikes the phosphor, causing it to glow.

**cruncher, crunching** *noun* ♦ **number cruncher, number crunching**

**cryogenic memory** /,kraɪəʊdʒenɪk 'mem(ə)ri/ *noun* a storage medium operating at very low temperatures of around 4°K to use the superconductive properties of a material

**cryptanalysis** /,krɪptə'nælə'sɪs/ *noun* the study and methods of breaking ciphers

**cryptographic** /,krɪptə'græfɪk/ *adjective* referring to cryptography

**cryptography** /,krɪp'tɒgrəfi/ *noun* the study of encryption and decryption methods and techniques

**crystal** /'krɪstəl/ *noun* a small slice of quartz crystal which vibrates at a certain frequency, used as a very accurate clock signal for computer or other high precision timing applications

**crystal shutter printer** /,krɪst(ə)l ʃʌtə 'prɪntə/ *noun* a page printer that uses a powerful light controlled by a liquid crystal display to produce an image on a photo-sensitive drum

**CSMA-CA** /,si: es em si: 'ei/ *noun* a method of controlling access to a network not covered by OSI standards, but used in AppleTalk networks. Full form **carrier sense multiple access-collision avoidance**

**CSMA-CD** /,si: es em si: 'di:/ *noun* a network communications protocol that prevents two sources transmitting at the same time by waiting for a quiet moment, then attempting to transmit. It is used to control data transmission over an Ethernet network. Full form **carrier sense multiple access-collision detection**

**CSS** *abbr* cascading style sheet

**CTM** /,si: ti: 'em/ *noun* a method of charging an advertiser for the display of a banner advertisement, where the price covers one thousand visitors clicking on the advertisement and jumping to the advertiser's own website. Full form **click through per thousand**

**CTR**<sup>1</sup> /kən'trəʊl/ *noun* the number of visitors who click on a banner advertisement on a website and jump to the advertiser's own website. Full form **click through rate**. ♦

**CTM** (NOTE: A click through rate of just a few percent is common, and most advertisers have to pay per thousand impressions of their banner ad.)

**CTR**<sup>2</sup> /kən'trəʊl/, **CTRL, Ctrl** *noun* the control key, or a key on a computer terminal that sends a control character to the computer when pressed

**CTS** /,si: ti: 'es/ *noun* an RS232C signal indicating that a line or device is ready for data transmission. Full form **clear to send**

**CU** *abbr* control unit

**CUA** *noun* a standard for a user interface, originally developed by IBM, now followed by most software developers. Full form **common user access**

**cue** /kju:/ *noun* **1.** a prompt or message displayed on a screen to remind the user that an input is expected **2.** a command or signal for a pre-planned event to commence (*film*)

**CUG** /,si: ju: 'dʒi:/ *noun* entry to a database or bulletin board system that is restricted to certain known and registered users, usually by means of a password. Full form **closed user group**

**cumulative index** /,kju:mjələtɪv 'ɪndeks/ *noun* an index made up from several different indexes

**cumulative trauma disorder** /,kju:mjələtɪv 'trɔ:mə drɪs,ɔ:dəl/ *noun* same as **repetitive strain injury**

**current** /'kʌrənt/ *adjective* referring to the present time ■ *noun* the movement of charge-carrying particles in a conductor

COMMENT: Mains electricity provides a 240v AC supply at 50Hz in the UK and 120v at 60Hz in the USA.

**cursor** /'kɜ:sə/ *noun* a marker on a display device which shows where the next character will appear

'Probably the most exciting technology demonstrated was ScreenCam, which allows users to combine voice, cursor movement and on-screen activities into a movie which can be replayed.' [Computing]

'...further quick cursor movements are available for editing by combining one of the arrow keys with the control function' [Personal Computer World]

COMMENT: Cursors can take several forms, including a square of bright light, a bright underline, or a flashing light.

**cursor resource** /'kɜ:sə rɪ,zɔ:s/ *noun* an image that is displayed as a cursor (NOTE: Programming languages and authoring tools normally provide a range of different cursor images that a developer can use, for example an egg-timer cursor when waiting or an arrow when pointing.)

**custom-built** /'kʌstəm bɪlt/ *adjective* made specially for one customer

**custom colours** /,kʌstəm 'kɒləz/ *plural noun* a range of colours in a palette that are used by an image or application. ☞ **system palette**

**customer** /'kʌstəməl/ *noun* a person who buys or uses a computer system or any peripherals

**customise** /'kʌstəmaɪz/, **customize** *verb* to modify a system to the customer's requirements ○ *We used customised computer*

*terminals.* (NOTE: **customises** – **customising** – **customised**)

**cut** /kʌt/ *noun* **1.** the process of removing a piece from a file **2.** a piece removed from a file ■ *verb* to remove sections of text from a file to make it shorter (NOTE: **cutting** – **cut**)

**cut and paste** /,kʌt ən 'peɪst/ *noun* the action of taking a section of text or data from one point and inserting it at another, often used in word-processors and DTP packages for easy page editing

**cutaway shot** /'kʌtə,weɪ ʃɒt/ *noun* (*film*) **1.** an action shot that is not part of the main action but is connected to it and occurs at the same time **2.** a camera movement away from the principal interest in a television interview, the interviewee, to the interviewer

**cut off** /,kʌt 'ɒf/ *verb* to remove part of something ○ *Six metres of paper were cut off the reel.*

**cutoff** /'kʌtɒf/ *adjective* point at which (something) stops

**cutoff frequency** /'kʌtɒf 'fri:kwənsi/ *noun* the frequency at which the response of a device drops off

**cutter** /'kʌtə/ *noun* a film editor who decides which scenes are to be kept and in which order, and which are to be discarded (*film*)

**cutting** /'kʌtɪŋ/ *noun* the action of cutting

**cutting room** /'kʌtɪŋ ru:m/ *noun* a room in a film studio where the unedited film is cut and joined together

**CWP** *abbr* communicating word processor

**cXML** /,si: eks em 'el/ *noun* a feature of the XML webpage markup language that provides a standard way of producing pages about products for sale on an online shop (NOTE: The new features allow designers to include information about the product being displayed and how it can be purchased by the viewer.)

**cyan** /'saɪən/ *noun* the complimentary colour to red, which is blue-green (*film*)

**cyan-magenta-yellow-black** /,saɪən mə,dʒɛntə 'jeləʊ/ *noun* full form of **CMYK**

**cyber-** /saɪbə/ *prefix* computers and information systems

**cyber age** /'saɪbə eɪdʒ/ *noun* the present age, considered as a period in which computer technology and electronic communications have become more important and more widely used

**cybercafé** /'saɪbə,kæfeɪ/ *noun* a place that provides a shop with terminals connected to the Internet as well as coffee and pastries

**cyberlaw** /'saɪbəlɔ:/ *noun* the set of laws that relate to computers, information systems and networks, considered as a body

**cybernetics** /,saɪbə'netɪks/ *noun* the study of the mechanics of human or electronic machine movements, and the way in which electronic devices can be made to work and imitate human actions

**cyberspace** /'saɪbəspets/ *noun* the world in which computers and people interact, normally via the Internet

**cybersquatting** /'saɪbə,skwɒtɪŋ/ *noun* act by which someone registers a website address, normally a trademark or brand name, then tries to sell the name to the rightful owner (NOTE: Although not yet illegal in most countries, court cases almost always find in favour of the company trying to recover its name. For example if you registered the domain name 'windows.com' then tried to sell this back to Microsoft Corp. you would be guilty of cybersquatting.)

**cyberterrorism** /'saɪbə,terəɪz(ə)m/ *noun* terrorist activities that use the Internet to damage complex electronic systems or the data they contain

'There were some instances of war-related hacking over the past few weeks, but nothing that would be considered cyberterrorism.'  
[*The Guardian*]

**cyberwoozeing** /'saɪbə,wu:z(ə)lɪŋ/ *noun* the practice of gathering data from the computer of a visitor to a website without his or her knowledge or authorisation

**cycle** /'saɪk(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** the period of time when something leaves its original position and then returns to it **2.** one completed operation in a repeated process

**cyclic** /'saɪklɪk, 'saɪklɪk/ *adjective* that is repeated regularly

**cyclic redundancy check** /,saɪklɪk rɪ 'dʌndənsi ˌtʃek/ *noun* an error detection check used in modem communications and many file transfer protocols that looks at one bit in every n bits and compares this with the original to see if an error has occurred in the last n bits. Abbr **CRC**

**cyclorama** /,saɪkləʊ'rɑ:mə/ *noun* a large, curved, white backdrop positioned at the back of a stage or set (*film*)

**cylinder** /'saɪlɪndə/ *noun* **1.** a group of tracks on a disk **2.** the tracks in a multi-disk device that can be accessed without moving the read/write head

**cylindrical** /sɪ'lɪndrɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* shaped like a cylinder

**cypher** /'saɪfə/ *noun* another spelling of **cipher**

# D

**D1 videotape** *noun* a 19mm videotape format used for professional, digital recordings

**DA** *abbr* desk accessory

**DAC** /,di: ei 'si:/ *noun* a circuit that outputs an analog signal that is proportional to the input digital number, and so converts a digital input to an analog form ○ *Speech is output from the computer via a D/A converter.* Full form **digital to analog converter**. Also called **D to A converter, d/a converter**

**d/a converter** /,di: tʊ ei kən'vɜ:zɪtə/ *noun* same as **DAC**

**DAD** *noun* a method of recording sound by converting and storing signals in a digital form on magnetic disk. Full form **digital audio disk**

**daemon** /'di:mən/ *noun* (in a UNIX system) a utility program that performs its job automatically without the knowledge of the user

**daisy chain** /'deɪzi tʃeɪn/ *noun* a method of connecting equipment with a single cable passing from one machine or device to the next, rather than separate cables to each device

**damage** /'dæmɪdʒ/ *verb* to harm ○ *The faulty read/write head appears to have damaged the disks.*

**DAO** /,di: ei 'əʊ/ *noun* a programming interface provided with many of Microsoft's database applications that allow the developer to access Jet or ODBC compatible data sources. Full form **data access objects**

**darkroom** /'dɑ:kru:m/ *noun* a special room with no light, where photographic film can be developed

**dark trace tube** /,dɑ:k 'treɪs ,tju:b/ *noun* a CRT with a dark image on a bright background

**dash** /dæʃ/ *noun* a short line in printing

**DASH** *noun* a sound tape recording system (film) Full form **digital audio stationary head**

**DAT** /,di: ei 'ti:/ *noun* a compact cassette, smaller than an audio cassette, that provides a system of recording sound as digital information onto magnetic tape with very high-quality reproduction. Full form **digital audio tape** (NOTE: It is also used as a high-capacity tape backup system that can store 1.3 GB of data; sound is recorded at a sam-

ple rate of either 32, 44.1 or 48 KHz to provide up to two hours of CD-quality sound.)

**data** /'deɪtə/ *noun* a collection of facts made up of numbers, characters and symbols, stored on a computer in such a way that it can be processed by the computer

COMMENT: Data is different from information in that it is facts stored in machine-readable form. When the facts are processed by the computer into a form that can be understood by people, the data becomes information.

**data access objects** /,deɪtə 'æksɛs ,ɒbjɛkts/ *plural noun* full form of **DAO**

**data analysis** /,deɪtə ə'næləɪsɪs/ *noun* the process of extracting information and results from data

**databank** /'deɪtəbæŋk/ *noun* 1. a large amount of data stored in a structured form 2. a store of personal records in a computer

**database** /'deɪtəbeɪs/ *noun* an integrated collection of files of data stored in a structured form in a large memory, which can be accessed by one or more users at different terminals

'This information could include hypertext references to information held within a computer database, or spreadsheet formulae.' [*Computing*]

**database administrator** /,deɪtəbeɪs əd'mɪnɪstreɪtə/ *noun* full form of **DBA**

**database management system** /,deɪtəbeɪs 'mænɪdʒmənt ,sɪstəm/, **database manager** /,deɪtəbeɪs 'mænɪdʒə/ *noun* full form of **DBMS**

**database server** /,deɪtəbeɪs 'sɜ:və/ *noun* a piece of database management software that runs on a server computer on a network and is used in a client-server system (NOTE: The user works with client software that formats and displays data that is retrieved by the server software.)

**database system** /'deɪtəbeɪs ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a series of programs that allows the user to create, modify, manage and use a database and that often includes features such as a report writer or graphical output of data

**data bus connector** /,deɪtə 'bʌs kə ,nektə/ *noun* full form of **DB connector**

**data capture** /'deɪtə ,kæptʃə/ *noun* the act of obtaining data, either by keyboarding or scanning, or often automatically from a recording device or peripheral ○ *In July this year it signed a two-year outsourcing and*

*disaster-recovery deal ... for the operation and management of its Birmingham-based data-capture facility. [Computing]*

**data carrier detect** /,deɪtə ˌkæriə di 'tekt/ *noun* full form of **DCD**

**data cleaning** /'deɪtə ˌkliːnɪŋ/ *noun* the process of removing errors from data

**data communications** /,deɪtə kə ˌmjuːnɪ'keɪf(ə)nz/ *noun* the transmission and reception of data rather than speech or images

**data communications equipment** /,deɪtə kə ˌmjuːnɪ'keɪf(ə)nz ɪˌkwɪpmənt/ *noun* equipment, e.g. a modem, that receives or transmits data. Abbr **DCE**

**data compression** /,deɪtə kəm 'preʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a means of reducing the size of blocks of data by removing spaces, empty sections and unused material

**data corruption** /'deɪtə kə ˌrʌʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the introduction of errors into data through noise or faulty equipment ○ *Data corruption occurs each time the motor is switched on.*

**data delimiter** /'deɪtə diːlɪmɪtə/ *noun* a special symbol or character that marks the end of a file or data item

**data description language** /,deɪtə di 'skriːpʃən ˌlæŋɡwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **DDL**

**data dictionary/directory** /,deɪtə ˌdɪkʃən(ə)rɪ daɪ'rekt(ə)rɪ/ *noun* full form of **DD/D**

**data element** /'deɪtə ˌelɪmənt/ *noun* same as **data item**

**data encryption** /'deɪtə ɪnˌkriːptʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of encrypting data using a cipher system

**data encryption standard** /,deɪtə ɪn 'kriːptʃən ˌstændəd/ *noun* full form of **DES**

**data entry** /,deɪtə 'entri/ *noun* a method of entering data into a system, usually using a keyboard but also direct from disks after data preparation

**data error** /'deɪtə ˌerə/ *noun* an error due to incorrect or illegal data

**data flow diagram** /'deɪtə fləʊ ˌdaɪəgræm/ *noun* full form of **DFD**

**data format** /'deɪtə ˌfɔːmət/ *noun* the set of rules defining the way in which data is stored or transmitted

**datagram** /'deɪtəgræm/ *noun* a packet of information in a packet switching system that contains its destination address and route

**data independence** /,deɪtə ˌɪndɪ 'pendəns/ *noun* a structure of a database which can be changed without affecting what the user sees

**data input** /,deɪtə ˈɪnpʊt/ *noun* data transferred into a computer, from an I/O port or peripheral

**data input bus** /,deɪtə ˈɪnpʊt ˌbʌs/ *noun* full form of **DIB 1**

**data integrity** /,deɪtə ɪn'tegriːti/ *noun* the state of data which has not been corrupted by damage or errors

**data item** /'deɪtə ˌaɪtəm/ *noun* one unit of data, e.g. the quantity of items in stock, a person's name, age or occupation. Also called **data element**

**data link** /'deɪtə ɪŋk/ *noun* a connection between two devices to allow the transmission of data

**data link layer** /'deɪtə ɪŋk ˌleɪə/ *noun* the second layer in the ISO/OSI defined network that sends packets of data to the next link and deals with error correction (NOTE: This layer is normally split into two further sub-layers, medium access control and logical link control (LLC).)

**data management** /'deɪtə ˌmæniʃmənt/ *noun* maintenance and upkeep of a database

**data migration** /,deɪtə maɪ'greɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the process of moving data between a high priority or on-line device to a low-priority or off-line device

**data mining** /'deɪtə ˌmaɪnɪŋ/ *noun* the task of searching a database in order to find previously unknown patterns and relationships within the data it contains, e.g. searching a retailer's database to find customers who share an interest in a particular activity

'Both companies specialise in decision support, statistical analysis and data mining.'  
[*The Guardian*]

**data processing** /,deɪtə ˈprəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* the process of selecting and examining data in a computer to produce information in a special form. Abbr **dp**, **DP**

**data processing manager** /,deɪtə ˈprəʊsesɪŋ ˌmæniʃɜː/ *noun* a person who runs a computer department

**data projector** /'deɪtə prəˌdʒektə/ *noun* a device that uses three large coloured lights, red, green and blue, to project a colour image output from a computer onto a large screen

**data protection** /'deɪtə prəˌtektʃən/ *noun* the procedure of making sure that data is not copied by an unauthorised user

**Data Protection Act** /,deɪtə prəˌtektʃən ˌækt/ *noun* a piece of legislation passed in 1984 in the UK that requires any owner of a database that contains personal details to register

**data rate** /'deɪtə reɪt/ *noun* the maximum rate at which data is processed or transmitted

in a synchronous system, usually equal to the system clock rate

**data security** /'deɪtə sɪ,kjʊərɪti/ *noun* protection of data against corruption or unauthorised users

**dataset** /'deɪtəset/ *noun* *US* same as **modem**

**data storage** /'deɪtə ,stɔːrɪdʒ/ *noun* a medium able to store data, especially in large quantities

**data stream** /'deɪtə stri:m/ *noun* a set of data transmitted serially one bit or character at a time

**data structure** /'deɪtə ,strʌktʃə/ *noun* a number of related items that are treated as one by the computer (NOTE: For example in an address book record, the name, address, and telephone number form separate entries that would be processed as one by the computer.)

**data tablet** /'deɪtə ,tæblət/ *noun* ▶ **graphics tablet**

**data terminal equipment** /'deɪtə ,tɜːmɪn(ə)l ɪ,kwɪpmənt/ *noun* full form of **DTE**

**data transfer rate** /,deɪtə 'trænsfɜː ,reɪt/ *noun* the rate at which data is moved from one point to another

**data transmission** /'deɪtə trænz ,mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of sending data from one location to another over a data link

**data type** /'deɪtə taɪp/ *noun* a category of data which can be stored in a register, e.g. a string or number

**data validation** /'deɪtə ,væɪlɪdeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of checking data for errors and relevance in a situation

**data warehouse** /'deɪtə ,weəhaʊs/ *noun* a database used for analysing the overall strategy of a business rather than its routine operations

**date** /deɪt/ *verb* to put a date on a document

**day** /deɪ/ *noun* the period of work from morning to night □ **to work an eight-hour day** to spend eight hours at work each day □

**day shift** shift which works during the daylight hours such as from 8 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

**dB** *abbr* decibel

**DBA** /,di: bi: 'eɪ/ *noun* a person in charge of running and maintaining a database system. Full form **database administrator**

**DB connector** /,di: bi: kə'nektə/ *noun* a D-shape connector normally with two rows of pins used to connect devices that transfer data ○ *The most common DB connectors are DB-9, DB-25 and DB-50 with 9, 25 and 50 connections respectively.* Full form **data bus connector**

**DBMS** /,di: bi: em 'es/ *noun* a series of programs that allow the user to create and modify databases easily. Full form **database management system**. Also called **database manager**

**DBS** *abbr* direct broadcast satellite

**DC** *abbr* direct current

**DCA** /,di: si: 'eɪ/ *noun* a document format defined by IBM that allows documents to be exchanged between computer systems. Full form **document content architecture**

**DCC** /,di: si: 'si:/ *noun* a magnetic tape in a compact cassette box that is used to store computer data or audio signals in a digital format. Full form **digital compact cassette**

**DCD** /,di: si: 'di:/ *noun* an RS232C signal from a modem to a computer indicating a carrier is being received ○ *The call is stopped if the software does not receive a DCD signal from the modem.* Full form **data carrier detect**

**DCE** *abbr* data communications equipment

**DCOM** /'di: kɒm/ *noun* an enhanced version of the COM specification that allows applications to access objects over a network or over the Internet. Full form **distributed component object model**

**DCT** *abbr* discrete cosine transform

**DD** *abbr* double density

**DD/D** /,di: di: 'di:/ *noun* a piece of software which gives a list of types and forms of data contained in a database. Full form **data dictionary/directory**

**DDE** /,di: di: 'i:/ *noun* **1.** the keying in of data directly onto disk. Full form **direct data entry** **2.** a method in which two active programs can exchange data, one program asking the operating system to create a link between the two programs. Full form **dynamic data exchange**

**DDL** /,di: di: 'el/ *noun* a part of database system software which describes the structure of the system and data ○ *Many of DDL's advantages come from the fact that it is a second generation language.* Full form **data description language**

**DDP** /,di: di: 'pi:/ *noun* the process of deriving information from data which is kept in different places. Full form **distributed data processing**

**DDR** *noun* television transmission by satellite (*film*) Full form **direct domestic reception**

**dead** /ded/ *adjective* **1.** referring to a computer or piece of equipment that does not function **2.** (room or space) that has no acoustical reverberation

**deadline** /'dedlaɪn/ *noun* date by which something has to be done ○ *we've missed our*

*October 1st deadline* □ **to meet a deadline** to finish something in time ○ *we've missed our October 1st deadline*

**dealer** /'di:lə/ *noun* a person who buys and sells ○ *Always buy hardware from a recognised dealer.*

**de-bounce** /di: 'baʊns/ *noun* the process of preventing a single touch on a key from giving multiple key contact

**debug** /di: 'bʌg/ *verb* to test a program and locate and correct any faults or errors ○ *They spent weeks debugging the system.* (NOTE: **debugging** – **debugged**)

'Further questions, such as how you debug an application built from multi-sourced software to run on multisourced hardware, must be resolved at this stage.' [Computing]

**DEBUG** /di: 'bʌg/ *noun* an MS-DOS software utility that allows a user to view the contents of binary files and assemble small assembly-language programs

**debugger** /di: 'bʌgə/ *noun* a piece of software that helps a programmer find faults or errors in a program

**decade** /'dekeɪd/ *noun* a set of ten items or events

**decay** /dɪ 'keɪ/ *noun* the process of a sound signal fading away ○ *With a short decay, it sounds very sharp.*

**decentralised computer network** /di: ,sentrəlaɪzɪd kəm'pjʊ:tə/, **decentralized computer network** *noun* a network where the control is shared between several computers

**deci-** /desɪ/ *prefix* one tenth of a number

**decibel** /'desɪbel/ *noun* a unit for measuring the power of a sound or the strength of a signal. Abbr **dB** (NOTE: The decibel scale is logarithmic.)

**decimal** /'desɪm(ə)l/ *noun* □ **correct to three places of decimals** correct to three figures after the decimal point (e.g. 3.485)

**decimalisation** /,desɪm(ə)laɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/, **decimalization** *noun* the process of changing to a decimal system

**decimalise** /'desɪm(ə)laɪz/ *verb* to change to a decimal system

**decimal point** /,desɪm(ə)l 'pɔɪnt/ *noun* a dot which indicates the division between the whole unit digits and the smaller (fractional) parts of a decimal number (such as 4.75)

**decimal system** /'desɪm(ə)l ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a number system using the digits 0–9

**decimal tabbing** /,desɪm(ə)l 'tæbɪŋ/ *noun* the process of adjusting a column of numbers so that the decimal points are vertically aligned

**decimal tab key** /,desɪm(ə)l 'tæb ,ki:/ *noun* a key for entering decimal numbers, us-

ing a word-processor, so that the decimal points are automatically vertically aligned

**decipher** /dɪ'saɪfə/ *verb* to convert an encrypted or encoded message (**ciphertext**) into the original message (**plaintext**). Opposite **encipher**

**decode** /di:'kəʊd/ *verb* to translate encoded data back to its original form (NOTE: **decodes** – **decoding** – **decoded**)

**decoder** /di:'kəʊdə/ *noun* a program or device used to convert data into another form

**decoding** /di:'kəʊdɪŋ/ *noun* the process of converting encoded data back into its original form

**decompression** /,di:kəm'preʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of expanding a compressed image or data file so that it can be viewed

**decrypt** /di:'krɪpt/ *verb* to convert encrypted data back into its original form ○ *Decryption is done using hardware to increase speed.*

**decryption** /di:'krɪpʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the converting of encrypted data back into its original form ○ *Decryption is done using hardware to increase speed.*

**dedicated** /'dedɪkeɪtɪd/ *adjective* referring to a program, procedure or system that is reserved for a particular use ○ *There's only one dedicated graphics workstation in this network.*

'The PBX is changing from a dedicated proprietary hardware product into an open application software development platform.' [Computing]

**deep field** /,di:p 'fi:ld/ *noun* a lens or camera that has very close and very distant objects in focus at the same time (*film*) ◊ **deep focus**

**deep focus** /,di:p 'fəʊkəs/ *noun* a type of cinematography where objects at a great distance and objects very close to the camera are all in focus (*film*) ◊ **deep field**

**de facto standard** /,deɪ 'fæktəʊ 'stændəd/ *noun* a design, method or system which is so widely used that it has become a standard but has not been officially recognised by any committee

**default** /dɪ'fɔ:lt/ *adjective* a predefined course of action or value that is assumed unless the operator alters it ■ *noun* a value that is used by a program if the user does not make any changes to the settings ○ *An application may ask the user if he wants to install the application to the default, i.e. the C:\APP directory – the user can accept or change this.*

**default palette** /dɪ'fɔ:lt 'pælət/ *noun* the range of colours used on a particular system if no other is specified (NOTE: A user or application can often change the default pal-

ette to create an individual range of colours.)

**default rate** /dɪˈfɔːlt ˈreɪt/ *noun* the baud rate in a modem that is used if no other is selected

**default response** /dɪˈfɔːlt rɪˈspɒns/ *noun* a value that is used if the user does not enter new data

**default value** /dɪˈfɔːlt ˈvæljuː/ *noun* a value which is automatically used by the computer if no other value has been specified  
 ○ *Screen width has a default value of 80.*

‘The default values of columns cannot be set in the database schema, so different applications can trash the database.’ [Computing]

**defect** /ˈdɪfekt/ *noun* something which is wrong or which stops a machine from working properly  
 ○ *a computer defect or a defect in the computer*

**defective** /dɪˈfektɪv/ *adjective* faulty or not working properly  
 ○ *The machine broke down because of a defective cooling system.*

**define** /dɪˈfaɪn/ *verb* **1.** to assign a value to a variable  
 ○ *All the variables were defined during initialisation.* **2.** to assign the characteristics of processes or data to something  
 (NOTE: **defines** – **defining** – **defined**)

**definition** /ˌdefɪˈnɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the ability of a screen to display fine detail

**deflect** /dɪˈflekt/ *verb* to change the direction of an object or beam

**deflection yokes** /dɪˈfleksj(ə)n jəʊkz/ *plural noun* magnetic coils around a cathode ray tube used to control the position of the picture beam on the screen

**defocus** /dɪˈfəʊkəs/ *verb* to deliberately focus the lens at a point very close to the camera, leaving the background action out-of-focus; usually used for special effects

**DEFRAG** /ˈdiːfræg/ *noun* a defragmentation utility supplied with MS-DOS

**defragmentation** /ˌdiːfrægmənt ˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the reorganisation of files scattered across non-contiguous sectors on a hard disk

COMMENT: When a file is saved to disk, it is not always saved in adjacent sectors, increasing retrieval time. Defragmentation moves files back into adjacent sectors so that the read head does not have to move far across the disk, decreasing retrieval time and thus increasing performance.

**degradation** /ˌdegrəˈdeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the loss of picture or signal quality **2.** the loss of processing capacity because of a malfunction

**dejagging** /diːˈdʒæɡɪŋ/ *noun* same as **anti-aliasing**

**DEL** /del/ *noun* an MS-DOS command to delete a file  
 ○ *To delete all files with the ex-*

*ension BAK, use the command DEL \*.BAK.*  
 Full form **delete**

**delay** /dɪˈleɪ/ *noun* time when something is later than planned  
 ○ *There was a delay of thirty seconds before the printer started printing.* ■ *verb* to cause something to have a delay

**delete** /dɪˈli:t/ *verb* **1.** to cut out words in a document **2.** to remove text, data or a file from a storage device  
 ○ *The word-processor allows us to delete the whole file by pressing this key.* Full form of **DEL** (NOTE: **deletes** – **deleting** – **deleted**)

COMMENT: When you delete a file, you are not actually erasing it but making its space on disk available for another file by instructing the operating system to ignore the file by inserting a special code in the file header and deleting the entry from the directory.

**deletion** /dɪˈliːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the making of a cut in a document  
 ○ *The editors asked the author to make several deletions in the last chapter.* **2.** a piece of text removed from a document

**delimited-field file** /dɪˌlɪmɪtɪd fiːld ˈfaɪl/ *noun* a data file in which each field is separated by a special character, often a tab character or comma, and each record is separated by a carriage return or a second special character

**delimiter** /dɪˈlɪmɪtə/ *noun* **1.** a character or symbol used to indicate to a language or program the start or end of data or a record or information **2.** the boundary between an instruction and its argument

**delivery system** /dɪˌlɪv(ə)rɪ ˈsɪstəm/ *noun* the combination of hardware and software required to play a particular multimedia title

**delta frame** /ˈdeltə freɪm/ *noun* a video frame that contains only the pixel information that has changed since the last frame of the sequence, used to save space when storing video on disk

**delta YUV** /ˌdeltə ˈwaɪ juː ˈviː/ *noun* full form of **DYUV**

**demagnetise, demagnetize** *verb* to remove stray or unwanted magnetic fields from a disk, tape or recording head (NOTE: **demagnetises** – **demagnetising** – **demagnetised**)

**demagnetiser, demagnetizer** *noun* a device which demagnetises a disk, tape or recording head  
 ○ *He used the demagnetiser to degauss the tape heads.*

**demand** /dɪˈmɑːnd/ *noun* asking for something to be done ■ *verb* to ask for something and expect to get it  
 ○ *She demanded her money back.*

**demand protocol architecture** /dɪˌmɑːndˌprəʊtəkəlˈɑːkɪtektʃə/ *noun* full form of **DPA**

**demarkation** /ˌdiːmɑːˈkeɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the process of showing the difference between two areas

**demo** /ˈdeməʊ/ *noun* same as **demonstration**

**democratic network** /ˌdeməkrætɪkˈnetwɜːk/ *noun* a synchronised network in which each station has equal priority

**demodulation** /diːˌmɒdjuˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the recovery of the original signal from a received modulated carrier wave

**demodulator** /diˈmɒdjuleɪtə/ *noun* a circuit that recovers a signal from a modulated carrier wave

**demonstrate** /ˈdemənˌstreɪt/ *verb* to show how something works ○ *He demonstrated the file management program.*

**demonstration** /ˌdemənˈstreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of showing how something works. Also called **demo**

**demultiplex** /diˈmʌltɪpleks/ *verb* to split one channel into the original signals that were combined at source

**demultiplexor** /diˈmʌltɪpleksə/ *noun* a device that separates out the original multiplexed signals from one channel

**denary notation** /ˈdiːnəriˌnəʊˌteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the number system in base ten, using the digits 0 to 9

**denial-of-service attack** /dɪˌnaɪəl əvˈsɜːvɪs əˌtæk/ *noun* an illegal action in which a great deal of data is sent to a computer system from many sources at the same in an attempt to overload the system and put it out of action

**dense index** /ˌdensˈɪndeks/ *noun* a database index containing an address or entry for every item or entry in the database

**densiometer** /ˌdensɪˈɒmɪtə/ *noun* a photographic device used to measure the density of a photograph

**density** /ˈdensɪti/ *noun* **1.** the amount of data that can be packed into a space **2.** the amount of light that a photographic negative blocks **3.** the darkness of a printed image or text

‘...diode lasers with shorter wavelengths will make doubling of the bit and track densities possible’ [Byte]

COMMENT: Scanner software produces various shades of grey by using different densities or arrangements of black and white dots and/or different size dots.

**dependent** /dɪˈpendənt/ *adjective* which is variable because of a particular factor ○ *A process that is dependent on the result of another process.*

**deposit** /dɪˈpɒzɪt/ *noun* **1.** a thin layer of a substance which is put on a surface **2.** a print-out of the contents of all or a selected area of memory ■ *verb* to coat a surface with a thin layer of a substance

**deposition** /ˌdepəˈzɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a process by which a surface of a semiconductor is coated with a thin layer of a substance

**depth cueing** /ˈdepθˌkjuːɪŋ/ *noun* (in graphics) a method of changing the hue and colour of an object to reflect its depth in a three-dimensional scene

**depth of field** /ˌdepθ əvˈfiːld/ *noun* the amount of a scene that will be in focus when photographed with a certain aperture setting

**depth of focus** /ˌdepθ əvˈfəʊkəs/ *noun* the position of film behind a camera lens that will result in a sharp image

**derive** /dɪˈraɪv/ *verb* to come from a source ○ *The results are derived from the raw data.* (NOTE: **derives** – **deriving** – **derived**)

**DES** /ˌdiːiːˈes/ *noun* a standard developed by the US Government for a high-security block data cipher system. Full form **data encryption standard**. Compare **public key encryption**

**descender** /dɪˈsendə/ *noun* a part of a printed letter that is below the line

**de-scramble** /diːˈskræmb(ə)l/ *verb* to re-assemble an original message or signal from its scrambled form

**de-scrambler** /diːˈskræmblə/ *noun* a device which changes a scrambled message back to its original, clear form

**describe** /dɪˈskraɪb/ *verb* to say what someone or something is like ○ *The leaflet describes the services the company can offer.*

**description** /dɪˈskrɪpʃən/ *noun* words which show what something is like

**descriptor** /dɪˈskrɪptə/ *noun* a code used to identify a filename or program name or to pass code to a file

**design** /dɪˈzaɪn/ *noun* the planning or drawing of a product before it is built or manufactured ■ *verb* to plan or to draw something before it is built or manufactured ○ *He designed a new chip factory.*

**designer** /dɪˈzaɪnə/ *noun* a person who designs ○ *She is the designer of the new computer.*

**desk accessory** /ˈdesk əkˌsesəri/ *noun* an add-in Apple Mac utility that enhances the system ○ *We have installed several desk accessories that help us manage our fonts.* Abbr **DA**

**desktop** /ˈdesktpɒp/ *adjective* able to be placed on a desk ■ *noun* a GUI workspace that is a graphical representation of a real-life

desktop, with icons for telephone, diary, calculator, filing cabinet

COMMENT: A desktop makes it easier for a new user to operate a computer, since he or she does not have to type in commands but instead can point at icons on the desktop using a mouse.

**desktop background** /,deskɒp 'bækgraʊnd/ *noun* a pattern or image that is displayed by Windows as a backdrop

**desktop icons** /,deskɒp 'aɪkɒnz/ *plural noun* icons that are displayed on the desktop

**desktop media** /,deskɒp 'mi:diə/ *plural noun* a combination of presentation graphics, desktop publishing and multimedia (NOTE: The term was originally used by Apple.)

**desktop publishing** /,deskɒp 'pʌblɪʃɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **DTP**

'...desktop publishing or the ability to produce high-quality publications using a minicomputer, essentially boils down to combining words and images on pages' [Byte]

**Desktop taskbar** /,deskɒp 'tɑ:skbɑ:/ *noun* a status bar that is normally displayed along the bottom of the screen in Windows 95

**desktop video** /,deskɒp 'vɪdiəʊ/ *noun* full form of **DTV**

**despatch** /dɪ'spætʃ/ *noun* another spelling of **dispatch**

**de-spun antenna** /,di spʌn æn'tenə/ *noun* a satellite aerial that always points to the same place on the earth

**DESQview™** *noun* software which provides multitasking functionality for an MS-DOS system and allows more than one program to run at the same time

**destination** /,destɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a place to which something is sent or to which something is going; location to which a data is sent

**destructive cursor** /dɪ'strʌktɪv 'kɜ:ɪsə/ *noun* a cursor that erases the text as it moves over it ○ *Reading the screen becomes difficult without a destructive cursor.*

**destructive read** /dɪ'strʌktɪv ri:d/ *noun* a read operation in which the stored data is erased as it is retrieved

**detail** /'di:teɪl/ *noun* a small part of a description ■ *verb* to list in detail ○ *The catalogue details the shipping arrangements for customers.*

**detailed** /'di:teɪld/ *adjective* in detail

**detect** /dɪ'tekt/ *verb* to sense something (usually something very slight) ○ *The equipment can detect faint signals from the transmitter.*

**detection** /dɪ'tekʃən/ *noun* the process of detecting something ○ *The detection of the cause of the fault is proving difficult.*

**detector** /dɪ'tektə/ *noun* a device which can detect

**determine** /dɪ'tɜ:mɪn/ *verb* to fix or to arrange or to decide ○ *to determine prices or quantities* ○ *conditions still to be determined*

**Deutsche Industrienorm** /,dɔɪtʃə 'ɪndʊstri:nɔ:m/ *noun* full form of **DIN**

**develop** /dɪ'veləp/ *verb* **1.** to plan and produce ○ *to develop a new product* **2.** to apply a chemical process to photographic film and paper to produce an image

**developing** /dɪ'veləpɪŋ/ *noun* a method by which an invisible image in an exposed photographic film is made permanently visible (*film*)

**development** /dɪ'veləpmənt/ *noun* the process of planning the production of a new product

**development software** /dɪ'veləpmənt ,sɒftweə/ *noun* a suite of programs that helps a programmer write, edit, compile and debug new software

**device** /dɪ'vaɪs/ *noun* a small useful machine or piece of equipment

'Users in remote locations can share ideas on the Liveboard through the use of a wireless pen-input device and network connections.' [Computing]

**device driver** /dɪ'vaɪs ,draɪvə/ *noun* same as **driver**

**device handler** /dɪ,vaɪs 'hændlə/ *noun* same as **driver**

**device independent bitmap** /dɪ,vaɪs ,ɪndɪpəndənt 'bɪtmæp/ *noun* full form of **DIB 2**

**devise** /dɪ'vaɪz/ *verb* to plan or build a system ○ *They devised a cheap method to avoid the problem.* (NOTE: **devises** – **devising** – **devised**)

**Dewey decimal classification** /,dju:ɪ ,desɪm(ə)l ,kleɪsɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a library cataloguing system using classes and subclasses that are arranged in groups of ten

**DFD** /,di: ef 'di:z/ *noun* a diagram used to describe the movement of data through a system. Full form **data flow diagram**

**DGIS** /,di: dʒi: aɪ 'es/ *noun* a standard graphics interface for video adapters, primarily used with the 340x0 range of graphics chips. Full form **direct graphics interface standard**

**DHCP** /,di: si: ɛrtʃ 'pi:z/ *noun* an TCP/IP protocol that is used to assign an Internet address to workstations and servers that are nodes in a network. Full form **dynamic host configuration protocol** (NOTE: A special server running DHCP software manages the process of assigning addresses. A client computer can then ask this server for the address of another node on the network.)

**Dhrystone benchmark** /ˌdraɪstəʊn 'bentʃmɑ:k/ *noun* a benchmarking system developed to try and measure and compare the performance of computers

**DIA/DCA** /ˌdi: aɪ eɪ ˌdi: si: 'eɪ/ *noun* a standard method for the transmission and storage of documents, text and video over networks. It is part of the IBM SNA range of standards. Full form **document interchange architecture/document content architecture**

**diagnosis** /ˌdaɪəg'nəʊsɪs/ *noun* the process of finding of a fault or discovering the cause of a fault

**diagnostic aid** /ˌdaɪəgnəstɪk 'eɪd/ *noun* a hardware or software device that helps to find faults

**diagnostics** /ˌdaɪəg'nəstɪks/ *plural noun* functions or tests that help a user find faults in hardware or software

**diagonal cut** /daɪ'ægən(ə)l kʌt/ *noun* a method of joining two pieces of film or magnetic tape together by cutting the ends at an angle so making the join less obvious

**diagram** /ˌdaɪəgræm/ *noun* a drawing which shows something as a plan or a map

**diagrammatically** /ˌdaɪəgrə'mætɪkli/ *adverb* using a diagram ○ *The chart shows the sales pattern diagrammatically.*

**dial** /ˌdaɪəl/ *verb* to call a telephone number on a telephone ○ *to dial a number*

'Customers will be able to choose a wide variety of telephony products, from basic auto-dial programs to call-centre applications.' [Computing]

**dialect** /ˌdaɪəlekt/ *noun* a slight variant of a standard language ○ *This manufacturer's dialect of BASIC is a little different to the one I'm used to.*

**dialling** /ˌdaɪəlɪŋ/ *noun* the act of calling a telephone number. Abbr **IDD** (NOTE: no plural)

'Customers will be able to choose a wide variety of telephony products, from basic auto-dial programs to call-centre applications.' [Computing]

**dialling code** /ˌdaɪəlɪŋ kəʊd/ *noun* a special series of numbers which you use to make a call to another town or country

**dialling tone** /ˌdaɪəlɪŋ təʊn/ *noun* a sound made by a telephone that indicates that the telephone system is ready for a number to be dialled

**dialogue** /ˌdaɪələʊg/, **dialog** *noun* conversation between people, or an instance of this

**dialup** *noun* an online information service that is accessed by dialling into the central computer. Also called **dial-up service**

**dial-up service** /ˌdaɪəl ʌp 'sɜ:vi:s/ *noun* same as **dialup**

**DIANE** /dar'æn/ *abbr* direct information access network for Europe

**diaphragm** /ˌdaɪəfræm/ *noun* 1. a thin flexible sheet that vibrates in response to sound waves to create an electrical signal, as in a microphone, or in response to electrical signals to create sound waves, as in a speaker 2. a mechanical device in a camera that varies the aperture size

**diapositive** /ˌdaɪə'pəʊzɪtɪv/ *noun* a positive transparency

**diary** /ˌdaɪəri/ *noun* a book in which you can write notes or appointments for each day of the week

**diary management** /ˌdaɪəri ˌmænɪdʒmənt/ *noun* a part of an office computer program, which records schedules and appointments

**diascope** /ˌdaɪəskəʊp/ *noun* a slide projector or device that projects slide images onto a screen

**DIB** /ˌdi: aɪ 'bi:/ *noun* 1. a bus used when transferring data from one section of a computer to another, as between memory and CPU. Full form **data input bus** 2. a file format for a Windows graphics image that consists of a header, colour table and bitmap data. Full form **device independent bitmap** (NOTE: It can be in 1-, 4-, 8- or 24-bit colour resolution.)

**dibit** /ˌdɪbɪt/ *noun* a digit made up of two binary bits

**dichotomising search** /daɪ 'kɒtəmaɪzɪŋ ˌsɜ:tʃ/, **dichotomizing search** *noun* same as **binary search**

**dichroic** /daɪ'krəʊɪk/ *adjective* referring to a chemical coating on the surface of a lens that reflects selectively different colours of light

**dichroic filter** /daɪ'krəʊɪk 'fɪltə/ *noun* a filter that allows certain wavelengths of light to pass and reflects back those that are not transmitted

**dichroic head** /daɪ'krəʊɪk 'hed/ *noun* a coloured light source that is based on adjustable dichroic filters, generally used with rostrum cameras and enlargers

**dictate** /dɪk'teɪt/ *verb* to say something to someone who then writes down your words □

**dictating machine** small tape recorder that is used to record notes or letters dictated by someone, which a secretary can play back and type out the text

**dictation** /dɪk'teɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the act of dictating □ **to take dictation** to write down what someone is saying □ **dictation speed** number of words per minute which a secretary can write down in shorthand

**dictionary** /ˌdɪkʃən(ə)rɪ/ *noun* 1. a book which lists words and meanings. † **spell-checker** 2. a data management structure that allows files to be referenced and sorted. †

**spellchecker 3.** a part of a spelling checker program consisting of a list of correctly spelt words against which the program checks a text (NOTE: The plural is **dictionaries**.)

**dielectric** /,daɪ'lektɹɪk/ *noun* insulating material that allows an electric field to pass, but not an electric current

**differ** /'dɪfə/ *verb* not to be the same as something else ○ *The two products differ considerably.*

**difference** /'dɪf(ə)rəns/ *noun* the way in which two things are not the same ○ *differences in price or price differences* ○ *What is the difference between these two products?*

**different** /'dɪf(ə)rənt/ *adjective* not the same ○ *Our product range is quite different in design from the Japanese models.*

**differential** /,dɪfə'renʃəl/ *adjective* which shows a difference

**DIF file** /'dɪf faɪl/ *noun* a file in a de facto standard that defines the way a spreadsheet, its formula and data are stored in a file

**diffraction** /dɪ'frækʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the bending or spreading of sound waves, radio or light which is caused by contact with objects (*film*)

**diffraction lens** /,dɪfrækʃ(ə)n 'lenz/ *noun* a lens which is used for special effects

**diffuse** /dɪ'fju:z/ *verb* to move or insert something over an area or through a substance ○ *The smoke from the faulty machine rapidly diffused through the building.*

**diffuser** /dɪ'fju:zə/ *noun* transparent frosted gel or glass which is attached to lamps in order to soften lighting (*film*)

**diffusion** /dɪ'fju:z(ə)n/ *noun 1.* a means of transferring doping materials into an integrated circuit substrate **2.** light dispersion

**digipulse telephone** /,dɪdʒɪpʌls 'telɪfəʊn/ *noun* a push button telephone dialling method using coded pulses

**digit** /'dɪdʒɪt/ *noun* a symbol or character that represents an integer that is smaller than the radix of the number base used ○ *a phone number with eight digits or an eight-digit phone number*

**digital** /'dɪdʒɪt(ə)l/ *adjective* which represents data or physical quantities in numerical form, especially using a binary system in computer related devices

'Xerox Parc's LCD breakthrough promises the digital equivalent of paper, by producing thin, low-cost flat displays with a 600dpi resolution.' [Computing]

**digital audio tape** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'ɔ:diəʊ ,teɪp/ *noun* full form of **DAT**

**digital camera** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'kæm(ə)rə/ *noun* a camera that uses a bank of CCD units to capture an image and store it digitally onto

a miniature disk or in RAM in the camera's body

**digital cash** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'kæʃ/ *noun* a method of paying for goods over the Internet (NOTE: There are several payment systems that use different models including a new bank account for each customer and an electronic purse that carries electronic tokens paid for by a customer.)

**digital cassette** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l kə'set/ *noun* a high quality magnetic tape housed in a standard size cassette with write protect tabs and a standard format leader

**digital certificate** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l sə'tɪfɪkət/ *noun* ♦ **certificate**

**digital channel** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'tʃæn(əl)/ *noun* a communications path that can only transmit data as digital signals. ♦ **ADC** (NOTE: Voice, image, or video signals have to be converted from analog to digital form before they can be transmitted over a digital channel.)

**digital compact cassette** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l ,kɒmpækt kə'set/ *noun* full form of **DCC**

**digital computer** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l kəm 'pju:tə/ *noun* a computer that processes data represented in discrete digital form

**digital data** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'deɪtə/ *noun* data represented in numerical, especially binary, form

**digital display** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l dɪ'spleɪ/ *noun* a video display unit that can only show a fixed number of colours or shades of grey

**digital divide** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l dɪ'vaɪd/ *noun* the state of inequality that exists between people who have access to modern information technology and those who do not, since the former have many more opportunities open to them than the latter

**digital encryption standard** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l ɪn'krɪptʃən ,stændəd/ *noun* the standard for encrypting private key data, which uses 56-bit encryption

**digital light processing** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'laɪt ,prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **DLP**

**digital logic** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'lɒdʒɪk/ *noun* the process of applying Boolean algebra to hardware circuits

**digitally** /'dɪdʒɪt(ə)li/ *adverb* (quantity represented) in digital form ○ *The machine takes digitally recorded data and generates an image.*

**digital monitor** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'mɒnɪtə/ *noun* a monitor that can only show a fixed number of colours or shades of grey

**digital multimeter** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'mʌltɪmɪ:tə/ *noun* a multimeter that uses a digital readout to indicate voltage, current or impedance levels. Abbr **DMM**

**digital nonlinear editing** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l nɒn,lɪniə 'edɪtɪŋ/ *noun* same as **nonlinear video editing**

**digital optical recording** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l ɒptɪk(ə)l rɪ'kɔ:ɪdɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **DOR**

**digital output** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'aʊtpʊt/ *noun* computer output in digital form

**digital plotter** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'plɒtə/ *noun* a plotter whose pen position is controllable in discrete steps, so that drawings in the computer can be output graphically

**digital read-out** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'ri:daʊt/ *noun* data displayed in numerical form, e.g. numbers on an LCD in a calculator

**digital representation** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l ,reprɪzən'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* data or quantities represented using digits

**digital resolution** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l ,rezə 'lu:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the smallest number that can be represented with one digit **2.** the value assigned to the least significant bit of a word or number

**digital signal** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'sɪɡn(ə)l/ *noun* an electrical signal that has only a number of possible states, as opposed to an analog signal, which is continuously variable

**digital signal level one** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l ,sɪɡn(ə)l ,lev(ə)l 'wʌn/ *noun* full form of **DS-1**

**digital signal level zero** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l ,sɪɡn(ə)l ,lev(ə)l 'zɪərəʊ/ *noun* full form of **DS-0**

**digital signalling** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'sɪɡnəlɪŋ/ *noun* control and dialling codes sent down a telephone line in digital form

**digital signal processing** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'sɪɡn(ə)l ,prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **DSP**

**digital signature** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'sɪɡnətʃə/ *noun* a unique identification code sent by a terminal or device in digital form

**digital speech** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'spi:tʃ/ *noun* **▶ speech synthesis**

**digital subscriber line** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l səb 'skraɪbə ,laɪn/ *noun* full form of **DSL**

**digital switching** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'swɪtʃɪŋ/ *noun* the process of operating communications connections and switches only by use of digital signals

**digital system** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'sɪstəm/ *noun* a system that deals with digital signals

**digital theatre system** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'θɪətə ,sɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **DTS**

**digital to analog converter** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l tə ,ænalɒɡ kən'vɜ:tə/ *noun* full form of **DAC**

**digital transmission system** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l trænzmɪʃ(ə)n ,sɪstəm/ *noun* communication achieved by converting analog signals to a digital form then modulating

and transmitting this and finally converting the signal back to analog form at the receiver

**digital TV** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l ti:'vi:z/ *noun* a television that can receive and decode television images and audio sent as digital data, then displayed on a standard screen

**digital versatile disc** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l ,vɜ:sətəɪl 'dɪsk/ *noun* full form of **DVD**

**digital video** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'vɪdɪəʊ/ *noun* a video recorded in digital form (NOTE: The output from a video camera is converted to digital form using either a digital camera or a frame grabber. The digital output is then usually compressed before being processed or transmitted or stored on videotape.)

**digital videodisc** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'vɪdɪəʊdɪsk/ *noun* full form of **DVD**

**digital video effects** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'vɪdɪəʊ ɪ,fekts/ *plural noun* full form of **DVE**

**digital video interactive** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'vɪdɪəʊ ,ɪntər'æktɪv/ *noun* full form of **DV-I**

**digital wallet** /,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'wɒlɪt/ *noun* a feature of web browsers that contains a unique personal digital signature and allows the user to pay for goods at online shops in many different ways, including credit card or digital cash (NOTE: A digital wallet makes it simpler and more secure to buy goods from online shops.)

**digitise** /'dɪdʒɪ,tʌɪz/ , **digitize** *verb* to change analog movement or signals into a digital form that can be processed by computers ○ We can digitise your signature to allow it to be printed with any laser printer. (NOTE: digitises – digitising – digitised)

'The contract covers fibre optic cable and Synchronous Digital Hierarchy transmission equipment to be used to digitize the telecommunications network.' [*Computergram*]

**digitised photograph** /,dɪdʒɪ,tʌɪzɪd ,fəʊtə'grɑ:f/ , **digitized photograph** *noun* an image or photograph that has been scanned to produce an analog signal which is then converted to digital form and stored or displayed on a computer

**digitiser, digitizer** *noun* same as **ADC**

**digitising pad** /'dɪdʒɪtʌɪzɪŋ ,pæd/ , **digitising tablet, digitizing pad, digitizing tablet** *noun* a sensitive surface that translates the position of a pen into numerical form, so that drawings can be entered into a computer

**digit place** /'dɪdʒɪt pleɪs/ , **digit position** /,dɪdʒɪt pə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the position of a digit within a number

**DIL** /,di: aɪ 'el/ *noun* full form **dual-in-line package**. same as **DIP**

**DIM** /,di: aɪ 'em/ *noun* software that allows a user to capture, store and index printed text in a digital form. Full form **document im-**

**age management** (NOTE: It usually works in conjunction with a scanner and a storage medium such as a recordable CD-ROM.)

**dimension** /daɪ'menʃən/ *noun* a measurement of size ○ *The dimensions of the computer are small enough for it to fit into a case.*

**dimensioning** /daɪ'menʃənɪŋ/ *noun* the definition of the size of something, especially an array or matrix ○ *Array dimensioning occurs at this line.*

**dimmer** /'dɪmə/ *noun* an electronic or electrical device which reduces the brightness of lights (*film*)

**DIN** /,di: aɪ 'en/ *noun* a German industry standards organisation known particularly for specifications for plugs and sockets. Full form **Deutsche Industrienorm**

**Dingbat™** /'dɪŋbæt/ *noun* a font that contains stars, bullets, symbols, images and drawings in place of characters ○ *To insert a copyright symbol, use the Dingbat font.*

**diode** /'daɪəʊd/ *noun* an electronic component that allows an electrical current to pass in one direction and not the other

**diopter** /daɪ'ɒptə/, **dioptr** *noun* a unit of measurement of the refractive power of a lens

**DIP** /,di: aɪ 'pi:/ *noun* **1.** a standard layout for integrated circuit packages using two parallel rows of connecting pins along each side. Full form **dual-in-line package** **2.** software that allows a user to capture, store and index printed text in a digital form

**diplex** /'dɪpleks/ *noun* the simultaneous transmission of two signals over the same line

**DIR** /,di: aɪ 'ɑ:/ *noun* a MS-DOS system command that displays a list of files stored on a disk. Full form **directory**

**direct** /daɪ'rekt/ *verb* to manage or to organise ■ *adverb* straight or with no third party involved

**direct change-over** /daɪ'rekt 'tʃeɪndʒ əʊvəl/ *noun* the process of switching from one computer to another in one go

**direct current** /dɪ'rekt 'kʌrənt/ *noun* a constant value electric current that flows in one direction. Abbr **DC**

**direct data entry** /daɪ'rekt ,deɪtə 'entri/ *noun* full form of **DDE 1**

**direct graphics interface standard** /daɪ'rekt ,græfɪks 'ɪntəfeɪs ,stændəd/ *noun* full form of **DGIS**

**direct image** /,daɪ'rekt 'ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* an image that is composed directly onto the screen rather than being composed off screen in memory before it is displayed

**direct information access network for Europe** /daɪ'rekt ,ɪnfəmeɪʃən ,ækses ,netwɜ:k fə 'juərəp/ *noun* a pack-

age of services offered over the Euronet network. Abbr **DIANE**

**direction** /daɪ'rekʃən/ *noun* the process of organising or managing ○ *He took over the direction of a software distribution group.* (NOTE: no plural in this meaning)

**directional** /daɪ'rekʃən(ə)l/ *adjective* which points in a certain direction

**directional antenna** /daɪ'rekʃən(ə)l æn'tenə/ *noun* an aerial that transmits or receives signals from a single direction

**directional pattern** /daɪ'rekʃən(ə)l 'pætən/ *noun* a chart of the response of an aerial or microphone to signals from various directions

**directive** /daɪ'rektɪv/ *noun* a programming instruction used to control the language translator or compiler

'...directives are very useful for selecting parts of the code for particular purposes' [*Personal Computer World*]

**directly** /daɪ'rekʃli/ *adverb* **1.** immediately **2.** straight or with no third party involved ○ *We deal directly with the manufacturer, without using a wholesaler.*

**direct memory access** /daɪ'rekt 'mem(ə)ri ,ækses/ *noun* full form of **DMA** ○ *direct memory access transfer between the main memory and the second processor*

**directory** /daɪ'rekt(ə)ri/ *noun* **1.** a method of organising the files stored on a disk, into groups of files or further sub-directories ○ *The disk directory shows file name, date and time of creation.* **2.** full form of **DIR** (NOTE: The plural is **directories**.)

COMMENT: A directory is best imagined as a folder within a drawer of a filing cabinet: the folder can contain files or other folders.

**directory services** /daɪ'rekt(ə)ri ,sɜ:vɪsɪz/ *noun* a method of listing all the users and resources linked to a network in a simple and easy-to-access way so that a user can locate another user by name rather than by a complex network address ○ *With directory services installed, it's much easier for our users to find and connect to the shared printers.*

**directory website** /də'rekt(ə)ri 'websaɪt/ *noun* a website that contains a list of other websites, usually organised into sections and often with a search feature (NOTE: Yahoo! ([www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com))) is one of the best-known directories and lists over half a million websites.)

**disable** /dɪs'eɪb(ə)l/ *verb* to prevent a device or function from operating ○ *He disabled the keyboard to prevent anyone changing the data.*

**disassembler** /,dɪsə'sembəl/ *noun* a piece of software that translates a machine

code program back into an assembly language form

**disc** /dɪsk/ *noun* another spelling of **disk** (NOTE: a spelling used only in the context of the **compact disc**, **videodisc**, and digital videodisc)

**discard** /dɪs'kɑ:d/ *verb* to throw out something which is not needed

**disclose** /dɪs'kləʊz/ *verb* to reveal details of something which were supposed to be secret

**disclosure** /dɪs'kləʊʒə/ *noun* the act of telling details about something

**disconnect** /,dɪskə'nekt/ *verb* to unplug or break a connection between two devices ○ *Do not forget to disconnect the cable before moving the printer.*

**discrete** /dɪ'skri:t/ *adjective* referring to values, events, energy or data which occur in small individual units ○ *The data word is made up of discrete bits.*

**discrete cosine transform** /dɪ'skri:t 'kəʊsaɪn træn'sfɔ:m/ *noun* an algorithm used to encode and compress images. Abbr **DCT**

**discrete multi-tone** /dɪ'skri:t 'mʌlti ,təʊn/ *noun* full form of **DMT**

**discretionary** /dɪ'skreʃ(ə)n(ə)rɪ/ *adjective* which can be used if wanted or not used if not wanted

**discretionary hyphen** /dɪ ,skreʃ(ə)n(ə)rɪ 'haɪf(ə)n/ *noun* a marker within a word indicating a position where an end of line hyphen may be inserted if part of the word needs to be carried down to the next line

**discussion group** /dɪ'skʌʃ(ə)n gru:p/ *noun* a feature of a website that lets any visitor write and post a message on a particular subject, which is displayed to any other visitors, who can then add their comments in reply to the message

**dish aerial** /'dɪʃ ,eəriəl/ *noun* a circular concave directional aerial used to pick up long distance transmissions ○ *We use a dish aerial to receive signals from the satellite.*

**disjointed** /dɪs'dʒɔɪntɪd/ *adjective* (set of information or data) that has no common subject

**disk** /dɪsk/ *noun* a flat circular plate coated with a substance that is capable of being magnetised. Data is stored on this by magnetising selective sections to represent binary digits. (NOTE: The alternative spelling **disc** is used only in the context of the **compact disc**, **videodisc**, and digital videodisc)

COMMENT: The disk surface is divided into tracks that can be accessed individually; magnetic tapes cannot be accessed in this way.

**disk drive** /'dɪsk draɪv/ *noun* a device that spins a magnetic disk and controls the position of the read/write head. Also called **disk unit**

**diskette** /dɪ'sket/ *noun* a light, flexible disk that can store data in a magnetic form, used in most personal computers

**diskless** /'dɪskləs/ *adjective* which does not use disks for data storage ○ *diskless system* ○ *They want to create a diskless workstation.*

**disk operating system** /,dɪsk 'ɒpəreɪtɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **DOS**

**disk unit** /dɪsk 'ju:nɪt/ *noun* same as **disk drive**

**disorderly close-down** /dɪs,ɔ:dəli 'kləʊz ,daʊn/ *noun* a system crash that did not provide enough warning to carry out an orderly close-down

**dispatch** /dɪ'spætʃ/, **despatch** /dɪ'spætʃ/ *noun* the action of sending material, information or messages to a location

**dispenser** /dɪ'spensə/ *noun* a device which gives out something □ **cash dispenser** device which gives money when a card is inserted and special instructions keyed in

**dispersion** /dɪ'spɜ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a logical function whose output is false if all inputs are true, and true if any input is false

**displacement** /dɪs'pleɪsmənt/ *noun* an offset used in an indexed address

**display** /dɪ'spleɪ/ *noun* a device on which information or images can be presented visually

**display attribute** /dɪ'spleɪ ,ætrɪbjʊ:t/ *noun* a variable which defines the shape, size or colour of text or graphics displayed

**display colour** /dɪ'spleɪ ,kʌlə/ *noun* the colour of characters in a videotext display system

**display cycle** /dɪ'spleɪ ,saɪk(ə)l/ *noun* the set of operations required to display an image on screen

**display format** /dɪ'spleɪ ,fɔ:mæt/ *noun* the number of characters that can be displayed on a screen, given as row and column lengths

**display mode** /dɪ'spleɪ məʊd/ *noun* a way of referring to the character set to be used, usually graphics or alphanumerics

**display resolution** /dɪ'spleɪ ,rezə 'lu:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the number of pixels per unit area that a display can clearly show

**display screen** /dɪ'spleɪ skri:n/ *noun* the physical part of a VDU, terminal or monitor, which allows the user to see characters or graphics (NOTE: It is usually a cathode ray tube, but sometimes LCD or LED displays are used.)

**display space** /dɪ'spleɪ speɪs/ *noun* memory or the amount of screen available to show graphics or text

**dissolve** /dɪ'zɒlv/ *noun* a special effect that is used in presentation graphics software or multimedia to fade out one image and fade in the next

**distort** /dɪ'stɔ:t/ *verb* to introduce unwanted differences between a signal input and output from a device

**distortion** /dɪ'stɔ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* unwanted differences in a signal before and after it has passed through a piece of equipment

**distribute** /dɪ'strɪbjʊ:t/ *verb* to send out data or information to users in a network or system (NOTE: **distributes** – **distributing** – **distributed**)

**distributed component object model** /dɪ'strɪbjʊtɪd kəm,pəʊnənt 'ɒbdʒekt ,mɒd(ə)l/ *noun* full form of **DCOM**

**distributed data processing** /dɪ'strɪbjʊtɪd 'deɪtə ,prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **DDP**

**distributed processing** /dɪ'strɪbjʊtɪd 'prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* a technique to enable processors or computers to share tasks amongst themselves most effectively, in which each processor completes allocated sub-tasks independently and the results are then recombined

**distributed system** /dɪ'strɪbjʊtɪd 'sɪstəm/ *noun* a computer system which uses more than one processor in different locations, all connected to a central computer

**distribution** /dɪ'strɪ'bju:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of sending information out, especially via a network

**distributor** /dɪ'strɪbjʊtə/ *noun* a company which sells goods for another company which manufactures them ○ *He is the UK distributor for a Japanese software house.*

'CORBA sets out a standard for how objects in applications, repositories or class libraries should make requests and receive responses across a distributed computing network' [*Computing*]

**dither** /'dɪðə/ *verb* **1.** to create a curve or line that looks smoother by adding shaded pixels beside the pixels that make up the image **2.** to create the appearance of a new colour by a pattern of coloured pixels that appear, to the eye, to combine and form a new, composite colour (e.g., a pattern of black and white dots will appear like grey)

**DIV** *noun* digital satellite data transmission in place of a voice channel. Full form **data in voice**

**divergence** /daɪ'vɜ:ʒəns/ *noun* the failure of light or particle beams to meet at a certain point

**diversity** /daɪ'vɜ:sɪtɪ/ *noun* coming from more than one source; being aimed at more than one use

**diverter** /daɪ'vɜ:tə/ *noun* a circuit or device that redirects a message or signal from one path or route to another

**divide** /dɪ'vaɪd/ *verb* to cut or to split into parts ○ *In the hyphenation program, long words are automatically divided at the end of lines.*

**division** /dɪ'vɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of dividing numbers

**DLL** /,di: el' el/ *noun* a library of utility programs that can be called from a main program. Full form **dynamic link library**

**DLP** /,di: el 'pi:/ *noun* a method of projecting an image using an electronic chip that contains thousands of tiny mirrors. Full form **digital light processing**

**DMA** /,di: em 'es/ *noun* a direct rapid link between a peripheral and a computer's main memory, which avoids accessing routines for each item of data read. Full form **direct memory access**

'A 32-bit DMA controller, 16-bit video I/O ports and I/O filters complete the chip.' [*Computing*]

**DMM** *abbr* digital multimeter

**DMT** /,di: em 'ti:/ *noun* technology that uses digital signal processors to create sound signals that carry digital video, sound, image and data over cable at high speed. Full form **discrete multi-tone**

**DNS** /,di: en 'es/ *noun* a distributed database used in an Internet system to map names to addresses. Full form **domain name system** (NOTE: For example you can use the name 'www.bloomsbury.com' to locate the Bloomsbury Publishing website rather than a complex network address (called the IP address).)

**DOC** *noun* equipment which provides a signal that reinstates lost information on a videotape when it has been temporarily misplaced (*film*) Full form **drop-out compensator**

**dock** /dɒk/ *verb* to connect a laptop computer to a special docking station on a desk to give it the same resources as a normal desktop

**docking station** /'dɒkɪŋ ,steɪʃ(ə)n/, **docking unit** /'dɒkɪŋ ,ju:nɪt/ *noun* a special base unit that allows a laptop computer to be inserted into it and provide the same resources as a normal desktop, e.g. mains power, a network adapter, connection to a full-size monitor and extra expansion ports

**document** /'dɒkjʊmənt/ *noun* a piece of paper with writing on it ■ *verb* /'dɒkjʊ ,ment/ to write a description of a process

**documentation** /ˌdɒkjʊmənt'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** all documents referring to something  
 ○ Please send all documentation concerning the product. **2.** the set of information, notes and diagrams that describe the function, use and operation of a piece of hardware or software

**document content architecture** /ˌdɒkjʊmənt 'kɒntent ˌɑ:kɪtektʃə/ *noun*  
 full form of **DCA**

**document image management** /ˌdɒkjʊmənt ɪmɪdʒ 'mænɪdʒmənt/ *noun*  
 full form of **DIM**

**document interchange architecture/document content architecture** /ˌdɒkjʊmənt ɪntətʃeɪndʒ ˌɑ:kɪtektʃə ˌdɒkjʊmənt 'kɒntent ˌɑ:kɪtektʃə/ *noun*  
 full form of **DIA/DCA**

**document object model** /ˌdɒkjʊmənt ˌɒbdʒekt 'mɒd(ə)/ *noun* full form of **DOM**

**Dolby Digital™** /ˌdɒlbi 'dɪdʒɪt(ə)l/ a trade name for a multichannel audio compression and transmission system that uses 5.1 channels

**Dolby system™** /ˌdɒlbi ˌsɪstəm/ a trade name for a system for reducing background noise for recordings

**dollar sign** /ˈdɒlə saɪn/ *noun* a printed or written character (\$) used in some programming languages to identify a variable as a string type

**dolly** /ˈdɒli/ *noun* a moveable stand on which the camera is mounted in order to be able to follow the action (*film*)

**dolly pusher** /ˈdɒli ˌpʊʃə/ *noun* a grip who moves the dolly during filming

**dolly shot** /ˈdɒli ʃɒt/ *noun* a shot filmed while the camera is moving away from the action

**DOM** /ˌdi: əʊ 'em/ *noun* a scheme that describes how the different parts of a webpage, the text, images and hyperlinks, are represented. Full form **document object model**

COMMENT: Each item is an object and has a set of attributes that defines how it is displayed and managed by a web browser. Dynamic HTML (DHTML) uses DOM to change how a webpage is displayed by a user's web browser – currently, the Microsoft and Netscape web browsers use different DOM specifications.

**domain** /dəʊ'meɪn/ *noun* **1.** an area or group of nodes in a network **2.** part of the way of naming users on the Internet in which the domain name is the name of the service provider or company the user works for; in an electronic mail address, the domain name follows the '@' symbol ○ *The Bloomsbury Publishing email address is 'general&bloomsbury.com' where 'general' is the*

*user, 'bloomsbury' is the domain and 'com' is the domain type.*

**domain name** /dəʊ'meɪn neɪm/ *noun* a unique name that identifies the location of an Internet server or computer on the Internet

COMMENT: The domain name 'bloomsbury.com' is registered to the Bloomsbury Publishing website. The domain name is in a convenient text format, but refers to a physical address that locates the computer that stores the website for the domain name. This physical address is called the IP address and is in the format '194.33.322.22' – the domain name system (DNS) is used to translate the domain name into its correct IP address. The domain name is made up of two or three parts, separated by a 'dot'. There are some global thematic suffixes such as .com (company) and .net (network) which are not restricted by country. For example, 'bloomsbury.com' has the company name 'bloomsbury' followed by the domain type 'com' (for company). There are also country suffixes such as '.au' for Australia, '.cn' for China, '.uk' for the UK and '.de' for Germany, within which each country can have its own private system of domain names. Some of these might look the same as the global thematic suffixes (.net.uk, .org.uk, etc.), but are restricted to the UK, e.g. co.uk, .nhs.uk, .plc.uk and .ltd.uk.

**domain name registration** /dəʊ'meɪn neɪm ˌredʒɪ'streɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the registration of a domain name with the relevant local registration office. ☞ **DNS**

COMMENT: Before you can use a domain name, you must check that it is available and then fill in an application form with your country's local registration office (your ISP will also be able to help). Domain name management is centred in the USA at the InterNIC organisation; you can also register a domain name directly with the InterNIC using its online order form (www.inter-nic.net). Once the domain name has been approved, it will be assigned a unique IP address that will be used by your ISP to modify the DNS to allow your website to be located by other users.

**domain name server** /dəʊ'meɪn neɪm 'sɜ:və/ *noun* a computer on the Internet that stores part or all of the domain name system database

**domain name system** /dəʊ'meɪn neɪm ˌsɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **DNS**

**domestic** /də'mestɪk/ *adjective* referring to the home market or the market of the country where the business is based ○ *they produce goods for the domestic market*

**domestic satellite** /də'mestɪk 'sætəlaɪt/ *noun* a satellite used for television or radio transmission, rather than research or military applications

**dongle** /'dɒŋɡl/ *noun* a coded circuit or chip that has to be present in a system before a piece of copyright software will run

**DOR** /,di: əʊ 'ɑ: / *noun* the recording of signals in binary form as small holes in the surface of an optical or compact disk which can then be read by laser. Full form **digital optical recording**

**DOS** /dɒs/ *noun* a section of the operating system software, that controls the disk and file access. Full form **disk operating system**

**dot** /dɒt/ *noun* a small round spot

**dot-matrix printer** /,dɒt 'meɪtrɪks ,prɪntə/ *noun* a printer in which the characters are made up by a series of closely spaced dots (NOTE: The printer produces a page line by line. Dot-matrix printers can be used either for printing using a ribbon or for thermal or electrostatic printing.)

**dots per inch** /,dɒt z pɜ: 'ɪntʃ/ *plural noun* a standard method used to describe the resolution capabilities of a page printer or scanner ○ *Some laser printers offer high resolution printing: 400 dots per inch.* Abbr **dpi.**, **d.p.i.**

**dotted-decimal-notation** /,dɒtɪd 'desɪm(ə)l/ *noun* a method of writing a domain name, email address or other IP network address using a decimal point, or full stop, to separate the numeric parts of the address (NOTE: For example 'www.bloomsbury.com' is the domain name that can be written in dotted-decimal-notation as '133.223.33.22')

**double** /'dʌb(ə)l/ *adjective* twice; twice as large; twice the size

**double density** /,dʌb(ə)l 'densəti/ *noun* a system to double the storage capacity of a disk drive by doubling the number of bits which can be put on the disk surface. Abbr **DD**

**double sideband** /,dʌb(ə)l 'saɪdbænd/ *noun* a modulation technique whose frequency spectrum contains two modulated signals above and below the unmodulated carrier frequency

**double sideband suppressed carrier (DSBSC)** /,dʌb(ə)l 'saɪdbænd sə ,presd 'kæriəl/ *noun* a modulation technique that uses two modulated signal sidebands, but no carrier signal

**doublet** /'dʌblət/ *noun* a word made up of two bits. Also called **dyad**

**down** /daʊn/ *adjective, adverb* referring to computers or programs that are temporarily not working ○ *The computer system went down twice during the afternoon.* Opposite **up**

**download** /,daʊn'ləʊd/ *verb* **1.** to load a program or section of data from a remote computer via a telephone line ○ *There is no charge for downloading public domain software from the BBS.* Opposite **upload** **2.** to send printer font data stored on a disk to a printer, where it will be stored in temporary memory or RAM **3.** to retrieve a file from a remote computer or online system onto your local computer

'The cards will also download the latest version of the network drivers from the server.' [*Computing*]

**downloadable** /daʊn'ləʊdəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be downloaded

**downsize** /'daʊnsaɪz/ *verb* to move a company from a computer system based around a central mainframe computer to a networked environment, usually using PCs as workstations, in which the workstations are intelligent ○ *Downsizing is more cost effective and gives more processing power to the end-user.* (NOTE: **downsizes** – **downsizing** – **downsized**)

**downtime** /'daʊn taɪm/, **down time** *noun* a period of time during which a computer system is not working or usable. Opposite **uptime**

**downward** /'daʊnwəd/ *adjective* towards a lower position

**dp, DP** *abbr* data processing

**DPA** /,di: pi: 'eɪ/ *noun* a technique of loading protocol stacks in memory only if they are required for a particular session. Full form **demand protocol architecture**

**dpi.** /,di: pi: 'aɪ/, **d.p.i.** *abbr* dots per inch ○ *a 300 d.p.i. black and white A4 monitor* ○ *a 300 dpi image scanner.*

COMMENT: 300 d.p.i. is the normal industry standard for a laser printer.

**DPM** /,di: pi: 'em/ *abbr* data processing manager

**draft** /dra:ft/ *noun* a rough copy of a document before errors have been corrected ■ *verb* to make a rough copy or drawing ○ *He drafted out the details of the program on a piece of paper.*

**drag** /dræŋ/ *verb* to move a mouse while holding the button down, so moving an image or icon on screen ○ *You can enlarge a frame by clicking inside its border and dragging to the position wanted.* (NOTE: **dragging** – **dragged**)

'...press the mouse button and drag the mouse: this produces a dotted rectangle on the screen; you can easily enlarge the frame by dragging from any of the eight black rectangles round the border, showing that it is selected' [*Desktop Publishing*]

**drag and drop** /,dræŋ ən 'drɒp/ *verb* to drag a section of text or icon or object onto

another program icon which starts this program and inserts the data ○ *Drag and drop the document icon onto the word-processor icon and the system will start the program and load the document.*

**drag image** /'dræg ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* the cursor, icon or outline image that is displayed when you drag an object across the screen

**drain** /dreɪn/ *noun* an electrical current provided by a battery or power supply; connection to a FET ■ *verb* to remove or decrease power or energy from a device such as a battery

**DRAM** /'di: ræm/ *abbr* dynamic random access memory

**draw direct** /,drɔ: daɪ'rekt/ *noun* the process of drawing an object directly to the screen rather than to an off-screen memory buffer

**drawing program** /'drɔ:ɪŋ ˌprəʊgræm/ *noun* a piece of software that allows the user to draw and design on screen

**drawing tool** /'drɔ:ɪŋ tu:l/ *noun* any one of a range of functions in a paint program that allows the user to draw (NOTE: Usually displayed as icons in a toolbar, the drawing tools might include a circle-draw, line-draw and freehand drawing tool.)

**D-region** /di: 'ri:dʒən/ *noun* a section of the ionosphere 50–90km above the earth's surface ○ *The D-region is the main cause of attenuation in transmitted radio signals.*

**drill-down** /,drɪl 'daʊn/ *verb* to work backwards and look at the individual items and formulae that produced the final result

**drive** /draɪv/ *noun* a part of a computer which operates a disk ■ *verb* to make something such as a disk work ○ *The disk is driven by a motor.*

**drive bay** /'draɪv beɪ/ *noun* same as **bay**

**drive letters** /'draɪv ˌletəz/ *noun* a system of letters to identify the different drives that are fitted to the PC

**driver** /'draɪvə/ *noun* a piece of software that sits between Windows and a peripheral and translates the instructions from Windows into a form that the peripheral can understand. Also called **device driver**, **device handler**

**DRO** /,di: ɑ: 'əʊ/ *noun* a form of storage medium that loses its data after it has been read. Full form **destructive readout**

**drop-down list box** /,drɒp daʊn 'lɪst/ *noun* a list of options for an entry that appears when you move the cursor to the entry field

**drop-down menu** /,drɒp daʊn 'menju:/ *noun* a menu that appears below a menu title when it is selected

**drop in** /,drɒp 'ɪn/ *noun* a small piece of dirt on a disk or tape surface, which does not allow data to be recorded on that section

**drop out** /,drɒp 'aʊt/ *noun* **1.** the failure of a small piece of tape or disk to be correctly magnetised for the accurate storage of data **2.** a short signal loss in a magnetic recording system caused by faults in the magnetic medium or failure in head-to-tape contact

**drum** /drʌm/ *noun* **1.** an early type of magnetic computer storage **2.** helical scan video tape head assembly **3.** a rotatable cylinder around which film passes in order to ensure steady movement in a photographic sound reproducer

**DS-0** /,di: es 'zɪərəʊ/ *noun* one single circuit in a high-speed T-1 data transmission line, capable of transmitting information in 8-bit frames at a rate of 8,000 frames per second, equal to 64 Kbits/second. Full form **digital signal level zero**

**DS-1** /,di: es 'wʌn/ *noun* a standard that defines the way data is formatted and transmitted over the T-1 line. Full form **digital signal level one**

**DSE** *abbr* data switching exchange

**DSL** /,di: es 'el/ *noun* a system of transmitting data at high speed over standard telephone copper wire. Full form **digital subscriber line**

COMMENT: One of the most popular DSL implementations is the ADSL (asymmetric digital subscriber line) scheme that provides a permanent, high-speed connection to the Internet over standard telephone lines.

**DSP** /,di: es 'pi:/ *noun* a special integrated circuit used to manipulate digital signals. Full form **digital signal processing**

**D-SUB connector** /,di: sʌb kə'nektə/ *noun* a video connector commonly used on PC monitors to carry all the video signals in one cable

**DTC** *noun* a videotape recording system which provides two sets of time code information used when editing (*film*) Full form **dual time code**. ◇ **time code**

**DTE** /,di: ti: 'i:/ *noun* a device at which a communications path starts or finishes. Full form **data terminal equipment**

**DTMF** /,di: ti: em 'ef/ *noun* a method of dialling in a telephone system in which each number on the telephone handset generates two tones. Each row and column of the telephone number grid generates a different tone, so each number will send one tone for the corresponding column and another for the row. Full form **dual tone multi-frequency**. Compare **pulse-dialling** (NOTE: If you press

number '5' it will send the tone for row two and for column two.)

**D to A converter** /,di: tʊ ,eɪ kən'vɜ:tə/ *noun* full form **digital to analog converter**.

▶ **DAC**

**DTP** /,di: ti: 'pi:/ *noun* the design, layout and printing of documents using special software, a desktop computer and a printer. Full form **desktop publishing**

**DTS** /,di: ti: 'es/ *noun* a multichannel audio system. Full form **digital theatre system**

**DTV** /,di: ti: 'vi:/ *noun* a combination of special software and extra hardware that allows a user to edit video on a PC. Full form **desktop video** (NOTE: The hardware connects the PC to a video recorder or camera and captures the video frames. The software can then be used to cut individual frames and rearrange the sequence.)

**D-type connector** /,di: taɪp kə'nektə/ *noun* a connector that is shaped like an elongated letter D, which prevents the connector from being plugged in upside down ○ *The serial port on a PC uses a 9-pin D-type connector.*

**dual** /'dju:əl/ *adjective* using two or a pair

**dual-in-line package** /,dju:əl in laɪn 'pækɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **DIL, DIP**

**dual-scan display** /,dju:əl skæn dɪ 'splɛɪ/ *noun* a colour LCD screen that updates the image on screen in two passes

**dual tone multi-frequency** /,dju:əl təʊn ,mʌlti 'fri:kwənsi/ *noun* full form of **DTMF**

**dub** /dʌb/ *verb* to add sound effects to an animation, multimedia presentation, film or video (NOTE: **dubbing – dubbed**)

**dubbing** /'dʌbɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the process of putting together two or more sound records into one combined recording **2.** the process of moving a sound recording from one intermediary to another; e.g. from photographic film to magnetic tape **3.** the process of making a copy, e.g., making a showreel from a group of videotapes **4.** the method of recording new dialogue which is used instead of the original version

**duct** /dʌkt/ *noun* a pipe containing cables, providing a tidy and protective surrounding for a group of cables

**dumb terminal** /,dʌm 'tɜ:mɪn(ə)l/ *noun* a peripheral that can only transmit and receive data from a computer, but is not capable of processing data. Compare **smart terminal**

**dummy** /'dʌmi/ *noun* an imitation product used to test the reaction of potential customers to its design

**dump** /dʌmp/ *noun* **1.** data which has been copied from one device to another for storage **2.** the transferring of data to a disk for storage

**3.** *US* a printout of the contents of all or selected data in memory

**duotone** /'dju:ətəʊn/ *noun* two-colour reproduction of an image or photograph using only black and either sepia or yellow (*film*)

**duplex** /'dju:pleks/ *noun* **1.** the simultaneous transmission of two signals on one line. Also called **simultaneous transmission 2.** a photographic paper that is light sensitive on both sides

**duplicate** *noun* /'dju:pɪkət/ a copy ■ *verb* /'dju:pɪkeɪt/ to copy

**duplicating** /'dju:pɪkeɪtɪŋ/ *noun* copying

**duplication** /,dju:plɪ'keɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the copying of documents

**duplicator** /'dju:pɪkeɪtə/ *noun* a machine which produces multiple copies from a master

**durable** /'djuərəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which will not be destroyed easily ○ *durable cartridge*

**duration** /dʒʊ'reɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the length of time for which something lasts

**dustcover** /'dʌstkʌvə/ *noun* a protective cover for a machine

**duty-rated** /'dju:ti ,reɪtɪd/ *adjective* referring to the maximum number of operations that a device can perform in a set time to a certain specification

**DUV** *noun* data transmission in a frequency range or channel lower than that of a human voice. Full form **data under voice**

**DVD** /,di: vi: 'di:/ *noun* a way of storing over 17Gb of data on a CD-ROM type disc. Full form **digital versatile disc, digital videodisc**

**DVD-RAM** /,di: vi: 'di: ræm/ *noun* a DVD disc drive that allows a user to write, erase and rewrite data onto a DVD disc

**DVD-ROM** /,di: vi: 'di: rɒm/ *noun* a DVD disc drive that can read a DVD disc and provides data transfer rates equal to a standard nine-times CD-ROM

**DVD+RW** /,di: vi: di: plʌs ɑ: 'dʌb(ə)l ju:/ *noun* a type of rewritable DVD disc that allows a user to store data on the disc (NOTE: The DVD disc offers much greater storage capacity than a standard compact disc of similar size. This standard was developed by Hewlett-Packard, Philips and Sony and has a capacity of 3GB per side.)

**DVD-video** /,di: vi: ,di: 'vɪdiəʊ/ *noun* a standard that defines how full-length films can be compressed and stored on a DVD disc and played back on a dedicated player attached to a television set or viewed on a computer fitted with a DVD drive

**DVE** /,di: vi: 'i:/ *noun* special effects carried out by a PC on a video sequence; e.g., a fade between two sequences or a dissolve. Full form **digital video effects**

**DVI** /,di: vi: 'a:/ *noun* a system that defines how video and audio signals should be compressed and displayed on a computer. Full form **digital video interactive**

**DVI connector** /,di: vi: 'a/ kə,nektə/ *noun* a connector on a monitor or graphics equipment for video signals (NOTE: DVI-D supports digital video signals, DVI-I supports both analog and digital signals.)

**Dvorak keyboard** /,dvɔ:ræk 'ki:bɔ:d/ *noun* a keyboard layout that is more efficient to use than a normal QWERTY keyboard layout

**dyad** /'daɪəd/ *noun* same as **doublet**

**dye-polymer recording** /,daɪ 'pɒlɪmə ri,kɔ:diŋ/ *noun* (in *optical disks*) recording method which creates minute changes in a thin layer of dye embedded in the plastic optical disk (NOTE: Dye-polymer recording has one big advantage – that the data stored on the optical disk using this method can be erased.)

**dye-sublimation printer** /daɪ sʌblɪ ,meɪʃ(ə)n 'prɪntə/ *noun* a high-quality colour printer that produces images by squirting tiny drops of coloured ink onto paper ○ *The*

*new dye-sublimation printer can produce colour images at a resolution of 300 dpi.*

**dynamic** /daɪ'næmɪk/ *adjective* referring to data which can change with time

**dynamicly redefinable character set** /daɪ,næmɪkli ri:di,fəɪnəb(ə)l 'kærɪktə ,set/ *noun* a computer or videotext character set that can be changed when required

**dynamic data exchange** /daɪ,næmɪk 'deɪtə ks,tʃeɪndʒ/ *noun* full form of **DDE**

**dynamic host configuration protocol** /daɪ,næmɪk həʊst kən,figjʊ'reɪʃ(ə)n ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **DHCP**

**dynamic link library** /daɪ,næmɪk 'lɪŋk ,laɪbrəri/ *noun* full form of **DLL**

**dynamic multiplexing** /daɪ,næmɪk 'mʌltɪpleksɪŋ/ *noun* a multiplexing method which allocates time segments to signals according to demand

**dynamic random access memory** /daɪ,næmɪk ,rændəm ,ækses 'mem(ə)ri/ *noun* abbr **DRAM**

**DYUV** /,di: wai ju: 'vi:/ *noun* a digital video encoding technique in which luminance of a pixel is calculated by the RGB input signal,  $Y = 0.6G + 0.3R + 0.1B$ abbr of. Full form **delta YUV** (NOTE: From the value of Y it is possible to calculate the values of U and V as  $UR - Y$ ;  $VB - Y$ .)

# E

**EAN** *noun* a numbering system for bar codes, the European version of UPC. Full form **European Article Number**

**EAPROM** /,i: eɪ 'pi: ,rɒm/ *noun* a version of EAROM which can be programmed. Full form **electrically alterable programmable read-only memory**

**early token release** /,ɜ:lɪ 'təʊkən rɪ,li:s/ *noun* (in a *Token-Ring* or *FDDI network*) system that allows two tokens to be present on a ring network, useful when traffic is very busy

**EAROM** /,i: 'eɪ ,rɒm/ *noun* a read-only memory chip whose contents can be programmed by applying a certain voltage to a write pin, and can be erased by light or a reverse voltage. Full form **electrically alterable read-only memory**

**earth** /ɜ:θ/ *noun* a connection in a circuit representing zero potential ○ *All loose wires should be tied to earth.* ■ *verb* to connect an electrical device to the earth ○ *All appliances must be earthed.* (NOTE: US English is **ground**)

**EAX** *abbr* electronic automatic exchange

**EBCDIC** /,i: bi: si: di: aɪ 'si:z/ *noun* an 8-bit binary character coding system used mainly on IBM computers, in which each number represents a different character or symbol. It is similar to the ASCII system. Full form **extended binary coded decimal interchange code**

**ebook** /'i:bʊk/ *noun* an electronic version of a book, in which the text and any pictures are stored in a file format that can then be displayed using special software on a PC or laptop screen or on a dedicated portable or hand-held device or PDA. Also called **electronic book**

**EBR<sup>1</sup>** /,i: bi: 'ɑ:z/ *noun* the process of recording the output from a computer directly onto microfilm using an electron beam. Full form **electron beam recording**

**EBR<sup>2</sup>** /,i: bi: 'ɑ:z/ *noun* a transfer system of high quality videotape to film

**e-business** /'i: bɪznəs/ *noun* **1.** a company that does business on the Internet **2.** business activity that is carried out using the Internet

**echo** /'ekəʊ/ *noun* the return of a signal back to the source from which it was transmitted (NOTE: The plural is **echoes.**) ■ *verb*

to return a received signal along the same transmission path (NOTE: **echoes -echoing -echoed**)

**ECL** /,i: si: 'eɪ/ *noun* a high-speed logic circuit design using the emitters of the transistors as output connections to other stages. Full form **emitter-coupled logic**

**ECMA** *abbr* European Computer Manufacturers Association

**e-commerce** /'i: ,kɒmɜ:s/ *noun* the process of buying and selling products on the Internet. Also called **electronic commerce**

**EDAC** /,i: di: eɪ 'si:z/ *noun* a forward error correction system for data communications. Full form **error detection and correction**

**edge detection** /'edʒ dɪ,tekʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an algorithm and routines used in image recognition to define the edges of an object

**EDI** /,i: di: 'ɑ:z/ *noun* a system of sending orders, paying invoices or transferring company information over a network or telephone line using an email system. Full form **electronic data interchange** (NOTE: EDI is often used to send instructions to pay money directly from one company to another, or from one bank to a company.)

**edit** /'edɪt/ *verb* to change, correct and modify text or programs

**edit decision list** /,edɪt dɪ'sɪʒ(ə)n ,lɪst/ *noun* a method of editing video in which the operator defines the points where he or she would like the video to be edited and then this list of actions is used in an on-line edit suite to carry out the edits automatically. *Abbr* **EDL**

**edition** /'ɪdɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* all the copies of a book or newspaper printed at one time ○ *The second edition has had some changes to the text.* ○ *Did you see the late edition of the evening paper?*

**editorial** /,edɪ'tɔ:riəl/ *adjective* referring to an editor or to editing ■ *noun* a main article in a newspaper, written by the editor

'The Smartbook authoring system is a software product that integrates text and fractally compressed images, using any word-processor line editor' [Computing]

**editorial processing centre** /,edɪ'tɔ:riəl 'prəʊsesɪŋ ,sentə/ *noun* a number of small publishers that share a single computer to provide cheaper computing power

**edit window** /'edit ˌwɪndəʊ/ *noun* the area of the screen in which the user can display and edit text or graphics

**EDL** *abbr* edit decision list

**EDLIN** /,i: di: el aɪ 'en/ *noun* an MS-DOS system utility that allows a user to make changes to a file on a line-by-line basis

**EDO memory** /,i: di: əʊ 'mem(ə)ri/ *noun* memory technology that provides better performance by being able to find and read data from a memory location in one operation. Full form **extended data output memory** (NOTE: It can also store the last piece of data that was saved to memory in a cache ready to be read back from memory.)

**EDP** /,i: di: 'pi:/ *noun* data processing using computers and electronic devices. Full form **electronic data processing**

**EDS** /,i: di: 'es/ *noun* a disk drive using a removable disk pack as opposed to a fixed disk. Full form **exchangeable disk storage**

**EDTV** /,i: di: ti: 'vi:/ *noun* an enhancement to the NTSC standard for television transmission that offers higher definition and a wide aspect ratio. Full form **extended-definition television** (NOTE: EDTV normally has an aspect ratio of 4:3; if greater than this it is called EDTV-wide.)

**educational** /,edʒu'keɪʃ(ə)nəl/ *adjective* referring to education; which is used to teach **educational TV** /,edʒu:keɪʃənʃ(ə)l ti: 'vi:/ *noun* a television programme that is in some way educational

**edutainment** /,edʒu'teɪnmənt/ *noun* software that is a cross between entertainment or games software and educational products

**EEMS** /,i: i: em 'es/ *noun* a development of EMS that is a standard method of expanding the main memory fitted into an IBM PC. Full form **enhanced expanded memory specification**. ◊ **EMS**

**EEPROM** *abbr* electrically erasable programmable read-only memory

**EEROM** *abbr* electrically erasable read-only memory

**effective** /ɪ'fektɪv/ *adjective* which can be used to produce a certain result

**effective aperture** /ɪ'fektɪv 'æpətʃə/ *noun* **1.** the received signal power at the output of an aerial **2.** the amount of light allowed through a lens' aperture after taking into account camera faults and lens defects. ◊ **diffusion**

**effects track** /ɪ'fektʃ træk/ *noun* a sound track which only contains the audio effects (*film*)

**efficiency** /ɪ'fɪʃ(ə)nsi/ *noun* working well ◊ *He is doubtful about the efficiency of the new networking system.*

**efficient** /ɪ'fɪʃ(ə)nt/ *adjective* which works well ◊ *The program is highly efficient at sorting files.*

**efficiently** /ɪ'fɪʃ(ə)ntli/ *adverb* in an efficient way ◊ *The word-processing package has produced a series of labelled letters very efficiently.*

**EFT** /,i: ef 'ti:/ *noun* a system in which computers are used to transmit money to and from banks. Full form **electronic funds transfer**

**EFTPOS** /,i: ef 'ti: pi: əʊ 'es/ *noun* a terminal at a POS that is linked to a central computer which automatically transfers money from the customer's account to the shop's. Full form **electronic funds transfer point-of-sale**

'Alphameric has extended its range specifically for the hospitality market and has developed an eftpos package which allows most credit and debit cards to be processed.' [*Computing*]

**EHF** *noun* radio frequencies between 30GHz and 300GHz. Full form **extremely high frequency**

**EI** *noun* the sensitivity of a photographic emulsion (*film*) Full form **exposure index**. ◊ **ASA**

**EIA** *abbr* Electronics Industry Association

**8-bit sample** /,eɪt bɪt 'stændəd/ *noun* a single sample of an analogue signal which is stored as an 8-bit number, meaning that it can detect 256 possible levels. ◊ **16-bit sample**, **24-bit sample**

**eight-inch disk** /,eɪt ɪntʃ 'dɪsk/, **8-inch disk** *noun* a high-capacity floppy disk which is eight inches in diameter

**eighty-column screen** /,eɪti 'kɒləm skri:n/, **80-column screen** *noun* a screen that can display eighty characters horizontally

**eighty-track disk** /,eɪti træk 'dɪsk/, **80-track disk** *noun* a disk formatted to contain eighty tracks

**EIS** /,i: aɪ 'es/ *noun* easy-to-use software providing information to a manager or executive about his or her company ◊ *The EIS software is very easy to use.* Full form **executive information system**

**EISA** /,i: aɪ es 'eɪ/ *noun* a group of PC manufacturers who formed an association to promote a 32-bit expansion bus standard as a rival to the MCA bus standard from IBM. Full form **Electronics Industry Standards Association**

COMMENT: The EISA expansion bus standard is backwards compatible with the older ISA standard of expansion cards, but also

features 32-bit data path and allows bus mastering.

**either-or operation** /,aɪðə 'ɔː,ɒpəreɪf(ə)n/ *noun* a logical function that produces a true output if any input is true

**elapsed time** /ɪ,læpst 'taɪm/ *noun* the time taken by the user to carry out a task on a computer

**elastic banding** /ɪ'læstɪk bændɪŋ/ *noun* a method of defining the limits of an image on a computer screen by stretching a boundary around it

**elastic buffer** /ɪ,læstɪk 'bʌfə/ *noun* a buffer size that changes according to demand

**electret microphone** /ɪ,lɛktrət 'maɪkrəfəʊn/ *noun* a reliable, cheap, small and low noise microphone (*film*)

**electric** /ɪ'lektrɪk/ *adjective* worked by electricity

**electrical** /ɪ'lektrɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to electricity ○ *The engineers are trying to repair an electrical fault.*

**electrically** /ɪ'lektrɪk(ə)li/ *adverb* referring to electricity ○ *an electrically-powered motor*

**electrically alterable programmable read-only memory** /ɪ,lɛktrɪkli ,ɔːltərəb(ə)l ,prəʊgræməb(ə)l ,ri:d ,əʊnli 'mem(ə)ri/ *noun* full form of **EAPROM**

**electrically alterable read-only memory** /ɪ,lɛktrɪkli ,ɔːltərəb(ə)l ,ri:d ,əʊnli 'mem(ə)ri/ *noun* full form of **EAROM**

**electrically erasable programmable read-only memory** /ɪ,lɛktrɪkli ɪ ,reɪzəb(ə)l ,prəʊgræməb(ə)l ,ri:d ,əʊnli 'mem(ə)ri/ *noun* a ROM storage chip which can be programmed and erased using an electrical signal. Abbr **EEPROM**

**electrically erasable read-only memory** /ɪ,lɛktrɪkli ɪ ,reɪzəb(ə)l ,ri:d ,əʊnli 'mem(ə)ri/ *noun* an EAROM memory chip whose contents can be programmed by applying a certain voltage to a write pin, and can be erased by light or a reverse voltage. Abbr **EEROM**

**electrician** /ɪ,lɛk'trɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the person on a set who is responsible for the lighting equipment (*film*)

**electricity** /ɪ,lɛk'trɪsɪti/ *noun* an electric current used to provide light or heat or power ○ *The electricity was cut off, and the computers crashed.*

**electrode** /ɪ'lektrəʊd/ *noun* part of an electric circuit or device that collects, controls or emits electrons

**electrographic printer** /ɪ ,lɛktrəʊgræfɪk 'prɪntə/ *noun* same as **electrostatic printer**

**electroluminescence** /ɪ,ɛlektərəʊ,luz:mɪ 'nes(ə)ns/ *noun* light emitted from a phos-

phor dot when it is struck by an electron or charged particle

**electroluminescent** /ɪ,ɛlektərəʊ,luz:mɪ 'nes(ə)nt/ *adjective* capable of emitting light due to electroluminescence ○ *The screen coating is electroluminescent.*

**electroluminescing** /ɪ,ɛlektərəʊ,luz:mɪ 'nesɪŋ/ *adjective* emitting light due to electroluminescence

**electromagnet** /ɪ,lɛktrəʊ'mægnət/ *noun* a device that consists of a core and a coil of wire that produces a magnetic field when current is passed through the coil

**electromagnetic** /ɪ,lɛktrəʊmæg'netɪk/ *adjective* generating a magnetic field or magnetic effect when supplied with electrical power

**electromagnetically** /ɪ,lɛktrəʊmæg 'netɪk(ə)li/ *adverb* working due to electromagnetic effects

**electromagnetic interference** /ɪ ,lɛktrəʊmægnetɪk ,ɪntə'fɪərəns/ *noun* full form of **EMI**

**electromagnetic radiation** /ɪ ,lɛktrəʊmægnetɪk ,reɪdɪ'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an energy wave consisting of electric and/or magnetic fields

**electromechanical switching** /ɪ ,lɛktrəʊmekænik(ə)l 'swɪtʃɪŋ/ *noun* the connection of two paths by an electrically operated switch or relay

**electromotive flow** /ɪ,lɛktrəʊməʊtɪv 'fləʊ/ *noun* the force of a circuit or system which makes the current flow. The unit of electromotive flow is the volt. (*film*)

**electromotive force** /ɪ,lɛktrəʊməʊtɪv 'fɔːs/ *noun* the difference in electrical potential across a source of electric current. Abbr **EMF**

**electron** /ɪ'lek,tɹɒn/ *noun* an elementary particle with an elementary negative charge ○ *the electron beam draws the image on the inside of a CRT screen*

**electron beam** /ɪ'lek,tɹɒn bi:m/ *noun* a narrow, focused stream of electrons moving at high speed in the same direction, often in a vacuum ○ *The electron beam draws the image on the inside of a CRT screen.*

**electron beam recording** /ɪ,lɛktrɒn ,bi:m rɪ'kɔːdɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **EBR**

**electron flow** /ɪ'lektrɒn fləʊ/ *noun* the movement of electrons from one point to another, causing an electrical current

**electron gun** /ɪ'lek,tɹɒn gʌn/ *noun* a part of a CRT that produces a beam of electrons. Also called **gun**

COMMENT: Black and white monitors have a single beam electron gun, while colour monitors contain three, one for each primary colour (red, green and blue) used.

**electronic** /,elek'trɒnɪk/ *adjective* referring to something which is controlled by or controls electron flow

'...electronic mail is a system which allows computer users to send information to each other via a central computer' [*Which PC?*]

'...electronic publishing will be used for printing on paper, but it can be applied equally to data storage on a database, transmission via telecommunications or for use with visual presentation media such as AV slides or television' [*Electronic Publishing & Print Show*]

**electronically** /,elek'trɒnɪkli/ *adverb* referring to operations using electronic methods ○ *The text is electronically transmitted to an outside typesetter.*

**Electronic Arts™** /,elektrɒnɪk 'ɑ:ts/ the largest publisher of interactive software including console games, PC and Macintosh titles

**electronic blackboard** /,elektrɒnɪk 'blækbo:d/ *noun* a means of transmitting handwritten text and diagrams over a telephone line

**electronic book** /,elektrɒnɪk 'bʊk/ *noun* same as **ebook**

**electronic commerce** /,elektrɒnɪk 'kɒmɜ:s/ *noun* same as **e-commerce**

**electronic compositor** /,elektrɒnɪk kəm'pɒzɪtə/ *noun* a computer that allows a user to easily arrange text on screen before it is electronically typeset

**electronic data interchange** /,elektrɒnɪk 'deɪtə ,ɪntətʃeɪndʒ/ *noun* full form of **EDI**

**electronic data processing** /,elektrɒnɪk 'deɪtə ,prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **EDP**

**electronic filing** /,elektrɒnɪk 'faɪlɪŋ/ *noun* a system of storage of documents which can be easily retrieved

**electronic funds transfer** /,elektrɒnɪk 'fʌndz ,trænsfɜ:z/ *noun* full form of **EFT**

**electronic funds transfer point-of-sale** /,elektrɒnɪk ,fʌndz ,trænsfɜ:z ,pɔɪnt əv 'seɪl/ *noun* full form of **EFTPOS**

**electronic mail** /,elɪktrɒnɪk 'meɪl/ *noun* same as **email**

**electronic pen** /,elektrɒnɪk 'pen/ *noun* **1.** a light pen or wand **2.** a stylus used to draw on a graphics tablet ► also called **electronic stylus**

**electronic point-of-sale** /,elektrɒnɪk ,pɔɪnt əv 'seɪl/ *noun* full form of **EPOS**

**electronic publishing** /,elektrɒnɪk 'pʌblɪʃɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the use of desktop publishing packages and laser printers to produce printed matter **2.** the process of using computers to write and display information, as in viewdata

**electronics** /,elek'trɒnɪks/ *noun* the application of knowledge of electrons and their properties to manufactured products such as computers and telephones ○ *the electronics industry*

**Electronics Industry Standards Association** /,elektrɒnɪks ,ɪndəstri 'stændədz ə ,səʊsɪeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **EISA**

**electronic stylus** /,elektrɒnɪk 'stajləs/ *noun* same as **electronic pen**

**electronic traffic** /,elektrɒnɪk 'træfɪk/ *noun* data transmitted in the form of electronic pulses

**electronic viewfinder** /,elektrɒnɪk 'vju:fɑɪndə/ *noun* a miniature cathode ray tube in a television or video camera, that allows the camera operator to see the images being recorded

**electrophotographic** /,elektrəʊ'fəʊtə 'græfɪk/ *adjective* referring to a printing technique used in many laser printers in which a laser beam creates an image on a charged drum (NOTE: The drum then attracts particles of fine black toner to the charged areas and transfers the image to paper which is then passed near a heater to melt the toner onto the paper.)

**electro printing** /,lektərəʊ 'prɪntɪŋ/ *noun* transferring sound from an original magnetic track directly to the final copy of the film; this avoids the use of an optical sound track (*film*)

**electrostatic** /,lektərəʊ'stætɪk/ *adjective* referring to devices using the properties of static electrical charge

**electrostatically** /,lektərəʊ'stætɪkli/ *adverb* using properties of static charge

**electrostatic printer** /,lektərəʊ'stætɪk 'prɪntə/ *noun* a type of printer which forms an image on the paper by charging certain regions to provide character shapes and other images and using ink with an opposite charge which sticks to the paper where required. Also called **electrographic printer**

**elegant programming** /,elɪgənt ,prəʊ 'græmɪŋ/ *noun* the writing of well-structured programs using the minimum number of instructions

**element** /'elɪmənt/ *noun* **1.** a small part of an object which is made up of many similar parts **2.** one number or cell of a matrix or array **3.** a coil of resistive wire to which an electric current is applied to generate heat **4.** a substance in which all the atoms have the same number of electrons and charge

**elementary** /,elɪ'ment(ə)rɪ/ *adjective* made of many similar small sections or objects

**elevator** /'elveɪtə/ *noun* a small, square indicator displayed within a scroll bar that indicates where you are within a long document or image ○ *The user can scroll through the image or text by dragging the elevator up or down the scroll bar.*

**ELF** *noun* communications frequencies of less than 100Hz. Full form **extremely low frequency**

**eliminate** /ɪ'limɪneɪt/ *verb* to remove something completely ○ *Using a computer should eliminate all possibility of error in the address system.*

**elimination** /ɪ,limɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the removing of something completely

'...pointing with the cursor and pressing the joystick button eliminates use of the keyboard almost entirely' [*Soft*]

**elite** /ɪ'li:t/ *noun* a typewriter typeface

**ellipse** /ɪ'lips/ *noun* something oval shaped, like an elongated circle

**ellipsoidal spotlight** /ɪ,lɪpsɔɪd(ə)l 'spɒtlaɪt/ *noun* a spotlight with a sharp beam produced by a spherical lens (*film*)

**elliptical cutting** /ɪ,lɪptɪk(ə)l 'kʌtɪŋ/, **elliptical editing** /ɪ,lɪptɪk(ə)l 'edɪtɪŋ/ *noun* a film editing process which eliminates much of the action (*film*)

**elliptical orbit** /ɪ,lɪptɪk(ə)l 'ɔ:bɪt/ *noun* the path of a satellite around the earth that is in the shape of an ellipse

**ELT** *abbr* electronic typewriter

**em** /em/ *noun* a measure equal to the width of the letter 'm' in a particular font

**email** /i: meɪl/, **e-mail** *noun* a system of sending messages to and receiving messages from other users on a network. Also called **electronic mail**

**email-enabled application** /i:meɪl ɪn ,eɪb(ə)ld ,æplɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a software application, e.g. a word-processor or spreadsheet, that includes a direct link to an email application to allow a user to send the current document as an email (NOTE: In Microsoft applications, there is a Send option under the File menu that allows a user to send the document using email.)

**embedded code** /ɪm,bedɪd 'kəʊd/ *noun* sections or routines written in machine code, inserted into a high-level program to speed up or perform a special function

**embedded command** /ɪm,bedɪd kə 'mɑ:nd/ *noun* a printer control command, e.g. one indicating that text should be in italics, inserted into text and used by a word-processor when text formatting

**embedded object** /ɪm,bedɪd əb'dʒekt/ *noun* a feature of Windows OLE that allows a file or object, e.g. an image, to be included within another document or file

**embedding** /ɪm'bedɪŋ/ *noun* (in *Windows*) the act of dragging an object and dropping it into a document or file so that is included within the document

**emboldening** /ɪm'bɒld(ə)n/ *noun* the process of making a word print in bold type

**em dash** /'em dæʃ/ *noun* a line as long as an em, used to link two words or parts of words

**EMF** *abbr* electromotive force

**EMI** /,i: em 'aɪ/ *noun* corruption of data due to nearby electrically generated magnetic fields. Full form **electromagnetic interference**

**emission** /ɪ'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the sending out of a signal or radiation, etc. ○ *the emission of the electron beam* ○ *The receiver picked up the radio emission.*

**emit** /ɪ'mɪt/ *verb* to send out

**emitter** /ɪ'mɪtə/ *noun* a connection to a bipolar transistor

**emitter-coupled logic** /ɪ,mɪtə ,kʌp(ə)ld 'lɒdʒɪk/ *noun* full form of **ECL**

**EMMY** *noun* the annual prize given by the National Academy of Television, Arts and Sciences for the most outstanding artistic work in each area of film and television (*film*)

**emphasis** /'emfəʊsɪs/ *noun* **1.** a filter that helps cut down the background noise and so boost a signal **2.** a special effects function in a paint program that will increase the value of a range of colours so that they appear brighter (NOTE: The plural is **emphases**.)

**EMS** /,i: em 'es/ *noun* a standard in an IBM PC that defines extra memory added above the 640 Kb limit of conventional memory. Full form **expanded memory specification** (NOTE: This memory could only be used by specially written programs.)

**emulate** /'emju:leɪt/ *verb* to copy or behave like something else ○ *Some laser printers are able to emulate the more popular office printers.* (NOTE: emulates – emulating – emulated)

'...some application programs do not have the right drivers for a laser printer, so look out for laser printers which are able to emulate the more popular office printers' [*Publish*]

**emulation** /,emju:'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* behaviour by one computer or printer which is exactly the same as another and which allows the same programs to be run and the same data to be processed

**emulator** /'emju:leɪtə/ *noun* a piece of software or hardware that allows a machine to behave like another

'...for an authentic retro coding experience, download an emulator and turn your computer into a virtual BBC Micro.' [*The Guardian*]

**emulsion** /ɪ'mʌljən/ *noun* a light-sensitive coating on photographic film or paper

**emulsion laser storage** /ɪ,mʌlj(ə)n 'leɪzə ,stɔ:ri:dʒ/ *noun* a digital storage technique using a laser to expose light-sensitive material

**en** /en/ *noun* a unit of measure equal to half the width of an em

**enable** /ɪn'eɪb(ə)l/ *verb* **1.** to allow something to happen ○ *A spooling program enables editing work to be carried out while printing is going on.* **2.** to use an electronic signal to start a process or access a function on a chip or circuit (NOTE: **enables** – **enabling** – **enabled**)

**enabled** /ɪn'eɪb(ə)ld/ *adjective* referring to a function or menu item that is available to the user ○ *If an option on a menu appears in grey text rather than black, this indicates that these are not enabled and that you cannot use the option.*

**encapsulated** /ɪn'kæpsjuleɪtɪd/ *adjective* referring to something contained within another thing

**encapsulated PostScript** /ɪn ,kæpsjuleɪtɪd 'pəʊstskript/ *noun* a PostScript facility providing commands that describe an image or page contained within a file that can be placed within a graphics or DTP program. Abbr **EPS**

**encapsulated PostScript file** /ɪn ,kæpsjuleɪtɪd 'pəʊstskript ,faɪl/ *noun* a file that contains encapsulated PostScript instructions. Abbr **EPSF**

**encapsulation** /ɪn'kæpsjuleɪf(ə)n/ *noun* (in a network) a system of sending a frame of data in one format within a frame of another format

**encipher** /ɪn'saɪfəl/ *verb* to convert plaintext into a secure coded form by means of a cipher system ○ *Our competitors cannot understand our files – they have all been enciphered.* Opposite **decipher**

**enclose** /ɪn'kləʊz/ *verb* to surround with something; to put something inside something else

**enclosure** /ɪn'kləʊzəl/ *noun* a protective casing for equipment

**encode** /ɪn'kəʊd/ *verb* to apply the rules of a code to a program or data (NOTE: **encodes** – **encoding** – **encoded**)

**encoder** /ɪn'kəʊdəl/ *noun* a device that can translate data from one format to another

**encoding** /ɪn'kəʊdɪŋ/ *noun* the translation of a message or text according to a coding system

**encrypt** /ɪn'krɪpt/ *verb* to convert plaintext to a secure coded form, using a cipher system ○ *The encrypted text can be sent along ordi-*

*nary telephone lines, and no one will be able to understand it.*

**encryption** /ɪn'krɪptʃən/ *noun* the conversion of plaintext to a secure coded form by means of a cipher system

**end** /end/ *noun* a statement or character to indicate the last word of a source file ■ *verb* to finish or to stop something

**en dash** /'em dæʃ/ *noun* a line as long as an en, used to link two words or parts of words

**ending** /'endɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the action of coming to an end or of stopping something **2.** the end part of something

**endless** /'endləs/ *adjective* with no end

**end of address** /,ɪend əv 'dres/ *noun* a transmitted code which indicates that address data has been sent. Abbr **EOA**

**end of block** /,ɪend əv 'blɒk/ *noun* a code which shows that the last byte of a block of data has been sent through a communications link. Abbr **EOB**

**end of data** /,ɪend əv 'deɪtə/ *noun* a code which shows that the end of a stored data file has been reached. Abbr **EOD**

**end of document** /,ɪend əv 'dɒkjʊmənt/ *noun* same as **end of file**

**end of file** /,ɪend əv 'faɪl/ *noun* a marker after the last record in a file. Also called **end of document**. Abbr **EOF**

**end of job** /,ɪend əv 'dʒɒb/ *noun* a code used in batch processing to show that a job has been finished. Abbr **EOJ**

**end of message** /,ɪend əv 'mesɪdʒ/ *noun* a code used to separate the last character of one message from the first of another message. Abbr **EOM**

**end of record** /,ɪend əv 'rekɔ:d/ *noun* a code used to show the end of a record. Abbr **EOR**

**end of text** /,ɪend əv 'tekst/ *noun* a code sent after last character of text. Abbr **EOT**, **ETX**

**end of transmission** /,ɪend əv trænʒ 'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a sequence of characters indicating that all the data from a terminal or peripheral has been transmitted. Abbr **EOT**

**end user** /,ɪend 'ju:zəl/ *noun* a person who will use the device, program or product ○ *The company is creating a computer with a specific end user in mind.*

**energy-saving** /'enədʒi ,seɪvɪŋ/ *adjective* which saves energy ○ *The company is introducing energy-saving measures.*

**Energy Star** /'enədʒi stɑ:/ *noun* a standard and logo on a monitor, computer or other electrical device indicating that the product has been specially designed to save electricity

**ENG** *abbr* electronic news gathering

**engaged tone** /ɪn'geɪdʒd təʊn/ *noun* the sound made by a telephone showing that the number dialled is busy

**engine** /'endʒɪn/ *noun* a part of a software package that carries out a particular function  
 ○ *A search engine is the part of a multimedia title that lets a user search for text in a multimedia book.*

**enhance** /ɪn'hɑ:ns/ *verb* to make better or clearer

**enhanced-definition television** /ɪn ,hɑ:nst ,defɪnɪf(ə)n ,telɪ'vɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **EDTV**

**enhanced dot matrix** /ɪn,hɑ:nst ,dɒt 'meɪtrɪks/ *noun* a clearer character or graphics printout using smaller dots and more dots per inch than standard dot matrix

**enhanced expanded memory specification** /ɪn,hɑ:nst ɪk,speɪndɪd 'mem(ə)rɪ ,spesɪfɪkeɪf(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **EEMS**

**enhanced parallel port** /ɪn,hɑ:nst 'pærəlel ,pɔ:t/ *noun* full form of **EPP**

**enhanced small device interface** /ɪn ,hɑ:nst smɔ:l dɪ'vaɪs ,ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* full form of **ESDI**

**enhancement** /ɪn'hɑ:nsmənt/ *noun* an add-on facility which improves the output or performance of equipment

**enlarge** /ɪn'lɑ:dʒ/ *verb* to make (a photograph) larger

**enlargement** /ɪn'lɑ:dʒmənt/ *noun* **1.** the process of making something larger; a larger version of a photograph **2.** a larger version of a photograph  
 ○ *An enlargement of the photograph was used to provide better detail.* ♢ **blow-up**

**enlargement printing** /ɪn'lɑ:dʒmənt ,prɪntɪŋ/ *noun* optical printing that enlarges a small frame area, e.g. 16mm to 35mm

**ENQ** *abbr* enquiry

**enquiry** /ɪn'kwærɪ/ *noun* **1.** a request for data or information from a device or database **2.** an act of accessing data in a computer memory without changing the data. *Abbr* **ENQ**

**ensure** /ɪn'ʃʊə/ *verb* to make sure  
 ○ *Pushing the write-protect tab will ensure that the data on the disk cannot be erased.*

**enter** /'entə/ *verb* to type in information on a terminal or keyboard. ♢ **carriage return key**

**entering** /'entəɪŋ/ *noun* the act of typing in data or writing items in a record

**enter key** /'entə ki:/ *noun* a key pressed to indicate the end of an input or line of text

**enterprise network** /'entəpraɪz ,netwɜ:k/ *noun* a network which connects all the workstations or terminals or comput-

ers in a company (NOTE: It can be within one building or link several buildings in different countries.)

**enterprise software** /'entəpraɪz ,sɒftweɪ/ *noun* computer software that is designed to integrate and automate all of a company's functions

**entity** /'entɪtɪ/ *noun* a subject to which the data stored in a file or database refers (NOTE: The plural is **entities**.)

**entry** /'entri/ *noun* **1.** a single record or data about one action or object in a database or library (NOTE: The plural is **entries**.) **2.** a place where you can enter

**entry point** /'entri pɔɪnt/ *noun* the address from which a program or subroutine is to be executed

**enumerated type** /ɪ,nju:məreɪtɪd 'taɪp/ *noun* data storage or classification using numbers to represent chosen convenient labels

COMMENT: If 'man', 'horse', 'dog', 'cat' are the items of data, stored by the machine simply as 0, 1, 2, 3, they can still be referred to in the program as man, horse etc. to make it easier for the user to recognise them.

**envelope** /'envələʊp/ *noun* **1.** a transmitted packet of data containing error-detection and control information **2.** (*in multimedia*) the shape of the decay curve of a sound **3.** (*in email*) the data which contains a mail message with the destination address information **4.** a paper packet that contains a letter

**envelope feeder** /'envələʊp ,fi:də/ *noun* a special add-on to a printer used to print on an envelope instead of a sheet of paper

**environment** /ɪn'vaɪrənmənt/ *noun* **1.** the condition in a computer system of all the registers and memory locations **2.** surroundings or physical conditions **3.** the imaginary space in which a user works when using a computer. This can be changed to suit the user's needs – by defining its characteristics such as colour or wallpaper and by setting up a printer, keyboard and fonts.

**EOA** *abbr* end of address

**EOB** *abbr* end of block

**EOD** /,ɪ: əʊ 'di:/ *abbr* end of data

**EOF** *abbr* end of file

**EOJ** *abbr* end of job

**EOM** *abbr* end of message

**EOR** *abbr* end of record

**EOT** *abbr* end of text

**epidiascope** /,ɛpɪ'daɪəskəʊp/ *noun* an optical projector which mixes the function of a diascope (a transparency projector) with that of an episcopy

**episcopo** /'epɪskəʊp/ *noun* a projector that can display opaque material, such as photographs, and documents onto a screen

**epitaxial layer** /,epɪ'tæksɪəl ,leɪə/ *noun* a very thin layer of material or doped semiconductor deposited onto a substrate base

**epitaxy** /'epɪtækɪs/ *noun* a method of depositing very thin layers of materials onto a base, for use in chip manufacture

**EPOS** /'i:pɒs/ *noun* a system that uses a computer terminal at a point-of-sale site for electronic funds transfer or stock control as well as matters such as product identification. Full form **electronic point-of-sale**

**EPP** /,i: pi: 'pi:/ *noun* a standard that defines the way data can be transferred at high speed through a parallel port connector. Full form **enhanced parallel port**

**EPR** *noun* a system which ensures consistent frame-frame steadiness in telecine transfer (*film*) Full form **electronic pin registration**

**EPROM** /,i: 'pi: ,rɒm/ *abbr* erasable programmable read-only memory

**EPS** *abbr* encapsulated PostScript

**EPSF** *abbr* encapsulated PostScript file

**equal** /'i:kwəl/ *adjective* exactly the same ■ *verb* to be the same as ○ *Production this month has equalled our best month ever.*

**equalisation** /,i:kwəlaɪ'zeɪʃən/, **equalization** *noun* the process of making a signal equal (to preset values)

**equaliser** /'i:kwəlaɪzə/, **equalizer** *noun* a device which changes the amplitude of various parts of a signal according to preset values

**equalize** /'i:kwəlaɪz/ *verb* to make equal (to preset values) ○ *The received signal was equalised to an optimum shape.*

**equally** /'i:kwəli/ *adverb* in the same way ○ *They were both equally responsible for the successful launch of the new system.*

**equate** /'i:kweɪt/ *verb* to be the same as or to make the same as ○ *The variable was equated to the input data.*

**equator** /'i:kweɪtə/ *noun* an imaginary line running round the middle of the earth

**equatorial orbit** /,ekwə'tɔ:riəl 'ɔ:bit/ *noun* a satellite flight path that follows the earth's equator

**equip** /'i:kwɪp/ *verb* to provide with machinery or equipment

**equipment** /'i:kwɪpmənt/ *noun* machinery and furniture required to make a factory or office work ○ *office equipment* or *business equipment*

**equipment failure** /'i:kwɪpmənt ,feɪljə/ *noun* a hardware fault, rather than a software fault

**equivalence** /'i:kwɪvələns/ *noun* 1. being equivalent 2. a logical operation that is true if all the inputs are the same

COMMENT: Output is 1 if both inputs are 1 or if both are 0; if the two inputs are different, the output is 0.

**erasable** /'i:reɪzəb(ə)/ *adjective* which can be erased

**erasable memory** /,i:reɪzəb(ə)l 'mem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* same as **erasable storage**

**erasable read-only memory** /,i:reɪzəb(ə)l ,ri:d ,əʊnli 'mem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* full form of **EROM**

**erasable storage** /,i:reɪzəb(ə)l 'stɔ:ɹɪdʒ/ *noun* 1. a storage medium which can be re-used 2. temporary storage ► also called **erasable memory**

**erase** /'i:reɪz/ *verb* 1. to set all the digits in a storage area to zero 2. to remove any signal from a magnetic medium (NOTE: **erases** – **erasing** – **erased**)

**eraser** /'i:reɪzə/ *noun* a device that erases the contents of something, e.g. a device using UV light to erase an EPROM

**eraser tool** /'i:reɪzə tu:l/ *noun* (*in a graphics program*) function that allows areas of an image to be erased, or set to the background colour. Also called **erase**

**ERCC** *noun* memory which checks and corrects errors. Full form **error checking and correcting**

**ergonomics** /,ɜ:gə'nɒmɪks/ *noun* the science of designing software or hardware so that it is comfortable and safe to use

**ergonomist** /ɜ:'gɒnəmɪst/ *noun* a scientist who studies people at work and tries to improve their working conditions

**EROM** /'i: rɒm/ *noun* full form **erasable read-only memory**. same as **EAROM**

**erratum** /e'rɔ:təm/ *noun* a correction on a separate slip of paper to an error or omission from a document (NOTE: The plural is **errata**.)

**error** /'erə/ *noun* a mistake due to a human operator

...syntax errors, like omitting a bracket, will produce an error message from the compiler' [*Personal Computer World*]

**error detection** /'erə dɪ,tekʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of using special hardware or software to detect errors in a data entry or transmission, then usually to ask for retransmission

**error detection and correction** /,erə dɪ,tekʃən ən kə'rekʃən/ *noun* full form of **EDAC**

**error handling** /'erə ,hændlɪŋ/ *noun* same as **exception handling**

**error logging** /'erə ,lɒgɪŋ/ *noun* the process of recording errors that have occurred ○

*Features of the program include error logging.*

**error message** /'erə ,mesɪdʒ/ *noun* a report displayed to the user saying that an error has occurred

**error rate** /'erə reɪt/ *noun* **1.** the number of errors that occur within a certain time **2.** the number of corrupt bits of data in relation to the total transmission length

**ESC** /'ɪ'skeɪp/ *noun* **1.** same as **escape code** **2.** same as **escape key**

**escape code** /'ɪ'skeɪp kəʊd/ *noun* a transmitted code sequence which informs the receiver that all following characters represent control actions. Also called **ESC**

**escape key** /'ɪ'skeɪp ki:/ *noun* a key on a keyboard which allows the user to enter escape codes to control the computer's basic modes or actions. Also called **ESC**, **Esc key**

**escapement** /'ɪ'skeɪpmənt/ *noun* a preset vertical movement of a sheet of paper in a printer

**Esc key** /'ɪ'skeɪp ki:/ *noun* same as **escape key**

**ESDI** *noun* an interface standard between a CPU and peripherals such as disk drives. Full form **enhanced small device interface**. ♯ **SCSI**

**ESS** *abbr* electronic switching system

**establish** /'ɪ'stæblɪʃ/ *verb* **1.** to discover and prove something ○ *They established which component was faulty.* **2.** to define the use or value of something

**establishing shot** /'ɪ'stæblɪʃɪŋ ʃɒt/ *noun* an atmospheric long shot that establishes the main location of the film or programme and is generally used in the opening scene (*film*)

**etch** /etʃ/ *verb* to use an acid to remove selected layers of metal from a metal printing plate or printed circuit board

**etch type** /'etʃ taɪp/ *noun* type for printing produced from an etched plate

**Ethernet** /'i:θənet/ *noun* a standard, IEEE 802.3, defining the protocol and signalling method of a local area network

COMMENT: Ethernet has several implementations: 10Base5 is a bus-based topology running over coaxial cable; 10BaseT uses unshielded-twisted-pair cable in a star-based topology; Ethernet normally has a data transmission rate of 10Mbps.

**ETV** *abbr* educational TV

**Euronet™** /'jʊərənet/ *noun* a telephone connected network, covering the EC countries, that provides access to each country's scientific and economic information

**European Article Number** /,jʊərə ,pi:tən ,ɑ:tɪk(ə)l 'nʌmbə/ *noun* full form of **EAN**

**evaluate** /'ɪ:vælju:et/ *verb* **1.** to calculate a value or a quantity **2.** to test or try or look at a product before buying it

**evaluation** /ɪ,vælju:'eɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the action of calculating a value or a quantity

**evaluation copy** /ɪ,vælju:'eɪf(ə)n ,kɒpi/ *noun* a demonstration version of a software product that allows a user to try the main functions of a software product before buying it

**evaluative abstract** /ɪ,vælju:ətɪv 'æbstrækt/ *noun* a library abstract that contains details of the value and usefulness of the document

**event** /ɪ'vent/ *noun* an action or activity

**event-driven** /ɪ'vent ,drɪv(ə)n/ *adjective* referring to a computer program or process in which each step of the execution relies on external actions

'Forthcoming language extensions will include object-oriented features, including classes with full inheritance, as well as event-driven programming.' [*Computing*]

**event handler** /ɪ'vent ,hændlə/ *noun* a routine that responds to an event or message within an object-oriented programming environment ○ *If a user clicks the mouse button this generates a message which can be taken upon by the event handler.*

**ewallet** /'i:,wɒlət/, **e-wallet** /'i: ,wɒlət/ *noun* a feature of web browsers that allows a user to store personal details about his or her credit card, bank account or other ways of paying for goods on the Internet

**except** /ɪk'sept/ *preposition, conjunction* not including ○ *All the text has been keyboarded, except the last ten pages.*

**exception** /ɪk'sepʃən/ *noun* something which is different from all others in the same category

**exceptional** /ɪk'sepʃən(ə)l/ *adjective* not usual or different

**exception handling** /ɪk'sepʃ(ə)n ,hændlɪŋ/ *noun* routines and procedures that diagnose and correct errors or minimise the effects of errors, so that a system will run when an error is detected. Also called **error handling, error management**

**excess** /ɪk'ses/ *noun* too much of something

**excessive** /ɪk'sesɪv/ *adjective* too much or too large ○ *The program used an excessive amount of memory to accomplish the job.*

**exchange** /ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ/ *noun* the giving of one thing for another ■ *verb* to swap data between two locations (NOTE: **exchanges – exchanging – exchanged**)

**exchangeable** /ɪks'tʃeɪndʒəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be exchanged

**exchangeable disk storage** /ɪks ˌtʃeɪndʒəb(ə)l dɪsk 'stɔ:ɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **EDS**

**exclamation mark** /ɪˌeksklə'meɪʃ(ə)n mə:kl/ *noun* a printed or written sign (!), which shows surprise

**exclude** /ɪk'sklu:d/ *verb* to keep out or not to include

**excluding** /ɪk'sklu:dɪŋ/ *preposition* not including

**exclusion** /ɪk'sklu:ʒ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of not including **2.** restriction of access to a system

**exclusive** /ɪk'sklu:sɪv/ *adjective* which excludes

**exe** /'eksi/ *noun* an extension to a filename which indicates that the file is a program and can be executed directly by the operating system ○ *In DOS, to start a program type in its EXE file name.*

**executable file** /'eksɪ,kju:təb(ə)l faɪl/ *noun* a file that contains a program rather than data

**executable form** /'eksɪ,kju:təb(ə)l fɔ:m/ *noun* a program translated or compiled into a machine code form that a processor can execute

**execute** /'eksɪ,kju:t/ *verb* to run or carry out a computer program or process (NOTE: **executes** – **executing** – **executed**)

**execution** /ɪˌeksɪ'kju:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of carrying out a computer program or process

**execution time** /ɪˌeksɪ'kju:ʃ(ə)n ˌtaɪm/ *noun* **1.** the time taken to run or carry out a program or series of instructions **2.** the time taken for one execution cycle

**executive information system** /ɪg ˌzekjʊtɪv ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n ˌsɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **EIS**

**exhaustive search** /ɪg'zɔ:stɪv sɜ:tʃ/ *noun* a search through every record in a database

**EXIT** /'eksɪt/ *noun* an MS-DOS system command to stop and leave a child process and return to the parent process

**expand** /ɪk'spænd/ *verb* to make larger ○ *If you want to hold so much data, you will have to expand the disk capacity.*

**expandable** /ɪk'spændəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be expanded

**expanded memory** /ɪk'spændɪd 'mem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* an extra RAM memory fitted to a computer that is located at an address above 1 Mb

**expanded memory specification** /ɪk ˌspændɪd 'mem(ə)rɪ ˌspesɪfɪkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **EMS**

**expansion** /ɪk'spænʃən/ *noun* an increase in computing power or storage size

**expansion board** /ɪk'spænʃən bɔ:d/ *noun* a printed circuit board connected to a system to increase its functions or performance. Also called **expansion card**

**expansion card** /ɪk'spænʃ(ə)n kɑ:d/ *noun* same as **expansion board**

**expansion slot** /ɪk'spænʃ(ə)n slɒt/ *noun* a connector inside a computer into which an expansion board can be plugged ○ *Insert the board in the expansion slot.*

**expert** /'ekspɜ:t/ *noun* a person who knows a lot about something ○ *He is a computer expert.*

**expert system** /'ekspɜ:t ˌsɪstəm/ *noun* ▶ **IKBS**

**expiration** /ɪˌekspe'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* coming to an end ◇ **expiration date** **1.** last date at which photographic film or paper can be used with good results **2.** date when a computer file is no longer protected from deletion by the operating system

**expire** /ɪk'spaɪə/ *verb* to come to an end or to be no longer valid

**explicit reference** /ɪkˌsplɪsɪt 'ref(ə)rəns/ *noun* (*within a program or script*) a way of identifying a particular object, e.g. a field or button, by a unique name

**Explorer™** /ɪk'splɔ:ɪə/ a program supplied with Windows 95 that lets you manage all the files stored on a disk

**exponent** /ɪk'spəʊnənt/ *noun* a number indicating the power to which a base a number is to be raised

**exponentiation** /ɪˌekspeˌnənʃi'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the raising of a base number to a certain power

**export** /ɪk'spɔ:t/ *verb* to save data in a different file format from the default

**expose** /ɪk'spəʊz/ *verb* to allow light to reach photographic film or paper to form an image

**exposure** /ɪk'spəʊʒə/ *noun* the process of letting light fall on a photographic film to form an image

**exposure end point** /ɪk'spəʊʒə 'end ˌpɔɪnt/ *noun* the quantity of light required to produce a certain image density

**exposure index** /ɪk'spəʊʒə ˌɪndeks/ *noun* the sensitivity of a photographic emulsion

**exposure latitude** /ɪk'spəʊʒə ˌlætɪtju:d/ *noun* the extent to which film can be over-exposed or under-exposed and still provide a clear picture

**exposure meter** /ɪk'spəʊʒə ˌmi:tə/ *noun* a device for measuring the light intensity on or reflected by a scene which is to be filmed

**express** /ɪk'spres/ *verb* to state or to describe ○ *Express the formula in its simplest form.*

**expression** /ɪk'spreʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a mathematical formula or relationship **2.** the definition of a value or variable in a program

**extend** /ɪk'stend/ *verb* to make longer  
**extended binary coded decimal interchange code** /ɪk,stendɪd ,bainəri ,kəʊdɪd ,desɪm(ə)l 'ɪntətʃeɪndʒ ,kəʊd/ *noun* full form of **EBCDIC**

**extended character set** /ɪk,stendɪd 'kærɪktə ,set/ *noun* a set of 128 special characters that includes accents, graphics and symbols

**extended data output memory** /ɪk ,stendɪd ,deɪtə 'aʊtpʊt ,mem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* full form of **EDO memory**

**extended-definition television** /ɪk ,stendɪd ,defɪnɪʃ(ə)n ,telɪ'vɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **EDTV**

**extended graphics array** /ɪk,stendɪd 'græfɪks ə,reɪ/ *noun* full form of **XGA**

**extended memory** /ɪk,stendɪd 'mem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* (in an IBM PC) the most popular standard method of adding extra memory above 1 Mb which can be used directly by many operating systems or programs

**extendible** /ɪk'stensɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be extended

**extendible hypertext markup language** /ɪk,stensɪb(ə)l ,haɪpətɛkst 'mɑ:kɒp ,læŋɡwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **XHTML**

**extendible markup language** /ɪk ,stensɪb(ə)l 'mɑ:kɒp ,læŋɡwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **XML**

**extension** /ɪk'stɛnʃən/ *noun* the process of making something longer; something added to something else to make it longer

**extent** /ɪk'stɛnt/ *noun* the number of pages in a printed document, such as a book ○ *By adding the appendix, we will increase the page extent to 256.*

**external** /ɪk'stɜ:n(ə)l/ *adjective* outside a program or device

**external device** /ɪk,stɜ:n(ə)l drɪ'vaɪs/ *noun* **1.** an item of hardware, e.g. a terminal or printer, which is attached to a main computer **2.** any device that allows communications between the computer and itself but

which is not directly operated by the main computer

**external disk drive** /ɪk,stɜ:n(ə)l 'dɪsk ,draɪv/ *noun* a device not built into the computer but added to increase its storage capabilities

**extra** /'ɛkstrə/ *noun* an item which is additional to a software or hardware package ○ *The mouse and cabling are sold as extras.*

**extract** /ɪk'strækt/ *verb* to remove required data or information from a database ○ *We can extract the files required for typesetting.*

**extranet** /'ɛkstrənɛt/ *noun* an intranet that has a connection to the public Internet and allows users to gain access via the Internet (NOTE: It is often used to provide access to people in the company who are working away from the office. Most intranets do not allow access via the public Internet and include security measures that protect against hackers and unauthorised users.)

**extrapolation** /ɪk,stræpə'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of predicting future quantities or trends by the analysis of current and past data

**eyeball** /'aɪbɔ:l/ *noun* a user of the Internet who visits a particular website or uses a particular product (*slang*)

**eye candy** /'aɪ ,kændɪ/ *noun* the decorative elements on a computer screen or a web page that are intended to make it attractive to look at (*informal*)

**eye-dropper** /'aɪ ,drɒpə/ *noun* a tool in a graphics software application that allows a user to click on a pixel in an image and select the colour of the pixel

**eye-lighting** /'aɪ ,laɪtɪŋ/ *noun* the process of illuminating a close shot in order to produce a small highlight reflection on the actor's eyeball which causes the eye to sparkle (*film*)

**eyepiece** /'aɪpi:s/ *noun* a camera viewfinder

**eyepiece lens** /'aɪpi:s lens/ *noun* a lens in the viewfinder of a camera through which the cameraman looks

**eye-strain** /'aɪ streɪn/ *noun* pain in the eyes, caused by looking at bright lights or at a VDU for too long

'...to minimize eye-strain, it is vital to have good lighting conditions with this LCD system'  
 [Personal Computer World]

**e-zine** /'i: zɪ:n/ *noun* a website that models its contents and layout a printed magazine

# F

**F symbol** the hexadecimal number equivalent to decimal number 15

**face** /feɪs/ *noun* same as **typeface**

**facility** /fə'sɪlti/ *noun* **1.** a mechanism or means allowing something to be done, especially easily ○ *We offer facilities for processing a customer's own disks.* (NOTE: The plural is **facilities**.) **2.** a single large building (US) ○ *We have opened our new data processing facility.* **3.** a communications path between two or more locations, with no ancillary line equipment

**facsimile** /fæk'sɪmɪli/ *noun* an exact copy of an original

**facsimile character generator** /fæk'sɪmɪli'kærɪktə,dʒenəreɪtə/ *noun* a means of displaying characters on a computer screen by copying preprogrammed images from memory

**facsimile transmission** /fæk'sɪmɪli'trænz,mɪf(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **fax**

**FACT** *noun* an organisation that prevents illegal copying of film and TV material (*film*) Full form **Federation Against Copyright Theft**

**factor** /'fæktə/ *noun* **1.** something which is important or which has an influence on something else **2.** any number in a multiplication that is the operand

**factorise** /'fæktəraɪz/, **factorize** *verb* to break down a number into two whole numbers which when multiplied will give the original number ○ *When factorised, 15 gives the factors 1, 15 or 3, 5.* (NOTE: **factorises – factorising – factorised**)

**factory** /'fækt(ə)ri/ *noun* a building where products are manufactured ○ *computer factory*

**fade** /feɪd/ *verb* (of a radio or electrical signal) to become less strong (NOTE: **fades – fading – faded**)

**fade in** /,feɪd 'ɪn/ *noun* **1.** an image that starts with a blank screen that gradually shows the image **2.** a sound that starts inaudibly and gradually increases in volume

**fade out** /,feɪd 'aʊt/ *noun* **1.** an image that gradually changes to a blank screen **2.** a sound that gradually decreases in volume until it is inaudible ■ *verb* to decrease in volume gradually

**fader** /'feɪdə/ *noun* an instrument which brightens or darkens the picture, or decreases or increases the audio levels (*film*)

**fader shutter, fading shutter** *noun* a shutter with two blades in a film camera; an adjustable opening can be used to vary the exposure for fade or dissolve effects

**fading** /'feɪdɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** a variation in strength of radio and television broadcast signals **2.** the process of becoming less dark ○ *When fading occurs turn the density dial on the printer to full black.*

**fail** /feɪl/ *verb* not to do something which should be done ○ *The company failed to carry out routine maintenance of its equipment.*

**fail safe system** /'feɪl seɪf ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a system which has a predetermined state it will go to if a main program or device fails, so avoiding the total catastrophe that a complete system shutdown would produce

'The DTI is publishing a new code of best practice which covers hardware reliability and fail-safe software systems.' [Computing]

**failure** /'feɪljə/ *noun* the process of breaking down or stopping; not doing something which should be done

**failure rate** /'feɪljə reɪt/ *noun* the number of occurrences of a particular type of failure within a specified period of time

**fall back routines** /'fɔ:l bæk ru:ti:nz/ *plural noun* routines that are called or procedures which are executed by a user when a machine or system has failed

**fall-off** /'fɔ:l ɒf/ *noun* a gradual decrease in brightness from the centre of a screen to the edges (*film*)

**FAM** *abbr* fast access memory

**family** /'fæm(ə)li/ *noun* **1.** a range of different designs of a particular typeface **2.** a range of machines from one manufacturer that are compatible with other products in the same line from the same manufacturer

**fan** /fæn/ *noun* **1.** a mechanism which circulates air for cooling ○ *If the fan fails, the system will rapidly overheat.* **2.** a spread of data items or devices ■ *verb* **1.** to cool a device by blowing air over it **2.** to spread out a series of items or devices

'Intel is investigating other options to solve the Pentium system overheating problems, including selling the chip with its own miniature fan.' [Computing]

'...a filtered fan maintains positive air pressure within the cabinet, to keep dust and dirt from entering' [*Personal Computer World*]

**fanfold** /'fænfəʊld/ *noun* same as **accordion fold**

**FAQ** /fæk, ,ef ɛr 'kju:/ *noun* a webpage or help file that contains common questions and their answers related to a particular subject

**fascia plate** /'feɪʃə pleɪt/ *noun* the front panel on a device ○ *The fascia plate on the disk drive of this model is smaller than those on other models.*

**fast** /fɑ:st/ *adjective* **1.** which moves quickly; which works quickly; (storage or peripheral device) that performs its functions very rapidly ○ *fast program execution* **2.** (photographic lens) with a very wide aperture; highly light-sensitive photographic film

**fast access memory** /,fɑ:st ,æksɛs 'mem(ə)ri/ *noun* abbr **FAM**

**FAT** /,ef ɛr 'ti:/ *noun* (in a PC operating system) a data file stored on disk that contains the names of each file stored on the disk, together with its starting sector position, date and size. Full form **file allocation table**

**fatal error** /,feɪt(ə)l 'erə/ *noun* a fault in a program or device that causes the system to crash

**FatBits** /'fæt bɪts/ a MacPaint option which allows a user to edit an image one pixel at a time

**father file** /'fɑ:ðə faɪl/ *noun* a backup of the previous version of a file. ◇ **grandfather file, son file**

**fault** /fɔ:lt/ *noun* a situation in which something has gone wrong with software or hardware, causing it to malfunction ○ *The technical staff are trying to correct a programming fault.* ◇ **bug, error**

**fault detection** /'fɔ:lt dɪ,tɛkʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an automatic process which logically or mathematically determines that a fault exists in a circuit

**fault diagnosis** /'fɔ:lt ,daɪəgnəʊsɪs/ *noun* a process by which the cause of a fault is located

**fault tolerance** /'fɔ:lt ,tɒləərəns/ *noun* the ability of a system to continue functioning even when a fault has occurred

**fault-tolerant** /,fɔ:lt 'tɒləərənt/ *adjective* referring to a system or device that is able to continue functioning even when a fault occurs ○ *They market a highly successful range of fault-tolerant minis.*

**faulty** /'fɔ:lti/ *adjective* which does not work properly ○ *There must be a faulty piece of equipment in the system.*

'Hampshire fire brigade is investing £2 million in a command and control system based on the new

SeriesFT fault-tolerant Unix machine from Motorola.' [*Computing*]

'...before fault-tolerant systems, users had to rely on cold standby fault tolerance is usually associated with a system's reliability' [*Computer News*]

**fax** /fæks/, **FAX** *noun* a method of sending and receiving images in digital form over a telephone or radio link (*informal*) ○ *We will send a fax of the design plan.* Full form **facsimile transmission**

**fax card** /'fæks kɑ:d/, **fax adapter** /fæks ə'dæptə/, **fax board** /fæks bɔ:d/ *noun* an adapter card which plugs into an expansion slot and allows a computer to send or receive fax data

**FCB** area of memory (used by the operating system) that contains information about the files in use or those stored on a disk drive. Full form **file control block**

**FCC** (*film*) abbr US Federal Communications Commission ■ *noun* in the printing of film, a control cue device based on the electronic counting of the amount of frames moving through the machine. Full form **frame count cueing**

**fd, FD** abbr **1.** full duplex **2.** floppy disk

**FDC** /,ef di: 'si:/ *noun* a combination of hardware and software devices that control and manage the read/write operations of a disk drive from a computer. Full form **floppy disk controller**

**FDD** abbr floppy disk drive

**FDDI** /,ef di: di: 'aɪ/ *noun* an ANSI standard for high-speed networks which use fibre optic cable in a dual ring topology, transmitting data at 100 Mbps. Full form **fibre distributed data interface**

**FDDI II** /,ef di: di: aɪ 'tu:/ *noun* an enhanced ANSI standard for high-speed networks that uses fibre optic cable and transmits data at 100 Mbps but can also allocate part of the bandwidth to a 64 Kbits/second analog channel for audio or video data. Full form **fibre distributed data interface II**

**FDISK** /'ef dɪsk/ *noun* an MS-DOS system utility that configures the partitions on a hard disk

**fdx, FDX** abbr full duplex

**feasibility** /,fi:zə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the likelihood that something will or can be done ○ *He has been asked to report on the feasibility of a project.*

**feasibility study** /,fi:zə'bɪlɪti ,stʌdi/ *noun* an examination and report into the usefulness and cost of a new product that is being considered for purchase

**feature** /'fi:tʃə/ *noun* a special function or ability or design of hardware or software

**feature film** /'fi:tʃə film/ *noun* a commercial, full-length film production to be shown in a cinema; usually ninety minutes in length

**FED** *abbr* field emission display

**Federation Against Copyright Theft** /,fedə'reɪf(ə)n ə'dʒenst 'kɒpi'raɪt θeft/ *noun* full form of **FACT**

**FEDS** /,ef i: di: 'es/ *noun* a magnetic disk storage system that contains some removable disks such as floppy disks and some fixed or hard disk drives. Full form **fixed and exchangeable disk storage**

**feed** /fi:d/ *noun* a device which puts something such as paper into and through a machine such as a printer or photocopier ■ *verb* to put something such as paper into and through a machine such as a printer or photocopier ○ *This paper should be manually fed into the printer.* (NOTE: **feeding – fed**)

**feedback** /'fi:dbæk/ *noun* 1. information from one source which can be used to modify something or provide a constructive criticism of something ○ *We are getting customer feedback on the new system.* 2. part of an output signal that is fed back to the input and amplified

**feeder** /'fi:deɪ/ *noun* 1. a channel that carries signals from one point to another 2. a mechanism that automatically inserts the paper into a printer

**feed horn** /'fi:hɔ:n/ *noun* a microwave channelling device used to direct transmitted signals

**feevee** /,fi: 'vi:/ *noun* US pay cable, form of cable TV where the viewer pays an extra fee for extra channels (*informal*)

**feint** /feɪnt/ *noun* very light lines on writing paper

**female connector** /,fi:meɪl kə'nektə/ *noun* a connector with female sockets

**FEP** /,ef i: 'pi:/ *noun* a processor placed between an input source and the central computer, whose function is to preprocess received data to relieve the workload of the main computer. Full form **front-end processor**

**ferric oxide** /,ferɪk 'ɒksaɪd/, **ferrite** /'feraɪt/ *noun* iron oxide used as a tape or disk coating that can be magnetised to store data or signals

**ferromagnetic** /,ferəʊmæg'netɪk/ *adjective* (material) that has a high magnetic permeability

**FET** /,ef i: 'ti:/ *noun* an electronic device that can act as a variable current flow control. Full form **field effect transistor** (NOTE: An external signal varies the resistance of the device and current flow by changing the width of a conducting channel by means of a field. It has three terminals: source, gate and drain.)

**fibre distributed data interface** /,faɪbə dɪ'strɪbjʊtɪd 'deɪtə ,ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* full form of **FDDI**

**fibre distributed data interface II** /,faɪbə dɪ'strɪbjʊtɪd ,deɪtə ,ɪntəfeɪs 'tu:/ *noun* full form of **FDDI II**

**fibre Ethernet** /,faɪbə 'i:θənet/ *noun* a high-speed network that uses optical fibre to link one node to another in a point-to-point topology

**fibre optic cable** /,faɪbə ,ɒptɪk 'keɪb(ə)l/, **fibre optic connection** /,faɪbə ,ɒptɪk kə'nektʃən/ *noun* a bundle of fine strands of glass or plastic protected by a surrounding material, used for transmission of light signals that carry data at very high speeds

**fibre optics** /,faɪbə 'ɒptɪks/ *plural noun* the use of thin strands of glass or plastic that can transmit light signals at the speed of light (NOTE: The light or laser signal is pulsed or modulated to represent data being transmitted.)

**fibre ribbon** /,faɪbə 'rɪbən/ *noun* a fabric-based ribbon used in printers

**fidelity** /'fɪ'delɪti/ *noun* the ability of an audio system to reproduce sound correctly. ♢ **fi**

**field** /fi:ld/ *noun* 1. an area of force and energy distribution, caused by magnetic or electric energy sources 2. a section containing particular data items in a record ○ *The employee record has a field for age.* 3. a section of an image that is available after the light has passed through the camera and lens. **Abbr FED**

**field blanking** /'fi:ld ,blæŋkɪŋ/ *noun* an interval when television signal field synchronizing pulses are transmitted

**field effect transistor** /'fi:ld r'fekt træn 'zɪstə/ *noun* full form of **FET**

**field emission display** /'fi:ld r'mɪʃ(ə)n dɪ'spleɪ/ *noun* 1. a method of producing thin, flat displays for laptop computers in which a miniature colour CRT is located at each pixel point. **Abbr FED 2.** a method of building up a picture on a television screen

**field engineer** /,fi:ld ,endʒɪ'nɪə/ *noun* an engineer who does not work at one single company, but travels between customers carrying out maintenance on their computers

**field fly back** /,fi:ld 'flaɪ ,bæk/ *noun* the return of electron beam to the top left hand corner of a screen

**field frequency** /'fi:ld ,fri:kwənsi/ *noun* the number of field scans per second

**field label** /'fi:ld ,leɪb(ə)l/ *noun* a series of characters used to identify a field or its location. Also called **field name**

**field length** /'fi:ld leŋθ/ *noun* the number of characters that a field can contain

**field marker** /'fi:ld ,mɑ:kə/ *noun* a code used to indicate the end of one field and the start of the next. Also called **field separator**

**field name** /'fi:ld neɪm/ *noun* same as **field label**

**field programmable device** /,fi:ld ,prəʊgræməb(ə)l dɪ'vaɪs/ *noun* same as **PLA**

**field programming** /'fi:ld ,prəʊgræmɪŋ/ *noun* the writing of data into a PROM

**field separator** /'fi:ld ,sepəreɪtə/ *noun* same as **field marker**

**field strength** /'fi:ld streŋθ/ *noun* the amplitude of the magnetic or electric field at one point in that field

**field sweep** /'fi:ld swi:p/ *noun* a vertical electron beam movement over a television screen

**field sync pulse** /,fi:ld 'sɪŋk ,pʌls/ *noun* a pulse in a TV signal that makes sure that the receiver's field sweep is in sync

**FIF** /,ef aɪ 'ef/ *noun* a file format used to store graphics images which have been highly compressed using fractals. Full form **fractal image format**

**FIFO** /'faɪfəʊ/ *noun* a storage read/write method in which the first item stored is the first read. Full form **first in first out**

**fifth generation computer** /,fɪfθ ,dʒenəreɪʃ(ə)n kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* a computer belonging to the next stage of computer system design using fast VLSI circuits and powerful programming languages to allow human interaction

**figure** /'fɪgə/ *noun* **1.** a printed number **2.** a printed line illustration in a book ○ *See figure 10 for a chart of ASCII codes.*

**file** /faɪl/ *noun* **1.** documents kept for reference **2.** a section of data on a computer, e.g. payroll, address list or customer accounts, in the form of individual records which may contain data, characters, digits or graphics

'The first problem was solved by configuring a Windows swap file, which I hadn't done before because my 4Mb 486 had never been overloaded.' [Computing]

'...the lost file, while inaccessible without a file-recovery utility, remains on disk until new information writes over it' [Publish]

**file allocation table** /,faɪl ,ælə'keɪʃ(ə)n ,teɪb(ə)/ *noun* full form of **FAT**

**file attribute** /'faɪl ,ætrɪbjʊ:t/ *plural noun* a set of data stored with each file which controls particular functions or aspects of the file such as read-only, archived or system file

**file deletion** /'faɪl dɪ,lɪ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of erasing a file from storage

**file format** /'faɪl ,fɔ:mæt/ *noun* a way in which data is stored in a file

**file management** /'faɪl ,mænɪdʒmənt/, **file management system** /'faɪl ,mænɪdʒmənt ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a section of a DOS that allocates disk space to files, keeping track of the sections and their sector addresses

**file manager** /'faɪl ,mænɪdʒə/ *noun* a section of a disk operating system that allocates disk space to files, keeping track of the file sections if it has to be split and their sector addresses

**filename** /'faɪlneɪm/ *noun* a unique identification code allocated to a program

'...when the filename is entered at the prompt, the operating system looks in the file and executes any instructions stored there' [PC User]

**filename extension** /'faɪlneɪm ɪk ,stenʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an additional three-character name that is used together with a filename, indicating the type or use of the file

**file-recovery utility** /,faɪl rɪ'kʌv(ə)rɪ jʊ: ,tɪlɪti/ *noun* a piece of software which allows files that have been accidentally deleted or damaged to be read again ○ *A lost file cannot be found without a file-recovery utility.*

**file security** /'faɪl sɪ,kjʊərətɪ/ *noun* hardware or software organisation of a computer system to protect users' files from unauthorised access

**file server** /'faɪl ,sɜ:və/ *noun* a computer connected to a network which runs a network operating system software to manage user accounts, file sharing and printer sharing

**file sharing** /'faɪl ,ʃeərɪŋ/ *noun* a facility allowing one file to be used by two or more users or programs in a network, often using file locking

**file storage** /'faɪl ,stɔ:ɹɪdʒ/ *noun* a physical means of preserving data in a file, e.g. a disk drive

**file structure** /'faɪl ,strʌktʃə/ *noun* a way in which a data file is organised

**file transfer** /'faɪl ,trænsfɜ:z/ *noun* the process of moving a file from one area of memory to another or to another storage device or between computers

**file transfer protocol** /,faɪl 'trænsfɜ:z ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **FTP**

**file type** /'faɪl taɪp/ *noun* a method of classifying what a file contains ○ *Files with the extension .exe are file types that contain program code.*

**file update** /'faɪl ,ʌpdetɪ/ *noun* **1.** the recent changes or transactions to a file **2.** a new version of software which is sent to users of an existing version

**file validation** /'faɪl ,vælɪdeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of checking that a file is correct

**filing** /'faɪlɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the process of putting documents in order **2.** documents which have to be put in order

**filing system** /'faɪlɪŋ sɪstəm/ *noun* **1.** a way of putting documents in order for reference **2.** a piece of software which organises files

**fill** /fɪl/ *verb* **1.** to make something full ○ *The screen was filled with flickering images.* **2.** to put characters into gaps in a field so that there are no spaces left **3.** to draw an enclosed area in one colour or shading

**fill light** /'fɪl laɪt/, **filler** /'fɪlə/, **fill-in light** /fɪl ɪn laɪt/ *noun* an additional studio lamp used to provide extra light in shadows (*film*)

**film** /fɪlm/ *noun* **1.** a transparent strip of plastic, coated with a light-sensitive compound and used to produce photographs with the aid of a camera **2.** a projection at high speed of a series of still images that creates the impression of movement ■ *verb* to expose a photographic film to light by means of a camera, and so to produce images ◇ **film advance** **1.** lever on a camera used to wind on a roll of film to the next frame **2.** the distance a phototypesetting machine has to move prior to the next line to be set

**film assembly** /'fɪlm əsɛmblɪ/ *noun* the correct arrangement of photographs or negatives prior to the production of a printing plate

**film base** /'fɪlm beɪs/ *noun* thin transparent roll of plastic used as a supporting material for photographic film

**film chain** /'fɪlm tʃeɪn/ *noun* all the necessary equipment needed when showing film or slides on television, such as a projector, TV camera and synchroniser

**film gate** /'fɪlm geɪt/ *noun* the alliance of the aperture and pressure plates in a camera or a projector to guide the film through, and to also ensure the correct focal distance between the film and the lens

**film gauge** /'fɪlm geɪdʒ/ *noun* the diameter of different types of cinematographic film

**filming** /'fɪlmɪŋ/ *noun* the shooting of a cinema film or TV film ○ *Filming will start next week if the weather is fine.*

**film optical scanning device for input into computers** /,fɪlm ɒptɪk(ə)l ɪnput ɪntə kəm'pjʊ:təz/ *noun* full form of **FOSDIC**

**film pickup** /'fɪlm ɪpɪkʌp/ *noun* the transmission of a motion picture film by television by electronically scanning each frame

**film projector** /'slɑɪd prə'dʒektə/, **slide projector** *noun* a mechanical device that displays films or slides on a screen

**film recorder** /'fɪlm rɪkɔ:də/ *noun* a device that produces a 35 mm slide from a com-

puter image (NOTE: A film recorder can produce slides at very high resolution, normally around 3,000 lines, by regenerating the image on an internal screen.)

**filmsetting** /'fɪlm,seɪtɪŋ/ *noun* the process of photocomposition

**film speed** /'fɪlm spi:d/ *noun* the light sensitivity of photographic film, as determined by ASA or DIN

**film strip** /'fɪlm stri:p/ *noun* a set of related images on a reel of film, usually for educational purposes

**filter** /'fɪltə/ *noun* **1.** an electronic circuit that allows certain frequencies to pass while stopping others **2.** an option in a software application that allows it to import or export a particular foreign file type ○ *Most graphics packages have import filters that will decode TIFF, BMP and PCX file formats.* **3.** optical coloured glass, which stops certain frequencies of light **4.** a pattern of binary digits used to select various bits from a binary word. A one in the filter retains that bit in the source word. ■ *verb* **1.** to remove unwanted elements from a signal or file **2.** to select various bits from a word ○ *Filter the top three bits of the video attribute word.* **3.** to select various records from a database file ○ *We filtered the data to select those customers based in New York.*

**final** /'faɪn(ə)l/ *adjective* last or coming at the end of a period ○ *to keyboard the final data files*

**final cut** /'faɪn(ə)l kʌt/ *noun (film)* **1.** the original negative when it has been altered to conform with the workprint **2.** the final version of the edited film on which the sound track can now be placed

**final trial composite** /,faɪn(ə)l ˌtraɪəl ˈkɒmpəzɪt/ *noun* a film containing audio and visual effects; this is the final and approved version of all former trial composites (*film*)

**find** /faɪnd/ *verb* to get something back which has been lost ○ *It took a lot of time to find the faulty chip.* ■ *noun* a command to locate a piece of information

**find and replace** /,faɪnd ən rɪˈpleɪs/ *noun* a feature on a word-processor that allows certain words or sections of text to be located and replaced with others

**Finder** /'faɪndə/ a trade name for a graphical user interface to an Apple Mac allowing a user to view files and folders and start applications using a mouse

**fine** /faɪn/ *adjective* excellent or of very high quality

**fine-tune** /,faɪn ˈtju:n/ *verb* to adjust by small amounts the features or parameters of hardware or software to improve perform-

ance ○ *Fine-tuning improved the speed by ten per cent.*

**finger** /'fɪŋɡə/ *noun* a software program on the Internet that will retrieve information about a user based on his or her email address

**finish** /'fɪnɪʃ/ *noun* **1.** the final appearance of something ○ *The product has an attractive finish.* **2.** the end of a process or function ■ **verb** **1.** to do something or to make something completely ○ *The order was finished in time.* **2.** to come to an end ○ *The contract is due to finish next month.*

**finished** /'fɪnɪʃt/ *adjective* which has been completed

**firewall** /'faɪəwɔ:l/ *noun* a hardware or software security system between a server or intranet and the public Internet that allows information to pass out to the Internet but checks any incoming data before passing it on to the private server ○ *We have installed a firewall in our intranet to prevent hackers accessing company data via the Internet link.*

**Firewire** /'faɪəwaɪə/ a trade name for a high-speed serial interface developed by the Apple Computer Corporation and used to link devices such as a digital camera with the computer. ♪ **USB**

**firmware** /'fɜ:mweə/ *noun* a computer program or data that is permanently stored in a hardware memory chip, e.g. a ROM or EPROM. Compare **hardware**, **software**

**first generation computer** /,fɜ:st ,dʒɛnəreɪʃ(ə)n kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* an original computer made with valve-based electronic technology, started around 1951

**first generation image** /,fɜ:st ,dʒɛnəreɪʃ(ə)n 'ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* a master copy of an original image, text or document

**first grip** /,fɜ:st 'grɪp/ *noun* on a film set, the principal stagehand who is responsible for the other stagehands (*film*) Also called **key grip**

**first in first out** /,fɜ:stɪn ,fɜ:st 'aʊt/ *noun* full form of **FIFO**

**first party release** /,fɜ:st ,pɑ:ti rɪ'li:z/ *noun* the ending of a telephone connection as soon as either party puts his phone down or disconnects his modem

**fisheye lens** /,fɪʃeɪ 'lenz/ *noun* an extremely wide angle photographic lens that has a field of view of 180 degrees and produces a distorted circular image

**fit** /fɪt/ *verb* to plot or calculate a curve that most closely approximates a number of points or data (NOTE: fitting – fitted)

**fix** /fɪks/ *verb* **1.** to make something permanent or to attach something permanently ○ *The computer is fixed to the workstation.* **2.** to mend ○ *The technicians are trying to fix the switchboard.*

**fixed and exchangeable disk storage** /,fɪkst ən ɪks,tʃeɪndʒəb(ə)l 'dɪsk ,stɔ:ɪrɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **FEDS**

**fixed disk** /,fɪkst 'dɪsk/ *noun* a magnetic disk which cannot be removed from the disk drive

**fixed-frequency monitor** /,fɪkst ,fri:kwənsɪ 'mɒnɪtə/ *noun* a monitor that can only accept one frequency and type of video signal

**flag** /flæg/ *noun **1.** a way of showing the end of field or of indicating something special in a database ○ *If the result is zero, the zero flag is set.* **2.** a method of reporting the status of a register after a mathematical or logical operation **3.** a square or rectangular opaque sheet which is used to stop light from the camera lens hitting places where it is not needed on the set ■ **verb** to attract the attention of a program while it is running to provide a result, report an action or indicate something special (NOTE: flagging – flagged)*

**flagging** /'flæɡɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the process of putting an indicator against an item so that it can be found later **2.** distortion in a television picture which is created by timing mistakes in a video tape recorder's playback signal

**flame** /fleɪm/ *verb* send a rude or angry Internet message to a user (NOTE: flames – flaming – flamed)

**flare** /fleə/ *noun* **1.** an error in which dispersion of light in a lens undesirably brightens the dark areas of an image **2.** areas of film that have been exposed to light on account of the camera not being fully light proof

**flared** /fleəd/ *adjective* image with unwanted bright spots or lines due to internal lens or camera reflections

**flash** /flæʃ/ *verb* to switch a light on and off

**flashing** /'flæʃɪŋ/ *noun* a signal sent over a telephone line to get the attention of an operator or user

**flash ROM** /'flæʃ rɒm/ *noun* an electronic memory component that contains data that can normally only be read, but that does allow new data to be stored in the memory using a special electrical signal

**flat** /flæt/ *adjective* **1.** smooth (surface) **2.** fixed or not changing **3.** lacking contrast (in an image or photograph)

**flatbed** /'flæt ,bed/ *adjective* referring to a printing or scanning machine that holds the paper or image on a flat surface while processing ○ *Scanners are either flatbed models or platen type, paper-fed models.*

**flatbed scanner** /,flætbed 'skænə/ *noun* a device with a flat sheet of glass on which artwork is placed and a scan head that moves below the glass and converts the image into a graphics file

**flat file** /'flæt faɪl/ *noun* a two-dimensional file of data items

**flat file database** /,flæt faɪl 'deɪtəbeɪs/ *noun* a database program that can only access data stored in one file at a time, not allowing relational data

**flat screen** /'flæt skri:n/ *noun* a display monitor that has been manufactured with a flat, square-edged front to the monitor

**flex** /fleks/ *noun* a wire or cable used to connect an appliance to the mains electricity supply (NOTE: no plural: for one item, say a piece of flex)

**flexibility** /,fleksɪ'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the ability of hardware or software to adapt to various conditions or tasks

**flexible** /'fleksɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be altered or changed

**flexible machining system** /,fleksɪb(ə)l mə'ʃi:nɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **FMS 1**

**flexible manufacturing system** /,fleksɪb(ə)l mænʃu'fæktʃərɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **FMS 2**

**flicker** /'flɪkə/ *noun* **1.** a computer graphic image whose brightness varies rapidly at a visible rate because of a low image refresh rate or signal corruption **2.** a random variation of brightness in a television picture **3.** an effect that occurs when a frame from a videodisc is frozen and two different pictures are displayed alternately at high speed due to the incorrect field matching **4.** a very short interruption in a film which is caused by a fault in the film projector or by a slow film projector ■ *verb* **1.** to move very slightly ○ *The image flickers when the printer is switched on.* **2.** to vary in brightness rapidly and visibly because of a low image refresh rate or signal corruption

**flicker-free** /'flɪkə frɪ:/ *adjective* referring to a display that does not flicker

'A CRT (cathode ray tube) monitor paints the screen from top to bottom, and is usually considered 'flicker free' if it refreshes the image 75 times a second, or more' [*The Guardian*]

**flier** /'flaɪə/ *noun* a small advertising leaflet designed to encourage customers to ask for more information about a product or service

**flight simulator** /'flaɪt ,sɪmjʊleɪtə/ *noun* a computer program which allows a user to pilot a plane, showing a realistic control panel and moving scenes, used either as a training programme or a computer game

**flip-flop** /'flɪp flɒp/ *noun* an electronic circuit or chip whose output can be one of two states determined by one or two inputs, and which can be used to store one bit of digital data. Abbr **FF**

**float** /fləʊt/ *noun* (*film*) **1.** the slow shake of an image up and down due to faulty synchronisation **2.** overlapping images in multiple exposure rostrum camera work **3.** part of a studio set which can easily be moved into or out of position

**floating** /'fləʊtɪŋ/ *adjective* referring to a character which is separate from the character it should be attached to

**floating point notation** /,fləʊtɪŋ pɔɪnt nəʊ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a numerical notation in which a fractional number is represented with a point after the first digit and a power, so that any number can be stored in a standard form

**floating point unit** /,fləʊtɪŋ pɔɪnt 'ju:nɪt/ *noun* a specialised CPU that can process floating point numbers very rapidly ○ *The floating point unit speeds up the processing of the graphics software.* Abbr **FPU**. Also called **floating point processor**

**floating window** /,fləʊtɪŋ 'wɪndəʊ/ *noun* a window that can be moved anywhere on screen

**flood** /flʌd/, **floodlight** /'flʌdlaɪt/ *noun* a lamp which gives a wide range of light (*film*)

**flooding** /'flʌdɪŋ/ *noun* a rapid, reliable but not very efficient means of routing packet-switched data, in which each node sends the data received to each of its neighbours

**film track** /'flɪd træk/ *noun* the sound track on a photographic film which is not used for sound and reveals the standard maximum width of a picture area (*film*)

**floppy disk** /,flɒpi 'dɪsk/, **floppy** /'flɒpi/ *noun* a secondary storage device in the form of a flat, circular flexible disk onto which data can be stored in a magnetic form. Abbr **FD** (NOTE: The plural of **floppy** is **floppies**.)

COMMENT: Floppy disks are available in various sizes: the commonest are 3.5 inch, 5.25 inch and 8 inch. The size refers to the diameter of the disk inside the sleeve.

**floppy disk controller** /,flɒpi 'dɪsk kən'trəʊlə/ *noun* full form of **FDC**

**floppy disk drive** /,flɒpi 'dɪsk ,draɪv/ *noun* a disk drive for floppy disks. Abbr **FDD**. Also called **floppy disk unit**

**flow** /fləʊ/ *noun* a regular movement ○ *Automatic text flow across pages.* ■ *verb* to move smoothly ○ *Work is flowing normally again after the breakdown of the printer.*

**flowchart** /'fləʊtʃɑ:t/ *noun* a diagram showing the arrangement of various work processes as a series of stages

**flow control** /'fləʊ kən'trəʊl/ *noun* management of the flow of data into queues and buffers, to prevent heavy traffic

**flow text** /,fləʊ 'tekst/ *verb* to insert text into a page format in a DTP system (NOTE:

The text fills all the space around pictures, and between set margins.)

**fluctuate** /'flʌktʃueɪt/ *verb* to move up and down ○ *The electric current fluctuates between 1 Amp and 1.3 Amp.*

**fluctuating** /'flʌktʃueɪtɪŋ/ *adjective* moving up and down ○ *fluctuating signal strength*

**fluctuation** /,flʌktʃu'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an up and down movement ○ *Voltage fluctuations can affect the functioning of the computer system.*

**fluid head** /'flu:ɪd hed/ *noun* a camera head for a tripod which possesses smooth pan and tilt facilities (*film*)

**flush** /flʌʃ/ *verb* to clear or erase all the contents of a queue, buffer, file or section of memory ■ *adjective* level or in line with something

**fluting** /'flu:tɪŋ/ *noun* twisting and bending of film edges created by humidity or by winding the film too tightly around a spool (*film*)

**flutter** /'flʌtə/ *noun* the occurrence of fluctuations of tape speed due to mechanical or circuit problems, causing signal distortion ○ *Wow and flutter and common faults on cheap tape recorders.*

**flux** /flʌks/ *noun* **1.** a measure of magnetic field strength **2.** the amount of reflected light from an object

**flux density** /'flʌks ,densəti/ *noun* the intensity of a magnetic flux

**fly** /flaɪ/ *verb* to move (through the air)

**flyback** /'flaɪbæk/ *noun* an electron picture beam return from the end of a scan to the beginning of the next. Also called **line flyback**

**FM** *verb* a method of changing the frequency of one signal according to another. Full form **frequency modulation**

COMMENT: FM is often used as a method of representing data through changes in the frequency of a signal (the carrier), and as a method of carrying data over fibre-optic or telephone cables (e.g. many modem standards use FM to transmit data).

**FMS** /,ef em 'es/ *noun* **1.** CNC or control of a machine by a computer. Full form **flexible machining system** **2.** the use of CNC machines, robots and other automated devices in manufacturing. Full form **flexible manufacturing system**

**FM synthesiser** /,ef em 'sɪnθə,sarɪzə/ *noun* a device or other means for creating sounds by combining base signals of different frequencies (NOTE: Sound cards using an FM synthesiser create sounds of a piano, drum or guitar by combining different frequencies at different levels to recreate

the complex sound of a musical instrument.)

**FNP** *abbr* front-end processor

**f-number** /'ef ,nʌmbə/ *noun* a measurement of the amount of light that an optical lens can collect, measured as the ratio of focal length to maximum aperture

**FO** *abbr* fibre optics

**focal length** /,fəʊk(ə) 'leŋθ/ *noun* the distance between the centre of an optical lens and the focusing plane, when the lens is focused at infinity

**focal plane** /'fəʊk(ə)l pleɪn/ *noun* a plane through the main focus of a camera lens which is at right angles to its optical axis (*film*)

**focus** /'fəʊkəs/ *noun* **1.** a particular window or field that is currently ready to accept a user's command ○ *In Windows, the object that currently has the user's focus has a dotted line around it.* **2.** an image or beam that is clear and well defined ■ *verb* **1.** to adjust a monitor so that the image that is displayed on the screen is sharp and clear **2.** to adjust the focal length of a lens or beam deflection system so that the image or beam is clear and well defined ○ *The camera is focused on the foreground.* ○ *They adjusted the lens position so that the beam focused correctly.*

**fog** /fɒg/ *noun* an effect on photographic material which has been accidentally exposed to unwanted light, causing a loss of picture contrast

**fog filter** /'fɒg ,fɪltə/ *noun* a filter placed in front of the camera lens that diffuses the light to produce a softer image; also used to create the impression of fog (*film*)

**fogging** /'fɒgɪŋ/ *noun* a graphic effect that is used to simulate atmospheric fog or haze, used to make a three-dimensional scene more realistic. Also called **haze**

**folder** /'fəʊldə/ *noun* a group of files stored together under a name. † **directory**

**folding machine** /,fəʊldɪŋ mə'ʃi:n/ *noun* a machine which automatically folds sheets of paper

**folio** /'fəʊliəʊ/ *noun* a page with a number, especially two facing pages in an account book which have the same number

**follow focus** /,fɒləʊ 'fəʊkəs/ *verb* to keep an object in focus even if it is moving away from the camera (*film*)

**follow spot** /'fɒləʊ spɒt/ *noun* a very strong spotlight which follows a performer (*film*)

**font** /fɒnt/ *noun* a set of characters all of the same style, size and typeface. Also called **fount**

'Word Assistant is designed to help wordprocessing users produce better-looking documents. It

has style templates and forms providing 25 TrueType fonts, 100 clip-art images and two font utility programs.' [Computing]

'...laser printers store fonts in several ways: as resident, cartridge and downloadable fonts' [Desktop Publishing Today]

**foobar** /'fu:bɑ:/ *noun* a term used by programmers to refer to whatever is being discussed ○ *If a programmer is explaining how a graphic program works, he might refer to an example graphic file that stores the image as 'foobar.gif' – it does not really exist but is just an example.*

**foolscap** /'fu:lskæp/ *noun* a large size of writing paper, longer than A4 (NOTE: no plural) □ a **foolscap envelope** large envelope which takes foolscap paper

**foot** /fʊt/ *noun* **1.** the bottom part of something ○ *He signed his name at the foot of the letter.* **2.** a measurement of length (= 30cm) ○ *The table is six feet long.* ○ *My office is ten feet by twelve.* **3.** a measurement of length of film which represents a certain number of frames, e.g.: one foot contains 72 frames for Super 8, 40 for 16mm and 16 for 35mm (*film*) (NOTE: The plural is **feet** for (a) and (c). There is no plural for (b). In measurements, **foot** is usually written **ft** or ' after figures: **10ft**; **10'**.)

**footage** /'fʊtɪdʒ/ *noun* a measurement of film length in metres or feet (*film*)

**footer** /'fʊtə/, **footing** /'fʊtɪŋ/ *noun* a message at the bottom of all the pages in a printed document, e.g. the page number

**footnote** /'fʊt,nəʊt/ *noun* a note at the bottom of a page, referring to the text above it, usually using a superior number as a reference

**footprint** /'fʊt,pɪnt/ *noun* **1.** the area covered by a transmitting device such as a satellite or antenna **2.** the area that a computer takes up on a desk

'...signals from satellites in orbit 36,000km above the earth don't care very much whether you are close to an exchange or not....as long as you have a dish within their footprint.' [The Guardian]

**force** /fɔ:s/ *noun* strength ■ *verb* to make someone do something ○ *Competition has forced the company to lower its prices.*

**forced page break** /,fɔ:st'peɪdʒ,breɪk/ *noun* an embedded code which indicates a new page start

**foreground** /'fɔ:graʊnd/ *noun* **1.** the front part of an illustration, as opposed to the background **2.** a high-priority task done by a computer **3.** the area in a shot which is closest to the camera **4.** an image displayed in front of another image in a video clip. For example, Windows Movie Player displays an object in

a high score channel in front of an object in a low score channel. Compare **background**

'This brighter – but still anti-glare – type of screen is especially useful for people using colourful graphic applications, where both the background and foreground are visually important.' [Computing]

**foreground colour** /,fɔ:graʊnd'kɒlə/ *noun* the colour of characters and text displayed on a screen

**foreground mode** /'fɔ:graʊnd məʊd/ *plural noun* in a computer system in which two modes for program execution are possible, the mode that is for interactive user programs. Compare **background mode**

**forelengthen** /fɔ:'leɪŋθən/ *noun* to create an illusion of depth by using a wide angle lens on a camera

**foreshorten** /fɔ:'ʃɔ:tən/ *verb* to create an illusion that all objects are very close together by using a long (telephoto) lens on a camera

**forest** /'fɒrɪst/ *noun* a number of interconnected data structure trees

**fork** /fɔ:k/ *noun* (in an *Apple Mac*) a folder that contains system files and information about a file or application

**form** /fɔ:m/ *noun* **1.** a preprinted document with blank spaces where information can be entered ○ *It's been easy to train the operators to use the new software since its display looks like the existing printed forms.* **2.** a graphical display that looks like an existing printed form and is used to enter data into a database **3.** a page of computer stationery **4.** a complete plate or block of type, ready for printing ■ *verb* to create a shape; to construct ○ *The system is formed of five separate modules.*

**format** /'fɔ:mæt/ *noun* **1.** a specific method of arranging text or data **2.** the precise syntax of instructions and arguments **3.** the size and shape of a book ○ *The printer can deal with all formats up to quarto.* **4.** the way of arranging a TV programme ■ *verb* to arrange text as it will appear in printed form on paper ○ *Style sheets are used to format documents.*

'As an increasing amount of information within businesses is generated in wordprocessed format, text retrieval tools are becoming a highly attractive pragmatic solution.' [Computing]

**formatter** /'fɔ:mætə/ *noun* a piece of hardware or software that arranges text or data according to certain rules

**formula** /'fɔ:mjʊlə/ *noun* a set of mathematical rules applied to solve a problem (NOTE: The plural is **formulae**.)

**formula translator** /'fɔ:mjələ træns'leɪtə/ *noun* full form of **FORTTRAN**

**FORTH** /fɔ:θ/ *noun* a programming language mainly used in control applications

**FORTRAN** /'fɔ:træn/ *noun* a programming language developed in the first place for scientific use. Full form **formula translator**

**forty-track disk** /,fɔ:ti træk 'disk/ *noun* a floppy disk formatted to contain forty tracks of data

**forum** /'fɔ:rəm/ *noun* an Internet discussion group for people who share a special interest in something

**forward** /'fɔ:wəd/ *adjective* moving in advance or in front ■ *verb* to send an email message that you have received on to another user ○ *I did not know the answer to the question, so I have forwarded your message to my colleague.*

**for your information** /fɔ 'jɔ:r ,ɪnfə 'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **FYI**

**FOSDIC** /,ef əʊ es di: aɪ 'si:/ *noun* a storage device for computer data using microfilm. Full form **film optical scanning device for input into computers**

**fount** /fəʊnt/ *noun* same as **font**

**fourcc** /,fɔ: si: 'si:/, **four-character code** /,fɔ: ,kærɪktə 'kəʊd/ *noun* a method of identifying the type of data within a RIFF file

**4GL** *abbr* fourth generation language

**Fourier series** /'fʊəriə ,sɪəri:z/ *noun* a mathematical representation of waveforms by a combination of fundamental and harmonic components of a frequency

**fourth generation computer** /,fɔ:θ ,dʒenəreɪʃ(ə)n kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* a computer using technology using LSI circuits, developed around 1970 and still in current use

**fourth generation language** /,fɔ:θ ,dʒenəreɪʃ(ə)n 'læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* a computer language that is user-friendly and has been designed with the nonexpert in mind. *Abbr* **4GL**

**four-track recorder** /,fɔ: træk rɪ'kɔ:də/ *noun* a tape recorder that is able to record and play back four independent audio tracks at once

**FP** *abbr* front projection (film)

**fps** *noun* **1.** the number of individual frames of a video sequence that can be displayed each second to give the impression of movement. Full form **frames per second**. ♢ **MPEG 2.** the speed of single frames of a motion picture through a projector or camera every second **3.** the number of television picture frames transmitted per second

COMMENT: To give the impression of smooth continuous video (also called full-motion video), a computer needs to display at least 25 separate frames each second. If the frames are small, there is less data to

update; however if the frame is large – e.g. filling a large window – then the computer has to update the hundreds of thousands of pixels that make up each image 25 times per second. To do this needs a fast graphics adapter or special video display hardware

**FPU** *abbr* floating point unit

**FQDN** /,ef kju: di: 'en/ *noun* a complete domain name that can be used to identify a server as well as the host, e.g. bloomsbury.com. Full form **fully qualified domain name**

**fractal** /'frækt(ə)l/ *noun* a geometric shape that repeats itself within itself and always appears the same, however much you magnify the image

**fractal compression** /,frækt(ə)l kəm 'preʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a technique used to compress images

**fractal image format** /,frækt(ə)l 'ɪmɪdʒ ,fɔ:ɪmæt/ *noun* full form of **FIFF**

**fraction** /'fræksjən/ *noun* **1.** a part of a whole unit, expressed as one figure above another, e.g. 1/4, 1/2, or a figure after a decimal point, e.g. 25. **2.** a mantissa of a floating point number. Also called **fractional part**

**fragment** /'frægmənt/ *noun* a piece of information that has had to be split up into several smaller units of information before being sent over the Internet. The receiver will re-assemble these units into the correct order.

**fragmentation** /,frægmən'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** (in main memory) memory allocation to a number of files, which has resulted in many small, free sections or fragments that are too small to be of any use, but waste a lot of space **2.** (on a disk drive) a situation with files stored scattered across non-contiguous sectors on a hard disk

COMMENT: When a file is saved to disk, it is not always saved in adjacent sectors. This will increase the retrieval time. Defragmentation moves files back into adjacent sectors so that the read head does not have to move far across the disk, so it increases performance.

**frame** /freɪm/ *noun* **1.** a space on magnetic tape for one character code **2.** a packet of transmitted data including control and route information **3.** (in animation, film or video) one single image within a sequence of different images that together show movement or animation. Each frame is normally slightly different from the previous one to give the impression of movement. **4.** (in an HTML webpage) a set of commands that allow the main window of a browser to be split into separate sections, each of which can be scrolled independently. This allows lots of information to be presented clearly. ♢ **HTML**

**5.** (in communications) a standard unit of information that contains a header with the destination address and sender's address followed by the information and a trailer that contains error detection information **6.** a movable, resizable box that holds text or an image **7.** one screen of data **8.** one individual shot in a film or the area it occupies in the camera lens **9.** one complete image displayed on a television screen (in the US this is made up of 525 lines, in the UK it is 625 lines)

**frame-based animation** /ˈfreɪm beɪsd ˌæniˈmeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a series of screens displayed in quick succession, each one slightly different, that gives the impression of movement

**frame buffer** /ˈfreɪm ˌbʌfə/ *noun* a section of memory used to store an image before it is displayed on screen

**frame grabber** /ˈfreɪm ˌgræbə/ *noun* a high speed digital sampling circuit that stores a TV picture in memory so that it can then be processed by a computer. Also called **grabber**

'...the frame grabber is distinguished by its ability to acquire a TV image in a single frame interval' [*Electronics & Wireless World*]

**frame index** /ˈfreɪm ˌɪndeks/ *noun* a counter used by the Microsoft Movie Player software that identifies the current frame of the video

**frames per second** /ˌfreɪmz pə ˈsekənd/ *noun* full form of **fps**

**framework** /ˈfreɪmwɜ:k/ *noun* the basic structure of a database, process or program ○ *The program framework was designed first.*

**framing** /ˈfreɪmɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the positioning of a camera's field of view for a required image **2.** the synchronisation of time division multiplexed frames of data

**framing bit** /ˈfreɪmɪŋ bɪt/ *noun* a sync bit or transmitted bit used to synchronise devices

**framing code** /ˈfreɪmɪŋ kəʊd/ *noun* a method of synchronizing a receiver with a broadcast teletext stream of data

**free** /fri:/ *adjective* available for use or not currently being used ■ *verb* to erase, remove or back up programs or files to provide space in memory

**freedom** /ˈfri:dəm/ *noun* being free to do something without restriction

**freedom of information** /ˌfri:dəm əv ɪnfəˈmeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the opportunity and ability to examine computer records, either (referring to government activities or about individuals)

**freeware** /ˈfri:weə/ *noun* software that is in the public domain and can be used by anyone without having to pay

**freeze** /fri:z/ *verb* same as **hang**. ▶ **crash**

**freeze frame** /ˈfri:z freɪm/ *noun* a video sequence stopped so that only one frame is displayed

**frequency** /ˈfri:kwənsi/ *noun* a number of cycles or periods of a regular waveform that are repeated per second (NOTE: The plural is **frequencies**.)

**frequency equaliser** /ˈfri:kwənsi ˌi:kwəlaɪzə/ *noun* a device that changes the amplitude of various frequency components of a signal according to preset values

**frequency modulation** /ˌfri:kwənsi mɒdjuˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **FM**

**frequent** /ˈfri:kwənt/ *adjective* which comes or goes or takes place often

**frequently** /ˈfri:kwəntli/ *adverb* often

**frequently asked questions** /ˌfri:kwənt(ə)li ɑ:skd ˈkwɛstʃənz/ *plural noun* common questions and their answers relating to a particular subject that are contained in a document ○ *The website has a section for FAQ about the new disk drive.*

Abbr **FAQ**

**friction feed** /ˈfrɪkʃ(ə)n fi:d/ *noun* a printer mechanism where the paper is advanced by holding it between two rollers (as opposed to tractor feed)

**friendly front end** /ˌfrendli ˌfrʌnt ˈend/ *noun* the design of the display of a program that is easy to use and understand

**front** /frʌnt/ *noun* part of something which faces away from the back ○ *The disks are inserted in slots in the front of the terminal.*

**front end** /ˌfrʌnt ˈend/ *adjective* **1.** located at the start or most important point of a circuit or network **2.** the visible part of an application that is seen by a user and is used to view and work with information ○ *The program is very easy to use thanks to the uncomplicated front-end.*

**front-end processor** /ˌfrʌnt ˈend ˈprəʊsesə/ *noun* full form of **FEP**

**FSAA** *abbr* full scene anti-aliasing

**FSK** *abbr* frequency shift keying

**FTP** /ˌef ti: ˈpi:/ *noun* an TCP/IP standard for transferring files between computers; it is a file sharing protocol that operates at layers 5, 6 and 7 of an OSI model network. Full form **file transfer protocol**

**full** /fʊl/ *adjective* **1.** with as much inside as possible ○ *The disk is full, so the material will have to be stored on another disk.* **2.** complete or including everything

'...transmitter and receiver can be operated independently, making full duplex communication possible' [*Electronics & Power*]

**full adder** /ˌfʊl ˈædə/ *noun* a binary addition circuit which can produce the sum of two inputs, and can also accept a carry input, producing a carry output if necessary

**full duplex** /,fʊl 'dju:pleks/ *noun* data transmission down a channel in two directions simultaneously. Abbr **fd**, **FD**, **fdx**

**full-motion video** /,fʊl 'məʊʃ(ə)n 'vɪdiəʊ/ *noun* † **fps**

**full-motion video adapter** /,fʊl 'məʊʃ(ə)n 'vɪdiəʊ ə,dæptə/ *noun* a computer fitted with a digitising card that is fast enough to capture and display moving video images, at a rate of 25 or 30 frames per second

**full scene anti-aliasing** /,fʊl si:n ,ænti 'eɪlɪəsɪŋ/ *noun* a method of anti-aliasing a complete frame of a video or animation rather than just one object, which requires powerful graphics hardware. Abbr **FSAA**

**full-screen** /,fʊl 'skri:n/ *adjective* referring to a program display that uses all the available screen, and is not displayed within a window

**fully** /'fʊli/ *adverb* completely

**fully qualified domain name** /,fʊli ,kwɒlɪfaɪd dɔʊ'meɪn ,neɪm/ *noun* full form of **FQDN**

**function** /'fʌŋkʃən/ *noun* **1.** a mathematical formula in which a result is dependent upon several other numbers **2.** a sequence of computer program instructions in a main program that perform a certain task **3.** a special feature available on a computer or word-processor ○ *The word-processor had a spelling-checker function but no built-in text-editing function.* ■ *verb* to operate or perform correctly ○ *The new system has not functioned properly since it was installed.*

**functional** /'fʌŋkʃən(ə)/ *adjective* which refers to the way something works

**functional diagram** /,fʌŋkʃ(ə)nəl 'daɪəgræm/ *noun* a drawing of the internal workings and processes of a machine or piece of software

**functional specification** /,fʌŋkʃ(ə)nəl ,spesɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a specification which defines the results which a program is expected to produce

**function key** /'fʌŋkʃən ki:/ *noun* one of several special keys placed along the top of a PC keyboard that have different uses according to different applications ○ *Tags can be allocated to function keys.*

COMMENT: Function keys often form a separate group of keys on the keyboard, and have specific functions attached to them. They may be labelled F1, F2, and so on. Most applications use the F1 key to display help information and Alt-F4 to quit an application

**fuse** /fju:z/ *noun* an electrical protection device consisting of a small piece of metal, which will melt when too much power passes through it

**fusion** /'fju:ʒ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of combining two hardware devices or programs or chemical substances to create a single form

**fuzzy logic** /,fʌzi 'lɒdʒɪk/, **fuzzy theory** /,fʌzi 'θɪəri/ *noun* a type of logic applied to computer programming, which tries to replicate the reasoning methods of the human brain

**FYI** /,ef waɪ 'aɪ/ *noun* a document file that contains general background information related to the Internet or the TCP/IP protocols. Full form **for your information**. † **RFC** (NOTE: Specific technical information is normally contained in RFC documents.)

# G

## G abbr giga-

COMMENT: In computing G refers to 2<sup>30</sup>, equal to 1,073,741,824.

**gain** /geɪn/ *noun* **1.** an increase or enlargement **2.** an amount by which a signal amplitude is changed as it passes through a circuit, usually given as a ratio of output to input amplitude. Opposite **attenuation**

**galactic noise** /gə'ləktɪk nɔɪz/ *noun* random electrical noise which originates from planets and stars in space

**galley proofs** /'gæli pru:fs/ *plural noun* proofs in the form of long pieces of text, not divided into pages, printed on long pieces of paper

**game** /geɪm/ *noun* something which is played for enjoyment or relaxation

**game console** /'geɪm ,kɒnsəʊl/ *noun* a dedicated computer that is used primarily to play games, designed to connect to a television set rather than a monitor and usually controlled using a gamepad rather than a keyboard and mouse. Also called **games console**

**gamepad** /'geɪmpæd/ *noun* a device held in the hand to control a computer game

**game port** /'geɪm pɔ:t/ *noun* a connection that allows a joystick to be plugged into a computer

**gamma** /'gæmə/ *noun* **1.** a unit of magnetic intensity **2.** a measurement of the degree of contrast in a television picture. For television cameras and receivers, the measurement is found from the input and output voltage and the light input or output. **3.** a measure of the contrast of a film emulsion

**ganged** /gæŋd/ *adjective* referring to mechanically linked devices that are operated by a single action

**gap** /gæp/ *noun* **1.** a space between recorded data **2.** a space between a read head and the magnetic medium **3.** a method of radio communications using a carrier signal that is switched on and off, as in a telegraphic system

**garbage** /'gɑ:bɪdʒ/ *noun* **1.** a radio interference from adjacent channels **2.** data or information that is no longer required because it is out of date or contains errors

**garbage in garbage out** /,gɑ:bɪdʒ ɪn ,gɑ:bɪdʒ 'aʊt/ *noun* full form of **GIGO**

**gas discharge display** /,gæs dɪs ,tʃɑ:dʒ dɪ'spleɪ/, **gas plasma display** /,gæs ,plæzmə dɪ'spleɪ/ *noun* a flat, light-weight display screen that is made of two flat pieces of glass covered with a grid of conductors, separated by a thin layer of a gas which luminesces when one point of the grid is selected by two electric signals. Also called **plasma display**

COMMENT: Mainly used in modern portable computer displays, but the definition is not as good as in cathode ray tube displays.

**gate** /geɪt/ *noun* **1.** a logical electronic switch whose output depends on the states of the inputs and the type of logical function implemented **2.** a mechanical film or slide frame aligner in a camera or projector **3.** the aperture in which the frame is exposed or projected

**gateway** /'geɪtweɪ/ *noun* **1.** a device that links two dissimilar networks ○ *We use a gateway to link the LAN to WAN.* **2.** a software protocol translation device that allows users working in one network to access another **3.** a piece of software that allows email messages to be sent via a different route or to another network ○ *To send messages by fax instead of across the network, you'll need to install a fax gateway.*

**gateway page** /'geɪtweɪ peɪdʒ/ *noun* the first webpage that a visitor to a website sees and the one that contains the key words and phrases that enable a search engine to find it

**gauge** /geɪdʒ/ *noun* **1.** a device which measures thickness or width **2.** a film or tape diameter, usually described in millimetres ■ *verb* to measure the thickness or width of something

**gauss** /gaʊs/ *noun* a unit of magnetic induction

**gauze** /gɔ:z/ *noun* a material which is transparent or translucent and is used for special effects (*film*)

**Gb** abbr gigabit

**GB** abbr gigabyte

**GDI** abbr graphics device interface

**gel** /dʒel/ *noun* a translucent sheet of coloured plastic used to alter the colour characteristics of the source of light (*film*)

**gelatin filter** /'dʒel ˌfɪltə/, **gel filter** *noun* a sheet of coloured gelatin which is used with

a camera to alter the colour of the source light (*film*)

**gender changer** /'dʒɛndə ,tʃeɪndʒəl/ *noun* a device for changing a female connection to a male or vice versa (*informal*)

**general** /'dʒen(ə)rəl/ *adjective* **1.** ordinary or not special **2.** dealing with everything

**general packet radio service** /,dʒen(ə)rəl ,pækɪt 'reɪdiəʊ ,sɜ:vɪs/ *noun* full form of **GPRS**

**general protection fault** /,dʒen(ə)rəl prə'tekʃən ,fɔ:lt/ *noun* full form of **GPF**

**general purpose interface bus** /,dʒen(ə)rəl ,pɜ:pəs 'ɪntəfeɪs ,bʌs/ *noun* full form of **GPB**

**generate** /'dʒenə,reit/ *verb* to use software or a device to produce codes or a program automatically ○ *to generate an image from digitally recorded data*

**generation** /,dʒenə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the process of producing data or software or programs using a computer ○ *The computer is used in the generation of graphic images.* **2.** the state or age of the technology used in the design of a system **3.** the distance between a file and the original version, used when making backups ○ *The father file is a first generation backup.*

**generation loss** /,dʒenə'reɪʃ(ə)n lɒs/ *noun* degradation of signal quality with each successive recording of a video or audio signal

**generator** /'dʒenə,reitəl/ *noun* a device which generates electricity ○ *The computer centre has its own independent generator, in case of mains power failure.*

**generator lock** /'dʒenə,reitəl lɒk/ *noun* a device that synchronises the timing signals of two video signals from different sources so that they can be successfully combined or mixed. Also called **genlock** (NOTE: It is often used to synchronise the output of a computer's display adapter with an external video source when using the computer to create overlays or titling.)

**generic** /dʒə'nerɪk/ *adjective* that is compatible with a whole family of hardware or software devices from one manufacturer

**genlock** /'dʒenlɒk/ *noun* same as **generator lock**

**genuine** /'dʒenjuɪn/ *adjective* real or correct ○ *Authentication allows the system to recognise that a sender's message is genuine.*

**geometric distortion** /,dʒi:ə,metrɪk dɪ 'stɔ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* linear distortion of a television picture, which can be caused by video tape speed fluctuations

**geometry processing** /dʒi:'ɒmətri ,prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* a process required to calculate the x, y and z coordinates of a three-di-

mensional object that is to be displayed on screen ○ *Geometry processing is usually carried out by the CPU or by a specialised graphics processor.*

**geostationary orbit** /,dʒi:əʊsteɪʃ(ə)n(ə)rɪ 'ɔ:bɪt/ *noun* a satellite which moves at the same velocity as the earth, so remains above the same area of the earth's surface, and appears stationary when viewed from earth

**geostationary satellite** /,dʒi:əʊ ,steɪʃn(ə)rɪ ,sætə'lart/ *noun* a satellite which moves at the same velocity as the earth, so remains above the same area of the earth's surface, and appears stationary when viewed from the earth

**geotargeting** /,dʒi:əʊ'tɑ:ɡɪtɪŋ/ *noun* a method of analysing what a visitor to your website is viewing or doing and deducing his or her location, then displaying custom content or advertisements accordingly ○ *If a website visitor searches for the weather in Seattle, the intelligent geotargeting software displays banner advertisements from taxi companies in Seattle.*

**germanium** /dʒɪ'reɪniəm/ *noun* a semiconductor material, used as a substrate in some transistors instead of silicon

**get** /ɡet/ *noun* an instruction to obtain a record from a file or database

**GET method** /'ɡet ,meθəd/ *noun* (*in HTML for CGI access*) a method of transferring information between a webpage, which uses the HTML form GET command, and a server-based application

**ghost** /ɡəʊst/ *noun* **1.** a menu item displayed in grey and not currently available **2.** an effect on a television image in which a weaker copy of the picture is displayed to one side of the main image, caused by signal reflections

**ghosting** /'ɡəʊstɪŋ/ *noun* hazy double images appearing in a picture (*film*)

**GHz** *abbr* gigahertz

**GIF** /ɡɪf/ a trade name for a graphics file format of a file containing a bit-mapped image. Full form **graphics interface format**

**GIF file** /,dʒi: aɪ 'ef faɪl/ *noun* graphics file format of a file containing a bit-mapped image

**giga-** /ɡɪɡə/ *prefix* one thousand million. **Abbr G**

COMMENT: In computing giga refers to  $2^{30}$ , which is equal to 1,073,741,824.

**gigabit** /'ɡɪɡəbɪt/ *noun* a unit of capacity of a computer local area network, equal to one megabyte of computer information or 1,073,741,824 bits. **Abbr Gb**

**gigabyte** /'ɡɪɡəbaɪt/ *noun*  $10^9$  bytes. **Abbr GB**

**gigaflop** /'gɪgəflɒp/ *noun* one thousand million floating-point operations per second  
**gigahertz** /'gɪgəhɜ:tɪz/ *noun* a frequency of one thousand million cycles per second. Abbr **GHz**

**GIGO** /'gɑ:ɪgəʊ/ *noun* the principle that the accuracy and quality of information that is output depends on the quality of the input. Full form **garbage in garbage out**

COMMENT: GIGO is sometimes taken to mean 'garbage in gospel out': i.e. that whatever wrong information is put into a computer, people will always believe that the output results are true.

**GINO** /,dʒɪ: aɪ en 'əʊ/ *noun* a graphical control routine written in FORTRAN. Full form **graphical input output**

**GKS** /,dʒɪ: keɪ 'es/ *noun* a standard for software command and functions describing graphical input/output to provide the same functions, etc. on any type of hardware. Full form **graphics kernel system**

**glare** /gleə/ *noun* very bright light reflections, especially on a VDU screen ○ *The glare from the screen makes my eyes hurt.*

**glitch** /glɪtʃ/ *noun* anything which causes the sudden unexpected failure of a computer or equipment (*informal*)

'The programmer was upgrading a verification system at Visa's UK data centre when his work triggered a software glitch causing hundreds of valid cards to be rejected for several hours.' [*Computing*]

**global** /'gləʊb(ə)/ *adjective* covering everything

'In an attempt to bring order to an electronic Tower of Babel, pharmaceutical giant Rhone-Poulenc has assembled an X.400-based global messaging network and a patchwork directory system that will be used until a single email system is deployed worldwide.' [*Computing*]

**global backup** /,gləʊb(ə)l 'bækʌp/ *noun*  
**1.** a backup of all data stored on all nodes or workstations connected to a network  
**2.** a backup of all files on a hard disk or file server  
**global system for mobile communications** /,gləʊb(ə)l ,sɪstəm fə ,məʊbaɪl kə,mju:nɪ'keɪʃ(ə)nɪz/ *noun* full form of **GSM**

**glossy** /'glɒsɪ/ *adjective* shiny (paper) ○ *The illustrations are printed on glossy art paper.* ■ *noun* □ **the glossies** expensive magazine (*informal*)

**GND** /,dʒɪ: en 'di:/ *abbr* ground

**go ahead** /,gəʊ ə'hed/ *noun* a signal to indicate that a receiver or device is ready to accept information

**goal** /gəʊl/ *noun* **1.** an aim or what you are trying to do **2.** the final state reached when a task has been finished or has produced satisfactory results

**gobo** /'gəʊbəʊ/ *noun* a moveable opaque shield which is used to hide light between a lamp and a camera lens (*film*)

**gold contact** /,gəʊld 'kɒntækt/ *noun* an electrical contact, usually for low-level signals, that is coated with gold to reduce the electrical resistance

**golf-ball** /'gɒlf bɔ:l/ *noun* a metal ball with characters on its surface, which produces printed characters by striking a ribbon onto paper

**Google** /'gu:ɡ(ə)/ a trade name for a popular search engine

**GOSIP** /'gɒsɪp/ *noun* a set of standards defined by the US Government to ensure that computers and communications systems can interact. Full form **Government Open Systems Interconnect Profile**

**GOSUB** /'gəʊsʌb/ *noun* a programming command which executes a routine then returns to the following instruction

**GOTO** /'gəʊtəʊ/ *noun* a programming command which instructs a jump to another point or routine in the program ○ *GOTO 105 instructs a jump to line 105.*

COMMENT: GOTO statements are frowned upon by software experts since their use discourages set, structured programming techniques.

**go to black** /,gəʊ tə 'blæk/ *verb* to fade gradually from an image to a dark or empty screen

**Gouraud shading** /'gu:rəʊ ,ʃeɪdɪŋ/ *noun* shading within a three-dimensional scene created by a mathematical equation that is applied to each side of each object and produces a gradual change in colour to give the impression of light and shade

**Government Open Systems Interconnect Profile** /,gʌv(ə)nɪmənt ,əʊpən ,sɪstəm 'ɪntəkənekt ,prəʊfaɪl/ *noun* full form of **GOSIP**

**GPF** /,dʒɪ: pi: 'ef/ *noun* an error condition that occurs in Microsoft Windows and causes an application to crash, usually caused by insufficient memory, by using an incompatible peripheral or device driver or by an error in a software program. Full form **general protection fault**

**GIPIB** /,dʒɪ: pi: aɪ 'bi:/ *noun* a standard for an interface bus between a computer and laboratory equipment. Full form **general purpose interface bus**

**GPRS** /,dʒɪ: pi: ɑ: 'es/ *noun* a standard system for wireless radio and mobile telephone communications that is due to replace the existing GSM system. Full form **general packet radio service** (NOTE: GPRS supports high-speed data transfer rates of up to

150Kbps compared to the GSM limit of 9.6Kbps.)

**grab** /græb/ *verb* to take something and hold it

‘...sometimes a program can grab all the available memory, even if it is not going to use it’ [Byte]

**grabber** /'græbə/ *noun* same as **frame grabber**

**graceful degradation** /,grɛɪsf(ə)l ,degrə'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of allowing some parts of a system to continue to function after a part has broken down

**grade** /greɪd/ *noun* a level or rank ○ *a top-grade computer expert*

**grading** /'greɪdɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the process of choosing the colour and density printing values needed for each scene on a negative **2.** (*in the editing of videotapes*) the process of matching colour balance between shots

**graduated** /'grædʒueɪtɪd/ *adjective* which has a scale or measurements marked on it

**graduated filter** /,grædʒueɪtɪd 'fɪltə/ *noun* a coloured filter which has a colour on edge and gradually fades into a clear filter on the other side of the filter (*film*)

**grain** /greɪn/ *noun* the molecular make-up of film emulsion. Fine grain film has very small particles that provide a very sharp, clear image.

**graininess** /'greɪnɪnəs/ *noun* a collection of visible silver particles which create a granular effect on a film's picture; the more visible the particles are, the grainier the picture

**grammage** /'græmɪdʒ/ *noun* the weight of paper, calculated as grams per square metre (NOTE: usually shown as **gsm**: 80 *gsm paper*)

**grammar** /'græmə/ *noun* a set of rules for the correct use of a language

**grammar checker** /'græmə ,tʃekə/ *noun* a software utility used to check a document or letter to make sure it is grammatically correct

**grammatical error** /grə'mætɪk(ə)l 'erə/ *noun* an incorrect use of a computer programming language syntax

**grandfather file** /'grænfɑːðə faɪl/ *noun* the third most recent version of a backed up file, after father and son files

**granularity** /,grænʒə'lærɪti/ *noun* the size of memory segments in a virtual memory system

**graph** /grɑːf/ *noun* a diagram showing the relationship between two or more variables as a line or series of points

**graphic** /'græfɪk/ *adjective* referring to representation of information in the form of pictures or plots instead of by text

**graphical** /'græfɪkl/ *adjective* referring to something represented by graphics

**graphical input output** /,græfɪkl ,ɪnpʊt 'aʊtpʊt/ *noun* full form of **GINO**

**graphically** /'græfɪkli/ *adverb* by using pictures ○ *The sales figures are graphically represented as a pie chart.*

**graphical user interface** /,græfɪkl 'juːzə ,ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* full form of **GUI**

**graphic data** /'græfɪk ,deɪtə/ *noun* stored data that represents graphical information when displayed on a screen

**graphic display** /'græfɪk dɪ,pleɪ/ *noun* a computer screen able to present graphical information

**graphic display resolution** /'græfɪk dɪ ,splɛɪ ,rezəluːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the number of pixels that a computer is able to display on the screen

**graphic language** /'græfɪk ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* a computer programming language with inbuilt commands that are useful when displaying graphics

**graphic object** /,græfɪk 'ɒbdʒekt/ *noun* a small graphic image imported from another drawing application and placed on a page (NOTE: In most DTP, paint or drawing packages, the object can be moved, sized and positioned independently from the other elements on the page.)

**graphics** /'græfɪks/ *noun* pictures or lines which can be drawn on paper or on a screen to represent information ○ *graphics output such as bar charts, pie charts, line drawings, etc.*

**graphics accelerator** /'græfɪks æk ,seləreɪtə/ *noun* a card that fits inside a computer and uses a dedicated processor chip to speed up the action of drawing lines and images on the screen

**graphics adapter** /'græfɪks ə,dæptə/ *noun* an electronic device, usually on an expansion card, in a computer that converts software commands into electrical signals that display graphics on a connected monitor ○ *The new graphics adapter is capable of displaying higher resolution graphics.*

**graphics character** /'græfɪks ,kærɪktə/ *noun* a preprogrammed shape that can be displayed on a non-graphical screen instead of a character, used extensively in videotext systems to display simple pictures

**graphics coprocessor** /'græfɪks kəʊ ,prəʊsesə/ *noun* same as **graphics processor**

**graphics file** /'græfɪks faɪl/ *noun* a binary file which contains data describing an image ○ *There are many standards for graphics files including TIFF, IMG and EPS.*

**graphics file format** /'græfiks faɪl ,fɔ:mæt/ *noun* a method in which data describing an image is stored

**graphics interface format** /,græfiks 'ɪntəfeɪs ,fɔ:mæt/ *noun* full form of **GIF**

**graphics kernel system** /,græfiks 'kɜ:n(ə)l ,sɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **GKS**

**graphics library** /'græfiks ,laɪbr(ə)ri/ *noun* a number of routines stored in a library file that can be added to any user program to simplify the task of writing graphics programs

**graphics light pen** /,græfiks 'laɪt ,pen/ *noun* a high-accuracy light pen used for drawing onto a graphics display screen

**graphics mode** /'græfiks məʊd/ *noun* a videotext terminal whose displayed characters are taken from a range of graphics characters instead of text

**graphics overlay card** /,græfiks 'əʊvəleɪ ,kɑ:d/ *noun* an expansion card for a PC or Apple Mac that combines generated text or images with an external video source

**graphics pad** /'græfiks pæd/ *noun* same as **graphics tablet**

**graphics primitive** /,græfiks 'prɪmɪtɪv/ *noun* a basic shape such as an arc, line or filled square that is used to create other shapes or objects

**graphics printer** /'græfiks ,prɪntə/ *noun* a printer capable of printing bit-mapped images

**graphics processor** /'græfiks ,prəʊsesə/ *noun* a secondary processor used to speed up the display of graphics ○ *This graphics adapter has a graphics coprocessor fitted and is much faster.* Also called **graphics coprocessor** (NOTE: It calculates the position of pixels that form a line or shape and display graphic lines or shapes.)

**graphics software** /'græfiks ,sɒftweə/ *noun* prewritten routines which perform standard graphics commands such as line drawing and plotting that can be called from within a program to simplify program writing

**graphics tablet** /'græfiks ,tæblət/ *noun* a flat device which allows a user to input graphical information into a computer by drawing on its surface ○ *It is much easier to draw accurately with a graphics tablet than with a mouse.* Also called **graphics pad**

**graphics terminal** /'græfiks ,tɜ:mɪn(ə)l/ *noun* a special terminal with a high-resolution graphic display and graphics tablet or other input device

**graphics VDU** /,græfiks ,vi: di: 'ju:/ *noun* a special VDU which can display high-resolution or colour graphics as well as text

**gray scale** /'greɪ skeɪl/ *noun* US another spelling of **grey scale**

**greeked** /'gri:kəd/ *adjective* (in a DTP program) referring to a font with a point size too small to display accurately, shown as a line rather than individual characters

**Green Book** /,grɪ:n 'bʊk/ *noun* a formal specification for CD-i standard published by Philips

**gremlin** /'gremɪn/ *noun* an unexplained fault in a system (*informal*)

**grey scale** /'greɪ skeɪl/ *noun* 1. the shades of grey used to measure the correct exposure when filming 2. the shades which are produced from displaying what should be colour information on a monochrome monitor (NOTE: The US spelling is **gray scale**.)

**grid** /grɪd/ *noun* a system of numbered squares used to help when drawing

**grip** /grɪp/ *verb* to hold something tightly ○ *In friction feed, the paper is gripped by the rollers.*

**ground** /graʊnd/ *noun* an electrical circuit connection to earth or to a point with a zero voltage level. Abbr **GND** (NOTE: **ground** is more common in US English; the British English is **earth**)

**ground glass** /,graʊnd 'glɑ:s/ *noun* a translucent sheet of glass (which has been etched on one side) on which an image is seen in a film camera's viewfinder (*film*)

**group** /gru:p/ *noun* 1. a set of computer records containing related information 2. a six-character word used in telegraphic communications 3. (in a GUI) a collection of icons, of files or programs displayed together in a window ○ *All the icons in this group are to do with painting.* 4. (in a network) a collection of users conveniently identified by one name ○ *The group ACCOUNTS contains all the users who work in the accounts department.* 5. a collection of objects that can be moved or resized as a single object; (in a GUI) collection of icons of files or programs displayed together in a window ○ *All the icons in this group are to do with painting.* 6. a single communications channel made up from a number of others that have been multiplexed together ■ *verb* to bring several things together

**groupware** /'gru:pweə/ *noun* software specially written to be used by a group of people connected to a network and help them carry out a particular task (NOTE: It provides useful functions such as a diary or email that can be accessed by all users.)

**gsm, g/m<sup>2</sup>** *noun* a way of showing the weight of paper used in printing ○ *The book is printed on 70 gsm coated paper.* Full form

**grams per square metre (per sheet)**

**GSM** /ˌdʒi: es 'em/ *noun* a popular system used for wireless cellular telephone communications throughout Europe, Asia and parts of North America. Full form **global system for mobile communications**. ◊ **GPRS**

COMMENT: The GSM system allows eight calls to share the same radio frequency and carries the digital data that represents voice signals transmitted by each user's telephone. The main drawback of GSM is that it does not offer very fast data transfer rates which has become more important as users want to access the Internet and read email via a mobile telephone connection. GSM provides data transfer at up to 9.6Kbps, but it is due to be replaced by the GPRS system that can support high-speed data transfer at up to 150Kbps.

**guarantee** /ˌgærən'ti:/ *noun* a legal document promising that a machine will work properly or that an item is of good quality ○ *The system is still under guarantee and will be repaired free of charge.*

**guard band** /'gɑ:d bænd/ *noun* **1.** a section of magnetic tape between two channels recorded on the same tape **2.** the frequency gap between two communication bands to prevent data corruption due to interference between each other

**guarding** /'gɑ:dɪŋ/ *noun* the process of joining a single sheet to a book or magazine

**GUI** /'gu:i/ *noun* an interface between an operating system or program and the user that uses graphics or icons to represent functions or files and allow the software to be controlled more easily. Full form **graphical user interface**. Compare **command line interface**

COMMENT: GUIs normally use a combination of windows, icons, and a mouse to control the operating system. In many GUIs, such as Microsoft Windows and the Apple Mac System, you can control all the functions of the operating system just using the mouse. Icons represent programs and files; instead of entering the file name, you select it by moving a pointer with a mouse.

**guide bar** /'gɑ:d bɑ:/ *noun* a special line in a bar code that shows either the start or the finish of the code ○ *The standard guide bars are two thin lines that are a little longer than the coding lines.*

**guide path** /'gɑ:d pɑ:θ/ *noun* in audio and video recorders, the posts and mechanical guides that ensure that the tape follows the correct path (*film*)

**guide track** /'gɑ:d træk/ *noun* a sound track of low quality which is recorded with the picture only as a guide for post synchronisation (*film*)

**guillotine** /'gɪləti:n/ *noun* an office machine for cutting paper

**gulp** /gʌlp/ *noun* a group of words, usually two bytes. ◊ **byte, nybble**

**gun** /gʌn/ *noun* same as **electron gun**

**gun microphone** /ˌgʌn 'maɪkrəfəʊn/ *noun* a highly directional microphone, also called a rifle microphone, often mounted on a rifle stock that allows it to be easily aimed at the source of the sound (*film*)

**gutter** /'gʌtə/ *noun* (*in a DTP system*) a blank space or inner margin between two facing pages

**G/V** *noun* the process of establishing a film or video shot (*film*) Full form **general view**

# H

**hack** /hæk/ *verb* **1.** to experiment and explore computer software and hardware **2.** to break into a computer system for criminal purposes

**hacker** /'hækə/ *noun* a person who hacks

'The two were also charged with offences under the Computer Misuse Act and found guilty of the very actions upon which every hacker is intent.' [Computing]

**hair in the gate** /,heər ɪn ðə 'geɪt/ *noun* hair-shaped particles visible on the edge of film images after the development process (*film*)

**airline rule** /'heəlaɪn ru:l/ *noun* (*in a DTP system*) a very thin line

**halation** /hə'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a photographic effect seen as a dark region with a very bright surround, caused by pointing the camera into the light

**half** /hɑ:f/ *noun* one of two equal parts ○ *Half the data was lost in transmission.*

**half duplex** /,hɑ:f 'dju:pleks/ *noun* full form of **HD**

**half-intensity** /,hɑ:f ɪn'tensɪtɪ/ *adjective* referring to a character or graphics display at half the usual display brightness

**halftone** /'hɑ:ftəʊn/ *adjective* **1.** continuous shading of a printed area **2.** grey shade half way between white and black ■ *noun* a photograph or image that originally had continuous tones, displayed or printed by a computer using groups of dots to represent the tones

**halide** /'heɪlaɪd/ *noun* a silver compound that is used to provide a light-sensitive coating on photographic film and paper

**Hall effect** /'hɔ:l ɪ'fekt/ *noun* a description of the effect of a magnetic field on electron flow

**halo** /'heɪləʊ/ *noun* a photographic effect seen as a dark region with a very bright line around it, caused by pointing the camera into the light

**halt** /hɔ:lt/ *noun* a computer instruction to stop a CPU carrying out any further instructions until restarted, or until the program is restarted, usually by external means, e.g. a reset button ■ *verb* to stop ○ *Hitting CTRL S will halt the program.*

**Hamming code** /'hæmɪŋ kəʊd/ *noun* a coding system that uses check bits and checksums to detect and correct errors in

transmitted data, mainly used in teletext systems

**hand-held** /'hænd held/ *adjective* which can be held in the hand

'A year ago the hand-held computer business resembled that of PCs a decade ago, with a large number of incompatible models, often software incompatible and using proprietary displays, operating systems and storage media.' [Computing]

**hand-held computer** /,hænd held kəm'pjʊ:tə/, **hand-held programmable** /,hænd held 'prɔʊgræməb(ə)l/ *noun* a very small computer which can be held in the hand, useful for basic information input, when a terminal is not available

**hand-held scanner** /,hænd held 'skænə/ *noun* a device that is held in your hand and contains a row of photo-electric cells which, when moved over an image, convert it into data which can be manipulated by a computer

**H & J** /,eɪtʃ ənd 'dʒeɪ/ *noun* the process of justifying lines to a set width, splitting the long words correctly at the end of each line. Full form **hyphenation and justification**

**handle** /'hænd(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** (*in programming*) number used to identify an active file within the program that is accessing the file **2.** (*in a GUI*) a small square displayed that can be dragged to change the shape of a window or graphical object ○ *To stretch the box in the DTP program, select it once to display the handles then drag one handle to change its shape.*

**handler** /'hændlə/ *noun* a part of an operating system software or a special software routine which controls a device or function ○ *The scanner handler routines are supplied on disk. † driver*

**hand off** /'hænd ɒf/ *noun* the process of passing control of a communications channel from one transmitter to another

**handset** /'hændset/ *noun* a telephone receiver, with both microphone and loudspeaker. † **acoustic coupler**

**handshake** /'hæn(d),ʃeɪk/, **handshaking** *noun* a set of standardised signals between two devices to make sure that the system is working correctly, the equipment is compatible and data transfer is correct (NOTE: Signals would include ready to receive, ready to transmit and data OK.)

**handwriting** /'hændraɪtɪŋ/ *noun* words written by hand ○ *the new PDA has excellent handwriting recognition*

**handwriting recognition** /'hændraɪtɪŋ ,rekəgnɪf(ə)n/ *noun* software that is capable of recognising handwritten text and converting it into ASCII characters ○ *The new PDA has excellent handwriting recognition.*

**handwritten** /,hænd'raɪt(ə)n/ *adjective* written by hand, using a pen or pencil, not typed ○ *The author sent in two hundred pages of handwritten manuscript.*

'...all acquisition, data reduction, processing, and memory circuitry is contained in the single hand-held unit' [Byte]

'A year ago the hand-held computer business resembled that of PCs a decade ago, with a large number of incompatible models, often software incompatible and using proprietary displays, operating systems and storage media' [Computing]

'...if a line is free, the device waits another 400ms before reserving the line with a quick handshake process' [Practical Computing]

**handy talkies** /,hændɪ 'tɔ:kɪs/ *plural noun* full form of **HT**

**hang** /hæŋ/ *verb* to enter an endless loop and not respond to further instruction (NOTE: hung)

**hangover** /'hæŋəʊvəl/ *noun* **1.** a sudden tone change on a document that is transmitted over a fax machine as a gradual change, caused by equipment faults **2.** an effect on a TV screen where the previous image can still be seen when the next image appears

**hang up** /,hæŋ 'ʌp/ *verb* to cut off a communications line

**hangup** /'hæŋʌp/ *noun* a sudden stop of a working program, often caused by the CPU executing an illegal instruction or entering an endless loop

**hard** /hɑ:d/ *adjective* **1.** referring to parts of a computer system that cannot be programmed or altered **2.** high contrast (photographic paper or film)

**hardbound** /'hɑ:dbaʊnd/ *adjective* (of a book) with a hard case cover, as opposed to a paperback

**hard copy** /,hɑ:d 'kɒpi/ *noun* a printed document or copy of information contained in a computer or system, in a form that is readable. ⇨ **soft copy**

**hardcover** /'hɑ:dkʌvəl/ *noun, adjective* version of a book with a cased binding (as opposed to paperback) ○ *We printed 4,000 copies of the hardcover edition, and 10,000 of the paperback.*

**hard disk** /,hɑ:d 'dɪsk/ *noun* a rigid magnetic disk that is able to store many times more data than a floppy disk, and usually cannot be removed from the disk drive

**hard disk drive** /,hɑ:d 'dɪsk ,draɪv/ *noun* a unit used to store and retrieve data from a spinning hard disk on the commands of a computer. Abbr **HDD**. Also called **hard drive**

**hard drive** /'hɑ:d draɪv/ *noun* same as **hard disk drive**

**hard error** /,hɑ:d 'erəl/ *noun* an error which is permanent in a system

**hard hyphen** /,hɑ:d 'haɪf(ə)n/ *noun* a hyphen which is always in a word, even if the word is not split (as in co-administrator). ⇨

**discretionary hyphen**

**hard reset** /,hɑ:d 'rɪ:seɪt/ *noun* a switch that generates an electrical signal to reset the CPU and all devices, equivalent to turning a computer off and back on again

**hard return** /,hɑ:d rɪ'tɜ:n/ *noun* a code in a word-processing document that indicates the end of a paragraph or its characteristics

**hard-sectoring** /,hɑ:d 'sektəɪnɪŋ/ *noun* a method of permanently formatting a disk, where each track is split into sectors, sometimes preformatted by a series of punched holes around the central hub, where each hole marks the start of sector

**hardware** /'hɑ:d,weə/ *noun* **1.** the physical units, components, integrated circuits, disks and mechanisms that make up a computer or its peripherals **2.** equipment used on set or location

'Sequent's Platform division will focus on hardware and software manufacture, procurement and marketing, with the Enterprise division concentrating on services and client-server implementation.' [Computing]

**hardware compatibility** /,hɑ:dweə kəm,pætə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* architecture of two different computers that allows one to run the programs of the other without changing any device drivers or memory locations, or the ability of one to use the add-on boards of the other

**hardware configuration** /,hɑ:dweə kən,fɪgjə'reɪf(ə)n/ *noun* a way in which the hardware of a computer system is connected together

**hardware graphics cursor** /,hɑ:dweə 'græfɪks ,kɜ:səl/ *noun* an electronic component that is used to calculate the position on screen of a pointer, according to the movement of a mouse, and display the pointer

**hardware platform** /'hɑ:dweə ,plætfɔ:m/ *noun* the standard of a particular computer such as IBM PC or Apple Mac

**hardware reliability** /,hɑ:dweə rɪ,ləɪə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the ability of a piece of hardware to function normally over a period of time

**hardwired connection** /ˈhɑːdwaɪəd kəˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a permanent phone line connection, rather than a plug and socket **2.** a logical function or program, which is built into the hardware, using electronic devices, such as gates, rather than in software

**harmonic** /hɑːˈmɒnɪk/ *noun* frequency of an order of magnitude greater or smaller than a fundamental

**harmonic distortion** /ˈhɑːmɒnɪk dɪˈstɔːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* unwanted harmonics produced by a non-linear circuit from an input signal

**harmonic telephone ringer** /ˈhɑːmɒnɪk ˈtelɪfəʊn ˌrɪŋə/ *noun* a telephone that will only detect a certain range of ringing frequencies, this allows many telephones on a single line to be rung individually

**hash** /hæʃ/ *verb* to produce a unique number derived from the entry itself, for each entry in a database

**hashmark** /ˈhæʃmɑːk/, **hash mark** /ˈhæʃmɑːk/ *noun* a printed sign (#) used as a hard copy marker or as an indicator. Also called **hash**

COMMENT: The US term is **pound sign**. In US usage # means number; #32 = number 32 (e.g. a flat number in a postal address, paragraph number in a text).

**hazard** /ˈhæzəd/ *noun* a fault in hardware due to incorrect signal timing

**haze** /heɪz/ *noun* same as **fogging**

**haze filter** /ˈheɪz ˌfɪltə/, **haze-cutting filter** /ˈheɪz ˌkʌtɪŋ ˌfɪltə/ *noun* a lens filter which cuts out ultraviolet light and reduces haziness (*film*)

**HCI** *abbr* host controller interface

**HD** /ˌeɪtʃ ˈdiː/ *noun* data transmission in one direction only, over a bidirectional channel. Full form **half duplex**

**HDD** *abbr* hard disk drive

**HDLC** *abbr* high-level data link control

**HDTV** *abbr* high definition television

**HDX** *abbr* half duplex

**head** /hed/ *noun* **1.** data that indicates the start address of a list of items stored in memory **2.** a top edge of a book or of a page **3.** the start of a reel of recording tape **4.** the top part of a device, network or body **5.** an adjustable mounting for a camera on its tripod **6.** the start of a reel of photographic film or recording tape ■ *verb* to be the first item of data in a list ○ *The queue was headed by my file.*

**head end** /ˈhed end/ *noun* interconnection equipment between an antenna and a cable television network

**header** /ˈhedə/ *noun* **1.** (in a local area network) a packet of data that is sent before a transmission to provide information on desti-

nation and routing **2.** information at the beginning of a list of data relating to the rest of the data **3.** a section of words at the top of a page of a document, giving e.g. the title, author's name or page number. Also called **heading**, † **footer**

**heading** /ˈhedɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the title or name of a document or file **2.** a header or section of words at the top of each page of a document. Also called **headline** **3.** the title for a page within a multimedia book

**headlife** /ˈhedlaɪf/ *noun* the length of time that a video or tape head can work before being serviced or replaced

**headline** /ˈhedlaɪn/ *noun* same as **heading**

**head wheel** /ˈhed wiːl/ *noun* a wheel that keeps video tape in contact with the head

**headword** /ˈhedwɜːd/ *noun* the main entry word in a printed dictionary

**heap** /hiːp/ *noun* a temporary data storage area that allows random access. Compare **stack**

**heat-absorbing filter** /ˈhiːt əbˌzɔːbɪŋ ˌfɪltə/, **heat filter** /ˈhiːt ˌfɪltə/ *noun* a filter that is able to reflect or absorb infrared radiation; used in projectors to reduce the amount of heat on a film

**heat-sink** /ˈhiːt sɪŋk/ *noun* a metal device used to conduct heat away from an electronic component to prevent damage

**helical scan** /ˌhelɪk(ə)l ˈskæn/ *noun* a method of storing data on magnetic tape in which the write head stores data in diagonal strips rather than parallel with the tape edge so using the tape area more efficiently and allowing more data to be recorded. It is used most often in video tape recorders.

**helios noise** /ˈhiːliɒs nɔɪz/ *noun* noise originating from the sun that is picked up by an earth-based antenna when it points in the direction of the sun

**help** /help/ *noun* **1.** anything which makes it easier to do something ○ *He finds his word-processor a great help in the office.* **2.** a function in a program or system that provides useful information about the program in use ○ *Hit the HELP key if you want information about what to do next.*

COMMENT: Most software applications for IBM PCs have standardised the use of the F1 function key to display help text explaining how something can be done.

**help desk** /ˈhelp desk/ *noun* a service that provides technical help and support for people using a computer package or network

**helper application** /ˈhelpə ˌæplɪkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* software which works with a web browser to increase the functionality of the browser ○ *To view Adobe Acrobat*

pages in your web browser you will need to get the Adobe helper application.

**help screen** /'help skri:n/ *noun* a display of information about a program or function

**hertz** /hɜ:ts/ *noun* an SI unit of frequency, defined as the number of cycles per second of time. Abbr **Hz**

COMMENT: Hertz rate is the frequency at which mains electricity is supplied to the consumer. The hertz rate in the US and Canada is 60; in Europe it is 50.

**heterogeneous network** /,hetərəʊdʒi:niəs 'netwɜ:k/ *noun* a computer network joining computers of many different types and makes

**heuristic** /hjʊə'rɪstɪk/ *adjective* which learns from past experiences ○ *A heuristic program learns from its previous actions and decisions.*

**Hewlett Packard** /,hewlət 'pækɑ:d/ manufacturer of computers, test equipment and printers. Abbr **HP**

**Hewlett Packard Graphics Language** /,hewlət 'pækɑ:d 'græfɪks ,læŋgwidʒ/ a standard set of commands used to describe graphics. Abbr **HPGL**

**Hewlett Packard Interface Bus** /,hewlət 'pækɑ:d 'ɪntəfeɪs bʌs/ a standard method of interfacing peripheral devices or test equipment and computers. Abbr **HPiB**

**Hewlett Packard LaserJet** /,hewlət 'pækɑ:d 'leɪzədʒet/ a trade name for a laser printer manufactured by Hewlett Packard that uses its PCL language to describe a page. Also called **LaserJet**

**Hewlett Packard Printer Control Language** /,hewlət 'pækɑ:d ,prɪntə kən 'trəʊl ,læŋgwidʒ/ a standard set of commands developed by Hewlett Packard to allow a software application to control a laser printer's functions. Abbr **HP-PCL**

**HF** *noun* a radio communications range of frequencies between 3 MHz and 30 MHz. Full form **high frequency**

**HFS** /,eɪtʃ ef 'es/ *noun* (in an Apple Mac system) a method used to store and organise files on a disk. Full form **hierarchical filing system**

**Hi-8** /,haɪ 'eɪt/ *noun* a video cassette tape format that uses 8mm wide tape; mostly used in camcorders

**hidden** /'hɪd(ə)n/ *adjective* which cannot be seen

**hidden files** /'hɪd(ə)n faɪlz/ *plural noun* important system files which are not displayed in a directory listing and cannot normally be read by a user ○ *It allows users to backup or restore hidden files independently.*

**hidden line algorithm** /,hɪd(ə)n laɪn 'ælgərɪð(ə)n/ *noun* a mathematical formula

that removes hidden lines from a two-dimensional computer image of a 3-D object

**hierarchical classification** /haɪə ,rɑ:kɪk(ə)l ,klæsɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a library classification system where the list of subjects is divided down into more and more selective subsets

**hierarchical communications system** /,haɪərə:kɪk(ə)l kə,mju:nɪ'keɪʃ(ə)nz ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a network in which each branch has a number of separate minor branches dividing from it

**hierarchical computer network** /,haɪərə:kɪk(ə)l kəm'pjʊ:tə ,netwɜ:k/ *noun* a method of allocating control and processing functions in a network to the computers which are most suited to the task

**hierarchical database** /,haɪərə:kɪk(ə)l 'deɪtəbeɪs/ *noun* a database in which records can be related to each other in a defined structure

**hierarchical directory** /,haɪərə:kɪk(ə)l daɪ'rekt(ə)rɪ/ *noun* a directory listing of files on a disk, showing the main directory and its files, branches and any sub-directories

**hierarchical filing system** /,haɪərə:kɪk(ə)l 'faɪlɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **HFS**

**hierarchical routing** /,haɪərə:kɪk(ə)l 'ru:tɪŋ/ *noun* a method of directing network traffic over a complex network by breaking down the structure of the network into separate levels, each level being responsible for directing traffic within its area ○ *The Internet has a three-level hierarchical routing system in which the backbones can direct traffic from one Mid-level to another, the mid-levels can direct traffic from one server site to another and each server site can direct traffic internally.*

**hierarchical vector quantisation** /,haɪərə:kɪk(ə)l 'vektə ,kwɒntaɪzɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **HVQ**

**hi fi, hifi** *noun* the accurate reproduction of audio signals by equipment such as a record player and amplifier. Full form **high fidelity**

**high** /haɪ/ *adjective* large or very great

**high definition television** /,haɪ ,defɪnɪʃ(ə)n 'telɪ,vɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* a broadcast television standard that displays images at a different aspect ratio and with much better definition than existing television sets. Abbr **HDTV** (NOTE: There are six standards: all display 16:9 aspect ratio images, three support a resolution of 1920x1080 pixels, three support 1280x720.)

**high fidelity** /,haɪ fɪ'deləti/ *noun* very good quality sound, usually stereo sound recorded in 16 bits at a sample rate of 44.1 KHz

**high fidelity system** /,haɪ frɪ'delɪtɪ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* high-quality equipment for playing records or compact discs or tapes or for listening to the radio (tape recorder, turntable, amplifier and speakers).  $\diamond$  **hi fi**

**high-level data link control** /,haɪ ,lev(ə)l ,deɪtə lɪŋk kən'trəʊl/ *noun* an ISO standard that provides a link-layer protocol and defines how data is formatted before being transmitted over a synchronous network. Abbr **HL DLC**

**high-level language** /,haɪ ,lev(ə)l 'læŋgwɪdʒ/, **high-level programming language** /,haɪ ,lev(ə)l ,prəʊgræmɪŋ 'læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* a computer programming language which is easy to learn and allows the user to write programs using words and commands that are easy to understand and look like English words. Abbr **HLL** (NOTE: The program is then translated into machine code, with one HLL instruction often representing more than one machine code instruction.)

**highlight** /'haɪlaɪt/ *verb* **1.** to make part of the text stand out from the rest  $\circ$  *The headings are highlighted in bold.* **2.** to select an object or text by dragging the pointer across it; when text is highlighted it normally appears inverted (white on a black background)

**high memory** /,haɪ 'mem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* (in an IBM PC) a memory area between 640 Kb and 1 Mb

**high memory area** /,haɪ 'mem(ə)rɪ ,eəriəl/ *noun* (in an IBM PC) the first 64 Kb of extended memory above 1 Mb that can be used by MS-DOS programs. Abbr **HMA**

**high performance filing system** /,haɪ pə,ɹɔ:məns 'faɪlɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **HPFS**

**high-resolution** /,haɪ ,rezə'lʊ:ʃ(ə)n/, **high-res** /,haɪ 'rez/ *noun* the ability to display or detect a very large number of pixels per unit area. Also called **hi-res**

**high resolution graphics** /,haɪ ,rezə'lʊ:ʃ(ə)n 'græfɪks/ *noun* full form of **HRRG**

**high Sierra specification** /,haɪ si,erə ,spesɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an industry standard method of storing data on a CD-ROM disc

**high-spec** /,haɪ 'spek/ *plural noun* having a high specification  $\circ$  *High-spec cabling needs to be very carefully handled.*

**high specification** /,haɪ ,spesɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a high degree of accuracy or a large number of features

**high-speed** /'haɪ spi:d/ *adjective* which operates faster than normal data transmission or processing

**high-tech** /'haɪ 'tek/ *adjective* technologically advanced

**highway** /'haɪweɪ/ *noun* same as **bus**

**hi-res** /,haɪ 'reɪz/ *noun* same as **high-resolution**

**hiss** /hɪs/ *noun* high-frequency noise mixed with a signal

**histogram** /'hɪstəgræm/ *noun* a graph on which values are represented as vertical or horizontal bars

**history** /'hɪst(ə)rɪ/ *noun* a feature of some applications that keeps a log of the actions a user has carried out, the places within a hypertext document visited or the sites on the Internet explored

**hit** /hɪt/ *noun* a successful match or search of a database  $\blacksquare$  *verb* to press a key  $\circ$  *To save the text, hit ESCAPE S.* (NOTE: hitting – hit)

**HL DLC** *abbr* high-level data link control

**HLL** *abbr* high-level language

**HMA** *abbr* high memory area

**HMI** *abbr* human-machine interface

**HMS time format** /,eɪtʃ ,em ,es taɪm 'fɔ:mæt/ *noun* a system used by MCI to express time in hours, minutes and seconds – normally used only for videodisc devices.  $\diamond$

**MCI**

**hold** /həʊld/ *noun* synchronisation timing pulse for a television time base signal

COMMENT: The hold feature keeps the picture steady and central on the screen. Some televisions have horizontal and vertical hold controls to allow the picture to be moved and set up according to various conditions.

**holdup** /'həʊldʌp/ *noun* **1.** a time period over which power will be supplied by a UPS **2.** a pause in a program or device due to a malfunction

**hole** /həʊl/ *noun* a punched gap in a punched paper tape or card, representing data

**hologram** /'hɒləgræm/ *noun* an imaginary three-dimensional image produced by the interference pattern when a part of a coherent light source, e.g. a laser, is reflected from an object and mixed with the main beam

**holograph** /'hɒləgrɑ:f/ *noun* a handwritten manuscript, as written by the author using a pen or pencil, but not typed

**holographic image** /,hɒləgræfɪk 'ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* a hologram of a three-dimensional object

**holographic storage** /,hɒləgræfɪk 'stɔ:ɪdʒ/ *noun* storage of data as a holographic image which is then read by a bank of photocells and a laser (NOTE: This is a storage medium with massive storage potential.)

**holography** /hɒ'ləgrəfi/ *noun* the science and study of holograms and their manufacture

**home** /həʊm/ *noun* **1.** a place where a person lives **2.** a starting point or the initial point

**home banking** /,həʊm 'bæŋkɪŋ/ *noun* a method of examining and carrying out bank transactions in the user's home via a terminal and modem

**home computer** /,həʊm kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* a microcomputer designed for home use, whose applications might include teaching, games, personal finance and word-processing

**home consumption** /,həʊm kən 'sʌmpʃən/ *noun* the use of something in the home

**home key** /'həʊm ki:/ *noun* a key on an IBM PC keyboard that moves the cursor to the beginning of a line of text

**home page** /'həʊm peɪdʒ/ *noun* the opening page of a website

**homing** /'həʊmɪŋ/ *noun* location of the source of a transmitted signal or data item

**homogeneous computer network** /,həʊməʊdʒi:nɪəs kəm'pjʊ:tə ,netwɜ:k/ *noun* a network made up of similar machines that are compatible or from the same manufacturer

**homogeneous multiplexing** /,həʊməʊdʒi:nɪəs 'mʌltɪ,pleksɪŋ/ *noun* a switching multiplexer system in which all the channels contain data using the same protocol and transmission rate

**hood** /hʊd/ *noun* a cover which protects something

**hook** /hʊk/ *noun* a point in a program at which a programmer can insert test code or debugging code

**hooking** /'hʊkɪŋ/ *noun* distortion of a video picture caused by tape head timing errors

**hop** /hɒp/ *noun* the path taken by a packet of data as it moves from one server or router to another

**hopper** /'hɒpə/ *noun* a device which holds punched cards and feeds them into the reader

**horizontal** /,hɒrɪ'zɒnt(ə)l/ *adjective* lying flat or going from side to side, not up and down

**horizontal blanking period** /,hɒrɪzɒnt(ə)l 'blæŋkɪŋ ,pɪəriəd/ *noun* the time taken for the picture beam in a monitor to return to the start of the next line from the end of the previous line

**horizontal scan frequency** /,hɒrɪzɒnt(ə)l 'skæn ,fri:kwənsi/ *noun* the number of lines on a video display that are refreshed each second

**horizontal scrollbar** /,hɒrɪzɒnt(ə)l 'skrɒlba:/ *noun* (in a GUI) a bar along the bottom of a window that indicates that the page is wider than the window (NOTE: A user

can move horizontally across the page by dragging the indicator bar on the scrollbar.)

**horizontal scrolling** /,hɒrɪzɒnt(ə)l 'skrɒlɪŋ/ *noun* the process of moving across a page, horizontally

**horn** /hɔ:n/ *noun* a directional radio device with a wider open end leading to a narrow section, used for the reception and transmission of radio waves

**host** /həʊst/ *noun, adjective* to provide storage space on a server computer where a user can store files or data, often used to store the files required for a website ○ *We chose this company to host our website because it has reliable server computers and high-speed connection to the Internet.*

'...you select fonts manually or through commands sent from the host computer along with the text' [Byte]

**host address** /'həʊst ə,dres/ *noun* same as **Internet address**

**host computer** /,həʊst kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* **1.** the main controlling computer in a multi-user or distributed system **2.** a computer used to write and debug software for another computer, often using a cross compiler **3.** a computer in a network that provides special services or programming languages to all users

'...you select fonts manually or through commands sent from the host computer along with the text' [Byte]

**hosting service provider** /'həʊstɪŋ ,sɜ:vɪs prə,vɑɪdə/ *noun* same as **host service**

**host name** /'həʊst ,neɪm/ *noun* a name given to a website on the Internet

**host number** /'həʊst ,nʌmbə/ *noun* same as **Internet address**

**host service** /'həʊst ,sɜ:vɪs/ *noun* a company that provides connections to the Internet and storage space on its computers which can store the files for a user's website ○ *We rent storage space on this host service provider's server for our company website.* ◇ **ISP.** Also called **hosting service provider**

**hot key** /'hɒt ki:/ *noun* a special key or key combination which starts a process or activates a program

**hot plugging** /'hɒt ,plʌɡɪŋ/ *noun* a feature of a computer that allows a device or peripheral to be plugged in or connected while the computer is working ○ *This server support hot plugging so I can plug in this network card and the operating system software will automatically detect and alter its configuration.* Also called **hot swapping**

**hotspot** /'hɒtspɒt/ *noun* **1.** a special area on an image or display that does something when the cursor is moved onto it ○ *The im-*

*age of the trumpet is a hotspot and will play a sound when you move the pointer over it.* **2.** a region of high brightness on a film or display screen

**hot standby** /,hɒt 'stændbaɪ/ *noun* a piece of hardware that is kept operational at all times and is used as backup in case of system failure. Compare **cold standby**, **warm standby**

**hot swapping** /'hɒt ,swɒpɪŋ/ *noun* same as **hot plugging**

**hotword** /'hɒtwɜːd/ *noun* a word within displayed text that does something when the cursor is moved onto it or it is selected

**house** /haʊz/ *noun* a company, especially a publishing company ○ *One of the biggest software houses in the US* ■ *verb* to put a device in a case ○ *The disc is housed in a solid plastic case.*

**housekeeping** /'haʊs,ki:pɪŋ/ *noun* tasks that have to be regularly carried out to maintain a computer system, e.g. checking backups and deleting unwanted files

**houselights** /'haʊslaɪts/ *plural noun* studio lighting, or lights illuminating where the audience is seated (*film*)

**housing** /'haʊzɪŋ/ *noun* a solid case ○ *The computer housing was damaged when it fell on the floor.*

**howler** /'haʊlə/ *noun* **1.** a buzzer which indicates to a telephone exchange operator that a user's telephone handset is not on the receiver **2.** a very bad and obvious mistake ○ *What a howler, no wonder your program won't work.*

**HP** *abbr* Hewlett Packard

**HPFS** /,eɪtʃ pi: ef 'es/ *noun* (*in an OS/2 operating system*) a method of storing file information that is faster and more flexible than MS-DOS FAT. Full form **high performance filing system**

**HPGL** *abbr* Hewlett Packard Graphics Language

**HPiB** *abbr* Hewlett Packard Interface Bus

**HP-PCL** /,eɪtʃ ,pi: ,pi: si: 'el/ *abbr* Hewlett Packard Printer Control Language

**HRG** /,eɪtʃ a: 'dʒi:/ *noun* the ability to display a large number of pixels per unit area. Full form **high resolution graphics**

**HSV** *abbr* hue, saturation and value

**HT** *plural noun* small portable transceivers. Full form **handy talkies**

**HTML** /,eɪtʃ ti: em 'el/ *noun* a series of special codes that define the typeface and style that should be used when displaying the text and also allow hypertext links to other parts of the document or to other documents ○ *HTML is used to create documents for the*

*World Wide Web.* Full form **hypertext markup language**

**HTTP** /,eɪtʃ ti: ti: 'pi:/ *noun* a series of commands used by a browser to ask an Internet web server for information about a webpage. Full form **hypertext transfer protocol**

**HTTPd** /,eɪtʃ ti: ti: 'di:/ *noun* a server software that carries sends webpage files to a client in response to a request from a user's web browser ○ *When you type a website address into your web browser, this sends a request to the HTTPd server software that replies with the HTML code of a formatted webpage.* Full form **hypertext transfer protocol daemon**

**hub** /hʌb/ *noun* **1.** the central part of a disk, usually with a hole and ring which the disk drive grips to spin the disk **2.** (*in a star-topology network*) the central ring or wiring cabinet where all circuits meet and form an electrical path for signals **3.** a continuous audible sound of low frequency

**hue** /hju:/ *noun* the colour of an image or pixel

**hue, saturation and intensity** /,hju: ,sætʃəreɪʃ(ə)n ənd ɪn'tensɪti/ *noun* a method of defining a colour through its three properties. Abbr **HSI**. Also called **hue, saturation and brightness**, **hue, saturation and level** (NOTE: Hue is colour defined by its the wavelength; saturation refers to the purity of the colour (where at zero saturation the colour appears white and full saturation is pure colour); and intensity, brightness and level refer to the amount of white.) **hue, saturation and value** /,hju: ,sætʃəreɪʃ(ə)n ənd 'vælju:/ *noun* same as **hue, saturation and intensity**. abbr **HSV**

**Huffman code** /'hʌfɪmən kəʊd/ *noun* a data compression code in which frequent characters occupy less bit space than less frequent ones

**huge model** /,hju:dʒ 'mɒd(ə)/ *noun* (*in programming*) the memory model of an Intel processor that allows data and program code to exceed 64Kb, but the total of both must be less than 1Mb

**hum** /hʌm/ *noun* a low frequency electrical noise or interference on a signal

**human-computer interface** /,hju:mən kəm,pju:tə 'ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* abbr **HMI**. same as **human-machine interface**

**human-machine interface** /,hju:mən mə,ʃi:n 'ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* facilities provided to improve the interaction between a user and a computer system. Abbr **HMI**. Also called **human-computer interface**

**hum bars** /'hʌm bɑːz/ *plural noun* slow-moving horizontal bars on a television pic-

ture which are created by the input of an undesirable mains hum into the video signal

**hung** ▶ **hang**

**hunting** /'hʌntɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the process of searching out a data record in a file **2.** low-frequency instability of sound or picture created by cyclic variations in tape or film transport speed

**HVQ** /eɪtʃvi: 'kju: / *noun* a video compression standard which allows colour video images to be transmitted in a bandwidth of 112 Kbps. Full form **hierarchical vector quantisation**

**hybrid circuit** /,haɪbrɪd 'sɜ:kɪt/ *noun* the connection of a number of different electronic components such as integrated circuits, transistors, resistors and capacitors in a small package, which since the components are not contained in their own protective packages, requires far less space than the individual discrete components

**HyperCard** /'haɪpəkɑ:d/ a trade name for a database system controlled by HyperTalk programming language, used to produce hypertext documents

**hyperlink** /'haɪpəlɪŋk/ *noun* a word or image or button in a webpage or multimedia title that moves the user to another page when clicked

**hypermedia** /'haɪpəmi:diə/ *noun* a hypertext system that is capable of displaying images and sound

**HyperTalk** /'haɪpətɔ:k/ a trade name for a programming language used to control a HyperCard database

**HyperTerminal** /'haɪpə,tɜ:mɪn(ə)l/ *noun* a communications program that is included

with Windows 95 and allows a user to call a remote computer via a modem and transfer files

**hypertext** /'haɪpətɛkst/ *noun* **1.** a multimedia system of organising information in which certain words in a document link to other documents and display the text when the word is selected ○ *In this hypertext page, click once on the word 'computer' and it will tell you what a computer is.* **2.** a way of linking one word or image on an Internet page to another page in which clicking on certain words or images moves the user directly to the relevant new page

**hypertext markup language** /,haɪpətɛkst 'mɑ:kʌp ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **HTML**

**hypertext transfer protocol** /,haɪpətɛkst 'trænsfɜ: ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **HTTP**

**hypertext transfer protocol daemon** /,haɪpətɛkst 'trænsfɜ: ,prəʊtəkɒl ,di:mən/ *noun* full form of **HTTPd**

**hyphen** /'haɪf(ə)n/ *noun* a printing sign (-) to show that a word has been split

**hyphenated** /'haɪfəneɪtɪd/ *adjective* written with a hyphen ○ *The word 'high-level' is usually hyphenated.*

**hyphenation** /,haɪfə'neɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the splitting of a word at the end of a line, when the word is too long to fit

**hyphenation and justification** /haɪfə ,naɪf(ə)n ən ,dʒʌstɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **H & J** ○ *An American hyphenation and justification program will not work with British English spellings.*

**Hz** *abbr* hertz

**I750** /,aɪ ˌsev(ə)n faɪ 'əʊ/ *noun* a video processor chip developed by Intel and used to compress and decompress digital video sequences

**IAB** /,aɪ eɪ 'bi:/ *noun* **1.** an independent committee that is responsible for the design, engineering and management of the Internet. Full form **Internet Activities Board**. **2.** a group that monitors and manages the development of the Internet. Full form **Internet Architecture Board**

**IAM** /,aɪ eɪ 'em/ *noun* memory storage that has an access time between that of main memory and a disk based system. Full form **intermediate access memory**

**IANA** *abbr* Internet Assigned Numbers Authority

**I-beam** /'aɪ bi:m/ *noun* a cursor shaped like the letter 'I' used in a GUI to edit text or indicate text operations

**IBM** /,aɪ bi: 'em/ the largest computer company in the world, which developed the first PC based on the Intel processor. Full form **International Business Machines**

**IBM-compatible** /,aɪ bi: em kəm 'pætɪb(ə)/ *adjective* referring to a personal computer that has hardware and software compatible with the IBM PC regardless of which Intel processor it uses (NOTE: IBM-compatible computers feature an ISA, EISA or MCA expansion bus.)

**IC** *abbr* integrated circuit

**ICE** *noun* a communication system (developed by the BBC) which transmits data in the field blanking period. Full form **insertion communication equipment**

**ICMP** /,aɪ ci: em 'pi:/ *noun* an extension to the Internet Protocol that provides error detection and control messages ○ *The Internet command 'ping' uses ICMP to test if a named node is working correctly.* Full form **Internet control message protocol**. ◊ **IP**, **PING**

**icon** /'aɪkɒn/, **ikon** *noun* a graphic symbol or small picture displayed on screen, used in an interactive computer system to provide an easy way of identifying a function ○ *The icon for the graphics program is a small picture of a palette.*

'Despite (or because of?) the swap file, loading was slow and the hourglass icon of the mouse pointer frequently returned to the arrow symbol well before loading was complete.' [Computing]

**icon resource** /'aɪkɒn rɪˌzɔ:s/ *noun* a file that contains the bitmap image of an icon, used by a programmer when writing an application

**ICQ** a software program developed by Mirabilis that supports instant messaging and allows two or more users to send messages to each other via the Internet that are instantly displayed on the other person's screen (NOTE: pronounced 'I-seek-you')

**ID** *abbr* **1.** identification **2.** identifier

**I-D** *abbr* Internet-draft

**IDA** *abbr* integrated digital access

**IDD** *abbr* international direct dialling

**IDE** /,aɪ di: 'i:/ *noun* a popular standard for a hard disk drive controller unit that allows data transfer rates up to 4.1MBps and can support two hard disk drives on each controller; enhanced versions of the IDE standard provide more flexibility and speed (also known as AT Attachment – ATA – interface) ○ *IDE drives are fitted to most home PCs.* Full form **integrated drive electronics, integrated device electronics**. ◊ **ATA**, **SCSI**

**ideal** /aɪ'diəl/ *adjective* perfect or very good for something

**ideal format** /aɪ,dɪəl 'fɔ:mæt/ *noun* a standard large format for photographic negatives, used mainly in professional equipment

**identical** /aɪ'dentɪk(ə)/ *adjective* exactly the same ○ *The two systems use identical software.*

**identification** /aɪ,dentɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a procedure used by a host computer to establish the identity and nature of the calling computer or user. This could be for security and access restriction purposes or to provide transmission protocol information.

**identification character** /aɪ,dentɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n ˌkærɪktə/ *noun* a single character sent to a host computer to establish the identity and location of a remote computer or terminal

**identifier** /aɪ'dentɪfaɪə/ *noun* a set of characters used to distinguish between different blocks of data or files. *Abbr ID*

**identify** /aɪ'dentɪfaɪ/ *verb* to establish who someone is or what something is ○ *The user has to identify himself to the system by using a password before access is allowed.*

**identity** /aɪ'dentɪti/ *noun* who someone or what something is

**idiot tape** /'ɪdiət teɪp/ *noun* a tape containing unformatted text, which cannot be typeset until formatting data, such as justification, line width, and page size, has been added by a computer

**idle** /'aɪd(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to a machine, telephone line or device which is not being used, but is ready and waiting to be used

**IE** *abbr* Internet Explorer

**IEC connector** /,aɪ i: 'sɪ: kə,nektə/ *noun* a standard for a three-pin connector used on sockets that carry mains electricity to the computer ○ *All PCs have a male IEC connector and use a mains lead with a female IEC connector.*

**IEEE** *abbr* US Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers

**IESG** *noun* a group that reviews Internet standards and manages the IETF. Full form

**Internet Engineering Steering Group**

**IETF** /,aɪ i: ti: 'ef/ *noun* a committee that is part of the IAB and determines Internet standards. Full form **Internet Engineering Task Force**. ◊ **IAB**

**if** /ɪf/ *abbr* intermediate frequency

**IFF** /,aɪ ef 'ef/ *noun* **1.** a standard for compressed files stored on a CD-i. Full form **international file format** **2.** a standard that defines how palette data is stored in an Amiga and some graphics programs. Full form **interchange file format**

**IF statement** /'ɪf, steɪtmənt/ *noun* a computer programming statement meaning do an action IF a condition is true, and usually followed by THEN

**IGMP** /,aɪ dʒɪ: em 'pi:/ *noun* a standard that helps manage how data is transferred during an IP Multicast operation in which one server computer sends each packet of data to several destinations at the same time. Full form **Internet group management protocol** (NOTE: This is useful when broadcasting a lot of data to several different recipients. The IGMP standard is defined in RFC1112.)

**ignore** /ɪg'no:z/ *verb* not to recognise or not to do what someone says ○ *This command instructs the computer to ignore all punctuation.*

**IGP** /,aɪ dʒɪ: 'pi:/ *noun* a protocol that distributes information to gateways, i.e. routers, within a particular network. Full form **interior gateway protocol**

**IIL** *abbr* integrated injection logic

**IIS** a piece of web server software developed by Microsoft. Full form **Internet Information Server**

**IKBS** /,aɪ keɪ bi: 'em/ *noun* software that applies the knowledge, advice and rules de-

fined by an expert in a particular field to a user's data to help solve a problem. Full form **intelligent knowledge-based system**.

Also called **expert system**

**ikon** /'aɪkɒn/ *noun* another spelling of **icon**

**ILF** *abbr* infra-low frequency

**ILL** *abbr* inter-library loan

**illegal** /'ɪli:g(ə)l/ *adjective* which is against the law

**illegally** /'ɪli:gəli/ *adverb* against the law or against rules ○ *The company has been illegally copying copyright software.*

**illegal operation** /ɪ,li:g(ə)l ɒpə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an instruction or process that does not follow the computer system's protocol or language syntax

**illegible** /'ɪledʒɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* which cannot be read ○ *If the manuscript is illegible, send it back to the author to have it typed.*

**illiterate** /'ɪlɪ(ə)rət/ *adjective* (person) who cannot read

'...three years ago the number of people who were computer illiterate was much higher than today' [*Minicomputer News*]

**illumination** /'ɪlu:mɪnəns/ *noun* a measurement of the amount of light that strikes a surface, measured in lux

**illuminate** /'ɪlu:mɪneɪt/ *verb* to shine a light on something ○ *The screen is illuminated by a low-power light.*

**illumination** /ɪ,lu:mɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* lighting

**illustrate** /'ɪlə,streɪt/ *verb* to add pictures to a text ○ *The book is illustrated in colour.* ○ *The manual is illustrated with charts and pictures of the networking connections.*

**illustration** /ɪ,lə'streɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a picture (in a book) ○ *The book has twenty-five pages of full-colour illustrations.*

**IMA** /,aɪ em 'eɪ/ *noun* a professional organisation that covers subjects including authoring languages, formats and intellectual property. Full form **Interactive Multimedia Association** ■ *abbr* International MIDI Association

**iMac** /,aɪ 'mæk/ a personal computer developed by Apple Computer Corporation

**image** /'ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* **1.** an exact duplicate of an area of memory **2.** a copy of an original picture or design **3.** a projected picture that is shown when light is shone through a photograph film **4.** a picture displayed on a screen or monitor

**image area** /'ɪmɪdʒ, eəriə/ *noun* a region of microfilm or display screen on which characters or designs can be displayed

**image buffer** /'ɪmɪdʒ, bʌfə/ *noun* an area of memory that is used to build up an image before it is transferred to screen

**image compression** /'ɪmɪdʒ kəmˌpreʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of compressing the data that forms an image

**image degradation** /'ɪmɪdʒ ˌdeɪgrədeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the loss of picture quality and quality due to signal distortion or bad copying of a video signal

**image editing** /'ɪmɪdʒ ˌedɪtɪŋ/ *noun* the process of altering or adjusting an image using a paint package or special image editing program

**image editor** /'ɪmɪdʒ ˌedɪtə/ *noun* a piece of software that allows a user to edit, change or create a bitmap image

**image enhancement** /'ɪmɪdʒ ɪnˌhɑːnsmənt/ *noun* the process of adjusting parts of an image using special image processing software to change the brightness or sharpness of an image

**imagemap** /'ɪmɪdʒməp/ *noun* a graphic image that has areas of the image defined as hyperlink hotspots that link to another webpage

**image processing** /'ɪmɪdʒ ˌprəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* the analysis of information contained in an image, usually by electronic means or using a computer which provides the analysis or recognition of objects in the image

**image processing software** /'ɪmɪdʒ ˌprəʊsesɪŋ ˌsɒftweɪ/ *noun* software that allows a user to adjust contrast, colour or brightness levels or apply special effects to a bitmap image

**image processor** /'ɪmɪdʒ ˌprəʊsesə/ *noun* an electronic or computer system used for image processing, and to extract information from the image

'The Max FX also acts as a server to a growing number of printers, including a Varityper 5300 with emerald raster image processor and a Canon CLC 500 colour photocopier.' [Computing]

**image retention** /'ɪmɪdʒ rɪˌteɪʃən/ *noun* the time taken for a TV image to disappear after it has been displayed, caused by long persistence phosphor

**image scanner** /'ɪmɪdʒ ˌskænə/ *noun* an input device which converts documents or drawings or photographs into a digitised, machine-readable form

**image sensor** /'ɪmɪdʒ ˌsensə/ *noun* a photoelectric device which produces a signal related to the amount of light falling on it

**image setter** /'ɪmɪdʒ ˌsetə/ *noun* a typesetting device which can process a PostScript page and produce a high-resolution output

**image stability** /'ɪmɪdʒ stəˌbɪlɪti/ *noun* the ability of a display screen to provide a flicker-free picture

**image storage space** /ˌɪmɪdʒ ˈstɔːrɪdʒ ˌspeɪs/ *noun* a region of memory in which a digitised image is stored

**image table** /'ɪmɪdʒ ˌteɪb(ə)/ *noun* each of two bit-mapped tables used to control input and output devices or processes

**imaging** /'ɪmɪdʒɪŋ/ *noun* a technique for creating pictures on a screen, in medicine used to provide pictures of sections of the body, using scanners attached to computers

**imaging system** /ˌɪmɪdʒɪŋ ˈsɪstəm/ *noun* equipment and software used to capture, digitise and compress video or still images

**IMAP** /'aɪməp/ *noun* a standard that defines how email messages can be accessed and read over a network. Full form **Internet message access protocol**. ◊ **POP 3, SMTP**

COMMENT: This standard (currently at version four) provides an alternative to the common POP 3 standard. The IMAP standard stores a user's messages on a shared server (e.g. at your ISP) and allows a user to connect from any computer and read, send or manage messages. In contrast, the POP 3 protocol downloads all messages from a shared server onto the user's computer. This makes it very difficult for a user to access messages from a different computer, e.g. if you are travelling. Regardless of whether IMAP or POP 3 is used to read messages, the SMTP protocol is normally used to send messages.

**IMAX** *noun* a wide-screen motion picture system using 70 mm film and having a frame size of 70 multiplied by 46 mm

**immunity** /ɪ'mjuːnɪti/ *noun* ▶ **interference**

**impact** /'ɪmpækt/ *noun* the act of hitting or striking something

'Lexmark is shipping the Wheelwriter family of typewriters that can be connected to a PC using the parallel printer port, making it act like a PC impact printer.' [Computing]

**impairment scale** /ɪmˌpeəmənt skeɪl/ *noun* the scale of the loss of quality in sound or picture reproduction in both film and video. Scale 5 is negligible loss and scale 1 is unacceptable.

**impedance** /ɪmˈpiːd(ə)ns/ *noun* a measurement of the effect an electrical circuit or cable has on signal current magnitude and phase when a steady voltage is applied. ◊ **ohm**

COMMENT: Network cables need to have the correct impedance for the type of network card installed. 10BaseT unshielded twisted-pair cable normally has an impedance between 100 and 105 ohms, while 10Base2 coaxial cable has an impedance of 50 ohms.

**impedance mismatch** /ɪm'pi:d(ə)ns ,mɪsmætʃ/ *noun* a situation where the impedance of the transmission or receiving end of a system does not match the other, resulting in loss of signal power

**implant** /ɪm'plɑ:nt/ *verb* to fix deeply into something; to bond one substance into another chemically ○ *The dopant is implanted into the substrate.*

**implement** /'ɪmplɪ,ment/ *verb* to carry out or to put something into action

**implementation** /,ɪmplɪmən'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a version of something that works ○ *The latest implementation of the software runs much faster.*

**import** /ɪm'pɔ:t/ *verb* **1.** to bring goods into a country to resell **2.** to bring something in from outside a system ○ *You can import images from the CAD package into the DTP program.* **3.** to convert a file stored in one format to the default format used by a program ○ *Select import if you want to open a TIFF graphics file.*

'At the moment, Acrobat supports only the sending and viewing of documents. There are legal implications associated with allowing users to edit documents in the style of the original application, without having the tool itself on their desks, and there is no import facility back into applications.' [Computing]

**importation** /,ɪmpɔ:t'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of importing. Compare **export**

'...text and graphics importation from other systems is possible' [Publishing]

'At the moment, Acrobat supports only the sending and viewing of documents. There are legal implications associated with allowing users to edit documents in the style of the original application, without having the tool itself on their desks, and there is no import facility back into applications' [Computing]

**impression** /ɪm'preʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the number of books or documents printed all on the same printrun

**impression cylinder** /ɪm'preʃ(ə)n ,sɪlɪndə/ *noun* a roller in a printing press that presses the sheets of paper against the inked type

**imprint** /'ɪmprɪnt/ *noun* the publisher's or printer's name which appears on the title page or in the bibliographical details of a book

**imprint position** /'ɪmprɪnt pə,ziʃ(ə)n/ *noun* on a sheet of paper, place where the next letter or symbol is to be printed

**impulse** /'ɪmpʌls/ *noun* a voltage pulse which lasts a very short time

**impulsive** /ɪm'pʌlsɪv/ *adjective* lasting a very short time

**IMS** *abbr* information management system

**inaccuracy** /ɪn'ækjʊrəsi/ *noun* a mistake or error ○ *The bibliography is full of inaccuracies.*

**inaccurate** /ɪn'ækjʊrət/ *adjective* not correct or wrong ○ *He entered an inaccurate password.*

**inactive** /ɪn'æktɪv/ *adjective* not working or not running

**inactive window** /ɪn,æktɪv 'wɪndəʊ/ *noun* (in a GUI) a window still displayed, but not currently being used

**in-band signalling** /,ɪn bænd 'sɪgn(ə)lɪŋ/ *noun* data transmission in which the signal carrying the data is within the bandwidth of the cable or transmission media

**InBox** /'ɪnbɒks/ *noun* a feature of the Windows messaging system that can gather together a user's electronic messages including mail sent over the network, fax messages and mail sent over the Internet

**inbuilt** /'ɪnbɪlt/ *adjective* referring to a feature or device included in a system ○ *This software has inbuilt error correction.*

**in camera process** /,ɪn ,kæm(ə)rə 'prəʊses/ *noun* a type of film processing which takes place inside the camera

**incandescence** /,ɪnkæn'des(ə)ns/ *noun* the generation of light by heating a wire in an inert gas (as in a light bulb)

**incandescent** /,ɪnkæn'des(ə)nt/ *adjective* shining because of heat produced in an inert gas

**incandescent lighting** /,ɪnkændes(ə)nt 'laɪtɪŋ/ *noun* a light using heated tungsten, gas-filled bulbs or tubes instead of bulbs with carbon arcs

**incident** /'ɪnsɪd(ə)nt/ *noun* light that is reflected from an object (*film*)

**in-circuit emulator** /,ɪn ,sɜ:kɪt 'emjʊləɪtə/ *noun* a circuit that emulates a device or integrated circuit and is inserted into a new or faulty circuit to test if it is working correctly ○ *This in-circuit emulator is used to test the floppy disk controller by emulating a disk drive.*

**inclined orbit** /ɪn,klaɪnd 'ɔ:bɪt/ *noun* orbit that is not polar or equatorial

**inclusive** /ɪn'klu:sɪv/ *adjective* which counts something in with other things ○ *Prices are inclusive of VAT.*

**incoming** /'ɪnkʌmɪŋ/ *adjective* which is coming in from outside

**incompatible** /,ɪnkəm'pæɪtəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which cannot work together ○ *They tried to link the two systems, but found they were incompatible.*

**incorrect** /,ɪnkə'rekt/ *adjective* not correct or with mistakes ○ *The input data was incorrect, so the output was also incorrect.*

**incorrectly** /,ɪnkə'rektli/ *adverb* not correctly or with mistakes ○ *The data was incorrectly keyboarded.*

**increment** /'ɪŋkrɪmənt/ *noun* **1.** the addition of a set number, usually one, to a register, often for counting purposes ○ *An increment is added to the counter each time a pulse is detected.* **2.** the value of the number added to a register ○ *Increase the increment to three.* ■ *verb* **1.** to add something or to increase a number ○ *The counter is incremented each time an instruction is executed.* **2.** to move forward to the next location

**incremental backup** /,ɪŋkrɪmənt(ə)l 'bækʌp/ *noun* a backup procedure that only backs up the files that have changed since the last backup

**incremental plotter** /,ɪŋkrɪmənt(ə)l 'plɒtə/ *noun* a graphical output device that can only move in small steps, with input data representing the difference between present position and the position required, so drawing lines and curves as a series of short straight lines

**indent** *noun* /'ɪndent/ a space or series of spaces from the left margin, when starting a line of text ■ *verb* /ɪn'dent/ to start a line of text with a space in from the left margin ○ *The first line of the paragraph is indented two spaces.*

**indentation** /,ɪnden'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of leaving a space at the beginning of a line of text

**Indeo** /'ɪndiəʊ/ a trade name for video software technology developed by Intel that allows a computer to store and play back compressed video sequences using software compression techniques

**independent** /,ɪndɪ'pendənt/ *adjective* free or not controlled by anyone

**independently** /,ɪndɪ'pendəntli/ *adverb* freely or without being controlled or without being connected ○ *In spooling, the printer is acting independently of the keyboard.*

**index** /'ɪndeks/ *noun* **1.** a list of items in a computer memory, usually arranged alphabetically **2.** the address to be used that is the result of an offset value added to a start location. ♢ **indexed addressing** **3.** a list of terms classified into groups or put in alphabetical order **4.** an alphabetical list printed, usually at the back of a book, giving references to items in the main part of the book **5.** a list of subjects and contents of a book in alphabetical order (usually at the back of a book) **6.** guide marks along the edge of a piece of film or strip of microfilm ■ *verb* to put marks against items so that they will be selected and sorted to form an index

**indexed address** /,ɪndeksd ə'dres/ *noun* the address of the location to be accessed, which is found in an index register

**indexed addressing** /,ɪndeksd ə'dresɪŋ/ *noun* an addressing mode, in which the storage location to be accessed is made up of a start address and an offset value, which is then added to it to give the address to be used

**indexed sequential access method** /,ɪndeks sɪ,kwɛnsəl 'æksɛs ,mɛθəd/ *noun* a data retrieval method using a list containing the address of each stored record, where the list is searched, then the record is retrieved from the address in the list. Abbr **ISAM**

**index.html** /,ɪndeks dɒt ,eɪtʃ ti: em 'el/ *noun* a filename that is used to store the text and HTML formatting commands for the home page on a website

**indexing** /'ɪndeksɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the use of indexed addressing in software or a computer **2.** the process of building and sorting a list of records **3.** the process of writing an index for a book

**index page** /'ɪndeks peɪdʒ/ *noun* **1.** a page of a multimedia book that lists all the other pages within the book and allows a user to locate other pages or areas of interest **2.** the initial opening webpage of a site on the Internet or on a company's intranet

**index register** /'ɪndeks ,redʒɪstə/ *noun* a computer address register that is added to a reference address to provide the location to be accessed. Abbr **IR**

**indicate** /'ɪndɪ,keɪt/ *verb* to show

**indication** /,ɪndɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a sign or something which shows

**indicator** /'ɪndɪ,keɪtə/ *noun* something which shows the state of a process, usually a light or buzzer

**indirect** /,ɪndaɪ'rekt/ *adjective* not direct

**induce** /ɪn'dju:s/ *verb* to generate an electrical current in a coil of wire by electromagnetic effects

**inductance** /ɪn'dʌktəns/ *noun* a measurement of the amount of energy a device can store in its magnetic field

**induction** /ɪn'dʌkʃən/ *noun* the generation of an electrical current by electromagnetic effects from a nearby source

**inductive coordination** /ɪn,dʌktɪv kəʊ ,ɔ:drɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* agreement between electrical power suppliers and communication providers on methods of reducing induced interference

**inductor** /ɪn'dʌktə/ *noun* an electrical component consisting of a coil of wire used to introduce inductance effects into a circuit by storing energy in its magnetic field

**Industry Standard Architecture**

/,ɪndəstriˌstændədˈɑ:kɪtektʃəl/ *noun* full form of **ISA**

**inequality operator** /,ɪn'kwɒlɪtiˌɒpəreɪtə/ *noun* a symbol used to indicate that two variables or quantities are not equal  
 ○ *The C programming language uses the symbol '!=' as its inequality operator.*

**inert** /ɪ'nɜːt/ *adjective* (chemical substance or gas) that does not react with other chemicals

**infect** /ɪn'fekt/ *verb* to contaminate a computer system with a virus that is capable of damaging its programs or data

**infected computer** /ɪn'fektɪd kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* a computer that carries a virus program

**inference** /'ɪnf(ə)rəns/ *noun* **1.** a deduction of results from data according to certain rules **2.** a method of deducing a result about confidential information concerning an individual by using various data related to groups of people

**inferior figure** /ɪn,fɪəriə'fɪgə/ *noun* any one of the smaller numbers or characters that are printed slightly below normal characters, used in mathematical and chemical formulae.

♠ **subscript, superscript** (NOTE: used with figures and letters: **CO<sub>2</sub>**)

**INF file** /,aɪ en'ef faɪl/ *noun* a configuration file supplied by a hardware manufacturer to allow Windows to correctly install the device

**infinite** /'ɪnfɪnət/ *adjective* with no end

**infinity** /ɪn'fɪnɪti/ *noun* **1.** a space or quantity that never ends **2.** the distance of an object from a viewer where beams of light from the object would be seen to be parallel, i.e. very far away **3.** a distance setting on a camera lens beyond which all images are in focus

**informatics** /,ɪnfə:'mætrɪks/ *noun* the science and study of ways and means of information processing and transmission

**information** /,ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** knowledge presented to a person in a form which can be understood **2.** data that has been processed or arranged to provide facts which have a meaning

**information content** /,ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n ,kɒntent/ *noun* a measurement of the amount of information conveyed by the transmission of a symbol or character, often measured in shannons

**information flow control** /,ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n fləʊ kən'trəʊl/ *noun* the regulation of access to particular information

**information input** /,ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n ,ɪnpʊt/ *noun* information received from an input device

**information management system**

/,ɪnfəmeɪʃ(ə)n 'mænɪdʒmənt ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a computer program that allows information to be easily stored, retrieved, searched and updated. Abbr **IMS**

**information network** /,ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n ,netwɜːk/ *noun* a number of databases linked together, usually using telephone lines and modems, allowing a large amount of data to be accessed by a wider number of users

**information output** /,ɪnfəmeɪʃ(ə)n 'aʊtpʊt/ *noun* a display of information on an output device

**information processing** /,ɪnfəmeɪʃ(ə)n 'prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* same as **data processing**

**information provider** /,ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n prə'vaɪdə/ *noun* a company or user who provides an information source for use in a videotext system, e.g. a company providing weather information or stock market reports. Abbr **ip**

**information retrieval** /,ɪnfəmeɪʃ(ə)n rɪ'trɪ:v(ə)l/ *noun* the process of locating quantities of data stored in a database and producing useful information from the data. Abbr **IR**

**information storage** /,ɪnfəmeɪʃ(ə)n 'stɔːrɪdʒ/ *noun* the process of storing data in a form which allows it to be processed at a later date

**information storage and retrieval** /,ɪnfəmeɪʃ(ə)n ,stɔːrɪdʒ ən rɪ'trɪ:v(ə)l/ *noun* techniques involved in storing information and retrieving data from a store. Abbr **ISR**

**information structure** /,ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n ,strʌktʃəl/ *noun* same as **data structure**

**information system** /,ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a computer system which provides information according to a user's requests

**information technology** /,ɪnfəmeɪʃ(ə)n tek'nɒlədʒi/ *noun* the technology involved in acquiring, storing, processing, and distributing information by electronic means, including radio, TV, telephone and computers. Abbr **IT**

**information theory** /,ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n ,θɪəri/ *noun* the body of formulae and mathematics concerned with data transmission equipment and signals

**infra-** /ɪnfrə/ *prefix* meaning below or less than. Abbr **ILF**

**infra-low frequency** /,ɪnfrə ləʊ 'fri:kwənsi/ *noun* a range of audio frequencies between 300Hz-3KHz. Abbr **ILF**

**infrared** /,ɪnfrə'red/ *noun* the section of the electromagnetic radiation spectrum extending from visible red to microwaves

**infra-red link** /,ɪnfərə red 'lɪŋk/ *noun* a system that allows two computers or a computer and a printer to exchange information using an infrared light beam to carry the data

**infrasonic frequency** /,ɪnfərəsɒnɪk 'fri:kwənsi/ *noun* a sound wave frequency that is in the range below that audible by the human ear

**infrastructure** /'ɪnfə,strʌktʃə/ *noun* basic structure or basic services

**infringement** /ɪn'frɪndʒmənt/ *noun* the act of breaking the law or a rule

**inherit** /ɪn'herɪt/ *verb* (*in object-oriented programming*) to acquire the characteristics of another class or data type

**inheritance** /ɪn'herɪt(ə)ns/ *noun* (*in object-oriented programming*) the passing of the characteristics of one class or data type to another, called its descendant

**inhibit** /ɪn'hɪbɪt/ *verb* to stop a process taking place or to prevent an integrated circuit or gate from operating, by means of a signal or command

**in-house** /,ɪn 'haʊs/ *adverb, adjective* (working) inside a company's building ○ *All the data processing is done in-house.*

**INI file** /,aɪ en 'aɪ faɪl/ *noun* a configuration file used in Windows 3.x and earlier that tells Windows how to load and run an application. (NOTE: The INI file could contain the working directory, user name and user settings.)

**initial** /ɪ'nɪʃ(ə)l/ *adjective* first or at the beginning ■ *noun* the first letter of a word, especially of a name ○ *What do the initials IBM stand for?*

**initialise** /ɪ'nɪʃə,laɪz/, **initialize** *verb* to set values or parameters or control lines to their initial values, to allow a program or process to be restarted (NOTE: **initialises** – **initialising** – **initialised**)

**injection laser** /ɪn,dʒɛkʃən 'leɪzə/ *noun* a solid state laser device used to transmit data as pulses of light down an optic fibre

**injection logic** /ɪn,dʒɛkʃən 'lɒdʒɪk/ *noun* ▶ **integrated injection logic**

**ink** /ɪŋk/ *noun* **1.** a dark liquid used to mark or write with **2.** colour selected that appears when you paint or draw using a drawing program on a computer ■ *verb* **1.** to draw lines on paper by the use of a plotter device **2.** to apply ink to printing rollers in a printing machine

**ink cartridge** /'ɪŋk ,kɑ:trɪdʒ/ *noun* a plastic module that contains ink, for use in a bubble-jet or ink-jet printer

**inkie, inky** *noun* same as **incandescent lighting** (*informal*)

**ink-jet printer** /'ɪnk dʒɛt ,prɪntə/ *noun* a printer that produces characters by sending a

stream of tiny drops of electrically charged ink onto the paper

'...ink-jet printers work by squirting a fine stream of ink onto the paper'  
[*Personal Computer World*]

**inlay** /'ɪnleɪ/ *noun* the combination of two television or video signals to produce a single picture

**inlay card** /ɪn'leɪ kɑ:d/ *noun* an identification card inside the box of a CD, DVD or similar recording

**in-line** /,ɪn 'laɪn/ *adjective* referring to connection pins on a chip arranged in one or two rows ■ *noun* referring to a graphical image that is part of a webpage ■ *adverb* way in which unsorted or unedited data is processed

**inline image** /,ɪnlaɪn 'ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* a graphical image that is part of a WWW page

**inline plug-in** /,ɪnlaɪn 'plʌg ,ɪn/ *noun* ▶ **plug-in**

**inner loop** /'ɪnə lu:p/ *noun* a loop contained inside another loop. ◊ **nested loop**

**in phase** /,ɪn 'feɪz/ *adverb* **1.** (two electrical signals) that have no phase difference between them, i.e. there is no delay or a delay of one complete cycle between them **2.** synchronization of film frames and projector shutter timing

**input** /'ɪnpʊt/ *verb* to transfer data or information from outside a computer to its main memory ○ *The data was input via a modem.*

■ *noun* **1.** the action of inputting information **2.** electrical signals which are applied to relevant circuits to perform the operation ▶ **abbr** (all senses) **īp, I/P**

'In fact, the non-Qwerty format of the Maltron keyboard did cause a few gasps when it was first shown to the staff, but within a month all the Maltron users had regained normal input speeds.'  
[*Computing*]

**input-bound** /'ɪnpʊt ,baʊnd/ *adjective* referring to a program or device that is not running as fast as it could, because it is limited by the input rate from a slower peripheral. Also called **input-limited**

**input device** /'ɪnpʊt dɪ,vaɪs/ *noun* a device, e.g. a keyboard or bar code reader, that converts actions or information into a form that a computer can understand, and transfers the data to the processor

**input-limited** /,ɪnpʊt 'lɪmɪtɪd/ *adjective* same as **input-bound**

**input/output** /,ɪnpʊt 'aʊtpʊt/ *noun* full form of **I/O**

**input/output device** /,ɪnpʊt 'aʊtpʊt dɪ ,vaɪs/ *noun* a peripheral, e.g. such as a terminal in a workstation, that can be used both for inputting and outputting data to a processor

**inquiry** /ɪn'kwɪəri/ *noun* another spelling of **enquiry**

**insert** /ɪn'sɜ:t/ *verb* **1.** to put something into something ○ *First insert the system disk in the left slot.* **2.** to add new text inside a word or sentence **3.** to replace a part of an existing recording with inserted material

**insertion communication equipment** /ɪn,sɜ:f(ə)n kə,mju:nɪ,kəɪf(ə)n ɪ'kwɪpmənt/ *noun* full form of **ICE**

**insertion loss** /ɪn'sɜ:f(ə)n lɒs/ *noun* a weakening of a signal caused by adding a device into an existing channel or circuit

**insertion point** /ɪn'sɜ:f(ə)n pɔɪnt/ *noun* the point in a document, indicated by the position of the cursor, where new text typed by the user will be entered

**install** /ɪn'stɔ:l/ *verb* **1.** to put a machine into an office or factory ○ *The system is easy to install and simple to use.* **2.** to set up a new computer system to the user's requirements or to configure a new program to the existing system capabilities

**installable device driver** /ɪn'stɔ:ləb(ə)l dɪ'vaɪs draɪv/ *noun* a device driver that is loaded into memory and remains resident, replacing a similar function built into the operating system

**installation** /ɪnstə'leɪf(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a computer and equipment used for one type of work and processing ○ *The engineers are still testing the new installation.* **2.** the process of setting up a new computer system ○ *The installation of the equipment took only a few hours.*

**installation manual** /ɪnstə'leɪf(ə)n ,mænjuəl/ *noun* a booklet showing how a system should be installed

**install program** /ɪnstɔ:l ,prəʊgræm/ *noun* a piece of software that transfers program code from the distribution disks onto a computer's hard disk and configures the program

**instance** /ɪnstəns/ *noun* **1.** (in *object-oriented programming*) an object or duplicate object that has been created **2.** one copy of an application, routine or object ○ *Microsoft Windows will let you run several copies of the same program at the same time.* ○ *Each is called an instance of the original.*

**instant jump** /ɪnstənt dʒʌmp/ *noun* (in a *videodisc player*) a hardware feature that allows the player to skip a number of frames, up to 200, in the time it takes to refresh the screen

**instant messaging** /ɪnstənt 'mesɪdʒɪŋ/ *noun* a feature that lets a user type in and exchange messages with one or more other people connected via the Internet. Each of the users in the group runs special software that tells them when a friend or colleague has connected to the Internet and is

available to receive messages. Any message that he or she types in is then sent instantly to the other user.

**instant replay** /ɪnstənt rɪ'pleɪ/ *noun* a feature found in video recording systems that allows the action that has just been recorded to be viewed immediately

**instruct** /ɪn'strʌkt/ *verb* to tell someone or a computer what to do

**instruction** /ɪn'strʌkʃən/ *noun* a word used in a programming language that is understood by the computer as a command to carry out a particular action

'A Taos kernel, typically 15Kb in size, resides at each processing node to 'translate', non-native instructions – on the fly when needed. This kernel contains the only code which has to be written in the processor's native instruction set.' [*Computing*]

**instruction manual** /ɪn'strʌkʃən ,mænjuəl/ *noun* a document describing how to use a system or software

**instruction register** /ɪn'strʌkʃən ,redʒɪstə/ *noun* a register in a central processing unit that stores an instruction during decoding and execution operations. Abbr **IR**

**instrument** /ɪnstrʊmənt/ *noun* an electronic device that can produce a sound in response to a MIDI note or to a keyboard press

**instrumentation** /ɪnstrʊmənt'eɪf(ə)n/ *noun* equipment for testing, display or recording signals ○ *We've improved the instrumentation on this model to keep you better informed of the machine's position.*

**integer** /ɪntɪdʒəl/ *noun* a mathematical term to describe a whole number (NOTE: An integer may be positive or negative or zero.)

**integral** /ɪntɪgrəl, ɪn'tegəl/ *adjective* referring to an add-on device or special feature that is already built into a system ○ *The integral disk drives and modem reduced desk space.*

**integrated** /ɪntɪ'greɪtɪd/ *adjective* referring to a system containing many peripherals grouped together to provide a neat, complete system

**integrated circuit** /ɪntɪ'greɪtɪd 'sɜ:kɪt/ *noun* a circuit made up of components all of which are formed on one small piece of semiconductor by means of etching and chemical processes. Abbr **IC** (NOTE: Integrated circuits can be classified as follows: Small Scale Integration (SSI): 1 to 10 components per IC; Medium Scale Integration (MSI): 10 to 100 components per IC; Large Scale Integration (LSI): 100 to 5000 components per IC; Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI): 5,000 to 50,000 components per IC; Ultra Large

Scale Integration (ULSI): over 100,000 components per IC.)

**integrated database** /,ɪntɪgreɪtɪd 'deɪtəbeɪs/ *noun* a database that is able to provide information for varied requirements without any redundant data

**integrated device electronics** /,ɪntɪ 'greɪtɪd dɪ,vaɪs 'elek'trɒnɪks/, **integrated drive electronics** /,ɪntɪ,greɪtɪd draɪv 'elek'trɒnɪks/ *noun* full form of **IDE**

**integrated injection logic** /,ɪntɪgreɪtɪd ɪn'dʒɛkʃən ,lɒdʒɪk/ *noun* a type of circuit design able to produce very small, low-power components. Abbr **IL**

**integrated modem** /,ɪntɪgreɪtɪd 'mɔdəm/ *noun* a modem that is an internal part of the system

**integration** /,ɪntɪ'greɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of bringing several operations together ○ *small scale integration (SSI)*

**integrity** /ɪn'teɡrɪti/ *noun* the reliability of data which is being processed or stored on disk

**Intel** /'ɪntel/ the company that developed the first commercially available microprocessor, the 4004, and also developed the range of processors that is used in IBM PCs and compatible computers

**Intel Indeo** /,ɪntel 'ɪndiəʊ/ a trade name for software technology developed by Intel that allows a computer to store and play back compressed video sequences using software compression techniques

**intelligence** /ɪn'telɪdʒəns/ *noun* 1. the ability to reason 2. the ability of a device to carry out processing or run a program

**intelligent** /ɪn'telɪdʒənt/ *adjective* referring to a machine, program or device that is capable of limited reasoning facilities, giving it human-like responses

**intelligent knowledge-based system** /ɪn,telɪdʒ(ə)nt ,nɒlɪdʒ beɪsd 'sɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **IKBS**

**intelligent tutoring system** /ɪn,telɪdʒ(ə)nt 'tju:tərɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a computer-aided learning system that provides responsive and interactive teaching facilities for users

**Intel Pentium** /,ɪntel 'pentɪəm/ a trade name for a range of advanced microprocessors that use a 32-bit data bus

**INTELSAT** /'ɪntelsæt/ *noun* an international group that deals with the design, construction and allocation of space to various communications satellite projects. Full form **International Telecommunications Satellite Organization**

**intensity** /ɪn'tensɪti/ *noun* a measure of the strength of a signal or the brightness of a light source

**inter-** /ɪntə/ *prefix* between

**interact** /,ɪntər'ækt/ *verb* to act on each other

**interaction** /,ɪntər'ækʃən/ *noun* the action of two things on each other

**interactive** /,ɪntər'æktɪv/ *adjective* referring to a system or piece of software that allows communication between the user and the computer in conversational mode

'Oracle today details its interactive information superhighway aims, endorsed by 17 industry partners. The lynchpin to the announcement will be software based on the Oracle Media Server, a multimedia database designed to run on massively parallel computers.' [*Computing*]

**interactive graphics** /,ɪntər'æktɪv 'græfɪks/ *plural noun* a display system that is able to react to different inputs from the user

**interactive media** /,ɪntər'æktɪv 'mi:diə/ *plural noun* media that provide two-way communications between users and their machines or systems and enable users to control their systems and obtain responses from them in real time

**interactive mode** /,ɪntər'æktɪv ,mɔd/ *noun* a computer mode that allows the user to enter commands or programs or data and receive immediate responses

**Interactive Multimedia Association** /,ɪntər'æktɪv ,mʌlti'mi:diə ə,səʊsi'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **IMA**

**interactive system** /,ɪntər'æktɪv 'sɪstəm/ *noun* a system which provides an immediate response to the user's commands or programs or data

**interactive TV** /,ɪntər'æktɪv ti: 'vi:/ *noun* a channel that allows two-way communication between the viewer and the broadcasting station. This feature often allows the user to choose which programme to watch or to respond directly to questions displayed on-screen.

**interactive video** /,ɪntər'æktɪv 'vɪdiəʊ/ *noun* full form of **IV**

**interactive videotext** /,ɪntər'æktɪv 'vɪdiəʊteks/ *noun* viewdata service that allows the operator to select pages, display them, ask questions, or use a service such as teleshopping

**interactivity** /,ɪntər'æktɪvɪti/ *noun* two-way communication between users and machines such as computers and television sets, in which the machines provide real-time responses to the inquiries and commands of the users

'...interactivity is a buzzword you've been hearing a lot lately. Resign yourself to it because you're going to be hearing a lot more of it' [*Music Technology*]

**intercarrier noise** /,ɪntəkəriəʊ 'nɔɪz/ *noun* interference caused by two different signal carriers getting mixed ○ *Television intercarrier noise is noticed when the picture and the sound signal carriers clash.*

**interchange** /'ɪntətʃeɪndʒ/ *noun* the exchange of one thing for another ○ *The machine allows document interchange between it and other machines without reformatting.*

■ *verb* to exchange one thing for another

**interchangeable** /,ɪntətʃeɪndʒəb(ə)/ *adjective* which can be exchanged

**interchange file format** /,ɪntətʃeɪndʒ 'faɪl ˌfɔːmət/ *noun* full form of **IFF**

**intercharacter spacing** /,ɪntəkærəktə 'speɪsɪŋ/ *noun* a word-processor feature that provides variable spacing between words to create a justified line

**intercom** /'ɪntəkɒm/ *noun* a short-range voice communications system

**interconnect** /,ɪntəkə'nekt/ *verb* to connect together ○ *a series of interconnected terminals*

**interconnection** /,ɪntəkə'nekʃən/ *noun*  
**1.** a section of connecting material between two devices **2.** the connection between a telephone set and a telephone network

**interface** /'ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* **1.** the point at which one computer system ends and another begins **2.** a circuit, device or port that allows two or more incompatible units to be linked together in a standard communication system, allowing data to be transferred between them **3.** a section of a program which allows transmission of data to another program ■ *verb* **1.** to modify a device by adding a circuit or connector to allow it to conform to a standard communications system **2.** to connect two or more incompatible devices together with a circuit, in order to allow them to communicate

'The original release of ODBC only included a driver for Microsoft's own SQL Server database. Microsoft has subsequently published the ODBC application program interface enabling third-party vendors to create drivers for other databases and tools.' [Computing]

**interface card** /'ɪntəfeɪs kɑːd/ *noun* an add-on board that allows a computer to interface to certain equipment or conform to a certain standard

**interfacing** /'ɪntəfeɪsɪŋ/ *noun* hardware or software used to interface two computers, programs or devices

**interference** /,ɪntə'fɪərəns/ *noun* **1.** the unwanted addition of signals or noise to a transmitted signal **2.** an effect seen when two signals are added, creating constructive interference when both signals are in phase or de-

structive interference when they are out of phase

**interframe coding** /,ɪntəfreɪm 'kəʊdɪŋ/ *noun* a system for compressing video images, in which only the differences between each frame are recorded

**interior gateway protocol** /ɪn,ɪəriə ,geɪtweɪ ˌprəʊtəʊ'kɒl/ *noun* full form of **IGP**

**interlace** /,ɪntə'leɪs/ *verb* to build up an image on a television screen using two passes to create two picture fields. One displays all the odd-numbered lines, the other all the even-numbered lines. The aim is to reduce the flicker effects on the television picture.

**interlaced scanning** /,ɪntəleɪsd 'skæɪnɪŋ/ *noun* a technique for producing an image on a television or computer screen that is clear and correctly aligned in the vertical plane. It involves scanning first all the odd numbered and then all the even numbered lines in the screen image.

**interlaced video** /,ɪntəleɪsd 'vɪdɪəʊ/ *noun* a video signal made up of two separate fields. This is the normal display mode for home video.

**interleave** /,ɪntər'liːv/ *noun* a method of storing data on alternate tracks on a hard disk drive to slow down data transfer rates to match a slower processor ○ *Fast computers run the hard disk with no interleave factor, since they can cope with the fast flow of data to and from the hard disk.*

**interleaved** /,ɪntər'liːvd/ *adjective* **1.** referring to sections of two programs executed alternately to give the impression that they are running simultaneously **2.** (thin sheets of paper) which are stuck between the pages of a book ○ *Blank paper was interleaved with the newly printed text to prevent the ink running.*

**interleave factor** /,ɪntər,liːv 'fæktə/ *noun* the ratio of sectors skipped between access operations on a hard disk (NOTE: In a hard disk with an interleave of 3, the first sector is read, then three sectors are skipped and the next sector is read. This is used to allow hard disks with slow access time to store more data on the disk.)

**interleaving** /,ɪntər'liːvɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the technique of dealing with slices or sections of processes alternately, so that they appear to be executed simultaneously **2.** the process of dividing data storage into sections so that each can be accessed separately **3.** the addition of blank paper between printed sheets to prevent the ink from making other sheets dirty

**inter-library loan** /ɪnˌlɪbrəri laʊn/ *noun* the lending of books or documents from one library to another. Abbr **ILL**

**interlinear spacing** /,ɪntəˈliːniə ˈspesɪŋ/ *noun* the insertion of spaces between lines of text

**interlock** /,ɪntəˈlɒk/ *noun* **1.** a security device that is part of the logon prompt and requires a password **2.** a method of synchronising audio tape with a video or filmed sequence. This can be achieved by using a frame counter or a timer or by running both audio and visual tapes on the same motor. ■ *verb* to prevent a device from performing another task until the present one has been completed

**intermediate** /,ɪntəˈmiːdiət/ *adjective* **1.** which is at a stage between two others **2.** widespread term for colour master positives and duplicate negatives which are printed on an integral colour masking film stock

**intermediate access memory** /,ɪntəmiːdiət ˌæksɛs ˈmem(ə)ri/ *noun* full form of **IAM**

**intermediate frequency** /,ɪntəmiːdiət ˈfri:kwənsi/ *noun* the frequency in a radio receiver to which the incoming received signal is transformed. Abbr **if**

**intermittent error** /,ɪntəmit(ə)nt ˈerə/ *noun* an error which apparently occurs randomly in a computer or communications system due to a program fault or noise (NOTE: These errors are very difficult to trace and correct due to their apparent random appearance.)

**internal** /ɪnˈtɜːn(ə)l/ *adjective* which is inside

COMMENT: Many compiled languages are translated to an internal language.

**internally stored program** /ɪnˌtɜːn(ə)li stɔːd ˈprɒɡræm/ *noun* a computer program code that is stored in a ROM device in a computer system and does not have to be loaded from backing store

**internal memory** /ɪnˌtɜːn(ə)l ˈmem(ə)ri/ *noun* storage space that is available within the main computer and is under its direct control. Also called **internal store**

**internal modem** /ɪnˌtɜːn(ə)l ˈmɔːdem/ *noun* a modem on an expansion card that fits into an expansion connector and transfers information to the processor through the bus, rather than connecting to a serial port

**internal sort** /ɪnˈtɜːn(ə)l sɔːt/ *noun* a sorting program using only the main memory of a system

**internal store** /ɪnˌtɜːn(ə)l ˈstɔː/ *noun* same as **internal memory**

**international** /,ɪntəˈnæʃ(ə)nəl/ *adjective* referring to different countries

**International Business Machines** /,ɪntənəʃ(ə)nəl ˈbɪznɛs məˌʃiːnz/ full form of **IBM**

**international direct dialling** /ɪntəˌnæʃ(ə)nəl daɪˌrekt ˈdaɪəlɪŋ kɔːd/ *noun* the process of calling telephone numbers in other countries direct. Abbr **IDD** (NOTE: no plural)

**international file format** /,ɪntənəʃ(ə)nəl ˈfaɪl ˈfɔːmæt/ *noun* full form of **IFF**

**International MIDI Association** /,ɪntənəʃ(ə)nəl ˈmɪdi əˌsəʊsiɪf(ə)nəl/ *noun* a professional organisation that covers subjects including authoring languages, formats, and intellectual property. Abbr **IMA**

**International Standards Organization** /,ɪntənəʃ(ə)nəl ˈstændədz ɔːɪgənəɪzɪf(ə)nəl/ *noun* an organisation which creates and regulates standards for many types of computer and networking products. Abbr **ISO**

**International Telecommunications Satellite Organization** /,ɪntəˌnæʃ(ə)nəl ˌtelɪkəˌmjuːniˌkeɪʃ(ə)nɪz ˌsætəˌlaɪt ɔːɪgənəɪˈzeɪʃ(ə)nəl/ *noun* full form of **INTELSAT**

**inter-negative** /ɪnˌtɜː ˈnegətɪv/ *noun* duplicate colour negative film which is prepared directly from an original colour negative film exposed in the camera (*film*)

**Internet** ˈɪntənət/ *noun* an international wide area network that provides file and data transfer, together with electronic mail functions for millions of users around the world. ◊ **HTTP, POP 3, SMTP, World Wide Web**

**Internet address** ˈɪntənət əˌdres/ *noun* a unique number that identifies the precise location of a particular node on the Internet. The address is a 32-bit number usually written in dotted decimal format, i.e. in the form '123.33.22.32', and it is used by the TCP/IP protocol. A domain name system is used to convert a domain name, e.g. 'bloomsbury.com', into a full Internet address. Also called **IP address**

**Internet Architecture Board** /,ɪntənət ˈɑːkɪtektʃə ˌbɔːd/ *noun* full form of **IAB 2** (NOTE: Its members include the IETF and the IRTF.)

**Internet Assigned Numbers Authority** /,ɪntənət əˌsaɪnd ˈnʌmbəz ɔːθɔːrɪti/ *noun* a group that assigns unique identifying numbers to the different protocols and network products used on the Internet. Abbr **IANA**

**Internet banking** /,ɪntənət ˈbæŋkɪŋ/ *noun* a system that allows customers to check their bank accounts, pay bills and transfer money by means of the Internet

'...most banks now offer reasonable telephone and Internet banking facilities.' [*The Guardian*]

**Internet café** /'ɪntənət ˌkæfeɪ/ *noun* same as **cybercafé**

**Internet control message protocol** /,ɪntənət kənˌtrəʊl 'mesɪdʒ ˌprəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **ICMP**

**Internet-draft** /'ɪntənət dra:ft/ *adjective* referring to draft documents produced by the IETF that often lead to RFCs. Abbr **I-D**

**Internet Engineering Steering Group** /,ɪntənət ˌendʒɪnɪərɪŋ 'stɪərɪŋ gru:p/ *noun* full form of **IESG**

**Internet Engineering Task Force** /,ɪntənət ˌendʒɪnɪərɪŋ 'tɑ:sk ˌfɔ:s/ *noun* full form of **IETF**

**Internet Explorer** /,ɪntənət ɪk'splɔ:ɪə/ *noun* a web browser developed by Microsoft which allows a user to view formatted HTML information such as webpages on the Internet. Abbr **IE**

**Internet group management protocol** /,ɪntənət gru:p 'mænɪdʒmənt ˌprəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **IGMP**

**Internet Information Server** /,ɪntənət ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n ˌsɜ:və/ *noun* full form of **IIS**

**Internet merchant account** /,ɪntənət 'mɜ:tɪʃənt əˌkaʊnt/ *noun* a business bank account that allows the business to accept credit card payments via the Internet. Many businesses have a merchant account, allowing them to accept credit card payments by telephone or mail, but still need a separate IMA to accept payments via the net. Abbr **IMA**

**Internet message access protocol** /,ɪntənət 'mesɪdʒ ˌækses ˌprəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **IMAP**

**Internet number** /'ɪntənət ˌnʌmbə/ *noun* ♦ **Internet address**

**Internet protocol** /,ɪntənət 'prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **IP**

**Internet relay chat** /,ɪntənət ˌri:lɪ 'tʃæt/ *noun* a system that allows many users to participate in a chat session in which each user can send messages and sees the text of any other user. Abbr **IRC**

**Internet research steering group** /,ɪntənət rɪˌsɜ:tʃ 'stɪərɪŋ gru:p/ *noun* a group that manages the Internet research task force; part of the Internet Society. Abbr **IRSG**

**Internet research task force** /,ɪntənət rɪˌsɜ:tʃ 'tɑ:sk ˌfɔ:s/ *noun* full form of **IRTF**

**Internet server application program interface** /,ɪntənət ˌsɜ:və ˌæplɪkeɪʃ(ə)n 'prəʊgræm ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* full form of **IS-API**

**Internet service provider** /,ɪntənət 'sɜ:vɪs prəˌvaɪdə/ *noun* full form of **ISP**

**Internet Society** /'ɪntənət səˌsaɪəti/ *noun* an organisation that has the task of maintaining and enhancing the Internet. It is made up of committees, such as the Internet Advisory Board and the Internet Engineering Task Force, and is not linked to any government or company, so that it provides an independent view of the future of the Internet.

**Internet telephony** /,ɪntənət tə'lefəni/ *noun* a system that allows users to make telephone calls using the Internet to carry the voice signals. To make a call, users need a computer with a sound card fitted and a microphone and loudspeaker plugged in, and special software manages the connection and transfers the voice data over the Internet. (NOTE: This system is particularly appealing if you have low-cost dial-up access to the Internet, since it allows you to make long distance calls for the low-price you pay for your Internet connection.)

**Internetwork** /,ɪntə'netwɜ:k/ *noun* a number of networks connected together using bridges or routers to allow users on one network to access any resource on any other of the connected networks

**InterNIC** *noun* an organisation that was originally responsible for managing the way domain names are registered, assigned and paid for by organisations. Recently, the system has changed to allow a group of companies in different countries to manage the registration and payment process.

**interoperability** /,ɪntəˌɒpərə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the ability of two devices or computers to exchange information

**interpolation** /ɪnˌtɜ:pə'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the calculation of intermediate values between two points

**inter-positive** /ɪnˌtɜ:ˈpɒzɪtɪv/ *noun* positive colour duplicate film made from an original negative (*film*)

**interpret** /ɪnˈtɜ:prɪt/ *verb* to translate what is said in one language into another

**interpreter** /ɪnˈtɜ:prɪtə/ *noun* a piece of software used to translate a user's high-level program into machine code at the time of execution. Compare **compiler** (NOTE: A compiler translates the high-level language into machine code and then executes it, whereas an interpreter makes a translation in real time.)

**interrogation** /ɪnˌterəˈgeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of asking questions

**interrupt** /,ɪntə'rʌpt/ *verb* to stop something happening while it is happening ■ *noun* **1.** the stopping of a transmission as a result of an action at the receiving end of a system **2.** a signal which diverts a central processing unit from one task to another that

has higher priority, allowing the CPU to return to the first task later

**interrupt request** /'ɪntəʁəpt rɪ,kwest/ *noun* a signal from a device that indicates to the CPU that it requires attention. Abbr **IRQ**

**interval** /'ɪntəv(ə)l/ *noun* a short pause between two actions ○ *There was an interval between pressing the key and the starting of the printout.*

**intervention** /,ɪntə'venfən/ *noun* acting to make a change in a system

**interword spacing** /,ɪntəwɜ:d 'speɪsɪŋ/ *noun* variable spacing between words in a text, used to justify lines

**intra** /'ɪntrə/, **intra frame** /'ɪntrə freɪm/ *noun* a reference frame used to synchronise video data that has been compressed using the MPEG system

**intrinsic** /ɪn'trɪnsɪk/ *adjective* pure (substance) which has had no other chemicals (such as dopants) added ○ *The base material for ICs is an intrinsic semiconductor which is then doped.*

**introduce** /,ɪntrə'dju:s/ *verb* to put something into something ○ *Errors were introduced into the text at keyboarding.*

**intruder** /ɪn'tru:də/ *noun* a person who is not authorised to use a computer or connect to a network. ♠ **firewall, hacker**

**intrusion** /ɪn'tru:ʒ(ə)n/ *noun* the action by a telephone operator to allow both parties on each end of the telephone line to hear his or her message

**invalid** /'ɪnvəlɪd/ *adjective* not valid ○ *He tried to use an invalid password.*

**inverse video** /,ɪnvɜ:s 'vɪdɪəʊ/ *noun* a television effect created by swapping the background and foreground text display colours

**inversion** /ɪn'vɜ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the process of changing over the numbers in a binary word, one to zero and zero to one ○ *The inversion of a binary digit takes place in one's complement.* **2.** the process of changing the logical state of a signal or device to its logical opposite

**invert** /,ɪn'vɜ:t/ *verb* to change all binary ones to zeros and zeros to ones

**inverter** /ɪn'vɜ:tə/ *noun* **1.** a logical gate that provides inversion facilities **2.** a circuit used to provide alternating current supply from a DC battery source

**invisible** /ɪn'vɪzɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* visible on a DTP page or graphics layout during the design phase, but not printed

**invitation** /,ɪnvɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* action by a processor to contact another device and allow it to send a message

**invitation to send** /,ɪnvɪteɪʃ(ə)n tə 'send/ *noun* a special character transmitted to indicate to a device that the host computer is willing to receive messages. Abbr **ITS**

**invite** /ɪn'vaɪt/ *verb* to ask someone to do something

**involve** /ɪn'vɒlv/ *verb* to have to do with; to include (something) in a process ○ *Backing up involves copying current working files onto a separate storage disk.*

**I/O** /,aɪ 'əʊ/ *noun* the process of receiving or transmitting data between a computer and its peripherals, and other points outside the system. Full form **input/output**

**ion** /'aɪən/ *noun* a charged particle

**ion deposition** /'aɪən ,deɪzɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* printing technology that uses a print-head that deposits ions to create a charged image which attracts the toner

**ionosphere** /aɪ'ɒnəsfɪə/ *noun* a layer of charged particles surrounding the earth

**ip** *abbr* information provider

**IP** /,aɪ 'pi:/ *noun* one part of the TCP/IP standard that defines how data is transferred over a network. Full form **Internet protocol**

**i/p, IP** *abbr* input

**IP address** /,aɪ 'pi: ə,dres/ *noun* same as **Internet address**

**IPng** /,aɪ pi: en 'dʒɪ:/ *noun* an upgrade of the Internet Protocol that allows more computers to connect to the Internet and supports more data traffic. Full form **Internet Protocol next generation**

**Ipsec** /,aɪ ,pi: sɪ'kjʊərətɪ/, **IP Security** *noun* a set of security protocols that allows information to be transferred securely over the Internet and is used to set up and support secure virtual private networks. The system works with packets of data at the IP layer and supports two types of public-key data encryption. The first, called Transport mode, encrypts the data within a packet, but does not touch the header information, which contains the destination address, subject and source of a packet. The second mode, Tunnel mode, provides a greater level of security by encrypting all of the packet, including the header information.

**IP spoofing** /,aɪ ,pi: 'spu:fɪŋ/ *noun* a method of gaining unauthorised access to a computer or network by pretending to be an authorised computer or device (NOTE: Each device on the network has its own unique IP address, and many security systems block or allow access to networks depending on the IP address of the computer that is requesting access. A hacker finds an IP address that is allowed, then modifies the header information in the data packets from his or her own computer to include this IP

address. Newer routers and firewalls use a range of techniques to spot this scheme and block the data.)

**IR** *abbr* **1.** information retrieval **2.** index register **3.** instruction register

**IRC** *abbr* Internet relay chat

**iris** /'aɪrɪs/ *noun* a small hole in a camera between the lens and the film. The iris is normally variable in size to adjust the amount of light passing through it to the film.

**IRQs** *abbr* interrupt requests

**irretrievable** /,ɪrɪ'tri:vəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which cannot be retrieved ○ *The files are irretrievable since the computer crashed.*

**IRSG** /,aɪ a: es 'dʒi:/ *noun* a group that manages the Internet research task force and is part of the Internet Society. Full form **Internet Research Steering Group**

**IRTF** /,aɪ a: ti: 'ef/ *noun* a committee that is part of the IAB and researches new Internet standards before referring them to the IETF for approval. Full form **Internet Research Task Force**

**IS** *abbr* indexed sequential

**ISA** /'aɪsə/ *noun* a standard used for the 16-bit expansion bus in an IBM PC or compatible. Full form **Industry Standard Architecture**. Compare **EISA**, **MCA**

**ISAM** *abbr* indexed sequential access method

**ISAPI** /,aɪ es eɪ aɪ 'pi:/ *noun* (on a Windows NT server) a set of commands and procedures that allow web server software to access other applications on the same server running Windows NT. Full form **Internet server application program interface**

**ISBN** *abbr* International Standard Book Number

**ISDN** /,aɪ es di: 'en/ *noun* a method of digital data transmission. It utilises the existing telephone network, but omits the digital/analog conversion required by conventional telephonic equipment; the customer therefore has a fully digital connection. ISDN connections usually provide two 64K bps channels, which can work independently or be combined to achieve transfer speeds of 128K bps. Full form **integrated services digital network**

**ISO** *abbr* International Standards Organization

**ISO 9660** *noun* a standard method of storing files on a CD-ROM, used in many formats including PhotoCD

**isolate** /'aɪsə,leɪt/ *verb* **1.** to separate something from a system **2.** to insulate (something) electrically

**isolation** /,aɪsə'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* being isolated

**isolator** /'aɪsəleɪtə/ *noun* a device or material which isolates

**isometric view** /,aɪsəʊ'metrɪk vju:/ *noun* (in graphics) a drawing that shows all three dimensions of an object in equal proportion ○ *An isometric view does not show any perspective.*

**ISO/OSI** *abbr* International Standards Organization Open Systems Interconnection

**ISO/OSI model** /,aɪ es əʊ əʊ es 'aɪ ,mɒd(ə)l/ *noun* a layered architecture that defines how computers and networks should interact

**ISP** /,aɪ es 'pi:/ *noun* a company that provides one of the permanent links that make up the Internet and sells connections to private users and companies to allow them to access the Internet. Full form **Internet service provider**

**ISR** *abbr* information storage and retrieval

**ISSN** *abbr* International Standard Serial Number

**IT** *abbr* information technology

**italic** /ɪ'tælɪk/ *noun* type of character font in which the characters slope to the right ○ *The headline is printed in italic and underlined.*

**item** /'aɪtəm/ *noun* a single thing among many ○ *a data item can be a word or a series of figures or a record in a file*

**iterate** /'ɪtəreɪt/ *noun* a loop or series of instructions in a program which repeat over and over again until the program is completed. Also called **iterative routine**

**iteration** /,ɪtə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the repeated application of a program to solve a problem

**iterative routine** /,ɪtə'reɪv ru:'ti:n/ *noun* same as **iterate**

**ITS** *abbr* invitation to send

**IV** /,aɪ 'vi:/ *noun* a system that uses a computer linked to a video disk player to provide processing power and real images or moving pictures. Full form **interactive video** (NOTE: This system is often used in teaching. A student is asked questions, and if he or she answers correctly, the system responds by providing a filmed sequence from the videodisc.)

# J

**jabber** /'dʒæbə/ *noun* a continuous random signal transmitted by a faulty adapter card or node on a network

**jack** /dʒæk/, **jack plug** /'dʒæk plʌg/ *noun* a plug which consists of a single pin

**jacket** /'dʒækɪt/ *noun* the cover for a book or disk ○ *The book jacket has the author's name on it.*

**jaggies** /'dʒægi:z/ *plural noun* jagged edges which appear along diagonal or curved lines displayed on a computer screen, caused by the size of each pixel. ⇨ **aliasing, anti-aliasing**

**JANET** /'dʒæni:t/ *noun* a wide area network that connects universities and academic establishments. Full form **joint academic network**

**jar** /dʒɑ:/ *verb* to give a sharp shock to a device ○ *You can cause trouble by turning off or jarring the PC while the disk read heads are moving.*

**Java** /'dʒɑ:və/ a trade name for a programming language and program definition developed by Sun Microsystems. Java is used to create small applications designed to enhance the functionality of a webpage. It is similar to object-oriented languages such as C++ and can run on any compatible platform. Compare **JavaScript**

**Java Beans** /'dʒɑ:və bi:nz/ a trade name for a software system, developed by Sun Microsystems, that provides objects within the Java programming language, and is similar to COM and CORBA and can work with both these standards

**Java Database Connectivity** /,dʒɑ:və ,deɪtəbeɪs ,kənek'tɪvɪti/ a trade name for a set of standard functions that allow a programmer to access a database from within a Java application. Abbr **JDBC**

**JavaScript** /'dʒɑ:vəskɪpt/ a trade name for set of programming commands that can be included within a normal webpage written using HTML commands. When the web browser loads the webpage, it runs the JavaScript commands, normally used to create special effects to a webpage. Compare **HTML, Perl, VBScript**

**JCL** /,dʒɑ: si: 'eɪl/ *noun* a set of commands that identify, and describe resources required by, a job that a computer has to process. Full form **job control language**

**JDBC** *abbr* Java Database Connectivity

**jet** /dʒet/ ⇨ **ink-jet printer**

**jingle** /'dʒɪŋg(ə)l/ *noun* a short easily-remembered tune used to advertise a product on television

**jitter** /'dʒɪtəl/ *noun* the rapid small up-and-down movement of characters or pixels on a screen displaying image bits in a facsimile transmission ○ *Looking at this screen jitter is giving me a headache.*

**job** /dʒɒb/ *noun* a task or a number of tasks to be processed as a single unit ○ *The next job to be processed is to sort all the records.*

**jobbing printer** /'dʒɒbɪŋ ,prɪntə/ *noun* a person who does small printing jobs, such as printing business cards

**job control language** /,dʒɒb kən'trəʊl ,læŋgwidʒ/ *noun* full form of **JCL**

**jog** /dʒɒŋ/ *verb* to advance a video tape by one frame at a time

**jog/shuttle, jog/shuttle control** *noun* a manual control on a video player or camera that allows a user to edit a sequence (NOTE: Jog moves the tape one frame a time, shuttle moves the tape more rapidly.)

**join** /dʒɔɪn/ *verb* **1.** to link or to put several things together **2.** to combine two or more pieces of information to produce a single unit of information

**joint academic network** /dʒɔɪnt ,ækə ,demɪk 'netwɜ:k/ *noun* full form of **JANET**  
**Joint Photographic Experts Group** /,dʒɔɪnt fəʊtə,'græfɪks 'ekspɜ:ts gru:p/ *noun* full form of **JPEG**

**journal** /'dʒɜ:n(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** a record of all communications to and from a terminal **2.** a list of any changes or updates to a file ○ *The modified records were added to the master file and noted in the journal.*

**journal file** /'dʒɜ:n(ə)l faɪl/ *noun* a stored record of every communication between a user and the central computer, used to help retrieve files after a system crash or fault

**journalist** /'dʒɜ:n(ə)lɪst/ *noun* a person who writes for a newspaper

**joystick** /'dʒɔɪ,stɪk/ *noun* a device that allows a user to move a cursor around the screen by moving an upright rod connected to an I/O port on the computer

**JPEG** /'dʒeɪ peɪ/ *noun* a standard that defines a way of storing graphic images in a

compressed format in a file on disk. Full form **Joint Photographic Experts Group**

**JPEG++** /ˌdʒaɪ pɛɡ plʌs 'plʌs/ *noun* an extension to JPEG that allows parts of an image to be compressed in different ways

**JavaScript** /ˌdʒaɪskrɪpt/ a trade name for a version of JavaScript developed by Microsoft

**judder** /ˈdʒʌdʌ/ *noun* an unwanted movement in a printing or facsimile machine that results in a distorted picture

**jukebox** /ˈdʒu:k,bɒks/ *noun* a CD-ROM drive that can hold several CD-ROM discs and select the correct disc when required

**jumbo chip** /ˈdʒʌmbəʊ tʃɪp/ *noun* an integrated circuit made using the whole of a semiconductor wafer. ◊ **wafer scale integration**

**jump** /dʒʌmp/ *noun* a programming command to end one set of instructions and direct the processor to another section of the program ■ *verb* **1.** to direct a CPU to another section of a program **2.** to miss a page or a line or a space when printing ○ *The typewriter jumped two lines.* ○ *The paging system has jumped two folio numbers.*

**jump cut** /ˌdʒʌmp 'kʌt/ *verb* to eliminate a part of the continuous action within a scene

**juniper** /ˈdʒʌmpə/ *noun* a temporary wire connection on a circuit board

**jump on zero** /ˌdʒʌmp ɒn 'zɪərəʊ/ *noun* a conditional jump executed if a flag or register is zero

**jump out** /ˌdʒʌmp 'aʊt/ *verb* to delete frames in film or video tape editing (*film*)

**junction** /ˈdʒʌŋkʃən/ *noun* **1.** a connection between wires or cables **2.** a region between two areas of semiconductor which have different doping levels (such as a p-type and n-type area), resulting in a potential difference between them

**junk** /dʒʌŋk/ *noun* information or hardware which is useless or out of date or non-functional ■ *verb* to make a file or piece of hardware redundant

**justification** /ˌdʒʌstɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of moving data bits or characters to the left or right so that the lines have straight margins

**justify** /ˈdʒʌstɪfaɪ/ *verb* **1.** to change the spacing between words or characters in a document so that the left and right margins will be straight **2.** to shift the contents of a computer register by a set amount **3.** to set lines of printed text as wide as possible in a certain page size

# K

**K** /keɪ/ *symbol* kilo

**K56flex** a trade name for a communications standard developed by Hayes, Pace and other manufacturers for a range of high-speed modems that can transfer data at 56,000 bits per second. † **V series, X2**

**Kaleida Labs** /kə'laɪdə læbz/ a company formed as a joint venture between Apple and IBM to produce cross-platform multimedia authoring tools

**Karnaugh map** /'kɑ:nəʊ məp/ *noun* a graphical representation of states and conditions in a logic circuit ○ *The prototype was checked for hazards with a Karnaugh map.*

**Kbps** /,keɪ bi: pi: 'es/ *noun* a measure of the amount of data that a device can transfer each second ○ *A fast modem can transfer data at a rate of 56Kbps, whereas an ISDN adapter can transfer data at a rate of 128Kbps.* Full form **kilobits per second**

**Kbyte** /'keɪ baɪt/ *abbr* kilobyte

**Kermit** /'kɜ:mit/ *noun* a file transfer protocol usually used when downloading data with a modem

**kern** /kɜ:n/ *verb* to adjust the space between pairs of letters so that they are printed closer together

**kernel** /'kɜ:n(ə)/ *noun* the essential instruction routines required as a basis for any operations in a computer system (NOTE: Kernel routines are usually hidden from the user. They are used by the operating system for tasks such as loading a program or displaying text on a screen.)

**Kerning** /'kɜ:nɪŋ/ *noun* the slight overlapping of certain printed character areas to prevent large spaces between them, giving a neater appearance

**key** /ki:/ *noun* **1.** a button on a keyboard that operates a switch ○ *There are 64 keys on the keyboard.* **2.** an important object or group of characters in a computer system, used to represent an instruction or set of data **3.** a special combination of numbers or characters that are used with a cipher to encrypt or decrypt a message ○ *Type this key into the machine, it will decode the last message.* **4.** an identification code or word used for a stored record or data item ○ *We selected all the records with the word 'disk' in their keys.*

**keyboard** /'ki:bɔ:d/ *verb* to enter information by using a keyboard ○ *It was cheaper to*

*have the manuscript keyboarded by another company.*

'...the main QWERTY typing area is in the centre of the keyboard with the 10 function keys on the left' [*Personal Computer World*]

**keyboarder** /'ki:bɔ:də/ *noun* a person who enters data via a keyboard

**keyboarding** /'ki:bɔ:dɪŋ/ *noun* the action of entering data using a keyboard ○ *The cost of keyboarding is calculated in keystrokes per hour.*

**keyboard overlay** /'ki:bɔ:d ,əʊvəleɪ/ *noun* a strip of paper that is placed above the keys on a keyboard to indicate their function

**keyboard send/receive** /,ki:bɔ:d send rɪ'si:v/ *noun* full form of **KSR**

**key combination** /'ki: ,kɔmbɪneɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a combination of two or more keys that carry out a function when pressed at the same time

**keyed sequential access method** /,ki:d sɪ,kwɛnʃəl 'æksɛs ,meθəd/ *noun* full form of **KSAM**

**key frame** /,ki: 'freɪm/ *noun* **1.** a single picture in an animation that describes the main actions in the sequence **2.** (*in a hypertext document*) a page that gives the user a choice of destination **3.** (*in full motion video*) a frame that is recorded in full rather than being compressed or differentially recorded

**key grip** /,ki: 'grɪp/ *noun* same as **first grip** (*film*)

**keying** /'ki:ɪŋ/ *noun* a method of overlaying one particular video signal onto another

**key light** /'ki: laɪt/ *noun* the main light which projects the most brightness on to the subject being filmed (*film*)

**keypad** /'ki:,pæd/ *noun* a group of special keys used for certain applications ○ *You can use the numeric keypad to enter the figures.*

'...it uses a six button keypad to select the devices and functions' [*Byte*]

**keystone distortion** /,ki:stəʊn dɪ 'stɔ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* image distortion in which the vertical lines slant out towards the horizontal edges of the monitor. Also called **trapezoidal distortion**

**keystroke** /'ki:stɹəʊk/ *noun* the action of pressing a key ○ *He keyboards at a rate of 3500 keystrokes per hour.*

**key-to-disk** /,ki:tə 'dɪsk/ *noun* a system where data is keyed in and stored directly on disk without any processing

**keyword** /'ki:wɜ:d/ *noun* **1.** a command word used in a programming language to provide a function ○ *The BASIC keyword PRINT will display text on the screen.* **2.** an important or informative word in a title or document that describes its contents ○ *Computer is a keyword in IT.* **3.** a word which is relevant or important to a text

**KHz** *abbr* kilohertz

**kill** /kɪl/ *verb* to erase a file or stop a program during execution

**kilo** /'kɪləʊ/ *prefix* one thousand

**kilobit** /'kɪləbɪt/ *noun* 1,024 bits of data.

*Abbr* **Kb, Kbit**

**kilobits per second** /,ki:ləʊ bɪts pɜ: 'sekənd/ *noun* a measure of the amount of data that a device can transfer each second.

*Abbr* **Kbps**

**kilobyte** /'kɪləʊ,baɪt/ *noun* a unit of measurement for high-capacity storage devices meaning 1,024 bytes of data. *Abbr* **KB, Kbyte**

**kilohertz** /'kɪləhɜ:ts/ *noun* a frequency of one thousand cycles per second. *Abbr* **KHz**

**kilo instructions per second** /,kɪləʊ ɪn,strʌkʃənz pɜ: 'sekənd/ *noun* full form of **KIPS**

**kilo-ohm** /'ki:ləʊ əʊm/ *noun* one thousand ohms

**Kilostream** /'kɪləstri:m/ a trade name for a leased line connection supplied by British Telecom that provides data transfer rates of 64Kbit per second

**kiloword** /'kɪləwɜ:d/ *noun* a unit of measurement of 1,024 computer words

**kimball tag** /'kɪmbɔ:l tæg/ *noun* a coded card attached to a product in a shop, containing information about the product that is read by a scanner when the product is sold

**kiosk** /'ki:nsk/ *noun* a small booth with a screen, a means of user input and a computer, used to provide information for the general public

**KIPS** /,keɪ aɪ pi: 'es/ *noun* one thousand computer instructions processed every second, used as a measure of computer power. Full form **kilo instructions per second**

**kludge, kluge** *noun (informal)* **1.** a temporary correction made to a badly written or constructed piece of software or to a key-boarding error **2.** hardware which should be used for demonstration purposes only

**kluged** /klu:dʒd/ *adjective* temporarily repaired

**knob** /nɒb/ *noun* a round button (such as on a monitor), which can be turned to control some process ○ *Turn the on/off knob.*

**knowledge** /'nəʊ haʊ/ *noun* what is known

**knowledge base** /'nɒlɪdʒ beɪs/ *noun* the computerised data in an expert system that can be used to solve a particular type of problem

**knowledge-based system** /,nɒlɪdʒ beɪst 'sɪstəm/ *noun* a computer system that applies the stored reactions, instructions and knowledge of experts in a particular field to a problem

**knowledge engineering** /'nɒlɪdʒ ,endʒɪnɪərɪŋ/ *noun* the process of designing and writing expert computer systems

**knowledge industry** /'nɒlɪdʒ ,ɪndəstri/ *noun* businesses that specialise in data processing or the development and use of information technology

**KSAM** /,keɪ es ɪ 'em/ *noun* a file structure that allows data to be accessed using key fields or key field content. Full form **keyed sequential access method**

**KSR** /,keɪ es 'ɑ: / *noun* a terminal which has a keyboard and monitor, and is linked to a CPU. Full form **keyboard send/receive**. Compare **ASR**

**KVA** *abbr* kilovolt-ampere output rating

**KW** *abbr* **1.** kilowatt **2.** kiloword

**KWAC** /kwæk/ *noun* a library indexing system that uses keywords from the text and title as indexed entries. Full form **keyword and context**

**KWIC** /kwɪk/ *noun* a library indexing system that uses keywords from the title or text of a book or document as an indexed entry followed by the text it relates to. Full form **keyword in context**

**KWOC** /kwɒk/ *noun* a library indexing system that indexes books or document titles under any relevant keywords. Full form **keyword out of context**

# L

**L** /eɪ/ *noun* the unit of surface brightness (*film*) Full form **lambert**

**L2TP** /ˌeɪ tuː tiː 'piː/ *noun* a network protocol, an extension to the PPP protocol, that allows the data from small Virtual Private Networks to be transferred over a network such as the public Internet. Full form **layer two tunnelling protocol**. ⇨ **tunnelling, PPP, protocol** (NOTE: L2TP operates enclosing the network packets from the Virtual Private Network within a special packet that can then travel over the Internet, a process called tunnelling.)

**label** /'leɪb(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** a word or other symbol used in a computer program to identify a routine or statement ○ *BASIC uses many program labels such as line numbers.*

**2.** a character or set of characters used to identify a variable or piece of data or a file **3.** a piece of paper or card attached to something to show instructions for use or an address ■ *verb* to print an address on a label

**labelling** /'leɪb(ə)lɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the process of putting a label on something ○ *The word-processor has a special utility allowing simple and rapid labelling.* **2.** the process of printing labels

**laboratory** /lə'bɒrət(ə)rɪ/ *noun* a place where scientists work on research and development of new products ○ *The new chip is being developed in the university laboratories.*

**lace** /leɪs/ *verb* to thread film on to a projector or tape on to a cassette recorder

**lag** /læɡ/ *noun* **1.** the time taken for an image to be no longer visible after it has been displayed on a CRT screen (NOTE: Lag is caused by long persistence phosphor.) **2.** the time taken for a signal to pass through a circuit, such that the output is delayed compared to the input ○ *Time lag is noticeable on international phone calls.*

**lambert** /'læmbət/ *noun* full form of **L**

**lamine** /'læmɪneɪt/ *verb* to cover a paper with a thin film of plastic, to give it a glossy look ○ *The book has a laminated cover.*

**lamp** /læmp/ *noun* an electrical component which provides artificial light by heating a thin wire within a glass bulb filled with an inert gas

**LAN** /læn/, **lan** *noun* a network where the various terminals and equipment are all with-

in a short distance of one another, e.g. in the same building, and can be interconnected by cables. Full form **local area network**

'The opportunities to delete and destroy data are far greater on our LAN than in the days when we had a mainframe. PC people are culturally different from mainframe people. You really don't think about security problems when you can physically lock your system up in a closet.' [Computing]

**landing zone** /'lændɪŋ zəʊn/ *noun* an area of a hard disk which does not carry data. The head can come into contact with the disk in this area without damaging the disk or data. ⇨ **park**

**landline** /'læn(d), laɪn/ *noun* a communications link that uses cable to physically and electrically link two devices

**landscape** /'lændskeɪp/ *noun* the orientation of a page or piece of paper where the longest edge is horizontal. Compare **portrait**

**language** /'læŋɡwɪdʒ/ *noun* a system of words or symbols which allows communication with computers, especially one that allows computer instructions to be entered as words which are easy to understand, and then translates them into machine code

COMMENT: There are three main types of computer languages: machine code, assemble, and high-level language. The more high-level the language is, the easier it is to program and understand, but the slower it is to execute. The following are the commonest high-level languages: ADA, ALGOL, APL, BASIC, C, C++, COBOL, COMAL, CORAL, FORTH, FORTRAN, LISP, LOGO, PASCAL, PL/1, POP-2, PROLOG, and Visual Basic. Assembly language uses mnemonics to represent machine code instructions. Machine code is the lowest level of programming language and consists of basic binary patterns that instruct the processor to perform various tasks.

**LAN Manager** /'læn ,mænɪdʒə/ a trade name for a network operating system developed for the PC by Microsoft

**LAN server** /'læn ,sɜːvə/ *noun* a computer which runs a network operating system and controls the basic network operations. All the workstations in a LAN are connected to the central network server and users log onto the network server.

**LAN Server** /'læn ,sɜ:və/ a trade name for a network operating system for the PC developed by IBM

**lap** /læp/ *noun* **1.** a person's knees, when he or she is sitting down ○ *He placed the computer on his lap and keyboarded some orders while sitting in his car.* **2.** an overlap of printed colours, which prevents any gaps showing

**LAP** /,el eɪ 'pi:/ *noun* a CCITT standard protocol used to start and maintain links over an X.25 network. Full form **link access protocol**

**lapel microphone** /lə ,pel 'mɜ:kɹəfəʊn/ *noun* a small microphone that is pinned to the someone's jacket

**laptop** /'læptɒp/, **laptop computer** /,læptɒp kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* a computer that is light enough to carry, but not so small as to fit in a pocket, and that usually consists of a screen, keyboard and disk drive. ♠ **desktop, hand-held computer, PDA**

'Michael Business Systems has provided research company BMRB with 240 Toshiba laptop computers in a deal valued at £300,000. The deal includes a three-year maintenance contract.' [Computing]

**large model** /,lɑ:dʒ 'mɒd(ə)l/ *noun* (in an *Intel processor*) a memory model in which both code and data can exceed 64Kb in size, but combined size should be less than 1Mb

**large-scale** /,lɑ:dʒ skeɪl/ *adjective* working with large amounts of £300. Compare **small-scale**

**large-scale integration** /,lɑ:dʒ skeɪl ,ɪntɪ'greɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **LSI**

**laser** /'leɪzə/ *noun* a device that produces coherent light of a single wavelength in a narrow beam, by exciting a material so that it emits photons of light. Full form **light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation**

**laser disc** /'leɪzə dɪsk/ *noun* same as **compact disc**

**LaserJet** /'leɪzədʒet/ same as **Hewlett Packard LaserJet**

**laser printer** /'leɪzə ,prɪntə/ *noun* a high-resolution computer printer that uses a laser source to print high-quality dot matrix character patterns on paper

**LaserWriter** /'leɪzəraɪtə/ a trade name for a laser printer manufactured by Apple that uses the PostScript page description language

**last in first out** /,lɑ:st ɪn ,fɜ:st 'aʊt/ *adjective* full form of **LIFO** ○ *This computer stack uses a last in first out data retrieval method.*

**last in last out** /,lɑ:st ɪn lɑ:st 'aʊt/ *adjective* full form of **LILO**

**latency** /'leɪt(ə)nsi/ *noun* a time delay between the moment when an instruction is given to a computer and the execution of the instruction or return of a result, e.g. the delay between a request for data and the data being transferred from memory

**latent image** /,leɪt(ə)nt 'ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* the recorded invisible image in exposed but undeveloped film

**lateral reversal** /,læt(ə)rəl rɪ'vɜ:z(ə)l/ *noun* the process of creating the mirror image of a picture by swapping left and right

**launch** /lɔ:ntʃ/ *noun* the process of putting a new product on the market ○ *The launch of the new PC has been put back six months.* ■ *verb* **1.** to put a new product on the market ○ *The new PC was launched at the Computer Show.* **2.** to start or run a program ○ *You launch the word-processor by double-clicking on this icon.*

**launch amplifier** /'lɔ:ntʃ ,æmplɪfaɪə/ *noun* an amplifier used to boost the television signals before they are transmitted over a cable network

**launch vehicle** /'lɔ:ntʃ ,vi:ɪk(ə)l/ *noun* a spacecraft used to transport a satellite from earth into space

**layer** /'leɪə/ *noun* **1.** ISO/OSI standards defining the stages a message has to pass through when being transmitted from one computer to another over a local area network **2.** the division of sections of space at certain distances from the earth into separate regions used for various radio communications. These are: D-Region from 50 – 90km above earth's surface, E-Region from 90 – 150km above earth's surface, F-Region from 150 – 400km above the earth's surface. **3.** a feature of graphics software that provides a stack of separate drawing areas that can be overlaid to produce the final image, or controlled and manipulated independently. It is often used in complex images: e.g., the background might be on layer 1, an image of a house on layer 2 and any special effects on layer 3 – the finished picture is made up of the three layers combined and viewed together.

**layered** /'leɪəd/ *adjective* that consists of layers ○ *The kernel has a layered structure according to user priority.*

**layer two tunnelling protocol** /,leɪə tu: 'tʌnəlɪŋ ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **L2TP**

**lay in** /,leɪ 'ɪn/ *verb* to synchronise a frame of film with the music or sound tracks

**lay out** /,leɪ 'aʊt/ *verb* to plan and design the positions and sizes of a piece of work to be printed

**layout** /ˈleɪaʊt/ *noun* **1.** rules governing the data input and output from a computer **2.** a way of using a sheet of paper.  $\diamond$  **landscape, portrait**

**LBR** *noun* a system for producing characters on a light sensitive film by laser beam directly controlled from a computer. Full form **laser beam recording**

**LC circuit** /,el 'si:, 'sɜ:kɪt/ *noun* a simple inductor-capacitor circuit that acts as a filter or oscillator

**LCD** /,el si: 'di:/ *noun* a type of display that uses liquid crystals that turn black when a voltage is applied. LCDs are found in many watches, calculators and other small digital devices. Full form **liquid crystal display**

**LCD screen** /,el si: 'di: skri:n/ *noun* a screen that uses LCD technology to create a thin display and is normally found in laptop computers and flat-screen monitors. Full form **liquid crystal display screen**

**LCD shutter printer** /,el si: 'di: 'ʃʌtə/ *noun* a page printer that uses an LCD panel in front of a bright light to describe images onto the photosensitive drum. The LCD panel stops the light passing through, except at pixels that describe the image.

**LCP** /,el si: 'pi:/ *noun* rules defining the transmission of data over a channel. Full form **link control procedure**

**LDAP** /'el dæp/ *noun* a new standard that provides directory services over the Internet; derived from the X.500 standard. LDAP is beginning to be included in many Internet applications and provides a way of organising, locating and using resources on the Internet that are listed within its database. Full form **lightweight directory access protocol**

**LDS** *noun* a TV signal relay station that transmits signals to another point from which they are distributed over cable. Full form **local distribution service**

**lead** /li:d/ *noun* **1.** an electrical conducting wire **2.** a thin piece of metal used to give extra space between lines of type before printing

**leader** /'li:də/ *noun* **1.** a section of magnetic tape that contains no signal, used at the beginning of the reel for identification and to aid the tape machine to pick up the tape **2.** a row of printed dots

**leading** /'li:dɪŋ/ *noun* space between lines of printed or displayed text

**leading edge** /'li:dɪŋ edʒ/ *noun* the first edge of a punched card that enters the card reader

**leading zero** /,li:dɪŋ 'zi:əʊ/ *noun* the zero digit used to pad out the beginning of a stored number

**lead in page** /'li:dɪn ˌpeɪdʒ/ *noun* a videotext page that directs the user to other pages of interest

**leaf** /li:f/ *noun* **1.** the final node in a tree structure **2.** a page of a book (printed on both sides)

**leaflet** /'li:flet/ *noun* a small publicity sheet (usually one page folded in half)

**leak** /li:k/ *noun* a gradual loss of charge from a charged component due to faulty insulation ■ *verb* to lose electric charge gradually  $\circ$  *In this circuit, the capacitor charge leaks out at 10% per second.*

**leakage** /'li:kɪdʒ/ *noun* a loss of signal strength

'...signal leakages in both directions can be a major problem in co-axial cable systems'  
[*Electronics & Wireless World*]

**learning curve** /'lɜ:nɪŋ kɜ:v/ *noun* a graphical description of how someone can acquire knowledge about a product over time

**lease** /li:s/ *noun* a written contract for letting or renting a piece of equipment for a period against payment of a fee ■ *verb* to allow equipment to be used for a period by another person or organisation in return for a fee

**least cost design** /,li:st kɒst dɪ'zain/ *noun* the best money-saving use of space or components  $\circ$  *The budget is only £1000, we need the least cost design for the new circuit.*

**least significant bit** /,li:st sɪɡ,nɪfɪkənt 'bɪt/ *noun* full form of **LSB**

**least significant digit** /,li:st sɪɡ,nɪfɪkənt 'dɪdʒɪt/ *noun* full form of  **LSD**

**leave** /li:v/ *verb*  $\square$  **leaving files open** a phrase meaning that a file has not been closed or does not contain an end of text marker. This will result in the loss of data since the text will not have been saved.

**LED** /,el i: 'di:/ *noun* a semiconductor diode that emits light when a current is applied. Full form **light-emitting diode** (NOTE: LED displays are used to display small amounts of information, as in pocket calculators, watches, and indicators.)

COMMENT: LED displays are used to display small amounts of information, as in pocket calculators, watches, indicators, etc.

**left-click** /'left klɪk/ *verb* to press and release the left-hand button on a computer mouse

**left-handed mouse** /,eft ˌhændɪd 'maʊs/ *noun* a mouse that has been configured so that the usual functions of the two buttons are reversed

**left justification** /,left ˌdʒʌstɪfɪ 'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of making the left-hand margin of the text even

**left justify** /,left 'dʒʌstɪfaɪ/ *verb* to make the left-hand margin of the text even

**legacy** /'legəsi/ *noun* an older technology or a previous version of software or hardware that is still supported in new developments to allow existing applications and hardware to continue to be used

**legal** /'li:g(ə)/ *adjective* a statement or instruction that is acceptable within language syntax rules

**legibility** /,ledʒɪ'bɪlɪti/ *noun* being able to be read ○ *The keyboarders find the manuscript lacks legibility.*

**legible** /'ledʒɪb(ə)/ *adjective* which can be read easily ○ *The manuscript is written in pencil and is hardly legible.*

**length** /leŋθ/ *noun* the number of data items in a variable or list

**lens** /lenz/ *noun* an optical system of transparent glass through which light is refracted on curved surfaces to produce photographic images

**lens aperture** /'lenz ,æpətʃə/ *noun* the opening of a lens system; it may be expressed as a fraction (f)-number, the ratio of focal length to physical opening, or as a measured factor of transmission, T number

**lens coating** /'lenz ,kəʊtɪŋ/ *noun* a fluoride coating which is used to decrease reflection and to let more light through the lens of the camera

**lens flare** /'lenz fleə/ *noun* a luminous spot which appears on a film image, caused by the lens having received overbright light from a natural or artificial source

**lens hood** /'lenz hʊd/ *noun* an extension of the outer part of lens which prevents unwanted light entering the lens

**lens mount** /'lenz maʊnt/ *noun* a device used to fix a lens to a camera

**lens prism** /'lenz ,prɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a device which is used for multiple-image photography and is attached to the lens

**lens speed** /'lenz spi:d/ *noun* the maximum aperture of a lens, relating to the amount of light that can enter the lens

**lens spotlight** /'lenz ,spɒtlaɪt/ *noun* a light whose beam is controlled by a single, sliding lens

**lens stop** /'lenz stɒp/ *noun* lens aperture size

**lens turret** /'lenz ,tʌɪt/ *noun* a revolving mounting which carries two or more lenses, making it possible to change lenses very quickly

**letter** /'letə/ *noun* **1.** a piece of writing sent from one person to another or from one company to another, e.g. to give news or information or to send an instructions **2.** a written or

printed sign, which goes to make a word (such as A, B, C, etc.) ○ *His name was written in capital letters.*

**letterhead** /'letəhed/ *noun* the name and address of a company printed at the top of the company's notepaper ○ *Business forms and letterheads can now be designed on a PC.*

**level** /'lev(ə)/ *noun* **1.** the quantity of bits that make up a digital transmitted signal **2.** strength or power of an electrical signal ○ *Turn the sound level down, it's far too loud.*

**Level A** /'lev(ə)l eɪ/ *noun* an ADPCM audio quality level with a 20KHz bandwidth, 38.7KHz sample rate and 8-bit samples

**Level B** /'lev(ə)l bi:z/ *noun* an ADPCM audio quality level with a 17KHz bandwidth, 38.7KHz sample rate and 8-bit samples

**Level C** /'lev(ə)l si:/ *noun* an ADPCM audio quality level with an 8.5KHz bandwidth, 18.9KHz sample rate and 4-bit samples

**lexical analysis** /,leksɪk(ə)l ə'næləsɪs/ *noun* a stage in program translation when the compiling or translating software replaces program keywords with machine code instructions

**lexicographical order** /,leksɪkəgræfɪk(ə)l 'ɔ:də/ *noun* the order of items, where the words are listed in the order of the letters of the alphabet, as in a dictionary

**LF<sup>1</sup>** *abbr* line feed

**LF<sup>2</sup>** *noun* a range of audio frequencies between 5Hz and 300Hz or range of radio frequencies between 30KHz and 300KHz. Full form **low frequency**

**LFE channel** /,el ef 'i: ,tʃæn(ə)/ *noun* same as **low frequency effects channel**

**librarian** /laɪ'brɛəriən/ *noun* a person who works in a library

'...a library of popular shapes and images is supplied' [*Practical Computing*]

**library** /'laɪbrəri/ *noun* **1.** a collection of files, documents, books or records, that can be consulted or borrowed by the public, usually kept in a public place **2.** a collection of things for use on a computer, e.g. programs or diskettes **3.** a collection of routines or instructions used by a computer program

**licence** /'laɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* a statement of permission that is given by one manufacturer to another and allows the second manufacturer to make copies of the first one's products in return for payment of a fee ○ *The software is manufactured in this country under licence.*

**licence agreement** /'laɪs(ə)ns ə ,grɪmənt/ *noun* a legal document that accompanies any commercial software product and defines how you can use the software and, most importantly, how many people can

use the software. Unless you buy a network version of a software product, the licence allows one person to use it. Copying the software is illegal. If you want several people to use the software or if you want to use it on a network, then you need to buy a multi-user licence.

**lifetime** /'laɪftaɪm/ *noun* the period of time during which a device is useful or not outdated ○ *This new computer has a four-year lifetime.*

**LIFO** /'laɪfəʊ/ *adjective* used to describe a queue system that reads the last item stored, first ○ *This computer stack uses a LIFO data retrieval method.* Full form **last in first out.** ⚡ **FIFO**

**lifter** /'lɪftə/ *noun* a mechanical device that lifts magnetic tape away from the heads when rewinding the tape

**light** /laɪt/ *noun* energy in the form of electromagnetic effects in the frequency range 400 – 750 nm, which allows a person to see ○ *The VDU should not be placed under a bright light.*

**light-emitting diode** /,laɪt ɪ,mɪtɪŋ 'diəʊd/ *noun* full form of **LED**

**lighting** /'laɪtɪŋ/ *noun* 1. any regulated illumination of an object or person which is being filmed 2. the source of this illumination, whether natural or artificial

**lighting rig** /'laɪtɪŋ rɪɡ/ *noun* a group of lights and their stands and controls

**light pen** /'laɪt pen/ *noun* a computer accessory in the shape of a pen that contains a light-sensitive device that can detect pixels on a video screen (NOTE: Light pens are often used with suitable software to draw graphics on a screen or position a cursor.)

**light-sensitive** /,laɪt 'sensɪtɪv/ *adjective* which is sensitive to light

**light-sensitive device** /,laɪt 'sensɪtɪv dɪ'vaɪs/ *noun* a device (such as a phototransistor) which is sensitive to light, and produces a change in signal strength or resistance

**lightweight** /'laɪtweɪt/ *adjective* not heavy ○ *A lightweight computer which can easily fit into a suitcase.*

**lightweight directory access protocol** /,laɪtweɪt daɪ'rekt(ə)rɪ 'ækses ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **LDAP**

**LIFO** /'laɪfəʊ/ *adjective* used to describe a data storage method in which the data stored last is retrieved last. Full form **last in last out**

**limited distance modem** /,lɪmɪtɪd ,dɪstəns 'mɔdəm/ *noun* a data transmission device with a very short range that sends pure digital data rather than data sent on a modulated carrier

**limiter** /'lɪmɪtə/ *noun* a device that removes the part of an input signal that is greater than or less than a predefined limit; used with audio and video signals to prevent overloading an amplifier

**limiting resolution** /,lɪmɪtɪŋ ,rezəʊ 'luːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the maximum number of lines that make up an image on a CRT screen

**limits** /'lɪmɪts/ *noun* predefined maximum ranges for numbers in a computer

**line** /laɪn/ *noun* 1. a physical connection for data transmission, e.g. a cable between parts of a system or a telephone wire 2. single long thin mark drawn by a pen or printed on a surface ○ *the printer has difficulty in reproducing very fine lines* 3. one trace by the electron picture beam on a television screen 4. row of characters (printed on a page or displayed on a computer screen or printer) ○ *each page has 52 lines of text* 5. series of characters received as a single input by a computer 6. one row of commands or arguments in a computer program

'...straight lines are drawn by clicking the points on the screen where you would like the line to start and finish' [*Personal Computer World*]

**linear frame buffer** /,lɪniə freɪm 'bʌfə/ *noun* a video memory arranged so that by moving from one address to the next in the buffer you move from one pixel to the one below it on the display

**linearity** /,lɪni'ærɪtɪ/ *noun* the shape of the frequency response curve of a device such as a microphone or A/D converter. If the curve is straight, the device is very accurate, if it is not, the device is introducing frequency distortion.

**linear program** /,lɪniə 'prəʊgræm/ *noun* a computer program that contains no loops or branches

**linear programming** /,lɪniə 'prəʊgræmɪŋ/ *noun* a method of mathematically breaking down a problem so that it can be solved by computer

**linear video** /,lɪniə 'vɪdiəʊ/ *noun* 1. a continuous playback of a video sequence from videotape 2. normal video that is played back in a continuous sequence rather than a single frame at a time as in interactive video

**linear video editing** /,lɪniə ,vɪdiəʊ 'edɪtɪŋ/ *noun* a video sequence, on videotape, that is edited by inserting or deleting new frames but without changing the order of the frames

**line break** /'laɪn breɪk/ *noun* the point at which continuous text is split into separate lines

**line drawing** /'laɪn ,draʊɪŋ/ *noun* an illustration in which objects are drawn using thin lines, without shading or surface texture

**line feed** /'laɪn fi:d/ *noun* a control on a printer or computer terminal that moves the cursor down by one line. Abbr **LF**

**line flyback** /'laɪn ,flaɪbæk/ *noun* same as flyback

**line frequency** /laɪn 'fri:kwənsi/ *noun* (in a CRT) the number of times that the picture beam scans a horizontal row of pixels in a monitor

**line of sight** /,laɪn əv 'saɪt/ *noun* a clear transmission path for radio communications in a straight line

**line printer** /'laɪn ,prɪntə/ *noun* a device for printing draft quality information at high speeds, typical output is 200 to 3000 lines per minute (NOTE: Line printers print a whole line at a time, running from right to left and left to right, and are usually dot matrix printers with not very high quality print. Compare page printers, which print a whole page at a time.)

**lines per minute** /,laɪnz pɜ: 'mɪnət/ *noun* the number of lines printed by a line printer per minute. Abbr **LPM**

**line-up** /'laɪn ʌp/ *verb* to prepare a camera ready to photograph a scene

**link** /lɪŋk/ *noun* **1.** a communications path or channel between two components or devices ○ *To transmit faster, you can use the direct link with the mainframe.* **2.** a software routine that allows data transfer between incompatible programs ■ *verb* **1.** to join or interface two pieces of software or hardware **2.** to combine separate routines from different files and library files to create a program **3.** to create an association between two objects in a title, e.g. to link a button to another page in the title that is displayed when the user selects the button ○ *The two computers are linked.*

**link access protocol** /,lɪŋk 'ækses ,prəʊtəkəl/ *noun* full form of **LAP**

**linkage** /'lɪŋkɪdʒ/ *noun* the act of linking two things

**link control procedure** /,lɪŋk kən'trəʊl prə,sɪ:dʒə/ *noun* full form of **LCP**

**linked object** /,lɪŋk d'ɒbdʒekt/ *noun* one piece of data that is referred to in another file or application

**linking** /'lɪŋkɪŋ/ *noun* the merging of a number of small programs to enable them to run as one unit

**Linux** /'lɪnəks/ a trade name for a version of the UNIX operating system originally developed by Linus Torvalds, who then distributed it free of charge over the Internet. Enthusiasts and other developers have extended and enhanced the software, normally also publishing their software free of charge. Linux is one of the most popular operating systems for de-

velopers and people running web-based applications. Unlike many other operating systems, such as Microsoft Windows, the Linux software runs on a range of different types of computer hardware including the PC and Macintosh.

**lip sync** /'lɪp sɪŋk/ *noun* a voice recorded at the same time that a person is filmed to ensure that the movement of the mouth matches the speech (*film*)

**liquid crystal display** /,lɪkwɪd ,krɪst(ə)l dɪs'pleɪ/ *noun* full form of **LCD**

**LISP** /lɪsp/ *noun* a high-level language used mainly in processing lists of instructions or data and in artificial intelligence work. Full form **list processing**

**list** /lɪst/ *noun* a series of ordered items of data ■ *verb* to print or display certain items of information

**LIST chunk** /'lɪst ,tʃʌŋk/ *noun* (in a RIFF file) a four-character code LIST that contains a series of subchunks

**listing** /'lɪstɪŋ/ *noun* a display or printed copy of the lines in a program in order

**list processing** /'lɪst ,prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the processing of a series of items of data, i.e. such tasks as adding, deleting, sorting or updating entries **2.** full form of **LISP**

**listserv** /'lɪst,sɜ:v/, **listserver** /'lɪstsɜ:və/ *noun* a server on the Internet that sends a newsletter or articles to a list of registered users

**literacy** /'lɪt(ə)rəsi/ *noun* the ability to read and write

**literal** /'lɪt(ə)rəl/ *noun* **1.** a computer instruction that contains the actual number or address to be used, rather than a label or its location **2.** a printing error when one character is replaced by another or when two characters are transposed

**literate** /'lɪt(ə)rət/ *adjective* who can read and write

**lith film** /'lɪθ fɪlm/ *noun* high quality and contrast photographic film used in lithographic printing

**lithium-ion battery** /,lɪθiəm 'aɪən ,bæt(ə)rɪ/ *noun* a type of rechargeable battery that provides high output power in a compact and lightweight unit. This type of battery is often used in mobile telephones, PDAs and lightweight laptop computers.

**live** /laɪv/ *adjective* action transmitted as it happens rather than being transmitted from a recording

**Live3D** /,laɪv θri: 'di:/ *noun* same as **VRML**  
**live-on-tape** /,laɪv ɒn 'teɪp/ *noun* action which is recorded without any break, is not edited and is filmed to fit into a particular time frame

**live recording** /ˌlaɪv rɪ'kɔ:dɪŋ/ *noun* an original recording

**liveware** /'laɪvwɛə/ *noun* the operators and users of a computer system, as opposed to the hardware and software

**LLC** /ˌel el 'sɪz/ *abbr* logical link control

**LLL** *abbr* low-level language

**lm** *noun* the unit of luminous flux. Full form **lumen**

**load** /ləʊd/ *noun* **1.** a job or piece of work to be done **2.** impedance presented to a line or device ■ *verb* **1.** to transfer a file or program from disk to main memory **2.** to put something such as a disk into a computer, so that it can be run **3.** to place an impedance or device at the end of a line

‘...this windowing system is particularly handy when you want to load or save a file or change directories’ [Byte]

**loader** /'ləʊdə/ *noun* a program which loads another file or program into computer memory

**loading** /'ləʊdɪŋ/ *noun* the action of transferring a file or program from disk to memory ○ *Loading can be a long process.*

**load point** /'ləʊd pɔɪnt/ *noun* the start of a recording section in a reel of magnetic tape

**local** /'ləʊk(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** referring to a variable or argument that is only used in a certain section of a computer program or structure **2.** referring to a system with limited access

**local area network** /,ləʊk(ə)l ,eəriə 'netwɜ:k/ *noun* full form of **LAN**

**local drive** /'ləʊk(ə)l draɪv/ *noun* a disk drive that is physically attached to a computer, as opposed to a resource that is accessed across a network

**local printer** /,ləʊk(ə)l 'prɪntə/ *noun* a printer physically attached to a computer rather than a shared resource available on a network

**LocalTalk** /'ləʊkəl tɔ:k/ a trade name for a network standard developed by Apple that defines the physical layer, i.e. the cabling system and connectors, used in Apple's AppleTalk network. The network transfers data at 230Kbits/second over unshielded twisted-pair cable.

**locate** /ləʊ'keɪt/ *verb* **1.** to place or to set ○ *The computer is located in the main office building.* **2.** to find ○ *Have you managed to locate the programming fault?*

**location** /ləʊ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a number or absolute address that specifies the point in memory where a data word can be found and accessed **2.** any setting away from the studio, whether outdoors or indoors, where a film or programme is recorded

**lock** /lɒk/ *verb* **1.** to prevent access to a system or file **2.** to synchronise two devices or signals, such as two video recorders or two clocks

**lockout** /'lɒkaʊt/ *noun* the process of preventing a user sending messages over a network by continuously transmitting data

**lock up** /,lɒk 'ʌp/ *noun* a faulty operating state of computer that cannot be recovered from without switching off the power

COMMENT: This can be caused by an infinite program loop or a deadly embrace.

**log** /lɒg/ *noun* **1.** a record of computer processing operations **2.** a detailed record of camera and sound-recording operations during filming (*film*)

**logarithm** /'lɒgərɪð(ə)m/ *noun* a mathematical operation that gives the power a number must be raised to, to give the required number ○ *decimal logarithm of 1,000 is 3 (= 10 x 10 x 10)*

**logarithmic** /,lɒgə'rɪðmɪk/ *adjective* referring to variations in the logarithm of a scale

**logarithmic graph** /,lɒgərɪðmɪk 'grɑ:f/ *noun* a graph whose axes have a scale that is the logarithm of the linear measurement

**log file** /'lɒg faɪl/ *noun* **1.** a file that contains a record of actions **2.** (*on a web server*) a file that contains details of the visitors to a website, recorded automatically with the visitor's DNS address, the time and the name of the webpage that he or she viewed

**logging** /'lɒgɪŋ/ *noun* an input of data into a system

**logging in** /'lɒgɪŋ ɪn/ *noun* the process of opening operations with a system

**logging off** /'lɒgɪŋ ɒf/ *noun* the process of ending operations with a system

**logging on** /'lɒgɪŋ ɒn/ *noun* same as **logging in**

**logging out** /'lɒgɪŋ aʊt/ *noun* same as **logging off**

**logic** /'lɒdʒɪk/ *noun* **1.** a science which deals with thought and reasoning **2.** a mathematical treatment of formal logic operations such as AND, OR, etc., and their transformation into various circuits. ♢ **Boolean algebra** **3.** a system for deducing results from binary data **4.** the components of a computer or digital system

**logical** /'lɒdʒɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* that uses logic in its operation ○ *Logical reasoning can be simulated by an artificial intelligence machine.*

**logical link control** /,lɒdʒɪk(ə)l 'lɪŋk kən, trəʊl/ *noun* an IEEE 802.2 standard defining the protocol for data-link-level transmissions. Abbr **LLC**. ♢ **data link layer**

**logical palette** /,lɒdʒɪk(ə)l 'pælət/ *noun* (in *Windows*) a graphics object that includes the colour palette information it requires

**logical unit** /,lɒdʒɪk(ə)l 'ju:nɪt/ *noun* full form of **LU**

**logic-seeking** /'lɒdʒɪk ,sɪ:kɪŋ/ *adjective* referring to a printer that can print the required information with the minimum head movement, detecting ends of lines, justification commands, etc.

**login** /'lɒɡɪn/ *verb* to enter various identification data, such as a password, usually by means of a terminal, to the central computer before accessing a program or data (used as a means of making sure that only authorised users can access the computer system)

**log in script** /'lɒɡ ɪn ,skɪpt/ *noun* a series of instructions that are automatically run when you log into a network. For example, if you log into your office network in the morning by typing your name and password, the login script might remind you of important information or just display 'good morning'.

**logo** /'lɒɡəʊ/ *noun* a special printed set of characters or symbols used to identify a company or product

**LOGO** /'lɒɡəʊ/ *noun* a high-level programming language used mainly for educational purposes, with graphical commands that are easy to use

**logoff** /lɒɡ'ɒf/ *verb* same as **logging off**

**logon** /lɒɡ'ɒn/ *verb* same as **logging in**

**logout** /'lɒɡaʊt/ *noun* same as **logging off**

**long filename** /,lɒŋ 'faɪl,neɪm/ *noun* a feature of *Windows 95* that lets a user give files names up to 254 characters in length

**long focal-length lens, long lens** *noun*  
 ▶ **telephoto lens**

**long haul network** /,lɒŋ hɔ:l 'netwɜ:k/ *noun* a communications network between distant computers that usually uses the public telephone system

**long integer** /,lɒŋ 'ɪntɪdʒəl/ *noun* (in *programming languages*) an integer represented by several bytes of data

**longitudinal time code**  
 /,lɒŋɡɪtʃu:ɰɪn(ə)l 'taɪm kəʊd/ *noun* full form of **LTC**

**long persistence phosphor** /,lɒŋ pə ,sɪstəns 'fɒsfə/ *noun* a television screen coating that retains the displayed image for a period of time longer than the refresh rate, so reducing flicker effects

**long shot** /'lɒŋ ʃɒt/ *noun* a photograph of a general view of the setting where the action takes place (*film*)

**look-ahead** /'lʊk ə,hed/ *noun* an action performed by some CPUs that fetch instruc-

tions and examine them before they are executed in order to speed up operations

**look-up table** /'lʊk ʌp ,teɪb(ə)l/ *noun* full form of **LUT** ○ *Look-up tables are preprogrammed then used in processing so saving calculations for each result required.*

'...a lookup table changes a pixel's value based on the values in a table' [*Byte*]

**loop** /lu:p/ *noun* **1.** a procedure or series of instructions in a computer program that are performed again and again until a test shows that a specific condition has been met or until the program is completed **2.** a communications channel that is passed via all receivers and is terminated where it started from **3.** a length of wire coiled in the shape of a circle **4.** a long piece of tape with the two ends joined ■ *verb* to make a piece of wire or tape into a circle

**loss** /lɒs/ *noun* the power of a signal that is lost when passing through a circuit

**lossless compression** /,lɒsləs kəm 'preʃ(ə)n/ *noun* image compression techniques that can reduce the number of bits used for each pixel in an image, without losing any information or quality. ▶ **Huffman code**

**lossy compression** /,lɒsi kəm 'preʃ(ə)n/ *noun* image compression techniques that can reduce the number of bits used for each pixel in an image, but in doing so lose information. ▶ **JPEG**

**loudness** /'laʊdnəs/ *noun* a volume of a signal which you can hear

**loudspeaker** /,laʊd'spi:kə/ *noun* an electromagnetic device that converts electrical signals into audible noise

**low angle shot** /,ləʊ ,æŋɡ(ə)l 'ʃɒt/ *noun* a camera shot taken from below the subject with the camera tilted up towards subject (*film*)

**low band video** /,ləʊ bænd 'vɪdɪəʊ/ *noun* a video tape recording system which is usually used for low-quality home use and does not meet television broadcast standards (*film*)

**low contrast** /,ləʊ 'kɒntrɑ:st/ *noun* (*film*) **1.** muted colours in a film **2.** a film which does not have a great contrast between its black and white tones

**low contrast filter** /,ləʊ ,kɒntrɑ:st 'fɪltə/ *noun* a camera lens which mutes colours

**low-end** /,ləʊ 'end/ *adjective* referring to hardware or software that is not very powerful or sophisticated and is designed for beginners

**lower case** /,ləʊə 'keɪs/ *noun* small characters, e.g. a, b and c, as opposed to upper case, A, B, C

**low frequency** /,ləʊ 'fri:kwənsi/ *noun* a range of audio frequencies between 5–300Hz or range of radio frequencies between 30–300kHz

**low frequency effects channel** /,ləʊ 'fri:kwənsi ɪ'fekts ʃ,tʃæn(ə)l/ *noun* a separate audio channel in a multichannel system that provides very low frequency bass sounds.  $\diamond$  **Dolby Digital™**. Also called **LFE channel**

**low key** /,ləʊ 'ki:/ *noun* (*film*) **1.** pictures in which the lower grey scale tones, or shadowy parts, are emphasised **2.** low lighting of subject

**low-level format** /,ləʊ 'lev(ə)l ʃɔ:mæt/ *noun* a process that defines the physical pattern and arrangement of tracks and sectors on a disk

**low-level language** /,ləʊ 'lev(ə)l 'læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* a programming language, particular to one system or computer, in which each instruction has a single equivalent machine code instruction, so that programming in it is a long and complex task. Abbr **LLL**

**low memory** /,ləʊ 'mem(ə)ri/ *noun* (*in a PC*) available memory locations up to 640Kb. Compare **high memory**

**low pass filter** /,ləʊ ˌpa:z 'fɪltə/ *noun* an electronic circuit that blocks signals above a certain frequency

**low-power standby** /,ləʊ 'paʊə 'stændbaɪ/ *noun* an energy-saving feature of laptop computers and many monitors connected to a desktop

**low-priority work** /,ləʊ praɪ,ɔrɪtɪ 'wɜ:k/ *noun* work that is not particularly important

**low-resolution graphics** /,ləʊ ˌrezə ˌlu:ʃ(ə)n 'græfɪks/, **low-res graphics** /,ləʊ rez 'græfɪks/ *plural noun* the ability to display character-sized graphic blocks or preset shapes on a screen rather than to create graphics using individual pixels. Compare **high-resolution**

**low-speed communications** /,ləʊ spi:d kə,mju:nɪ'keɪʃ(ə)nɪz/ *plural noun* data transmission at less than 2400 bits per second

**LPM** *abbr* lines per minute

**LPT1** /,el pi: ti: 'wʌn/ *noun* (*in a PC*) the name given to the first, main parallel printer port in the system

**LS** *abbr* **1.** long shot **2.** loudspeaker

**LSB** /,el es 'bi:/ *noun* a binary digit occupying the right hand position of a word and carrying the least power of two in the word, usually equal to two raised to zero = 1. Full form **least significant bit**

**LSD** /,el es 'di:/ *noun* the digit which occupies the right hand position in a number and so carries least power, being equal to the number radix raised to zero = 1. Full form **least significant digit**

**LSI** /,el es 'aɪ/ *noun* a configuration with between 500 and 10,000 circuits on a single IC. Full form **large-scale integration**

**LTC** /,el ti: 'si:/ *noun* a method of recording a time code signal on a linear audio track along a video tape. The disadvantage of this method is that the code is not readable at slow speeds or when the tape has stopped. Full form **longitudinal time code**

**LU** /,el 'ju:/ *noun* a set of protocols developed by IBM to allow communication over an SNA network. LU1, LU2 and LU3 provide control of the session, LU4 supports communication between the devices and LU6.2 is a peer-to-peer protocol. Full form **logical unit**

**luma** /'lu:mə/ *noun* the black and white parts of an image or video signal, represented by the symbol Y.  $\diamond$  **S-Video, Y/C**

**lumen** /'lu:mɪn/ *noun* the SI unit of illumination, defined as the amount of flux emitted from a candela into an angle of one steradian

**luminance** /'lu:mɪn(ə)ns/ *noun* the part of a video signal or image that defines the brightness at each point.  $\diamond$  **YUV encoding**

**luminous flux** /'lu:mɪnəs flʌks/ *noun* the rate of stream of visible light coming from a source, measured in lumens

**lurk** /lɜ:k/ *verb* to join an online conference, discussion group or chat room and listen to the messages without contributing anything yourself. Most discussion forums do not mind people lurking, since it helps to build confidence in new users and lets them check the content before joining in, however some chat rooms do not approve of lurking and immediately identify anyone joining to discourage people who do not contribute to the forum.

**LUT** /,el ju: 'ti:/ *noun* a collection of stored results that can be accessed very rapidly by a program without the need to calculate each result whenever needed. Full form **look-up table**

'...an image processing system can have three LUTs that map the image memory to the display device' [Byte]

**lux** /lʌks/ *noun* the SI unit of measurement of one lumen per square metre

**LV-ROM** /,el vi: 'rɒm/ *noun* a 12-inch diameter optical disc, developed by Philips, that can store both analog video and digital data

# M

**M** *abbr* mega- ■ *noun* **1.** one million **2.** the symbol for 1,048,576, used only in computer and electronic related applications, equal to 2<sup>20</sup>

**Mac** /mæk/ *noun* same as **Macintosh**

**MAC** /,em eɪ 'si:/ *noun* a special code transmitted at the same time as a message as proof of its authenticity. Full form **message authentication code** ■ *abbr* medium access control

**MacBinary** /mæk'baɪnəri/ a trade name for a file storage and transfer system that allows Macintosh files, together with their icons and long file names, to be stored on other computer systems

**machine** /mə'ʃi:n/ *noun* **1.** a number of separate moving parts or components, acting together to carry out a process **2.** a computer, system or processor made up of various components connected together to provide a function or perform a task

**machine address** /mə'ʃi:n ə,dres/ *noun* same as **absolute address**

**machine code** /mə'ʃi:n kəʊd/ *noun* a programming language that consists of commands in binary code that can be directly understood by the central processing unit without the need for translation. Also called **computer code**

**Macintosh** /'mækiɪntɒʃ/ a trade name for a range of personal computers designed by Apple Corporation. The Macintosh uses the Motorola family of processors, the 68000, and offers similar computing power to a PC. The Macintosh is best known for its graphical user interface which allows a user to control the computer using icons and a mouse. ○ *Macintosh computers are not compatible with an IBM PC unless you use special emulation software.* Also called **Mac**

**macro** /'mækrəʊ/ *noun* a program routine or block of instructions identified by a single word or label

**macro block** /'mækrəʊ blɒk/ *noun* a grid of 16x16 pixels used to analyse and compress video data in the MPEG compression system

**macro lens** /'mækrəʊ lenz/ *noun* a magnifying lens which is used for close-up shots

**Macromedia Director** /,mækrəʊmi:diə daɪ'rektə/ a trade name for authoring software for the PC and Macintosh that uses the Lingo scripting language

**macro virus** /'mækrəʊ 'vaɪrəs/ *noun* a type of virus that is stored as a macro attached to a document or e-mail message. Most advanced software applications provide a macro language that lets users extend the application and automate features. However, as macro languages become more advanced and powerful, they also provide an opportunity for someone to create a macro that can delete files or corrupt data when run.

COMMENT: A macro virus will run when the document is opened. Some viruses are benign, others carry out malicious damage on your files and data. The virus will also try and spread to other compatible documents and applications on your computer, so that any new documents you create are also infected. Current macro virus attacks have used the macro features of advanced email software to re-send the virus to all the email addresses stored in your email address book. The last major macro virus created so much extra network email traffic on the Internet that many servers were overloaded. The best way to avoid a macro virus is to regularly run virus detection software that can check and remove viruses attached to documents and new email messages.

**macrozoom** /'mækrəʊzʊ:m/ *noun* a zoom lens that can focus on very close objects

**magazine** /,mægə'zi:n/ *noun* **1.** a number of pages in a videotext system **2.** a paper, usually with illustrations which comes out regularly, every month or every week ○ *a weekly magazine* ○ *He edits a computer magazine.* **3.** a light-tight film container which is used with a camera, printer or film processing machine

**magnet** /'mæɡnɪt/ *noun* something that produces a magnetic field

**magnetic** /mæg'netɪk/ *adjective* that has a magnetic field associated with it

**magnetic ink character recognition** /mæg,netɪk ɪŋk ,kærɪktə ,rekəɡ'nɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **MICR**

**magnetic tape** /mæg,netɪk 'teɪp/ *noun* a narrow length of thin plastic coated with a magnetic material used to store signals magnetically

COMMENT: Magnetic tape is available on spools of between 200 and 800 metres. The tape is magnetised by the read/write head. Tape is a storage medium that only

allows serial access, that is, all the tape has to be read until the required location is found, as opposed to disk storage, which can be accessed randomly.

**magneto-optical disc** /mæg,nɪ:təʊ, ɒptɪk(ə)l 'dɪsk/ *noun* an optical disc that is used in a magneto-optical recording device

**magneto-optical recording** /mæg,nɪ:təʊ, ɒptɪk(ə)l rɪ'kɔ:dɪŋ/ *noun* a method of recording that uses an optical disc covered with a thin layer of magnetic film that is heated by a laser. The particles are then polarised by a weak magnetic field. (NOTE: Magneto-optical discs have very high capacity, over 600MB, and are re-writable.)

**magnification** /,mægnɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the amount by which something has been made to appear larger ○ *The lens gives a magnification of 10 times.*

**magnify** /'mægnɪ,faɪ/ *verb* to make something appear larger ○ *The photograph has been magnified 200 times.*

**magnitude** /'mægnɪt.ju:d/ *noun* a level or strength of a signal or variable

**mag-opt** /'mæg ɒpt/ *noun* a motion picture print which contains both magnetic and optical sound tracks (*film*)

**mag tape** /'mæg teɪp/ *noun* same as **magnetic tape** (*informal*)

**mail** /meɪl/ *noun* **1.** a system for sending letters and parcels from one place to another **2.** letters sent or received **3.** electronic messages to and from users of a bulletin board or network ■ *verb* to send something by post ○ *to mail a letter*

**mail application programming interface** /,meɪl ,æplɪkeɪʃ(ə)n 'pɹɔʊgræmɪŋ ,ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* full form of **MAPI**

**mailbox** /'meɪlbɒks/, **mail box** /'meɪl bɒks/ *noun* an electronic storage space with an address in which a user's incoming messages are stored

**mail-enabled** /'meɪl ɪn,eɪb(ə)ld/ *adjective* referring to an application that has access to an electronic mail system without leaving the application ○ *This word-processor is mail-enabled – you can send messages to other users from within it.*

**mail gateway** /'meɪl ,geɪtweɪ/ *noun* a software program, or a combination of server and software, that links two different electronic mail systems together so that mail messages can be transferred from one system to another. For example, if you are using Lotus cc:Mail as the electronic mail product within your company, you would need to fit a gateway function to allow messages to be sent to and received by users on the Internet. (NOTE: LAN email systems usually use one of three main standards, MAPI, MHS or

VIM, to send mail messages. If you are sending mail from a LAN email system to the Internet, the mail gateway needs to convert this standard to one of the Internet mail standards such as POP3 or SMTP before it can be delivered.)

**mailing** /'meɪlɪŋ/ *noun* the process of sending something using the post or e-mail

**mailing list** /'meɪlɪŋ lɪst/ *noun* (*in electronic mail*) list of the e-mail addresses of users who receive information on a regular basis from a company, a person or from other people on the list. An Internet mailing list allows any person whose name and address are on the list to send a message to the list, which will then automatically distribute a copy of this message to all the other people on the list.

**mailmerge** /'meɪlmɜ:dʒ/ *noun* a word-processing program which allows a standard form letter to be printed out to a series of different names and addresses

'Spreadsheet views for data and graphical forms for data entry have been added to the Q&A database, with the traditional reporting, mailmerge, and labels improved through Windows facilities.' [*Computing*]

**mail server** /'meɪl ,sɜ:və/ *noun* a computer that stores incoming mail and sends it to the correct user and stores outgoing mail and transfers it to the correct destination server on the Internet

**mail transfer agent** /,meɪl 'trænsfɜ: ,eɪdʒənt/ *noun* a software program that manages the way electronic mail messages are transferred over a network. On computers running the Unix operating system and the Internet the 'sendmail' software is the most popular mail transfer agent. Abbr **MTA**

**mail user agent** /,meɪl 'ju:zə ,eɪdʒənt/ *noun* full form of **MUA**

**main** /meɪn/ *adjective* most important

**mainframe** /'meɪnfreɪm kəm,pju:tə/, **mainframe computer** /,meɪnfreɪm kəm 'pju:tə/ *noun* a large-scale high-power computer system that can handle high-capacity memory and backing storage devices as well as a number of operators simultaneously

**mainly** /'meɪnli/ *adverb* mostly or usually ○ *Their sales are mainly in the home market.* ○ *We are interested mainly in buying colour printing.*

**mains electricity** /,meɪns ɪ,lek'trɪsəti/ *noun* the normal domestic electricity supply to consumers (NOTE: In the UK this is 240 volts at 50Hz. In the US, it is 110 volts at 60Hz.)

**maintain** /meɪn'teɪn/ *verb* to ensure a system is in good condition and functioning correctly

**maintainability** /ˌmeɪntɪnə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the ability to have repairs carried out quickly and efficiently if a failure occurs

**maintenance** /ˌmeɪntənəns/ *noun* **1.** the task of keeping a machine in good working condition **2.** tasks carried out in order to keep a system running, e.g. repairing faults and replacing components

**maintenance contract** /ˌmeɪntənəns ,kɒntrækt/ *noun* an arrangement with a repair company that provides for regular checks and special repair prices in the event of a fault

**maintenance routine** /ˌmeɪntənəns ruːˈtiːn/ *noun* a software diagnostic tool used by an engineer during preventative maintenance operations

**majuscule** /ˈmædʒəskjuːl/ *noun* a capital letter

**make directory** /ˌmeɪk daɪ'rekt(ə)ri/ *noun* full form of **MD**

**male connector** /ˌmeɪl kə'nektə/ *noun* a plug with conducting pins that can be inserted into a female connector to provide an electrical connection

**malfunction** /mæl'fʌŋkʃən/ *noun* (of hardware or software) the fact of not working correctly ○ *The data was lost due to a software malfunction.* ■ *verb* not to work properly ○ *Some of the keys on the keyboard have started to malfunction.*

**malfunctioning** /mæl'fʌŋkʃənɪŋ/ *adjective* not working properly

**MAN** /mæn/ *noun* a network extending over a limited geographical area, normally a city. Full form **metropolitan area network**. Compare **LAN**, **WAN**

**manage** /ˈmænɪdʒ/ *verb* to direct or to be in charge of something

**manageable** /ˈmænɪdʒəb(ə)l/ *adjective* that can be dealt with easily ○ *processing problems which are still manageable.*

**management** /ˈmænɪdʒmənt/ *noun* the act of directing or organising work or a business

**management information service** /ˌmænɪdʒmənt ˌɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n ˌsɜːvɪs/ *noun* a department within a company that is responsible for information and data processing. Abbr **MIS** (NOTE: In practice, this department is often responsible for the computer system in a company.)

**management information system** /ˌmænɪdʒmənt ˌɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n ˌsɪstəm/ *noun* software that allows managers in a company to access and analyse data. Abbr **MIS**

**manager** /ˈmænɪdʒə/ *noun* the head of a department in a company ○ *a department manager*

**managerial** /ˌmænə'dʒɪəriəl/ *adjective* referring to managers ○ *managerial staff*

**Manchester coding** /ˌmæntʃɛstə ,kɒdɪŋ/ *noun* a method of encoding data and timing signals that is used in communications. The first half of the bit period indicates the value of the bit (1 or 0), and the second half is used as a timing signal.

**Mandelbrot set** /ˌmænd(ə)lbrɒt set/ *noun* a mathematical equation that is called recursively to generate a set of values. When plotted these form a fractal image. ◊ **fractal**

**M and S microphone** /ˌem ənd 'es ˌmaɪkrəfoʊn/ *noun* a combination used for stereo sound recording (*film*) Full form **middle and side microphone**

**manipulate** /mə'nɪpjʊˌleɪt/ *verb* to move, edit and change text or data ○ *An image processor that captures, displays and manipulates video images.*

**manipulation** /mə'nɪpjʊˌleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of moving or editing or changing text or data ○ *The high-speed database management program allows the manipulation of very large amounts of data.*

**man machine interface** /ˌmæn məˌʃiːn 'ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* full form of **MMI**

**mantissa** /mæn'tɪsə/ *noun* the fractional part of a number ○ *The mantissa of the number 45.897 is 0.897.*

**manual** /ˈmænjuəl/ *noun* a document containing instructions about the operation of a system or piece of software ○ *The manual is included with the system.* ■ *adjective* done by hand or carried out by the operator without the help of a machine

**manually** /ˈmænjuəli/ *adverb* done by hand, not automatically ○ *The paper has to be fed into the printer manually.*

**manufacture** /ˌmænjuˈfæktʃə/ *verb* to make in a factory ○ *The company manufactures diskettes and magnetic tape.*

**manufacturer** /ˌmænjuˈfæktʃərə/ *noun* a company which manufactures a product ○ *If the system develops a fault it should be returned to the manufacturer for checking.* ○ *The manufacturer guarantees the system for 12 months.*

**map** /mæp/ *noun* **1.** a diagram representing the internal layout of a computer's memory or communications regions **2.** data that is linked to another set of data **3.** a list of data items or objects within an application or multimedia book ■ *verb* **1.** to display how things are connected or related or derived from one another □ **to map out** to draw or set down the basic way in which something should be done **2.** to retrieve data and display it as a map **3.** to represent a network directory path on a remote computer with a local drive let-

ter, enabling a user to view the contents of the remote directory by simply typing in the drive letter rather than the often long and complex directory path **4**. to represent a network printer connected to another computer on a network with a local printer identifier, so a user can treat the remote network printer as if it is directly connected to their computer **5**. to connect to a disk drive or a printer that is connected to another computer on a network. ♢ **texture mapping** **6**. to transform a two-dimensional image into a three-dimensional form that can then be rotated or manipulated **7**. to transfer data from one region of memory to another; e.g., a graphic image is mapped in main memory and on the display **8**. to relate or link one set of data items with another. ♢ **bit-map** **9**. (*in an image*) to transform a graphical object from one coordinate system to another so that it can be displayed; e.g., to transform a three-dimensional wire frame model to a solid shaded object. ♢ **texture mapping**

**MAPI** /,em eɪ pi: 'aɪ/ *noun* a set of standards, developed by Microsoft, that defines how electronic mail is sent and delivered. Full form **mail application programming interface**

**margin** /'mɑ:dʒɪn/ *noun* **1**. the blank space around a section of printed text **2**. an extra time or space

**margination** /,mɑ:dʒɪn'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of giving margins to a printed page

**margin of error** /,mɑ:dʒɪn əv 'erə/ *noun* the number of mistakes that is acceptable in a document or in a calculation

**mark** /mɑ:k/ *noun* **1**. a sign put on a page to show something **2**. a transmitted signal that represents a logical one or true condition ■ *verb* to put a mark on something

**marker** /'mɑ:kə/ *noun* a code inserted in a file or text to indicate a special section

**mark up** /,mɑ:k 'ʌp/ *verb* to prepare copy for the compositor to set, by showing on the copy the typeface to be used, the line width, and other typesetting instructions

**markup language** /'mɑ:kʌp ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* a computer coding system that gives instructions relating to the layout and style to be used for a document

**marquee** /mɑ:'ki:z/ *noun* **1**. (*in graphics*) the area selected by a selection tool **2**. (*in a website*) a piece of text that moves slowly across the screen, used as a special feature of a webpage

**mask** /mɑ:sk/ *noun* **1**. an integrated circuit layout that is used to define the pattern to be etched or doped onto a slice of semiconductor ○ *A mask or stencil is used to transfer the transistor design onto silicon.* **2**. a pattern of

binary digits used to select various bits from a binary word. A one in the mask retains that bit in the word. **3**. a photographic device used to prevent light reaching selected areas of the film

**maskable** /'mɑ:skəb(ə)/ *adjective* that can be masked

**masking** /'mɑ:skɪŋ/ *noun* **1**. an operation used to select various bits in a word **2**. the adjustment of the colour balance by matrixing the RGB signals; this method is used to match colour film primaries to the television standard

**mass media** /,mæs 'mi:diə/ *noun* media which aim to reach a large public (such as television, radio, mass-market newspapers)

**mass production** /,mæs prə'dʌkʃən/ *noun* the process of manufacturing large quantities of goods ○ *mass production of monitors*

**mass storage** /,mæs 'stɔ:ɪdʒ/ *noun* the storage and retrieval of large amounts of data

**master** /'mɑ:stə/ *adjective* referring to the main or most important device or person in a system ○ *The master computer controls everything else.* ■ *noun (film)* a special positive print which is made from an original negative for duplication or protection instead of for projection ■ *adjective* referring to the most up-to-date and correct file ■ *noun (film)* **1**. the finished version of any type of programme from which release or show copies will be made **2**. output gain control on an audio mixer or video chain ■ *verb* to learn and understand a language or process ○ *We mastered the new word-processor quite quickly.*

**mastering** /'mɑ:stəɪŋ/ *noun* a process used to convert finished data to a master disc

**mat** /mæt/ *noun* a plain coloured border that is displayed around an image that is smaller than the window in which it is displayed

**match** /mætʃ/ *verb* **1**. to search through a database for a similar piece of information **2**. to set a register equal to another

**material** /mə'tɪəriəl/ *noun* a substance which can be used to make a finished product ○ *Gold is the ideal material for electrical connections.*

**math** /mæθ/ *noun* US same as **mathematics** (*informal*)

**mathematical** /,mæθə'mætɪk(ə)/ *adjective* referring to mathematics

**mathematical model** /,mæθə'mætɪk(ə)l 'mɒd(ə)/ *noun* a representation of a system using mathematical ideas and formulae

**mathematics** /,mæθə'mætɪks/ *noun* the study of the relationship between numbers, their manipulation and organisation to (logically) prove facts and theories. ♢ **algebra**. Also called **math**

**maths** /mæθs/ *noun* same as **mathematics** (*informal*)

**maths chip** /'mæθs ,tʃɪp/ *noun* a dedicated IC that can be added to a system to carry out mathematical functions far more rapidly than a standard CPU, speeding up the execution of a program

**maths coprocessor** /'mæθs kəʊ ,prəʊsesə/ *noun* same as **maths chip**

**matrix** /'meɪtrɪks/ *noun* **1.** an array of numbers or data items arranged in rows and columns **2.** an array of connections between logic gates providing a number of possible logical functions **3.** a pattern of the dots that make up a character on a computer screen, dot-matrix or laser printer **4.** a filmstrip of images which contains dyed emulsion and is combined with two other filmstrips on a film base to create colour film; **MATT** Character of a non-specular surface which mirrors light equally in all directions (*film*)

**matte** /mæt/, **matte** *noun* **1.** the addition of an image onto a film of a background **2.** an opaque mask limiting the picture area which is exposed in special effects; the mask can be a cut-out aperture, a high density image on film, or, in video, it may be electronically created in order to blank off the particular signal **3.** a device put before the camera which is used to soften or block light from sections of the action area, or from exposure in the printer ■ *adjective* (print) which is not shiny. ♢ **chroma key**

**matte** /mæt/ *noun* (*in video or film*) a specified region within an image, which can be coded to appear transparent or opaque. A matte is reveals or masks off part of an image in another plane, and is normally used for special effects in which an object is photographed against a specially coloured background that is then replaced with another image to give the impression that the object appears against that image. ♢ **chroma key**

**matte bleed** /,mæt 'bli:d/, **matte ride** /,mæt 'raɪd/ *noun* an abnormality in the matte image which causes the matte lines to become visible (*film*)

**matter** /'mætə/ *noun* **1.** a question or problem to be discussed **2.** the main section of text on a page as opposed to titles or headlines

**matting** /'mætɪŋ/ *noun* the process of inserting an image into a background, whether electronically or optically (*film*)

**MATV** *abbr* master antenna television system

**maximise** /'mæksɪmaɪz/, **maximize** *verb* (*in MS-Windows*) to expand an application icon back to its original display window. Compare **minimise**

**maximum** /'mæksɪmə/ *noun* the highest value used or that is allowed ■ *adjective* the greatest possible or allowable

**maximum transmission rate** /,mæksɪmə trænzmɪʃ(ə)n ,reɪt/ *noun* the greatest amount of data that can be transmitted every second

**maximum users** /,mæksɪmə 'ju:zəz/ *plural noun* the greatest number of users that a system can support at any one time

**Mb** *abbr* megabit

**MBR** /,em bi: 'ɑ:z/ *noun* a register in a CPU that temporarily buffers all inputs and outputs. Full form **memory buffer register**

**MC** *abbr* millicoulomb

**MCA** /,em si: 'eɪ/ a trade name for the expansion bus within IBM's PS/2 range of personal computers that has taken over from the older ISA/AT bus. MCA is a 32-bit bus that supports bus master devices. Full form **Micro Channel Architecture**

**MCGA** /,em si: dʒi: 'eɪ/ *noun* a colour graphics adapter standard fitted in low-end IBM PS/2 computers. Full form **multicolour graphics adapter**

**MCI** /,em si: 'aɪ/ *noun* an interface that allow any program to control a multimedia device such as a sound card or video clip. Full form **media control interface**

**MCI device** /,em si: 'aɪ dɪ,vaɪs/ *noun* a recognised multimedia device that is installed in a computer with the correct drivers

**MD** /,em 'di:/ *noun* a DOS command used to create a new directory on a disk. Full form **make directory**

**MDK** /,em di: 'keɪ/ *noun* a product developed by Microsoft that allows developers to produce multimedia applications more easily using the supplied libraries of routines to control video playback, process images and display text. Full form **multimedia developer's kit**

**MDRAM** /,em 'di: ræm/ *noun* a type of high-performance memory normally used in video adapter cards to provide fast graphic display. Full form **multibank dynamic random access memory**

**mean** /mi:n/ *noun, adjective* the average value of a set of numbers or values ■ *verb* to signify something ○ *The message DISK FULL means that there is no more room on the disk for further data.*

**mean time between failures** /,mi:n taɪm bɪ,twi:n 'feɪljəz/ *noun* full form of **MTBF**

**mean time to failure** /,mi:n taɪm tə 'feɪljə/ *noun* full form of **MTF**

**mean time to repair** /,mi:n 'taɪm tə ,tʊ/ *noun* full form of **MTTR**

**measure** /'meɜzə/ *noun* **1.** a way of calculating size or quantity **2.** the total width of a printed line of text **3.** a type of action □ **to take measures to prevent something happening** to act to stop something happening □ **safety measures** actions to make sure that something is safe ■ **verb** **1.** to find out the size or quantity of something **2.** to be of a certain size or quantity

**measurement** /'meɜzəmənt/ *noun* a way of judging something ○ *Performance measurement or measurement of performance is carried out by running a benchmark program.*

**mechanical** /mɪ'kæni:k(ə)/ *adjective* referring to machines

**mechanical mouse** /mɪ'kæni:k(ə)l maʊs/ *noun* pointing device that is operated by moving it across a flat surface. As the mouse is moved, a ball inside spins and turns two sensors that feed the horizontal and vertical movement back to the computer. Compare **optical mouse**

**mechanism** /'mekə,ni:z(ə)m/ *noun* a piece of machinery ○ *The printer mechanism is very simple.*

**media** /'mi:diə/ *plural noun* **1.** physical materials that can be used to store data ○ *Computers can store data on a variety of media, such as disk or CD-ROM.* **2.** the various means of transmitting information, including audio and video, television, radio, newspapers and magazines

**media access control** /,mi:diə 'ækses kən'trəʊl/ *noun* a sublayer within the data-link layer of the OSI network model that provides access to the transmission media. Abbr **MAC**

**media control interface** /,mi:diə kən'trəʊl 'ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* full form of **MCI**

**Media Player** /'mi:diə 'pleɪə/ a trade name for a Windows utility program that allows a user to control installed multimedia hardware including video disc or audio CDs, or play back multimedia files including sound, animation and video files

**MediaServer** /'mi:diə,sɜ:və/ a trade name for a system developed by Netscape to provide audio and video delivery over the Internet

**medium** /'mi:diəm/ *adjective* middle or average ○ *a medium-sized computer system* ■ *noun* a means of transmitting information (NOTE: The plural is **media** or **mediums**.)

**medium access control** /,mi:diəm 'ækses kən'trəʊl/ *noun* an IEEE 802 standard defining the protocol for data-link-level transmissions. Abbr **MAC**. † **data link layer**

**medium frequency** /,mi:diəm 'fri:kwənsi/ *noun* the radio frequency range

between 300 to 3000KHz (often referred to as medium wave (MW), especially on radio receivers)

**medium scale integration** /,mi:diəm skeɪl ,ɪn'tɪ'greɪtʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an integrated circuit with 10 – 500 components. Abbr **MSI**

**medium speed** /'mi:diəm spi:d/ *noun* a data communication speed between 2400 and 9600 bits per second (NOTE: Medium speed transmission describes the maximum rate of transfer for a normal voice grade channel.)

**medium wave** /'mi:diəm weɪv/ *noun* full form of **MW**

**meg** /meg/ *noun* same as **megabyte** (informal) ○ *This computer has a ninety-meg hard disk.*

**mega-** /megə/ *prefix* one million

**megabit** /'megəbɪt/ *noun* equal to 1,048,576 bits. Abbr **Mb**

**megabits per second** /,megəbɪts pɜ: 'sekənd/ *noun* a number of million bits transmitted every second. Abbr **Mbps**

**megabyte** /'megəbaɪt/ *noun* a measure of the data capacity of a storage device that is equal to 1,048,576 bytes or 2<sup>20</sup> bytes. Megabytes are used to measure the storage capacity of hard disk drives or main memory (RAM). Abbr **MB**

*'Doing this reduced a bitmap of my desktop from 2.25 megabytes to a 58K GIF' [The Guardian]*

**mega floating point instructions per second** /,megə 'fləʊtɪŋ pɔɪnt ɪn'strʌkʃənz pɜ: sɪ'kɒnd/ *noun* full form of **MFLOPS**

**megaflop** /'megəflɒp/ *noun* a measure of computing power and speed equal to one million floating point instructions per second. Abbr **MFLOPS**

**megahertz** /'megə,hɜ:ts/ *noun* a measure of frequency equal to one million cycles per second. Abbr **MHz**

**megapixel display** /,megəpɪks(ə)l dɪ'spleɪ/ *noun* a display adapter and monitor that are capable of displaying over one million pixels. This means a resolution of at least 1,024x1,024 pixels.

**Megastream** /'megəstri:m/ a trade name for a data link provided by British Telecom that offers data transfer at rates up to 8Mbps/second

**Mega VGA** /,megə vi: dʒi: 'eɪ/ *noun* a 256 colour Super VGA mode with a resolution of 1024x768 that requires one megabyte of video RAM

**member** /'membə/ *noun* **1.** one object on a page of a multimedia book **2.** an individual record or item in a field

**membrane keyboard** /,membreɪn 'ki:bə:d/ *noun* a keyboard that uses a thin

plastic or rubber sheet with key shapes moulded into it. When the user presses on a key, it activates a pressure sensor. (NOTE: The keys in a membrane keyboard have less travel than normal mechanical keys, but since they have no moving parts, they are more robust and reliable.)

**memo field** /'meməʊ fi:ld/ *noun* a field in a database or text window in an application that allows a user to add comments or a memo about the entry

**memorise** /'memə,raɪz/, **memorize** *verb* to remember or to retain in the memory

**memory** /'mem(ə)ri/ *noun* storage space in a computer system or medium that is capable of retaining data or instructions

'The lower-power design, together with an additional 8Kb of on-board cache memory, will increase the chip's performance to 75 million instructions per second.' [Computing]

'... when a program is loaded into memory, some is used for the code, some for the permanent data, and some is reserved for the stack which grows and shrinks for function calls and local data' [Personal Computer World]

**memory buffer register** /'mem(ə)ri ,bʌfə ,redʒɪstə/ *noun* full form of **MBR**

**memory-intensive software** /,mem(ə)ri ɪn'tensɪv 'sɒftweə/ *noun* software that uses large amounts of RAM or disk storage during run-time, such as programs whose entire code has to be in main memory during execution

**memory-resident software** /,mem(ə)ri ,rezɪd(ə)nt 'sɒftweə/ *noun* same as **resident software**

**memory stick** /'mem(ə)ri stɪk/ *noun* a tiny memory expansion device, developed by Sony, that can store up to 128Mb of data, often used in MP3 music players and digital cameras

**menu** /'menju:/ *noun* a list of options or programs available to the user

**menu-bar** /'menju: bɑ:/ *noun* (in a GUI) a list of options available to a user which are displayed on a horizontal line along the top of the screen or window. Each menu option activates a pull-down menu.

**menu-driven software** /,menju: ,drɪv(ə)n 'sɒftweə/ *noun* a program in which commands or options are selected from a menu by the operator rather than typed in by the user at a prompt

**menu item** /'menju: ,aɪtəm/ *noun* one of the choices in a menu

**menu selection** /'menju: sɪ'leɪkʃən/ *noun* the act of choosing commands from a list of options presented to the operator

**menu shortcut** /,menju: 'ʃɔ:tkʌt/ *noun* a key combination of two or more keys that is the same as selecting a menu option

**merchant account** /'mɜ:tʃənt ə,kəʊnt/ *noun* a bank account that enables its user to deposit payments made by credit card, used especially for trading on the Internet

**merge** /mɜ:ɪdʒ/ *verb* to combine two data files retaining an overall order ○ *The system automatically merges text and illustrations into the document.* (NOTE: **merges** – **merging** – **merged**)

**merge sort** /,mɜ:ɪdʒ 'sɔ:t/ *noun* a software application in which the sorted files are merged into a new file

**mesh** /meʃ/ *noun* any system with two or more possible paths at each interconnection

**message** /'mesɪdʒ/ *noun* **1.** a piece of information sent from one person to another **2.** a defined amount of information **3.** a code generated by an action or object and interpreted by another object ○ *If a user presses the mouse button it generates a 'button\_down' message that can then be interpreted by a user-interface or program.* **4.** text displayed to a user to report on a condition or program **5.** data that is sent to control an instrument

**message authentication code** /,mesɪdʒ ə:θentɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n kəʊd/ *noun* full form of **MAC**

**message format** /'mesɪdʒ ,fɔ:mæt/ *noun* a set of predetermined rules defining the coding, size and speed of transmitted messages

**messaging** /'mesɪdʒɪŋ/ *noun* the process of sending a message to other people, e.g. by computer, telephone or pager

**metafile** /'metəfaɪl/ *noun* **1.** a file that contains other files ○ *The operating system uses a metafile to hold data that defines where each file is stored on disk.* **2.** a file that defines or contains data about other files

**metalanguage** /'metə,læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* a language that describes a programming language

**meter** /'mi:tə/ *noun* **1.** a device which counts or records something ○ *an electricity meter* ○ *A meter attached to the photocopier records the number of copies made.* ♪ **multi-meter** **2.** an icon in the bottom right-hand corner of the status bar that indicates how much power is left in a laptop's battery and whether the laptop is running off battery or mains electricity power ■ *verb* to record and count ○ *The calls from each office are metered by the call logger.*

**metropolitan area network** /,metrəpɒlɪt(ə)n ,eəriə 'netwɜ:k/ *noun* full form of **MAN**

**MF** *abbr* medium frequency

**MFLOPS** /'em flɒps/ *noun* a measure of computing speed calculated as the number of floating point instructions that can be processed each second. Full form **mega floating point instructions per second**

**MFM** /,em ef 'em/ *noun* a method of storing data on magnetic media, e.g. a magnetic disk that encodes the data bit according to the state of the previous bit. Full form **modified frequency modulation** (NOTE: MFM is more efficient than FM, but less efficient than RLL encoding.)

**MHz** *abbr* megahertz

**MIC** *noun* a device which converts sound to an electrical analogue signal. Full form **microphone**

**MICR** /,em aɪ si: 'ɑ:/ *noun* a system that identifies characters by sensing magnetic ink patterns, as used on bank cheques. Full form **magnetic ink character recognition**

**Micro Channel Bus** /,maɪkrəʊ,tʃæn(ə)l 'bʌs/ a proprietary 32-bit expansion bus defined by IBM in its Micro Channel Architecture

**microcircuit** /'maɪkrəʊ,kɜ:kɪt/ *noun* a complex integrated circuit

**microcode** /'maɪkrəʊkəʊd/ *noun* a set of ALU control instructions implemented as hardwired software

**microcomputer** /'maɪkrəʊkəm,pju:tə/ *noun* a complete small-scale, cheap, low-power computer system based around a microprocessor chip and having limited memory capacity

COMMENT: Microcomputers are particularly used as home computers or as small office computers.

**microelectronics** /,maɪkrəʊɪlek 'trɒnɪks/ *noun* the design and manufacture of electronic circuits with integrated circuits and chips

**microfiche** /'maɪkrəʊ,fi:ʃ/ *noun* a sheet of text and graphics in highly reduced form on a photographic film

**microfilm** /'maɪkrəʊfɪlm/ *noun* a reel of film containing a sequence of very small images used for document storage ○ *We hold all our records on microfilm.* ■ *verb* to take very small photographs ○ *The 1985 records have been sent away for microfilming.*

**microfloppy** /'maɪkrəʊ,flɒpi/ *noun* a small size magnetic floppy disk, usually a 3.5 inch disk

**microform** /'maɪkrəʊfɔ:m/ *noun* a medium used for storing information in microimage form

**micrographics** /'maɪkrəʊ,græfɪks/ *noun* images and graphics stored as microimages

**microimage** /'maɪkrəʊ,ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* a graphical image too small to be seen with the naked eye

**microinstruction** /'maɪkrəʊɪn ,strʌkʃən/ *noun* a hardwired instruction, part of a microcode, that controls the actions of the ALU in a processor

**micron** /'maɪkrən/ *noun* one millionth of a metre

**microphone** /'maɪkrəfəʊn/ *noun* a device that converts sound waves into electrical signals

**microphotography** /,maɪkrəʊfə 'tɒgrəfi/ *noun* the photographic production of microimages (too small to be seen with the naked eye)

**microprocessor** /'maɪkrəʊ,prousesə/ *noun* a set of central processing unit elements, often contained on a single integrated circuit chip, which when combined with other memory and I/O chips will make up a microcomputer

**microprocessor unit** /'maɪkrəʊ ,prousesə ,ju:nɪt/ *noun* a unit containing the main elements of a microprocessor. *Abbr* MPU

**microsecond** /'maɪkrəʊ,sekənd/ *noun* one millionth of a second

**Microsoft** /'maɪkrəsɒft/ the biggest developer and publisher of software for the PC and Apple Mac. Microsoft developed the MS-DOS operating system for the IBM PC and later Windows together with a range of application software.

**Microsoft Compact Disc Extensions** /,maɪkrəsɒft ,kɒmpækt 'dɪsk ɪk ,stenʃ(ə)nɪz/ full form of **MSCDEX**

**Microsoft Exchange** /,maɪkrəsɒft ɪks 'tʃeɪndʒ/ a program included with Windows 95 that coordinates the email, fax and network messages sent and received on a PC

**Microsoft Exchange Server** /,maɪkrəsɒft ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ ,sɜ:və/ a program that runs on a server under Microsoft Windows NT and provides sophisticated groupware functions using the Exchange client software supplied with Windows 95

**Microsoft Internet Explorer** /,maɪkrəsɒft ,ɪntənɪt ɪks'plɔ:rə/ **Internet Explorer**

**Microsoft Network** /,maɪkrəsɒft 'netwɜ:k/ full form of **MSN**

**Microsoft Outlook** /,maɪkrəsɒft 'aʊtlʊk/ a trade name for an application that provides a range of features to manage email, fax messages, contacts, diary appointments, notes and projects

**Microsoft Outlook Express** /,maɪkrəsɒft ,aʊtlʊk ɪk'spres/ a trade name for a free version of Outlook that is normally

used for email (NOTE: It has fewer extra features for managing contacts and appointments than Microsoft Outlook.)

**Microsoft Windows** /ˌmaɪkrəʊsɒft 'wɪndəʊz/ same as **Windows**

**microwave** /ˌmaɪkrəweɪv/ *noun* the radio frequency range from 1 to 3000GHz

**microwave communications link** /ˌmaɪkrəweɪv kəˌmjuːnɪ'keɪʃ(ə)nɪz ˌlɪŋk/ *noun* the use of a microwave beam to transmit data between two points

**microwave relay** /ˌmaɪkrəweɪv ˌriːleɪ/ *noun* radiocommunications equipment used to receive microwave signals, then boost and retransmit them

**microwave transmission** /ˌmaɪkrəweɪv trænʒ'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* communication using modulated microwaves allowing high data rates, used for international telephone and satellite communications

**middle and side microphone** /ˌmɪd(ə)l ən saɪd 'maɪkrəfəʊn/ *noun* full form of **M and S microphone**

**MID-F1** /ˌmɪd ef 'wɪn/ *noun* (in CD-i) mid-quality sound at Level B. ⇧ **Level B**

**MIDI** /'mɪdi/ *noun* a serial interface that connects electronic instruments. Full form **musical instrument digital interface** (NOTE: The MIDI interface carries signals from a controller or computer that instructs the different instruments to play notes.)

**MIDI channel** /'mɪdi ˌtʃæ'n(ə)l/ *noun* any one of 15 independent connections that is supported by the MIDI system, allowing 16 different electronic devices to be connected to one main sequencer

**MIDI control-change message** /ˌmɪdi kən'trəʊl tʃeɪndʒ ˌmesɪdʒ/ *noun* a message sent to a synthesiser to control the volume or pitch of a sound or to change the instrument patch used to generate a sound

**MIDI device** /'mɪdi ɰiˌvaɪs/ *noun* a device that can receive or send MIDI data

**MIDI file** /'mɪdi faɪl/ *noun* a file format used to store a MIDI song, made up of notes and control-change messages (NOTE: It usually has a MID file extension.)

**MIDI time code** /ˌmɪdi ˈtaɪm kəʊd/ *noun* full form of **MTC**

**mid-user** /'mɪd ˌjuːzə/ *noun* an operator who retrieves relevant information from a database for a customer or end user

**migrate** /maɪ'greɪt/ *verb* to transfer a file from one computer system or database to another (NOTE: **migrates – migrating – migrated**)

**migration** /maɪ'greɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of moving users from one hardware platform to another

**millennium bug** /mɪˈleɪniəm bʌg/ *noun* the inability to handle dates later than 1999. This problem, which came to light in the 1990s, affected old hardware and software that stored dates as two digits, with the '19' being assumed. Such dates would not move to '2000' at the turn of the millennium but would revert to '1900', with unpredictable and possibly serious results for the affected systems. In the event, the affected systems were nearly all modified in time. There were very few problems when the year 2000 arrived, and the more apocalyptic predictions did not come to pass.

**milli-** /mɪli/ *prefix* one thousandth. Abbr **m**  
**million instructions per second** /ˌmɪljən ɪnˌstrʌkʃənz pɜː sɪ'kəʊnd/ *noun* full form of **MIPS**

**millisecond** /'mɪliˌsekənd/ *noun* one thousandth of a second. Abbr **ms**

**MIME** /ˌem ət em ˈiː/ *noun* a standard that defines a way of sending files using email software. Full form **multipurpose Internet mail extensions**

COMMENT: MIME allows a user to send files over the Internet to another user without having to carry out any other encoding or conversion actions. MIME was developed to get around a problem of many email systems that could only transmit text which is stored in a 7-bit data format; programs, multimedia, graphics and other files are stored using an 8-bit data format.

**mini** /'mɪni/ *noun* same as **minicomputer**

**mini-** /mɪni/ *prefix* small

**minicam** /'mɪnɪkæm/ *noun* a hand-held, lightweight video camera (*film*)

**minicomputer** /'mɪnɪkəmˌpjʊːtə/ *noun* a small computer with a greater range of instructions and processing power than a microcomputer but not able to compete with the speed or data-handling capacity of a mainframe computer. Also called **mini**

**minidisk** /'mɪnɪdɪsk/ *noun* a magnetic disk smaller than the 5.25 inch standard, usually 3.5 inch

**minimise** /'mɪnɪmaɪz/, **minimize** *verb* 1. to make something as small as possible ○ *We minimised costs by cutting down the number of components.* 2. (in *Windows*) to shrink an application window to an icon. Compare **maximise** (NOTE: **minimises – minimising – minimised**)

COMMENT: The application can continue to run in the background. You minimise a window by clicking once on the down arrow in the top right hand corner.

**minimum** /'mɪnɪməm/ *noun* the smallest amount of something (NOTE: The plural is **minimums** or **minima**.)

**minmax** /'mɪnɪmæks/ *noun* a method used in artificial intelligence to solve problems

**minuend** /'mɪnɪjʊ:ɛnd/ *noun* a number from which another is subtracted

**minus** /'maɪnəs/, **minus sign** /'maɪnəs saɪn/ *noun* a printed or written sign, like a small dash, to indicate subtraction or to show a negative value

**minuscule** /'mɪnɪskju:l/ *noun* a lower case printed character

**MIPS** /mɪps/ *noun* a measure of processor speed that defines the number of instructions it can carry out per second. Full form **million instructions per second**. Compare **megaflop**

'ICL has staked its claim to the massively parallel market with the launch of the Goldrush MegaServer, providing up to 16,000 Unix MIPS of processing power.' [Computing]

**mirror** /'mɪrə/ *verb* **1.** to create an identical copy of something **2.** to duplicate all disk operations onto a second disk drive that can be used if the first breaks down ○ *There's less chance of losing our data now that we have mirrored the server's disk drive.*

'Network-attached storage systems which aim to make it easy to mirror data between units' [The Guardian]

**mirroring** /'mɪrəɪŋ/ *noun* the rotation of an image by 180 degrees to produce its mirror image

'...they also offer mirror-disk protection against disk failure, providing automatic backup of a database disks are also mirrored so that the system can continue to run in the event of a disk crash mirroring of the database is handled automatically by systems software' [Computer News]

**mirror site** /'mɪrə saɪt/ *noun* an exact copy of a website kept on a different file server so that the main site does not become overloaded and its data is protected against loss if there is a hardware or software failure

**MIS** *abbr* **1.** management information service **2.** management information system

**mismatch** /'mɪsmætʃ/ *noun* a situation occurring when two things are not correctly matched

**mission-critical** /,mɪʃ(ə)n 'krɪtɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to an application or hardware on which a company depends

**mix** /mɪks/ *noun* **1.** the creative blending together of audio or video sources **2.** a visual effect which is similar to a dissolve ■ *verb* to combine several separate signals into a single signal □ **to mix down** to combine the signals from several sources such as a number of recorded audio tracks *or* instruments into a single signal

**mixer** /'mɪksə/ *noun* an electronic circuit used to combine two or more separate signals into a single output

**mixing** /'mɪksɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the process of combining several audio signals into a single signal **2.** the process of printing a line of text with several different typefaces

**mixing studio** /'mɪksɪŋ ,stju:diəʊ/ *noun* a room with audio mixers and sound processors used when recording music

**MJPEG** /,em 'dʒeɪ pɛɡ/ *noun* a version of the JPEG image compression system that supports video. Full form **motion JPEG**

**MKDIR** *abbr* make directory. † **MD**

**MKS** *noun* a widely used measurement system based on the metre, kilogram and second. Full form **metre kilogram second**. † **SI units**

**MMMA** *abbr* MIDI manufacturers association **MMC** /,em em 'si:/ *noun* a compact memory expansion device that includes digital copyright control features and is often used in MP3 music players and digital cameras. Full form **multimedia card**. Also called **SD card**

**MME** *abbr* multimedia extensions

**MMI** /,em em 'aɪ/ *noun* hardware and software designed to make it easier for users to communicate effectively with a machine. Full form **man machine interface**

**MMX** a trade name for an enhanced Intel processor chip that includes special features and components that are used to improve the performance when dealing with multimedia and communications. Full form **multimedia extensions**

**mnemonic** /nɪ'mɒnɪk/ *noun* a shortened form of a word or function that is helpful as a reminder, e.g. INCA for increment register A

**mnemonic keyboard shortcut** /nɪ ,mɒnɪk ,ki:bɔ:d ,ʃɔ:t'kʌt/ *noun* a shortcut to a menu option or function by pressing a special key sequence

**mobile** /'məʊbaɪl/ *adjective* **1.** which can move about **2.** meaning a travelling radio base such as a car transceiver (*informal*)

**mobile earth terminal** /,məʊbaɪl 'ɜ:θ ,tɜ:mɪn(ə)l/ *noun* satellite communications equipment that is mobile

**mobile phone** /,məʊbaɪl 'fəʊn/ *noun* a small, portable device that lets someone make and receive telephone calls. Also called **cellular phone**

COMMENT: Older mobile phone standards transmitted the user's voice as an analog radio signal; current phones convert the voice to digital data and transmit this via a radio signal. New mobile phones provide data and messaging services as well as basic telephone functions: some include built-in modems to provide dial-up access to the Internet, many allow text messages to be transmitted to other phone users and some incorporate an electronic diary, organiser and address book. Current mobile

telephones transmit information using the GSM, PCS or GPRS standard and can provide basic Internet access using WAP and GPRS.

**mobile radiophone** /,məʊbaɪl 'reɪdiəʊfəʊn/ *noun* a radio telephone linked to a main telephone system, which uses a network of stations, each covering a certain area, to provide a service over a large area

**mobile unit** /,məʊbaɪl 'ju:ni:t/ *noun* a complete set of television filming and editing equipment carried in a vehicle (for outside broadcasts)

**mock-up** /'mɒk ʌp/ *noun* a model of a new product for testing or to show to possible customers

**MOD** /mɒd/ *noun* the remainder after the division of one number by another. Full form **modulus**

**modal** /'mɒd(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** referring to modes ○ *Dialog boxes are normally modal windows.* **2.** (in Windows) referring to a window that is displayed and does not allow a user to do anything outside it

**mode** /məʊd/ *noun* **1.** a way of doing something **2.** the number of paths taken by light when travelling down an optical fibre **3.** the number that occurs most frequently in a series of samples

'The approach being established by the Jeduc committee provides for burst mode data transfer clocked at up to 100MHz.' [Computing]

**Mode 1** /'mɒd wʌn/ *noun* an encoding format used on compact discs that has error-detection and -correction codes

**Mode 2** /'mɒd tu:/ *noun* an encoding format with two forms, form 1, which is the same as Mode 1, and form 2, which requires no processing and allows data to be sent straight to the output channel

**model** /'mɒd(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** a small copy of something to show what it will look like when finished ○ *He showed us a model of the new computer centre building.* **2.** a style, type or version of a product ○ *The new model B has taken the place of model A.* ■ *adjective* which is a perfect example to be copied ○ *a model agreement* ■ *verb* to make a computerised model of a new product or of a system, e.g. the economic system (NOTE: **modelling** – **modelled**. The US spellings are **modeling** – **modeled**.)

**modelling** /'mɒd(ə)lɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the process of creating computer models **2.** the process of colouring and shading a (normally wire-frame or vecto) graphic object so that it looks solid and real

**modem** /'məʊ,dem/, **MODEM** *noun* a device that allows data to be sent over telephone lines by converting binary signals from a

computer into analog sound signals which can be transmitted over a telephone line. Full form **modulator/demodulator**

'AST Research has bundled together a notebook PC with a third-party PCMCIA fax modem technology for a limited-period special offer.' [Computing]

COMMENT: The process of converting binary signals to analog is called 'modulation'. When the signal is received, another converter reverses the process (called 'demodulation'). Both parts must be working according to the same standards.

**modem standards** /'məʊdem ,stændədz/ *plural noun* rules defining transmitting frequencies and other factors which allow different modems to communicate

**moderated newsgroup** /,mɒd(ə)rətɪd 'nju:zgru:p/ *noun* a newsgroup in which a moderator reads all the material that has been submitted before it is published in the newsgroup (NOTE: Most newsgroups are not moderated and anyone can write anything. Moderated newsgroups usually have a '-d' after their name.)

**moderator** /'mɒdə,reɪtə/ *noun* a person responsible for reading messages sent to a mailing list or newsgroup and editing any messages that do not conform to the rules of the list, e.g. by deleting commercial messages

**modification** /,mɒdɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a change made to something ○ *The modifications to the system allow it to be run as part of a LAN.*

**modifier** /'mɒdɪ,fəɪə/ *noun* a programming instruction that alters the normal action of a command

**modify** /'mɒdɪ,fai/ *verb* to change something or make something fit a different use ○ *The keyboard was modified for European users.* (NOTE: **modifies** – **modifying** – **modified**)

**Modula-2** /,mɒdjʊlə 'tu:/ *noun* a high-level programming language derived from Pascal that supports modular programming techniques and data abstraction

**modular** /'mɒdjʊlə/ *adjective* referring to a method of constructing hardware or software products by connecting several smaller blocks together to produce a customised product

**modularisation, modularization** *noun* the process of designing programs from a set of standard modules

**modularity** /,mɒdjʊ'lærɪti/ *noun* the state or fact of being made up from modules ○ *The modularity of the software or hardware allows the system to be changed.*

**modular programming** /,mɒdjʊlə 'prəʊgræmɪŋ/ *noun* programming with

small individually written sections of computer code that can be made to fit into a structured program and can be called up from a main program

**modulate** /'mɒdjʊ,leɪt/ *verb* to change a carrier wave so that it can carry data (NOTE: **modulates** – **modulating** – **modulated**)

**modulation** /,mɒdju'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of varying a carrier's amplitude or frequency or phase according to an applied signal

**modulator** /'mɒdjuleɪtə/ *noun* an electronic circuit that varies a carrier signal according to an applied signal

**modulator/demodulator** /,mɒdjuleɪtə di:'mɒdjuleɪtə/ *noun* full form of **modem**

**module** /'mɒdju:l/ *noun* **1.** a small section of a large program that can, if required, function independently as a program in its own right **2.** a self-contained piece of hardware that can be connected with other modules to form a new system ○ *A multifunction analog interface module includes analog-to-digital and digital-to-analog converters.* **3.** a system for imprinting a signal on a radio frequency carrier (*film*) **4.** a system for producing audio effects where one sound is modulated by another (*film*)

**modulo arithmetic** /'mɒdjuləs ə ,rɪθmətɪk/ *noun* a branch of arithmetic that uses the remainder of one number when divided by another

**modulus** /'mɒdjʊləs/ *noun* full form of **MOD** ○  $7 \text{ mod } 3 = 1$

**moiré** /'mwa:reɪ/ *noun* **1.** picture distortion which is caused by interference beats of similar frequencies **2.** an unwanted watery effect which is created by a set of closely spaced lines which are placed over another set (seen in film or prints). ◇ **screen angle**

**moiré effect** /'mwa:reɪ ɪ'fekt/ *noun* an interference pattern caused by printing with the wrong screen angle

**momentary switch** /'mɒmənt(ə)rɪ swɪtʃ/ *noun* a switch that only conducts while it is being pressed

**monitor** /'mɒnɪtə/ *noun* **1.** a VDU used to display high quality text or graphics, generated by a computer **2.** a system that watches for faults or failures in a circuit **3.** a loudspeaker used to listen to the sound signals produced during recording or mixing **4.** a TV screen in a TV studio control room, which shows the image being filmed by one of the cameras **5.** a computer program that allows basic commands to be entered to operate a system, such as load a program, examine the state of devices, etc. ■ *verb* **1.** to check or to examine how something is working ○ *He is monitoring the progress of the trainee programmers.* **2.** to

look after and supervise a process or experiment to make sure it is operating correctly ○ *The machine monitors each signal as it is sent out.*

**mono-** /'mɒnəʊ/ *prefix* single or one

**monaural** /,mɒnəʊ'ɔ:ɪrəl/ *adjective* having one source of sound or one sound signal. Compare **stereo**

**monochromatic** **light**  
/,mɒnəʊkrəmətɪk 'kɒlə/ *noun* light of a single colour (*film*)

**monochrome** /'mɒnəkrəʊm/ *adjective, noun* referring to an image in one colour, usually shades of grey and black and white

**monochrome display adapter**  
/,mɒnəkrəʊm dɪ'spleɪ ə,dæptə/ *noun* a video adapter standard used in early PC systems that could display text in 25 lines of 80 columns. Abbr **MDA**

**monochrome monitor** /,mɒnəkrəʊm 'mɒnɪtə/ *noun* a computer monitor that displays text and graphics in black, white and shades of grey instead of colours

**monolithic** /, mɒnə'liθɪk/ *adjective* (of an *integrated circuit*) manufactured on a single crystal of semiconductor

**monolithic driver** /,mɒnəliθɪk 'draɪvə/ *noun* a piece of driver software that has a range of different functions or applications within one program

**monomode fibre** /'mɒnəʊmɒd ,faɪbə/ *noun* same as **single mode fibre**

**monoprogramming system** /'mɒnəʊ ,prəʊgræmɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a computer batch processing system that executes one program at a time. Compare **multi-programming system**

**monospaced** /'mɒnəʊspeɪst/ *adjective* referring to a font in which each character has the same width. Compare **proportionally spaced**

**montage** /'mɒntɑ:ʒ/ *noun* **1.** a series of quickly changing images, sometimes with general pictures seen simultaneously on the screen **2.** the process of combining several still or video images

**Monte Carlo method** /,mɒntɪ 'kɑ:ləʊ ,meθəd/ *noun* a statistical analysis technique

**MOO** *noun* a virtual space in which participants can discuss a topic online. Full form **multiuser domain, object-oriented**

**morphing** /'mɔ:ʃɪŋ/ *noun* a special effect used in multimedia and games in which one image gradually turns into another

**Morse code** /,mɔ:s 'kɒd/ *noun* a system of signalling using only two symbols: dots and dashes □ **morse key** switch used to send morse messages by hand

**mosaic** /məʊ'zeɪk/ *noun* **1.** a display character used in videotext systems that is made up of small dots **2.** a light-sensitive surface of a television camera pick-up tube which is scanned by the electron beam

**Mosaic** /məʊ'zeɪk/ a trade name for a popular browser software used to view webpages on the Internet

**most significant bit** /,məʊst sɪg ,nɪfɪkənt 'bɪt/ *noun* full form of **msb** ○ *The most significant bit in an eight bit binary word represents 128 in decimal notation.*

**most significant digit** /məʊst sɪg ,nɪfɪkənt 'dɪdʒɪt/, **most significant character** /məʊst sɪg ,nɪfɪkənt 'kærɪktə/ *noun* full form of **MSD**

**motherboard** /'mʌðəbɔ:d/ *noun* the main printed circuit board of a system, containing most of the components and connections for expansion boards and other features

**motion blur** /'məʊʃ(ə)n blɜ:/ *noun* the blurring of an object that moves too fast to be frozen by the camera

**motion control** /,məʊʃ(ə)n kən'trəʊl/ *noun* a computer that allows a user to control all the aspects of a camera to allow special effects in video or still images

**motion JPEG** /,məʊʃ(ə)n 'dʒeɪ ,peg/ *noun* full form of **MJPEG**

**motion picture** /,məʊʃ(ə)n 'pɪktʃə/ *noun* a series of still pictures (each slightly different) which give an object the appearance of motion when projected on to a screen

**motion-picture camera** /'məʊʃ(ə)n ,pɪktʃə ,kæm(ə)rə/ *noun* a box with lens, shutter, viewfinder and film advance system in which motion-picture film is exposed

**motion picture experts group** /,məʊʃ(ə)n ,pɪktʃə 'ekspɜ:ts gru:p/ *noun* full form of **MPEG**

**motion-picture film** /'məʊʃ(ə)n ,pɪktʃə fɪlm/ *noun* light-sensitive film which is used in a motion picture camera

**motor** /'məʊtə/ *noun* an electromagnetic machine that converts an electrical supply into (rotary) motion (by means of a magnetic field)

**mount** /maʊnt/ *verb* **1.** to fix a device or circuit onto a base ○ *The chips are mounted in sockets on the PCB.* **2.** to insert a disk in a disk drive or inform an operating system that a disk drive is ready to be used

**mouse** /maʊs/ *noun* a small hand-held input device moved on a flat surface to control the position of a cursor on the screen (NOTE: The plural is **mice** or **mouses**.)

'This project has now borne fruit, with the announcement last week of Windots, a project which allows users to 'see' Windows screens in a Braille form of Ascii. Other areas of research in-

clude a sound system which allows a sound to 'move', mirroring the movement of a mouse.'

[*Computing*]

**mouse acceleration** /,maʊs ək,sələ 'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a feature of some mouse driver software that will move the mouse pointer at different speeds according to the speed at which you move the mouse rather than the distance

**mouse driver** /'maʊs ,draɪvə/ *noun* a program which converts positional data sent from a mouse to a standard form of coordinates that can be used by any software

**mouse pointer** /'maʊs ,pɔɪntə/ *noun* a small arrow displayed on screen that moves around as the mouse is moved

**movable** /'mu:vəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be moved

**move** /mu:v/ *verb* to change the position of something

**movement** /'mu:vmənt/ *noun* the act of changing position or of changing the position of something

**movie file** /'mu:vi faɪl/ *noun* a file stored on disk that contains a series of images that make up an animation or video clip

**movie ID** /,mu:vi ,aɪ'di:/ *noun* a unique ID number assigned to a movie in Movie Player – each separate instance has a different ID number

**Movie Player** /,mu:vi 'pleɪə/ *noun* a Windows utility that can playback AVI-format video clips or movie files with the MMM extension

**Movie Player instance** /,mu:vi 'pleɪə 'ɪnstəns/ *noun* one copy of the Movie Player program that is running

**Moving Pictures Expert Group** /,mu:vɪŋ ,pɪktʃəs 'ekspɜ:t ,gru:p/ *noun* full form of **MPEG**

**MP3** /,em pi: 'θri:/ *noun* a way of encoding digital audio data into a compressed data format that is approximately one twelfth the size of the original without perceptible loss of quality. MP3 files (that normally have the file name extension 'MP3') are now one of the most popular ways of storing and distributing music over the Internet. Because MP3 files are compact and easy to copy, they are relatively quick to download and very easy to distribute – which is causing problems for the original artists who are trying to protect their copyright material. Once you have an MP3 file you can listen to it by opening it and playing it with special software on your computer or by transferring it to a dedicated pocket-sized device that stores the file in its memory, has no moving parts and but can play back CD-quality music. Full form **MPEG audio level 3**

COMMENT: MP3 files, which usually have the file name extension MP3, are now one of the most popular ways of storing and distributing music over the Internet. Because MP3 files are compact and easy to copy, they are relatively quick to download and very easy to distribute, which is causing problems for the original artists who are trying to protect their copyright material. Once you have an MP3 file you can listen to it by opening it and playing it with special software on your computer or by transferring it to a dedicated pocket-sized device that stores the file in its memory, and has no moving parts but that can play back CD-quality music

**MPC** /,em pi: 'si:/ *noun* an outdated set of minimum requirements for a PC that will allow it to run most multimedia software. Full form **multimedia PC**

**MPEG** /'em peg/ *noun* a group of developers that have defined a series of standards to improve audio and video quality but at the same time increase data compression so that the audio or video information takes less space but retains its quality. Full form **Moving Pictures Expert Group**.  $\diamond$  **JPEG** (NOTE: MPEG is often used to compress video clips and its derivative standard MP3 provides one of the most popular ways of compressing and storing audio information, while JPEG provides a popular way to store compressed still images.)

**MPEG audio level 3** /,em peg ,ɔ:diəʊ 'lev(ə)l 'θri:/ *noun* full form of **MP3**

**MPPP** /,em pi: pi: 'pi:/ *noun* communications protocol used with ISDN to link the two B-channels in a standard ISDN adapter to create a transmission channel that can transfer data at a higher speed. Full form **multi-link point to point protocol**

**MPU** *abbr* microprocessor unit

**ms** *abbr* millisecond

**msb** /,em es 'bi:/, **MSB** *noun* a bit in a word that represents the greatest value or weight, usually the bit furthest to the left. Full form **most significant bit**

**MSCDEX** /,em es si: di: 'eks/ *noun* driver software installed on a PC to allow DOS and Windows to control a CD-ROM drive. Full form **Microsoft Compact Disc Extensions**

**MSD** /,em es 'di:/ *noun* the digit at the far left of a number, which represents the greatest power of the base. Full form **most significant digit**

**MS-DOS** /,em es 'dɒs/ a trade name for an operating system for the IBM PC range of personal computers that managed data storage onto disks, display output and user input. Windows supports MS-DOS programs through the Command Prompt, which emu-

lates MS-DOS. Full form **Microsoft DOS** (NOTE: MS-DOS is a single-user, single-tasking operating system that is controlled by a command-line interface.)

**MSF time format** /,em es ef 'tai ,fɔ:mæt/ *noun* a time format that counts frames per second used by MCI, usually used by CD-audio devices, in which there are 75 frames per second

**MSI** *abbr* medium scale integration

**M signal** /'em ,sɪgn(ə)l/ *noun* a signal produced from the sum of left and right signals in a stereophonic system

**MSN** a trade name for an Internet portal. Full form **Microsoft Network**

**MS-Windows** /,em es 'wɪndəʊz/ same as **Windows**

**MSX** /,em es 'eks/ *noun* a hardware and software standard for home computers that can use interchangeable software

**MTBF** /,em ti: bi: 'ef/ *noun* the average period of time that a piece of equipment will operate between failures. Full form **mean time between failures**

**MTC** /,em ti: 'si:/ *noun* a system of messages used to synchronise MIDI sequences with an external device, e.g. an SMPTE time code. Full form **MIDI time code**

**MTF** /,em ti: 'ef/ *noun* the average period of time for which a device will operate, usually continuously, before failing. Full form **mean time to failure**

**MTTR** /,em ti: ti: 'ɑ:/ *noun* the average period of time required to repair a faulty piece of equipment. Full form **mean time to repair**

**MUA** /,em ju: 'eɪ/ *noun* software used to create and read email messages that creates a message in the correct format and standard and passes this to the mail transfer agent that is responsible for transferring the message over the network. Full form **mail user agent**

**MUD** /,em ti: 'eɪ/ *noun* **1.** a virtual online space in which several people can participate in collaborative projects at the same time. Full form **multiuser domain** **2.** an adventure game played by multiple users over the Internet. Full form **multiuser dungeon**

**multi-** /mʌlti/ *prefix* many or more than one  
 ○ *multimegabyte memory card*

**multi-access system** /,mʌlti ,ækses 'sɪstəm/ *noun* a computer system that allows several users to access one file or program at the same time. Also called **multiple access system**

**multibank dynamic random access memory** /,mʌlti'bæŋk daɪ'næmɪk ,rændəm ,ækses 'mɛm(ə)rɪ/ *noun* full form of **MDRAM**

**multi-board computer** /,mʌltɪ bɔ:d kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* a computer which has several integrated circuit boards connected with a motherboard

**multiburst signal** /,mʌltɪbɜ:st 'sɪgn(ə)/ *noun* a television test signal

**multicast** /'mʌltɪkɑ:st/ *verb* to transmit one message to a group of recipients

COMMENT: This could be as simple as sending an email message to a list of email addresses or posting a message to a mailing list. It can also refer to more complex transfers such as a teleconference or videoconference in which several users link together by telephone or video link. A broadcast, in comparison, refers to the process of sending a message to anyone who could receive the message rather than a select group of recipients. Narrowcasting is very similar in concept to a multicasting, but is normally used to refer to the concept, whereas multicasting refers to the technology used.

**multicasting** /'mʌltɪkɑ:stɪŋ/ *noun* the process of broadcasting to a number of receivers or nodes, with an address in each message to indicate the node required

**multichannel** /,mʌltɪ'tʃæn(ə)/ *adjective* with more than one channel

**multicolour** /,mʌltɪ'kɒlə/ *adjective* with several colours

**multicolour graphics adapter** /,mʌltɪkɒlə 'græfɪks ə,dæptə/ *noun* full form of **MCGA**

**multidimensional** /,mʌltɪdaɪ'menʃən(ə)/ *adjective* with features in more than one dimension

**multi-disk** /,mʌltɪ 'dɪsk/ *adjective* referring to several types of disk

**multidrop circuit** /'mʌltɪdrɒp 'sɜ:kɪt/ *noun* a network allowing communications between a number of terminals and a central computer, but not directly between terminals

**multifrequency** /,mʌltɪ'fri:kwənsi/ *noun* □ **dual tone, multifrequency (DTMF)** communication signalling system using two different frequencies to transmit binary data

**multifunction** /,mʌltɪ'fʌŋkʃən(ə)/, **multifunctional** *adjective* which has several functions ○ A *multifunction analog interface module* includes analog to digital and digital to analog converters.

**multifunctional** /,mʌltɪ'fʌŋkʃən(ə)/ *adjective* which has several functions ○ a *multifunctional scanner*

**multiline** /,mʌltɪ'laɪn/ *adjective* in a text box, referring to a display of text broken into several lines rather than as a single continuous line. Also called **multiple line**

**multilink system** /'mʌltɪlɪŋk ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a system in which there is more than one connection between two points

**multimedia** /,mʌltɪ'mɪ:diə/ *adjective* combining sound, graphics, animation, video and text within an application

'The Oracle Media Server is a multimedia database designed to run on massively parallel computers, running hundreds of transactions per second and managing multiple data types, such as video, audio and text.' [Computing]

**multimedia card** /,mʌltɪmɪ:diə 'kɑ:d/ *noun* full form of **MMC**

**multimedia developer's kit** /,mʌltɪmɪ:diə drɪ'veləpəz kɪt/ *noun* full form of **MDK**

**multimedia extensions** /,mʌltɪmɪ:diə ɪk'stɛnʃ(ə)nɪz/ *plural noun* full form of **MMX**

**multimedia PC** /,mʌltɪmɪ:diə ,pi: 'si:/ *noun* full form of **MPC**

**multimedia-ready** /,mʌltɪmɪ:diə 'redi/ *adjective* referring to a PC that has all the extra equipment requirement to run most multimedia software

**multimeter** /'mʌltɪmɪ:tə/ *noun* testing equipment that provides an indication of the voltage or current or impedance at a point or of a component. Abbr **AMM**

**multimode fibre** /,mʌltɪmɒd 'faɪbə/ *noun* a commonly used type of optic fibre that uses a glass fibre with a diameter of between 50 and 125 microns and can carry several different frequencies of light with a maximum bandwidth of 2.5 Gbps (NOTE: The disadvantage is that because the fibre is wide, the light disperses quickly and so repeaters need to be installed to boost the signal.)

**multipass overlap** /,mʌltɪpɑ:s 'əʊvələp/ *noun* a system of producing higher quality print from a dot matrix printer by repeating the line of characters but shifted slightly, so making the dots less noticeable

**multi platform** /,mʌltɪ 'plæt,fɔ:m/ *adjective* referring to software that can run on several different hardware platforms

**multiple** /'mʌltɪp(ə)/ *adjective* having many parts

**multiple access system** /,mʌltɪp(ə)l 'ækses ,sɪstəm/ *noun* same as **multi-access system**

**multiple base page** /,mʌltɪp(ə)l beɪs 'peɪdʒ/ *noun* a multi-user system in which each user and the operating system have one page of main memory, which can then call up other pages within main memory

**multiple line** /,mʌltɪp(ə)l 'laɪn/ *adjective* same as **multiline**

**multiplex** /'mʌltɪpleks/ *verb* to combine several messages in the same transmission medium

**multiplexing** /'mʌltɪpleksɪŋ/ *noun* the process of combining several messages in the same transmission medium

**multiplexor** /'mʌltɪpleksə/ *noun* full form of **MUX** ○ A 4 to 1 multiplexor combines four inputs into a single output.

**multiplication** /,mʌltɪplɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a mathematical operation that adds one number to itself a number of times ○ The multiplication of 5 and 3 = 15.

**multiply** /'mʌltɪ,plaɪ/ *verb* to perform the mathematical operation of multiplication (NOTE: **multiplies** – **multiplying** – **multiplied**)

**multiport** /'mʌltɪpɔɪnt/ *adjective* referring to a connection with several lines, attaching several terminals to a single line to a single computer

**multiprocessing system** /,mʌltɪ'prəʊsesɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a system where several processing units work together sharing the same memory

**multiprocessor** /'mʌltɪ,prəʊsesə/ *noun* a number of processing units acting together or separately but sharing the same area of memory

**multi-programming system** /,mʌltɪ'prəʊgræmɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* an operating system used to execute more than one program apparently simultaneously, each program being executed a little at a time. Compare **monoprogramming system**

**multipurpose Internet mail extensions** /,mʌltɪpɜ:pəs ,ɪntənət 'meɪl ɪk ,stenʃ(ə)nz/ *noun* full form of **MIME**

**multisession** /'mʌltɪseɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a CD-ROM which has had data stored onto it at different times (each time is called a session). This normally applies to PhotoCD discs – if the PhotoCD is not full, you can add extra images to it: this is a multisession disc because it contains images added after the first session.

**multisession-compatible**

/,mʌltɪseɪʃ(ə)n kəm'pætɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to a CD-ROM drive that can read PhotoCD discs or other discs that have been created in several goes

**MultiSync™ monitor** /,mʌltɪsɪŋk 'mɒnɪtə/ *noun* a monitor which contains circuitry to lock onto the required scanning frequency of any type of graphics card

**multitasking** /'mʌltɪ,tɑ:skɪŋ/ *noun* the ability of a computer system to run two or more programs at the same time ○ The system is multi-user and multi-tasking.

'X is the underlying technology which allows Unix applications to run under a multi-user, multitasking GUI. It has been adopted as the standard for the Common Open Software Environment, proposed recently by top Unix vendors including Digital, IBM and Sun.' [*Computing*]

COMMENT: Few small systems are capable of simultaneous multitasking, since each program would require its own processor. This is overcome by allocating to each program an amount of processing time, executing each a little at a time so that they will appear to run simultaneously due to the speed of the processor and the relatively short gaps between programs.

**multi terminal system** /,mʌltɪ ,tɜ:mɪn(ə)l 'sɪstəm/ *noun* a system where several terminals are linked to a single CPU

**multithreading** /'mʌltɪθreɪdɪŋ/ *noun* the process of running several different processes in rapid succession within a program (effectively multitasking within a program)

**multiuser domain** /,mʌltɪju:zə də 'meɪn/ *noun* full form of **MUD**

**multiuser domain, object-oriented** /,mʌltɪju:zə də ,meɪn ,ɒbdʒekt 'ɔ:riɛntɪd/ *noun* full form of **MUD**

**multiuser dungeon** /,mʌltɪju:zə 'dʌndʒən/ *noun* full form of **MUD**

**multiuser program** /,mʌltɪju:zə 'prɒgræm/ *noun* a software diary utility that allows many users to enter appointments and schedule meetings with other users. Also called **network calendar program**

**multiuser system** /,mʌltɪju:zə 'sɪstəm/ *noun* a computer system that can support more than one user at a time ○ The program runs on a standalone machine or a multi-user system.

**multi-window editor** /,mʌltɪ ,wɪndəʊ 'edɪtə/ *noun* a program used for creating and editing a number of applications programs independently, each in a separate window on screen at the same time

**mung up** /,mʌŋ 'ʌp/ *verb* to distort data or to ruin a file (*informal*)

**mush** /mʌʃ/ *noun* distortion and loss of signal

**mush area** /'mʌʃ ,eəriə/ *noun* distortion and loss of signal due to two transmissions interfering

**musical instrument digital interface** /,mjuzɪk(ə)l ,ɪnstrʊmənt ,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* full form of **MIDI**

**music chip** /'mjuzɪk tʃɪp/ *noun* an integrated circuit capable of generating musical sounds and tunes

**music track** /'mjuzɪk træk/ *noun* a sound track on which is recorded music for a film (*film*)

**MUX** /,em ju: 'eks/ *noun* a circuit that combines a number of inputs into a smaller number of outputs. Full form **multiplexor**. Compare **demultiplexor**  
**MW** *abbr* **1.** medium wave **2.** megawatt

**My Computer** /,maɪ kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* an icon that is normally in the upper left-hand corner of the screen on a computer running Windows, containing an overview of the PC

# N

**n** *abbr* nano-

**NAB** /næb/ *noun* a US term used to describe standards specified by this organisation (*film*)

**NAB cartridge** /'næb ,kɑ:trɪdʒ/ *noun* an NAB approved continuous loop magnetic tape cartridge which is broadcast standard and is made in three tape capacity sizes

**NAB curve** /'næb ,kɜ:v/ *noun* the standard for audio playback equalisation

**name** /neɪm/ *noun* an ordinary word used to identify an address in machine language

**name registration** /'neɪm ,redʒɪstreɪf(ə)n/ *noun* same as **domain name registration**

**name resolution** /'neɪm ,rezəlu:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of converting a domain name into its numerical IP address

**name server** /'neɪm ,sɜ:və/ *noun* a computer on the Internet that provides a domain name service to any other computer

**naming services** /'neɪmɪŋ ,sɜ:vɪsɪz/ *noun* a method of assigning each user or node or computer on a network a unique name that allows other users to access shared resources even over a wide area network

**NAND function** /'nænd ,fʌŋkʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a logical function whose output is false if all inputs are true, and true if any input is false

COMMENT: The NAND function is equivalent to an AND function with a NOT function at the output. The output is 0 only if both inputs are 1; if one input is 1 and the other 0, or if both inputs are 0, then the output is 1.

**NAND gate** /'nænd geɪt/ *noun* an electronic circuit that provides a NAND function

**nano-** /nænəʊ/ *prefix* 1. one thousand millionth. *Abbr* **n** 2. *US* one billionth

**nanosecond** /'nænəʊ ,sekənd/ *noun* one thousand millionth of a second

**Napster** /'næpstə/ a trade name for software that allows users to share files, normally MP3-format music files, over the Internet

COMMENT: Napster was originally used to distribute and share MP3 files with a personal recording of a commercial artist in an efficient way. The software, developed by Shawn Fanning, allowed anyone to download music from any another Napster user's computer. Once installed, the free software searches your hard disk for any MP3 music files, then allows other Napster users online to access these files from your hard disk, via the Internet. Because it al-

lows music to be copied and shared very easily, Napster has become unpopular with the recording and music industry and was the subject of a legal case enforcing copyright over the Internet.

**narrative** /'nærətɪv/ *noun* a set of explanatory notes or comments to help a user operate a program

**narrow band** /'nærəʊ bænd/ *noun* a communication method that uses a bandwidth less than that of a voice channel. *Abbr* **see**. Compare **multicast**

**narrow band FM** /,nærəʊ bænd ,ef 'em/ *noun* a frequency modulation system using very small bandwidth (with only one pair of sidebands). *Abbr* **NBFM**

**narrow band ISDN** /,nærəʊ bænd ,aɪ es di: 'em/ *noun* the ISDN communications system

**narrowcast** /'nærəʊkɑ:st/ *verb* same as **multicast**

**NAT** /,en eɪ 'ti:/ *noun* a system that allows a local area network to work with two sets of IP addresses for each computer or node in the network. Full form **network address translation**

COMMENT: The first set of addresses is used for internal traffic and the second set (often just one or two addresses) is used for external traffic, for example when accessing resources on the public Internet via a router. This system provides basic security against external attacks, for example using IP spoofing. Its main purpose is that it allows the local area network to use as many IP addresses as are required, but only using a minimal number of public IP addresses, which must be registered and allocated by an organisation such as InterNIC.

**National Association of Broadcasters** /,næʃ(ə)nəl ə,səʊsiəɪf(ə)n əv 'brɔ:dkɑ:stəz/ *noun* full form of **NAB**

**National Center for Supercomputing Applications** /,næʃ(ə)nəl ,sentə fə 'su:pəkəm,pju:tɪŋ ,æplɪkeɪf(ə)nz/ *noun* full form of **NCSA**

**National Television System Committee** /,næʃ(ə)nəl ,telɪ'vɪʒ(ə)n ,sɪstəm kə,mɪti/ *noun* full form of **NTSC**

**native file format** /,neɪtɪv 'faɪl ,fɔ:mæt/ *noun* a default file format, usually proprietary, that is used by an application to store its data on disk

**navigable** /'nævɪgəb(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to a website that has been designed in such a way that the user can move from one section of the site to another by clicking on highlighted computer links

**navigation** /,nævɪ'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of moving around a multimedia title using hotspots, buttons and a user interface

**NC** *abbr* 1. network computer 2. numerical control

**NCR paper** /,en si: 'ɑ: ,peɪpə/ *noun* a special type of paper impregnated with chemicals and used in multipart forms. Full form **no carbon required paper** (NOTE: When NCR paper is printed on by an impact printer, the writing also appears on the sheets below.)

**NCSA** /,en si: es 'ei/ *noun* an organisation that helped define and create the World Wide Web with its Mosaic web browser. Full form **National Center for Supercomputing Applications**

**NDIS** /,en di: eɪ 'es/ *noun* a standard command interface, defined by Microsoft, between network driver software and NICs. Full form **network driver interface specification**

**NDR** /,en di: 'ɑ:/ *noun* a display system that continues to display previous characters when new ones are displayed. Full form **non destructive readout**

**near instantaneously compounded audio multiplex** /,nɪə ,ɪnstən,tɜɪniəsli kəm,pəʊndɪd ,ɔ:diəʊ 'mʌltɪpleks/ *noun* full form of **NICAM**

**negate** /nɪ'geɪt/ *verb* to reverse the sign of a number ○ *If you negate 23.4 the result is -23.4.* (NOTE: **negates - negating - negated**)

**negation** /nɪ'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the reversing of the sign of a number, e.g. from 5 to -5

**negation gate** /nɪ'geɪʃ(ə)n geɪt/ *noun* a single input gate whose output is equal to the logical inverse of the input. Also called **NOT gate**

**negative** /'negətɪv/ *adjective* meaning 'no'

**NEQ** *abbr* nonequivalence function

**nerd** /nɜ:ɪd/ *noun* a person who is obsessed with computers and rarely talks or thinks about anything that is not technologically exciting (*slang*)

**nested loop** /,nestɪd 'lu:p/ *noun* a loop inside another loop in the same program

**nested macro call** /,nestɪd 'mækrəʊ ,kɔ:l/ *noun* a macro called from within another macro

**nested structure** /,nestɪd 'strʌktʃə/ *noun* a section of a program in which one

control loop or subroutine is used within another

**NetBEUI** /'net bju:ɪ/ *noun* an extended version of the NetBIOS network protocol developed by Microsoft, which cannot be routed in a network. Full form **NetBIOS Extended User Interface**

**NetBIOS** /'net ,baɪɒs/ *noun* a commonly used standard set of commands, originally developed by IBM, that allow application programs to carry out basic operations such as file sharing and transferring data between nodes over a network ○ *This software uses NetBIOS calls to manage file sharing.* Full form **Network Basic Input Output System**

**NetBIOS Extended User Interface** /,net baɪɒs ɪk,stendɪd 'ju:zə ,ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* full form of **NetBEUI**

**netiquette** /'netɪket/ *noun* a set of unofficial rules that define good manners on the Internet

**netphone** /'netfəʊn/ *noun* a phone that uses the Internet to make connections and carry voice messages

**Netscape** /'netskeɪp/ a software company that develops Internet applications

**Netscape Navigator** /,netskeɪp 'nævɪgeɪtə/ a trade name for one of the most popular web browsers that provides many features including a news reader and that supports Java applets

**NetShow** /'netʃəʊ/ a system developed by Microsoft to provide audio and video delivery over the Internet without interruption or glitches in the video sequence

**NetWare** /'netweə/ a trade name for a network operating system, developed by Novell, that runs on a range of hardware platforms and supports file and print sharing and client-server applications

**network** /'netwɜ:k/ *noun* a system made of a number of points or circuits that are interconnected ■ *verb* to link points together in a network ○ *They run a system of networked micros.*

'Asante Technologies has expanded its range of Ethernet-to-LocalTalk converters with the release of AsantePrint 8, which connects up to eight LocalTalk printers, or other LocalTalk devices, to a high-speed Ethernet network.' [Computing]

**network adapter** /'netwɜ:k ə,dæptə/ *noun* same as **NIC**

**network address** /'netwɜ:k ə,dres/ *noun* a part of an IP address that defines the main network on which the domain is located (NOTE: For class A networks this is the first byte of the address, for class B networks it is the first two bytes and for class C networks it is the first three bytes. The rest of the IP address forms the host address.)

**network address translation**

/,netwɜ:k ə,dres træns'leɪf(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **NAT**

**network administrator** /,netwɜ:k əd'mɪnɪstreɪtə/ *noun* a person who is responsible for looking after a network, with responsibilities including installing, configuring and maintaining the network

**network architecture** /,netwɜ:k 'ɑ:kɪtektʃəl/ *noun* the way in which a network is constructed, e.g. layers in an OSI system

**network calendar program** /,netwɜ:k 'kælɪndə ,prəʊgræm/ *noun* same as **multi-user program**

**network computer** /,netwɜ:k kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* a computer that is designed to run Java programs and access information using a web browser. Abbr **NC**

COMMENT: The network computer has a small desktop box that does not have a floppy disk drive. Instead it downloads any software it requires from a central server. Network computers are simpler and cheaper than current PCs and Apple Mac computers, and are designed to be easier to manage in a large company.

**network database** /,netwɜ:k 'deɪtəbeɪs/ *noun* a database structure in which data items can be linked together

**network diagram** /,netwɜ:k 'daɪəgræm/ *noun* a graphical representation of the interconnections between points in a network

**network directory** /,netwɜ:k daɪ'rekt(ə)ri/ *noun* a directory that is stored on a disk drive on another computer in the network but can be accessed by anyone on the network

**network drive** /'netwɜ:k draɪv/ *noun* a disk drive that is part of another computer on a network but can be used by anyone on the network

**network driver interface specification** /,netwɜ:k 'draɪvə 'ɪntəfeɪs ,spesɪfɪkeɪf(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **NDIS**

**network file system** /,netwɜ:k 'faɪl ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a network protocol developed by Sun Microsystems that allows a computer to share its local disk drives with other users on a network and is now used as a standard across most of the Internet. Abbr **NFS**

**network hardware** /,netwɜ:k 'hɑ:dweə/ *noun* same as **networking hardware**

**networking** /'netwɜ:kɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the working or organisation of a network **2.** the process of interconnecting two or more computers either in the same room or different buildings, in the same town or different towns, allowing them to exchange information **3.** the process of broadcasting a prime-

time TV programme over several local stations at the same time

COMMENT: Networking allows a machine with a floppy disk drive to use another PC's hard disk when both machines are linked by a cable and are using networking software.

**networking hardware** /,netwɜ:kɪŋ 'hɑ:dweə/ *noun* the physical links, computers and control equipment that make up a network. Also called **network hardware**

**networking software** /,netwɜ:kɪŋ 'sɒftweə/ *noun* software that is used to establish the link between a user's program and the network. Also called **network software**

**networking specialist** /'netwɜ:kɪŋ ,speʃəlɪst/ *noun* a company or person who specialises in designing and setting up networks ○ *This computer firm is a UK networking specialist.*

**network interface card** /,netwɜ:k 'ɪntəfeɪs ,kɑ:d/ *noun* full form of **NIC**

**network management** /,netwɜ:k 'mænɪdʒmənt/ *noun* the organisation, planning, running and upkeep of a network

**Network Neighborhood** /,netwɜ:k 'neɪbəhʊd/ *noun* a Windows 95 utility that allows you to view and manage connections to your computer

**network news transfer protocol** /,netwɜ:k nju:z 'trænsfɜ: ,prəʊtəkəl/ *noun* full form of **NNTP**

**network operating system** /,netwɜ:k 'ɒpəreɪtɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* an operating system running on a server computer, usually a dedicated one, that controls access to the network resources, managing network links, printing and users. Abbr **NOS**

**network printer** /,netwɜ:k 'prɪntə/ *noun* a printer attached to a server or workstation that can be used by any user connected to the network

**network protocol** /,netwɜ:k 'prəʊtəkəl/ *noun* a set of handshaking signals that defines how a workstation sends data over a network without clashing with other data transmissions

**network redundancy** /,netwɜ:k rɪ'dʌndənsi/ *noun* the existence of extra links between points allowing continued operation in the event of one point failing

**network server** /,netwɜ:k 'sɜ:və/ *noun* a computer which runs a network operating system and controls the basic network operations (NOTE: All the workstations in a LAN are connected to the central network server and users log onto a network server.)

**network software** /,netwɜ:k 'sɒftweə/ *noun* same as **networking software**

**network topology** /,netwɜ:k tɔ 'pɒlədʒi/ *noun* the layout of machines in a network, e.g. a star network, ring network or bus network, which will determine what cabling and interfaces are needed and what possibilities the network can offer

**neural network** /,njʊərəl 'netwɜ:k/ *noun* a system running an artificial intelligence program that attempts to simulate the way the brain works, how it learns and remembers

**neutral** /'nju:trəl/ *adjective* with no state, bias or voltage

**new** /nju:/ *adjective* recent or not old ○ *They have installed a new computer system.*

**newbie** /'nju:bi/ *noun* a new user of the Internet (*slang*)

**news** /nju:z/ *noun* information about things which have happened □ **news agency** office which distributes news to newspapers and television companies □ **newsgroup** collection of articles on the Usenet relating to one particular subject □ **news release** sheet giving information about a new event which is sent to newspapers and TV and radio stations so that they can use it ○ *the company sent out a news release about the new managing director*

**newsgroup** /'nju:z,gru:p/ *noun* a feature of the Internet that provides free-for-all discussion forums

**newsprint** /'nju:zprɪnt/ *noun* mechanical paper used for printing newspapers (NOTE: no plural)

**news reader** /'nju:z ,ri:də/ *noun* a piece of software that allows a user to view the list of newsgroups and read the articles posted in each group or submit a new article

**new technology** /,nju: tek'nɒlədʒi/ *noun* electronic instruments which have recently been developed

**nexus** /'neksəs/ *noun* a connection point between units in a network

**NFS** *abbr* network file system

**nibble** /'nɪb(ə)/ *noun* another spelling of nybble

**NIC** /,en ət 'si:/ *noun* an add-in board that connects a computer to a network. Full form **network interface card**. Also called **network adapter** (NOTE: The board converts the computer's data into electrical signals that are then transmitted along the network cable.)

**NICAM** /'nɪkæm/ *noun* a digital system used for coding in the television transmission of stereo sound (*film*) Full form **near instantaneously compounded audio multiplex**

**Nintendo™** /nɪn'tendəʊ/ a major video game developer producing both software and hardware consoles

**NNTP** /,en en ti: 'pi:/ *noun* a standard method of distributing news messages on the Internet, one of the protocols within the TCP/IP protocol suite, that provides a way of creating, reading and distributing messages within newsgroups over the Internet. Full form **network news transfer protocol**

**no-break** /,nəʊ 'breɪk/ *adjective* (power supply system) which will not be affected by a power failure. † **UPS**

**no carbon required paper** /nəʊ ,kɑ:bən rɪ,kwəɪəd 'peɪpəl/ *noun* full form of **NCR paper**

**node** /nəʊd/ *noun* an interconnection point in a structure or network ○ *A tree is made of branches that connect together at nodes.*

**no-drop image** /,nəʊ 'drɒp ,ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* (*in a GUI*) an icon image displayed during a drag and drop operation when the pointer is over an object that cannot be the destination object and onto which it cannot be dropped

**noise** /nɔɪz/ *noun* a random signal present in addition to any wanted signal, caused by static, temperature, power supply, magnetic or electric fields and also from stars and the Sun

**nomenclature** /nəʊ'menklətʃəl/ *noun* a predefined system for assigning words and symbols to represent numbers or terms

**nomogram** /'nɒməgræm/, **nomograph** /'nɒməgrɑ:f/ *noun* a graphical system for solving one value given two others

**non-** /nɒn/ *prefix* not

**nonaligned** /,nɒnə'laɪnd/ *adjective* referring to two devices which are not correctly positioned in relation to each other, for optimum performance

**non breaking space** /,nɒn ,breɪkɪŋ 'speɪs/ *noun* (*in word-processing or DTP software*) a space character that prevents two words being separated by a line break

**noncompatibility** /,nɒnkəm,pæti'bɪlɪti/ *noun* inability of two or more pieces of hardware or software to exchange data or use the same peripherals

**non-composite video signal** /,nɒn ,kɒmpzɪt 'vɪdɪəʊ ,sɪɡn(ə)/ *noun* a video signal which has no synchronising signals but contains picture and blanking information

**non dedicated server** /,nɒn ,dedɪkətɪd 'sɜ:vəl/ *noun* a computer that runs a network operating system in the background and can also be used to run normal applications at the same time

**non destructive cursor** /,nɒn dɪ ,strʌktɪv 'kɜ:zəl/ *noun* a cursor on a display that does not erase characters already displayed as it passes over them ○ *The screen*

quickly became unreadable when using a non-destructive cursor.

**non destructive readout** /,nɒn dɪˈstrʌktɪv ˈriːdaʊt/ *noun* full form of **NDR**

**nondirectional microphone** /,nɒndaɪrɛkʃən(ə)l ˈmaɪkrəfəʊn/ *noun* a microphone which picks up sound equally in every direction (*film*)

**nonequivalence function** /,nɒnɪˈkwɪvələns ˌfʌŋkʃən/ *noun* a logical function in which the output is true if the inputs are not the same, otherwise the output is false. Abbr **NEQ**

**nonerasable storage** /,nɒnɪrɪzəb(ə)l ˈstɔːrɪdʒ/ *noun* a storage medium that cannot be erased and reused

**non impact printer** /,nɒn ɪmˌpækt ˈprɪntə/ *noun* a printer such as an ink-jet printer in which the character form does not hit a ribbon onto the paper

**non interlaced** /,nɒn ˈɪntələɪst/ *adjective* (*in a monitor*) referring to a system in which the picture electron beam scans each line of the display once during each refresh cycle (NOTE: The beam in an interlaced display scans every alternate line.)

**nonlinear video editing** /,nɒnlɪniə ˈvɪdɪəʊ ˌɛdɪtɪŋ/ *noun* a method of editing a video sequence in which the video is digitised and stored in a computer and the editor can then cut and move frames in any order before outputting the finished sequence (NOTE: The finished sequence can either be produced directly from the computer output – though this is normally at a lower quality than the original because of compression losses – or the computer can output time code instructions that can be used to edit the original videotape.)

**nonprinting code** /,nɒnprɪntɪŋ ˈkəʊd/ *plural noun* a code that represents an action of the printer rather than a printed character ○ *The line width can be set using one of the non-printing codes, .LW, then a number.*

**non scrollable** /,nɒn ˈskrɔːləb(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to part of the screen display which is always displayed (NOTE: In a WP the text can scroll while instructions are non scrollable.)

**non-synchronous sound** /,nɒn ˌsɪŋkrənəs ˈsaʊnd/, **non-sync sound** *noun* any sound recorded without a camera operating at the same time (*film*)

**non volatile memory** /,nɒn ˌvɒlətaɪl ˈmem(ə)ri/ *noun* a storage medium or memory that retains data even when the power has been switched off ○ *Bubble memory is a non-volatile storage.* Also called **non volatile storage, non volatile store**

**non volatile storage** /,nɒn ˌvɒlətaɪl ˈstɔːrɪdʒ/, **non volatile store** *noun* same as **non volatile memory**

**no-op instruction** /,nəʊ ˈɒp ɪn ˌstrʌkʃ(ə)n/, **no op** /,nəʊ ˈɒp/ *noun* an instruction that does not carry out any functions but increments the program counter

**no parity** /,nəʊ ˈpærəti/ *noun* data transmission which does not use a parity bit

**NOR function** /ˈnɔːr ˌfʌŋkʃən/ *noun* a logical function whose output is false if either input is true

COMMENT: The output is 1 only if both inputs are 0; if the two inputs are different or if both are 1, the output is 0.

**NOR gate** /ˈnɔːr geɪt/ *noun* an electric circuit or chip which performs a NOR function

**normal** /ˈnɔːm(ə)l/ *adjective* usual or which happens regularly ○ *The normal procedure is for backup copies to be made at the end of each day's work.*

**normal form** /ˈnɔːm(ə)l fɔːm/ *noun* a method of structuring information in a database to avoid redundancy and improve storage efficiency

**normalisation** /,nɔːməlaɪˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/, **normalization** *noun* the process of normalising data

**normalise** /ˈnɔːməˌlaɪz/, **normalize** *verb*

**1.** to convert data into a form which can be read by a particular computer system

**2.** to store and represent numbers in a pre-agreed form, usually to provide maximum precision ○ *All the new data has been normalised to 10 decimal places.* (NOTE: **normalises – normalising – normalised**)

**normalised form** /ˈnɔːməlaɪzɪd fɔːm/ *noun* a floating point number that has been normalised so that its mantissa is within a certain range

**normal range** /ˈnɔːm(ə)l reɪndʒ/ *noun* the expected range for a result or number (NOTE: Any outside this range are errors.)

**NOS** *abbr* network operating system

**NOT-AND** /,nɒt ˈænd/ *noun* an equivalent to the NAND function

**notation** /nəʊˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a method of writing or representing numbers

**notebook computer** /,nəʊtbʊk kəmˈpjʊtə/ *noun* a very small portable computer, usually smaller than a laptop computer, that has a small keyboard and display and can be carried easily

**NOT function** /ˈnɒt ˌfʌŋkʃən/ *noun* a logical inverse function in which the output is true if the input is false

COMMENT: If the input is 1, the output is 0; if the input is 0, the output is 1.

**NOT gate** /ˈnɒt geɪt/ *noun* same as **negation gate**

**notice board** /'nəʊtɪs bɔ:d/ *noun* **1.** a board fixed to a wall where notices can be pinned up **2.** a type of bulletin board on which messages to all users can be left

**notification message** /,nəʊtɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n ,mesɪdʒ/ *noun* a message within authoring software to notify other objects that a particular task has been completed ○ *If an object is moved, the application will generate a notification message to tell other processes when it has finished moving the object.*

**notify handler** /'nəʊtɪfaɪ ,hændlə/ *noun* a series of commands that are executed when a particular notification message is received

**Novell** /nəʊ'vel/ a large company that produces network software and is best known for its NetWare range of network operating system software that runs on a PC server

**ns** *abbr* nanosecond

**NSFnet** /,en es 'ef net/ *noun* a wide area network developed by the National Science Foundation to replace ArpaNet as the main US government-funded network linking together universities and research laboratories (NOTE: NSFnet was a crucial stepping-stone in the development history of the Internet. It was closed down in 1995 and replaced by a commercial high-speed network backbone that formed one of the foundations for the current commercial Internet.)

**NTFS** full form **New Technology File System**

**NTSC** /,en ti: es 'si:/ *noun* a US committee that defines standards for television and video. Full form **National Television System Committee**

**NuBus** /'nju:bʌs/ *noun* a high-speed 96-pin expansion bus used within Apple Mac II computers

**null** /nʌl/ *adjective* nothing

**number** /'nʌmbə/ *noun* **1.** a representation of a quantity **2.** a written figure ○ *Each piece of hardware has a production number.* ■ *verb*

**1.** to put a figure on a document ○ *The pages of the manual are numbered 1 to 196.* **2.** to assign digits to a list of items in an ordered manner

**number cruncher** /'nʌmbə ,krʌntʃə/ *noun* a dedicated processor used for high-speed calculations

**number crunching** /'nʌmbə krʌntʃɪŋ/ *noun* the process of performing high-speed calculations ○ *A very powerful processor is needed for graphics applications which require extensive number crunching capabilities.*

**numeral** /'nju:m(ə)rəl/ *noun* a character or symbol which represents a number

**numeric** /nju:'merɪk/ *adjective* **1.** referring to numbers **2.** which contains only numbers ○ *a numeric field*

**numerical** /nju:'merɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to numbers

**numerical analysis** /nju:,merɪk(ə)l ə'næləsɪs/ *noun* the study of ways of solving mathematical problems

**numerical control** /nju:,merɪk(ə)l kən'trəʊl/ *noun* a machine operated automatically by computer or a set of circuits controlled by stored data. Abbr **NC**

**numeric keypad** /nju:,merɪk 'ki:pæd/ *noun* a set of ten keys with figures 0–9, included in most computer keyboards as a separate group, used for entering large amounts of data in numeric form. Also called **numeric pad**

**numeric pad** /nju:,merɪk 'pæd/ *noun* same as **numeric keypad**

**Num Lock key** /'nʌm lɒk ,ki:/ *noun* (on a keyboard) a key that switches the function of a numeric keypad from cursor control to numeric entry

**nybble** /'nɪb(ə)l/, **nibble** *noun* half the length of a standard byte (*informal*)

COMMENT: A nybble is usually 4 bits, but can vary according to different microcomputer.

# O

**OA** *abbr* office automation

**object** /'ɒbdʒekt/ *noun* **1.** the data that makes up a particular image or sound **2.** a variable used in an IKBS within a reasoning operation **3.** the data in a statement which is to be operated on by the operator

**objective** /əb'dʒektɪv/ *noun* **1.** something which someone tries to do **2.** an optical lens nearest the object viewed **3.** any optical device which has the ability to form images

**object language** /,ɒbdʒekt 'læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* the language of a program after it has been translated. Opposite **source language**

**object linking and embedding** /,ɒbdʒekt ,lɪŋkɪŋ ənd ɪm'bedɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **OLE**

**object linking and embedding 2** /,ɒbdʒekt ,lɪŋkɪŋ ənd ɪm'bedɪŋ 'tu:/ *noun* full form of **OLE-2**

**object-oriented** /,ɒbdʒekt 'ɔ:riəntɪd/ *adjective* referring to a system or language that uses objects

**object-oriented graphics** /,ɒbdʒekt ,ɔ:riəntɪd 'græfɪks/ *plural noun* graphics which use lines and curves, vector definitions, to describe the shapes of the image rather than pixels in a bitmap image ○ *This object-oriented graphics program lets you move shapes around very easily.*

**object-oriented language** /,ɒbdʒekt ,ɔ:riəntɪd 'læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* a programming language that is used for object-oriented programming, e.g. C++

**object-oriented programming** /,ɒbdʒekt ,ɔ:riəntɪd 'prɒɡræmɪŋ/ *noun* a method of programming, as in C++, in which each element of the program is treated as an object that can interact with other objects within the program. Abbr **OOP**

**Object Request Broker** /əb,dʒekt rɪ 'kwɛst ,brəʊkə/ *noun* software that links objects together using the CORBA standard. Abbr **ORB**

**oblique stroke** /ə'blɪ:k strəʊk/ *noun* a printing sign (/) like stroke sloping to the right

**obtain** /əb'teɪn/ *verb* to get or receive something ○ *to obtain data from a storage device*

**OCE** /,əʊ si: 'i:/ *noun* a set of standards that allow networked Apple Mac users to share objects and files. Full form **open collaboration environment**

**OCR** /,əʊ si: 'ɑ:/ *noun* **1.** a device which scans printed or written characters, recognises them and converts them into machine-readable form for processing in a computer. Full form **optical character reader** **2.** software or a process that allows printed or written characters to be recognised optically and converted into machine-readable code that can be input into a computer, using an optical character reader. Full form **optical character recognition**

'In 1986, Calera Recognition Systems introduced the first neural-network-based OCR system that could read complex pages containing any mixture of non-decorative fonts without manual training.' [Computing]

COMMENT: There are two OCR fonts in common use: OCR-A, which is easy for scanners to read, and OCR-B, which is easier for people to read than the OCR-A font.

**octal** /'ɒkt(ə)l/, **octal notation** /,ɒkt(ə)l nɔʊ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a number notation using base 8, with digits 0 to 7

COMMENT: In octal, the digits used are 0 to 7; so decimal 9 is octal 11.

**octet** /ɒk'tet/ *noun* a group of eight bits treated as one unit or word. † **byte**

**OCX** /,əʊ si: 'eks/ *noun* the file extension of an ActiveX component or add-in that is used by an application such as a web browser or custom application running under Windows 95 or 98

**ODBC** *noun* a software interface that allows an application to access any compatible data source. Full form **open database connectivity** (NOTE: The standard was developed by Microsoft but is used by many different developers as a standard method of providing access to a wide range of databases.)

**ODI** a trade name for a standard interface, defined by Novell, for a NIC that allows users to have just one network driver that will work with all NICs. Full form **open datalink interface**. Compare **NDIS** (NOTE: The standard also supports more than one protocol, e.g. IPX and NetBEUI.)

**OEM** /,əʊ i: 'em/ *noun* a company which produces equipment using basic parts made by other manufacturers, and customises the product for a particular application ○ *One OEM supplies the disk drive, another the monitor.* Full form **original equipment manufacturer**

**off-cut** /'ɒf kʌt/ *noun* scrap paper that is left when a sheet is trimmed to size

**office** /'ɒfɪs/ *noun* a room or building where a company works or where business is done

**office automation** /,ɒfɪs ɔ:tə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the use of machines and computers to carry out ordinary office tasks. Abbr **OA**

**office computer** /,ɒfɪs kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* a small computer, sometimes with a hard disk and several terminals, suitable for office use

**off-line** /,ɒf 'laɪn/ *adverb, adjective* **1.** referring to a processor, printer or terminal that is not connected to a network or central computer, usually temporarily ○ *Before changing the paper in the printer, switch it off-line.* **2.** referring to a peripheral connected to a network but not available for use. Compare **on-line**

**off-line editing** /,ɒf laɪn 'edɪtɪŋ/ *noun* an editing process in which copies of the original sound tape or videotape are used, cut and edited to create an EDL that is then used in an on-line editing suite to automatically assemble all the sectors of the tape according to the instructions in the EDL (NOTE: Off-line editing software allows two or more video clips to be edited and merged with effects.)

**off-line newsreader** /,ɒf laɪn 'nju:zrɪ:də/ *noun* a piece of software that allows a user to read newsgroup articles when the computer is not connected to the Internet

**off-line printing** /,ɒf laɪn 'prɪntɪŋ/ *noun* a printout operation that is not supervised by a computer

**off-line processing** /,ɒf laɪn 'prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* processing performed by devices not under the control of a central computer

**off-line storage** /,ɒf laɪn 'stɔ:rɪdʒ/ *noun* storage that is not currently available for access

**offprint** /'ɒfprɪnt/ *noun* a section of a journal reprinted separately

**off-scale** /,ɒf 'skeɪl/ *adverb* outside the area of the standard light point scale of a printer

**off screen** /,ɒf 'skri:n/ *adverb* TV action that is taking place off the screen, outside the viewer's field of vision

**off-screen buffer** /,ɒf skri:n 'bʌfə/ *noun* the area of RAM used to hold an off-screen image before it is displayed on screen

**off-screen image** /,ɒf skri:n 'ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* an image that is first drawn in memory and then is transferred to the display memory to give the impression of fast display action

**offset** /'ɒfset/ *noun* positive or negative time displacement in systems using time code synchronisation

**ohm** /əʊm/ *noun* a unit of measurement of electrical resistance

**Ohm's Law** /'əʊmz lɔ:/ *noun* a scientific rule which defines one ohm as: one volt drop across a resistance of one ohm when one amp of current is flowing

**OK** /,əʊ 'keɪ/ *noun* used as a prompt in place of 'ready' in some systems

**OK button** /əʊ'keɪ ,bʌt(ə)n/ *noun* (in a GUI) a button with an 'OK' label that is used to start or confirm an action

**OLE** /,əʊ el 'i:/ *noun* (in Microsoft Windows) a facility for including data formatted in one application within another application; e.g. insertion of an object such as an image or sound into a document or spreadsheet. Full form **object linking and embedding**. ⇨

**DDE**

**OLE-2** /,əʊ el i: 'tu:/ *noun* (in Microsoft Windows) a facility that extends the functions of OLE to include visual editing to allow the embedded object to be edited without leaving the document in which it is embedded. Full form **object linking and embedding 2** (NOTE: If you insert an image into a document, you can now edit the image without leaving the word-processor. OLE2 also allows applications to exchange information.)

**omission factor** /əʊ'mɪʃ(ə)n ,fæktə/ *noun* the number of relevant documents that were missed in a search

**omnidirectional** /,ɒmnɪ'daɪrekʃən(ə)l/ *adjective* device that can pick up signals from all directions

**omnidirectional microphone** /,ɒmnɪ'daɪrekʃən(ə)l 'maɪkrəfəʊn/ *noun* a microphone which is able to pick up sound evenly in all directions

**OMR** /,əʊ em 'ɑ:/ *noun* **1.** a device that can recognise marks or lines on a special forms such as an order form or a reply to a questionnaire and convert them into a form a computer can process. Full form **optical mark reader** **2.** a process that allows certain marks or lines on special forms such as an order form or a reply to a questionnaire to be recognised by an OMR and input into a computer. Full form **optical mark recognition**

**on-board** /ɒn 'bɔ:d/ *adjective* referring to a feature or circuit which is contained on a motherboard or main PCB

'...the electronic page is converted to a printer-readable video image by the on-board raster image processor the key intelligence features of these laser printers are emulation modes and on-board memory' [Byte]

**on chip** /ɒn 'tʃɪp/ *noun* a circuit constructed on a chip

**on-chip** /ɒn 'tʃɪp/ *adjective* referring to a circuit constructed on a chip ○ *The processor uses on-chip bootstrap software to allow programs to be loaded rapidly.*

**one for one** /wʌn fə 'wʌn/ *noun* a programming language, usually assembler, that produces one machine code instruction for each instruction or command word in the language

COMMENT: Compilers and interpreters are usually used for translating high-level languages that use more than one machine code instruction for each high-level instruction.

**100Base-FX** *noun* IEEE standard specification for running Ethernet over optical fibre at speeds up to 100Mbps

**onion skin architecture** /'ʌnjən skɪn ,ɑ:kitektʃəl/ *noun* a design of a computer system in layers, according to function or priority ○ *The onion skin architecture of this computer is made up of a kernel at the centre, an operating system, a low-level language and then the user's program.*

**onion skin language** /'ʌnjən skɪn ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* a database manipulation language that can process hierarchical data structures

**online** /ɒn 'laɪn/ *adverb, adjective* referring to a terminal or device connected to and under the control of a central processor ○ *The terminal is online to the mainframe.*

**online database** /ɒnlaɪn 'deɪtəbeɪs/ *noun* an interactive search, retrieve and update of database records using an online terminal

**online editing** /ɒn,laɪn 'edɪtɪŋ/ *noun* the process of creating a finished audio or film sequence from original tape using editing instructions in an EDL list

**online help** /ɒnlaɪn 'help/ *noun* a text screen displayed from within an application that explains how to use the application

**online information retrieval** /ɒnlaɪn ,ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n rɪ,tri:vəl/ *noun* a system that allows an operator of an online terminal to access, search and display data held in a main computer

**online processing** /ɒnlaɪn 'prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* processing by devices connected to and under the control of the central computer,

during which the user remains in contact with the central computer

**online storage** /ɒnlaɪn 'stɔ:ɪdʒ/ *noun* data storage equipment that is directly controlled by a computer

**online transaction processing** /ɒnlaɪn træn'zækʃən ,prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* an interactive processing in which a user enters commands and data on a terminal which is linked to a central computer, with results being displayed on the screen

**OnNow** /ɒn'naʊ/ *noun* a standard that provides a way of integrating power management and control within all types of computer (NOTE: The main benefit of OnNow is that it allows the development of a computer that is dormant but will be ready to use almost immediately after it has been switched on, unlike current computers that can take a minute to configure and load the operating system.)

**on-screen** /ɒn 'skri:n/ *adjective* referring to information that is displayed on a computer screen rather than printed out

**on-site** /ɒn 'saɪt/ *adjective* located at the place where a particular thing is ○ *The new model has an on-site upgrade facility.*

**on the fly** /ɒn ðə 'flaɪ/ *adverb* (to examine and modify data) during a program run without stopping the run

**OOP** *abbr* object-oriented programming

**o/p, O/P** *abbr* output

**opacity** /əʊ'pæsɪtɪ/ *noun* a measure of how opaque an optical lens is. Opposite **transmittance**

**op amp** /'ɒp æmp/ *noun* a versatile electronic component that provides amplification, integration, addition, subtraction and many other functions on signals depending on external components added. Full form **operational amplifier**

**opaque** /əʊ'peɪk/ *adjective* will not allow light to pass through it

**opaque leader** /əʊ,peɪk 'li:də/ *noun* part of a filmstrip which is used as a leader: no image is present

**opaque projector** /əʊ,peɪk prɔ'dʒektə/ *noun* a device that is able to project an image of an opaque object

**op code** /'ɒp kəʊd/ *noun* a part of the machine code instruction that defines the action to be performed. Also called **operation code, order code**

**open** /'əʊpən/ *adjective* **1.** called up and prepared before reading or writing actions can occur ○ *You cannot access the data unless the file is open.* **2.** not closed ■ **verb** **1.** to take the cover off something or to make a door open ○ *Open the disk drive door.* **2.** to call up and prepare a file before accessing,

editing or carrying out other transactions on stored records ○ *You cannot access the data unless the file has been opened.*

**open access** /,əʊpən 'ækses/ *noun* a system in which many workstations are available for anyone to use

**open architecture** /,əʊpən 'ɑ:kitektʃəl/ *noun* computer architecture with a published expansion interface that has been designed to allow add-on hardware to be plugged in

**open collaboration environment** /,əʊpən kə,læbə'reɪf(ə)n ɪn,vairənmənt/ *noun* full form of **OCE**

**open database connectivity** /,əʊpən ,deɪtəbeɪs ,kɒnek'tɪvɪti/ *noun* full form of **ODBC**

**open datalink interface** /,əʊpən 'deɪtəlɪŋk ,ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* full form of **ODI**

**open file** /'əʊpən faɪl/ *noun* a file that can be read from or written to (NOTE: An application opens the file which locates the file on disk and prepares it for an operation.)

**open source** /,əʊpən 'sɔ:s/ *adjective* describes a program for which the source code is freely available and which anyone is legally able to modify and improve

'In yet another initiative, aimed at cutting the up-front costs of big IT projects, the OGC is tipping towards a preference for open source software.' [The Guardian]

**open system** /'əʊpən ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a nonproprietary system that is not under the control of one company

**open system interconnection** /,əʊpən ,sɪstəm ,ɪntəkə'nekʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **OSI**

**open trading protocol** /,əʊpən 'treɪdɪŋ ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* a standardised computer protocol for transactions involving payments and for methods of payment. Abbr **OTP**

**operand** /'ɒpərənd/ *noun* the data in a computer instruction which is to be operated on by the operator ○ *In the instruction ADD 74, the operator ADD will add the operand 74 to the accumulator.*

**operate** /'ɒpəreɪt/ *verb* to work or to make a machine work ○ *Do you know how to operate the telephone switchboard?* (NOTE: **operates** – **operating** – **operated**)

**operation** /,ɒpə'reɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the working of a machine

**operational** /,ɒpə'reɪf(ə)nəl/ *adjective* which is working

**operational amplifier** /,ɒpə'reɪf(ə)nəl ,æmplɪ'faɪə/, **op amp** /'ɒp æmp/ *noun* a versatile electronic component that provides

amplification, integration, addition, subtraction and many other functions on signals depending on external components added

**operational information** /,ɒpə'reɪf(ə)nəl ,ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* information about the normal operations of a system

**operation code** /,ɒpə'reɪf(ə)n kəʊd/ *noun* same as **op code**

**operations manual** /,ɒpə'reɪf(ə)nz 'mæɪnjʊəl/ *noun* same as **instruction manual**

**operator** /'ɒpə'reɪtəl/ *noun* **1.** a person who makes a machine or process work ○ *The operator was sitting at his console.* **2.** a character, symbol or word that defines a function or operation ○ *x is the multiplication operator.*

**optic** /'ɒptɪk/ *adjective* referring to sight

**optical** /'ɒptɪk(ə)/ *adjective* referring to or making use of light ○ *An optical reader uses a light beam to scan characters.*

**optical bar reader** /,ɒptɪk(ə)l 'bɑ: ,rɪ:də/ *noun* an optical device that reads data from a bar code

**optical character reader** /,ɒptɪk(ə)l 'kærɪktə ,rɪ:də/ *noun* full form of **OCR 1**

**optical character recognition** /,ɒptɪk(ə)l ,kærɪktə ,rekəg'nɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **OCR 2**

**optically** /'ɒptɪk(ə)li/ *adverb* by using an optical device ○ *The text is scanned optically.*

**optical mark reader** /,ɒptɪk(ə)l 'mɑ:k ,rɪ:də/ *noun* full form of **OMR 1**

**optical mark recognition** /,ɒptɪk(ə)l mɑ:k ,rekəg'nɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **OMR 2**

**optical mouse** /'ɒptɪk(ə)l maʊs/ *noun* a pointing device that is operated by moving it across a special flat mat; (NOTE: On the mat is printed a grid of lines. As the mouse is moved, two light sensors count the number of lines that have been passed to produce a measure of the distance and direction of travel. An optical mouse has fewer moving parts than a mechanical mouse and so is more reliable, but requires an accurately printed mat.)

**optical multiplexing** /,ɒptɪk(ə)l 'mʌltɪpleksɪŋ/ *noun* the process of sending several light beams down a single path or fibre

**optical scanner** /,ɒptɪk(ə)l 'skænə/ *noun* a piece of equipment that converts an image into electrical signals which can be stored in and displayed on a computer

**optics** /'ɒptɪks/ *noun* the science of light and sight

**optimisation, optimization** *noun* the process of making something work as efficiently as possible

**optimise** /'ɒptɪmaɪz/, **optimize** *verb* to make something work as efficiently as possible (NOTE: **optimises** – **optimising** – **optimised**)

**optimiser** /'ɒptɪmaɪzə/, **optimizer** *noun* a program that adapts another program to run more efficiently

**optimising compiler** /,ɒptɪmaɪzɪŋ kəm'paɪlə/ *noun* a compiler that analyses the machine code it produces in order to improve the speed or efficiency of the code

**optimum** /'ɒptɪmə/ *adjective* best possible

**opt-in mailing list** /,ɒptɪn'meɪlɪŋ lɪst/ *noun* a list of email addresses in which each recipient has specifically asked to receive advertising email messages, usually so that he or she can keep up to date with a topic or industry

**option** /'ɒpʃən/ *noun* an action which can be chosen ○ *There are usually four options along the top of the screen.*

**optional** /'ɒpʃ(ə)n(ə)/ *adjective* which can be chosen ○ *The system comes with optional 3.5 or 5.25 disk drives.*

**optoelectrical** /,ɒptəʊ'lektɪrɪk(ə)/ *adjective* which converts light to electrical signals or electrical signals into light

**optoelectronic** /,ɒptəʊ,elek'trɒnɪk/ *adjective* (microelectronic component) that has optoelectrical properties

**optoelectronics** /,ɒptəʊ,elek'trɒnɪks/ *noun* electronic components that can generate or detect light, such as phototransistors, light-emitting diodes

**optomechanical mouse** /,ɒptəʊmɪ'kænik(ə)l 'maʊs/ *noun* same as **mechanical mouse**

**OR** *noun* a Boolean function that is often used in searches to ask the search engine to find text that contains any of the search words. Compare **AND** (NOTE: For example the phrase 'dog OR cat' will include all documents that contain the words dog or cat.)

**Orange Book** /'ɒrɪndʒ bʊk/ *noun* a set of standards published by Philips that define the format for a recordable CD-ROM

**orbit** /'ɔ:bɪt/ *noun* the path in space that a satellite follows around the earth ■ *verb* to follow a path in space around the earth ○ *The weather satellite orbits the earth every four hours.*

**order** /'ɔ:də/ *verb* to sort data according to a key

**order code** /'ɔ:də kəʊd/ *noun* same as **op code**

**ordered list** /'ɔ:dəd lɪst/ *noun* a list of data items which have been sorted into an order

**OR function** /'ɔ: fʌŋkʃən/ *noun* a logical function that produces a true output if any input is true

COMMENT: The result of the OR function will be 1 if either or both inputs are 1; if both inputs are 0, then the result is 0.

**organisation** /,ɔ:gənə'zeɪʃ(ə)n/, **organization** *noun* a way of arranging something so that it works efficiently or has a logical structure

**organisational** /,ɔ:gənə'zeɪʃ(ə)n(ə)l/, **organizational** *adjective* referring to the way in which something is organised

**organise** /'ɔ:gə,naɪz/, **organize** *verb* to arrange something so that it works efficiently or has a logical structure (NOTE: **organises** – **organising** – **organised**)

**OR gate** /'ɔ: geɪt/ *noun* an electronic circuit that provides the OR function

**oriented** /'ɔ:rɪənteɪd/ *adjective* aimed towards something

**orientation** /,ɔ:rɪən'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the direction or position of an object **2.** (in word-processing or DTP software) the direction of a page, either landscape, with long edge horizontal, or portrait, with long edge vertical

**origin** /'ɒrɪdʒɪn/ *noun* **1.** the position on a display screen to which all coordinates are referenced, usually the top left hand corner of the screen **2.** a location in memory at which the first instruction of a program is stored

**original** /ə'ɒrɪdʒən(ə)l/ *adjective* used or made first ■ *noun* **1.** the master data disk, from which a copy can be made **2.** the first document, from which a copy is made ○ *Did you keep the original of the letter?* ○ *The original document is too faint to photocopy well.*

**original equipment manufacturer** /ə'ɒrɪdʒən(ə)l ɪ,kwɪpmənt,mænʃu'fæktʃərə/ *noun* full form of **OEM** ○ *One OEM supplies the disk drive, another the monitor.*

**originate** /ə'ɒrɪdʒɪneɪt/ *verb* to start or come from a place or source ○ *The data originated from the new computer.* (NOTE: **originates** – **originating** – **originated**)

**origination** /ə'ɒrɪdʒɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the work involved in creating something

**orphan** /'ɔ:f(ə)n/ *noun* the first line of a paragraph of text printed alone at the bottom of a column, with the rest of the paragraph at the top of the next column or page. Compare **widow** (NOTE: An orphan makes a page look ugly.)

**oscillator** /'ɒsɪlətə/ *noun* an electronic circuit that produces a pulse or signal at a particular frequency

**oscilloscope** /'ɒsɪləskəʊp/ *noun* electronic test equipment that displays on a CRT the size and shape of an electrical signal

**OSI** /,əʊ es 'aɪ/ *noun* a standard theoretical model of a network that is created from seven different layers each with a different function. This model provides the basis of almost all networks in use. Full form **open system interconnection**.  $\diamond$  **ISO/OSI**

**outage** /'aʊtɪdʒ/ *noun* the time during which a system is not operational

**outdent** /aʊt'dent/ *verb* to move part of a line of text into the margin. Opposite **indent**

**outlet** /'aʊtlet/ *noun* a connection or point in a circuit or network where a signal or data can be accessed

**outline** /'aʊtlaɪn/ *noun* the main features of something

**outline flowchart** /'aʊt(ə)laɪn ,fləʊtʃɑ:t/ *noun* a flowchart of the main features, steps and decisions in a program or system

**outliner** /'aʊtlaɪnə/ *noun* a utility program used to help a user order sections and subsections of a list of things to do or parts of a project

**out of band signalling** /,aʊt əv ,bænd 'sɪgn(ə)lɪŋ/ *noun* the transmission of signals outside the frequency limits of a normal voice channel

**out of phase** /,aʊt əv 'feɪz/ *adverb* situation where a waveform is delayed in comparison to another

**out of range** /,aʊt əv 'reɪndʒ/ *adjective* referring to a number or quantity that is outside the limits of a system

**out-of-sync** /,aʊt əv 'sɪŋk/ *adjective* fault when the sound and picture are not synchronised

**output** /'aʊtpʊt/ *noun* **1.** information or data that is transferred from a CPU or the main memory to another device such as a monitor, printer or secondary storage device **2.** the action of transferring information or data from store to a user  $\blacktriangleright$  abbr **o/p**, **O/P**  $\blacksquare$  *verb* to transfer data from a computer to a monitor or printer  $\circ$  *Finished documents can be output to the laser printer.*

**outsource** /'aʊt,sɔ:s/ *verb* to employ another company to manage and support a network for your company

**overflow** /'əʊvəfləʊ/ *noun* **1.** a mathematical result that is greater than the limits of the computer's number storage system **2.** a situation in a network when the number of transmissions is greater than the line capacity and

they are transferred by another route  $\blacktriangleright$  abbr **OV**

**overhead** /'əʊvəhed/ *noun* an extra code that has to be stored to organise the program  $\circ$  *The line numbers in a BASIC program are an overhead.*

**overheat** /,əʊvə'hi:t/ *verb* to become too hot  $\circ$  *The system may overheat if the room is not air-conditioned.*

**overlap** /,əʊvə'læp/ *noun* **1.** a situation in which one thing covers part of another or two sections of data are placed on top of each other **2.** the continuation of the sound track into the following scene for smooth continuity (*film*)  $\blacksquare$  *verb* to cover part of an item with another (NOTE: **overlapping** – **overlapped**)

**overlay** /'əʊvəleɪ/ *noun* **1.** a small section of a program that is bigger than the main memory capacity of a computer, loaded into memory when required, so that main memory only contains the sections it requires **2.** a device that converts composite video or television signals into a digital format so that they can be displayed on a computer

'Many packages also boast useful drawing and overlay facilities which enable the user to annotate specific maps.' [Computing]

**overlay card** /'əʊvəleɪ kɑ:d/ *noun* same as **video graphics card**

**overlay function** /'əʊvəleɪ ,fʌŋkʃ(ə)n/ *noun*  $\blacklozenge$  **matte**, **chroma key**

**overlaying** /'əʊvəleɪŋ/ *noun* the process of putting an overlay into action

**overlay network** /'əʊvəleɪ ,netwɜ:k/ *noun* two communications networks that have some common interconnections

**overload** /,əʊvə'ləʊd/ *verb* to demand more than the device is capable of  $\circ$  *The computer is overloaded with that amount of processing.*

**overmodulation** /,əʊvə,mɒdju'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a situation where an amplitude modulated carrier signal is reduced to zero by excessive input signal

**overpunching** /,əʊvə'pʌntʃɪŋ/ *noun* the process of altering data on a paper tape by punching additional holes

**overscan** /'əʊvəskæn/ *noun* **1.** a faulty or badly adjusted monitor in which the displayed image runs off the edge of the screen **2.** display equipment in which the picture beam scans past the screen boundaries to ensure that the image fills the screen

**overstrike** /'əʊvəstraɪk/ *verb* to print on top of an existing character to produce a new one

**overtones** /'əʊvətəʊnz/ *noun*  $\blacklozenge$  **harmonic**

**over-voltage protection** /,əʊvə 'vɔ:ltɪdʒ prə'tekʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a safety de-

vice that prevents a power supply voltage exceeding certain specified limits

**overwrite** /,əʊvə'raɪt/ *verb* to write data to a location, e.g. memory or disk, and, in doing so, to destroy any data already contained in

that location ○ *The latest data input has overwritten the old information.* (NOTE:

**overwriting – overwrote – overwritten**)

**oxide** /'ɒksaɪd/ *noun* a chemical compound of oxygen

# P

**p** /pi:/ *abbr* pico-

**P** *abbr* peta

**PABX** *abbr* private automatic branch exchange

**pack** /pæk/ *verb* **1.** to put things into a container for selling or sending ○ *to pack goods into cartons* **2.** to store a quantity of data in a reduced form, often by representing several characters of data with one stored character

**package** /'pækɪdʒ/ *noun* a group of different items joined together in one deal

**package deal** /,pækɪdʒ 'di:l/ *noun* an agreement in which several different items are agreed at the same time ○ *They agreed on a package deal, which involves the development of software, customising hardware, and training staff.*

**packaged software** /,pækɪdʒd 'sɒftweə/ *noun* same as **software package**

**packet** /'pækɪt/ *noun* a group of data bits which can be transmitted as a group from one node to another over a network

**packet Internet groper** /,pækɪt ,ɪntənət 'grəʊpə/ *noun* full form of **PING**

**packet switching** /'pækɪt swɪtʃɪŋ/ *noun* a method of sending data across a WAN in small packets, which are then re-assembled in the correct order at the receiving end

'The network is based on Northern Telecom DPN data switches over which it will offer X.25 packet switching, IBM SNA, and frame-relay transmission.' [*Computing*]

**packet switching service** /'pækɪt ,swɪtʃɪŋ ,sɜ:vɪs/ *noun* a commercial data transmission service that sends data over its WAN using packet switching. *Abbr* **PSS**

**packing** /'pækɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the action of putting goods into boxes and wrapping them for shipping ○ *What is the cost of the packing?* ○ *Packing is included in the price.* **2.** the process of putting large amounts of data into a small area of storage **3.** a material used to protect goods ○ *packed in airtight packing*

**pad** /pæd/ *noun* a number of keys arranged together ■ *verb* to fill something out and make it bigger or the right size (NOTE: **padding** – **padding**)

**padding** /'pædɪŋ/ *noun* a character or set of digits added to fill out a string or packet until it is the right length

**page** /peɪdʒ/ *noun* **1.** a sheet of paper **2.** an amount of text displayed on a computer mon-

itor or screen which would fill a page of paper if printed out or which fills the screen **3.** a section of main store, which contains data or programs ○ *the video adapter uses page-mode RAM to speed up the display* **4.** one side of a printed sheet of paper in a book or newspaper or magazine or catalogue, etc. **5.** a blank area of the screen used as a background for a multimedia book. The design of each page is created by pasting objects, such as windows, buttons, graphic images and text, onto the page. ■ *verb* to make up a text into pages

**page addressing** /'peɪdʒ ə,dresɪŋ/ *noun* main memory which has been split into blocks, with a unique address allocated to each block of memory which can then be called up and accessed individually, when required

**page boundary** /'peɪdʒ ,baʊnd(ə)rɪ/ *noun* a point where one page ends and the next starts

**page break** /,peɪdʒ 'breɪk/ *noun* **1.** the point in continuous text at which a page ends and a new page starts **2.** a marker used when word-processing to show where a new page should start

**paged address** /,peɪdʒd ə'dres/ *noun* (*in a paged-memory scheme*) the actual physical memory address that is calculated from a logical address and its page address

**page description language** /,peɪdʒ dɪ 'skrɪpʃən ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* software that controls a printer's actions to print a page of text to a particular format according to a user's instructions. *Abbr* **PDL**

**page description programming language** /,peɪdʒ dɪ ,skrɪpʃ(ə)n 'prəʊgræmɪŋ ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* a programming language that accepts commands to define the size, position and type style for text or graphics on a page

**page down key** /,peɪdʒ 'daʊn ,ki:/ *noun* a keyboard key that moves the cursor position down by the number of lines on one screen. *Abbr* **PgDn**

**page frame** /,peɪdʒ 'freɪm/ *noun* a physical address to which a page of virtual or logical memory can be mapped

**page image buffer** /,peɪdʒ 'ɪmɪdʒ ,bʌfə/ *noun* memory in a page printer that holds the image as it is built up before it is printed

**page impression** /'peɪdʒ ɪm,preɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a measure used to count how many times a webpage has been displayed to a visitor to a website

**page layout** /'peɪdʒ ˌleɪaʊt/ *noun* the arrangement of text and pictures within a page of a document ○ *We do all our page layout using desktop publishing software.*

**page makeup** /'peɪdʒ ˈmeɪkʌp/ *noun* the action of pasting images and text into a page ready for printing

**page-mode RAM** /'peɪdʒ məʊd ˈræm/ *noun* dynamic RAM designed to access sequential memory locations very quickly ○ *The video adapter uses page-mode RAM to speed up the display.*

**page number** /'peɪdʒ ˌnʌmbə/ *noun* a unique number assigned to each page within a multimedia application, to be used within hyperlinks and when moving between pages

**page orientation** /'peɪdʒ ˌɔ:riənteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the direction of the long edge of a piece of paper

**page preview** /'peɪdʒ ˌpri:vju:z/ *noun* (in WP or DTP software) a graphical representation of how a page will look when printed, with different type styles, margins and graphics correctly displayed

**page proofs** /'peɪdʒ pru:fs/ *plural noun* proofs which are divided into pages, but may not have page numbers or headings inserted

**page protection** /'peɪdʒ prəˌtektʃən/ *noun* the set of software controls used to ensure that pages are not overwritten by accident or copied into a reserved section of memory

**pager** /'peɪdʒə/ *noun* a small device carried by someone, which allows him to be called from a central office, by using a radio signal

**page requests** /'peɪdʒ rɪ'kwɛsts/ *plural noun* a measure of the number of pages viewed in a day, providing an indication of the popularity of your website

**page setup** /'peɪdʒ ˌsetʌp/ *noun* the set of software options that allow a user to set up how the page will look when printed, – usually setting the margins, size of paper, and scaling of a page

**pages per minute** /'peɪdʒɪz pɜ: ˈmɪnət/ *noun* full form of **ppm** ○ *This laser printer can output eight pages per minute.*

**page table** /'peɪdʒ ˌteɪb(ə)/ *noun* a list of all the pages and their locations within main memory, used by the operating system when accessing a page

**page up key** /'peɪdʒ ˌʌp ˌki:/ *noun* a keyboard key that moves the cursor position up by the number of lines in one screen. Abbr **PgUp**

**pagination** /ˌpædʒɪˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of dividing text into pages

**paint** /peɪnt/ *noun* (in a graphics program) colour and pattern used to fill an area ■ *verb* (in a graphics program) to fill an enclosed graphics shape with a colour

**Paint** /ˌpaɪntbrʌʃ ˈpeɪnt/ *noun* an application supplied with Microsoft Windows 3.1x and Windows 95 for creating or editing bitmap images

**paint object** /'peɪnt ˌɒbdʒekt/ *noun* a bitmap image

**paint pots** /'peɪnt pɒts/ *plural noun* video controls which are used to change the colour balance in a camera (film)

**paint program** /'peɪnt ˌprəʊgræm/ *noun* software that allows a user to draw pictures on screen in different colours, with different styles of brush and special effects ○ *I drew a rough of our new logo with this paint program.*

COMMENT: Paint programs normally operate on bitmap images. Drafting or design software normally works with vector-based images.

**PAL** /ˌpi: eɪ ˈel/ *noun* a standard for television transmission and reception using a 625-line picture transmitted at 25 frames per second. Full form **phase alternation line** (NOTE: PAL provides a clearer image than NTSC and is used in most of Europe, except for France, which uses SECAM. The US and Japan use NTSC.)

**palette** /'pælət/ *noun* **1.** the range of colours which can be used on a printer or computer display **2.** data structure that defines the colours used in a bitmap image; the palette data defines each colour, the bitmap includes references to the colours in the palette

**palette shift** /'pælət ʃɪft/ *noun* an image displayed using the wrong palette with the unwanted effect that the colours appear distorted

**palm computer** /'pɑ:m kəmˌpjʊ:tə/ *noun* a tiny computer that is about half the size of a paperback book. It does not contain a keyboard, but uses a touch-sensitive screen and character recognition to allow the user to enter information and control applications. Normally used for contact management, calendar and email. One of the most popular products is the 3Com Palm computer that runs its own operating system software and a range of palm computers that can all run the Windows CE operating system software.

**palmtop** /'pɑ:mtɒp/ *noun* a personal computer that is small enough to be held in one hand and operated with the other ○ *This palmtop has a tiny keyboard and twenty-line LCD screen.*

**PAM** *noun* a pulse modulation system in which the height of the pulse varies with the input signal. Full form **pulse amplitude modulation**

**pan** /pæn/ *verb* 1. (in computer graphics) to smoothly move a viewing window horizontally across an image that is too wide to display all at once 2. (in MIDI or sound) to adjust the balance of a sound between the two stereo channels (NOTE: **panning** – **panned**)

■ *noun* the rotation of a camera in a horizontal direction in order to film action, subject or background; sometimes used to mean 'follow the action'

**pan and tilt head** /,pæn ən 'tɪlt ,hed/ *noun* the mount on a tripod for a film or television camera which permits camera movement in both horizontal and vertical directions (*film*)

**panchromatic film** /,pænkromætɪk 'fɪlm/, **pan film** /'pæn fɪlm/ *noun* a black and white film which is sensitive to all colours

**panel** /'pæn(ə)/ *noun* a flat section of a casing with control knobs or sockets ○ *The socket is on the back panel.*

**panorama** /,pænoʊ'ri:mə/ *noun* a wide-angle shot which reveals the whole of the scene through a pan shot (*film*)

**Pantone Matching System** /,pæntən 'mætʃɪŋ ,sɪstəm/ a trade name for a standard method of matching ink colours on screen and on printed output using a book of pre-defined colours. Abbr **PMS**

**paper** /'peɪpə/ *noun* a thin material used for making books, newspapers or stationery items

**paperback** /'peɪpəbæk/ *noun* a book which has a paper cover ○ *We are publishing the book as a hardback and as a paperback.*

**paperbound** /'peɪpəbaʊnd/ *adjective* (of a book) bound with a paper cover (as opposed to hardbound)

**paper-fed** /'peɪpə fed/ *adjective* referring to a device which is activated when paper is introduced into it ○ *a paper-fed scanner*

**paperless** /'peɪpələs/ *adjective* without using paper

**paperless office** /,peɪpələs 'ɒfɪs/ *noun* an office which uses computers and other electronic devices for office tasks and avoids the use of paper

'Indeed, the concept of the paperless office may have been a direct attack on Xerox and its close ties to the paper document. Yet, as we all know, the paperless office has so far been an empty promise.' [Computing]

**paper-white monitor** /,peɪpə 'waɪt ,mɒnɪtə/ *noun* a monitor that normally displays black text on a white background, rather

than the normal illuminated text on a black background

**paragraph** /'pærəgrɑ:f/ *noun* 1. (in a document) the section of text between two carriage return characters, with a unified subject 2. (in a memory map) a 16-byte section of memory which starts at a hexadecimal address that can be evenly divided by 16

**parallel** /'pærəleɪ/ *adjective* 1. referring to a computer system in which two or more processors operate simultaneously on one or more items of data 2. referring to two or more bits of a word transmitted over separate lines at the same time

**parallel broadcast** /,pærəleɪ 'brɔ:dka:st/ *noun* a broadcast that is transmitted simultaneously by radio or television and over the Internet

**parallel input/output** /,pærəleɪ ,ɪnpʊt 'aʊtpʊt/ *noun* full form of **PIO**

**parallel input/parallel output** /,pærəleɪ ,ɪnpʊt ,pærəleɪ 'aʊtpʊt/ *noun* full form of **PIPO**

**parallel input/serial output** /,pærəleɪ ,ɪnpʊt ,sɪəriəl 'aʊtpʊt/ *noun* full form of **PISO**

**parallel running** /,pærəleɪ 'rʌnɪŋ/ *noun* the running of an old and a new computer system together to allow the new system to be checked before it becomes the only system used

**parameter** /pə'reɪmɪtə/ *noun* an item of information which defines the limits or actions of something, e.g. a variable, routine or program ○ *The X parameter defines the number of characters displayed across a screen.*

**parent directory** /'peərənt daɪ ,rekt(ə)ri/ *noun* (in a DOS filing system) the directory above a subdirectory

**parent folder** /'peərənt ,fəʊldə/ *noun* (in an Apple Mac filing system) one folder that contains other folders

**parent object** /'peərənt ,ɒbdʒekt/ *noun* a page that contains the object that is being referenced

**parent program** /'peərənt ,prəʊgræm/ *noun* a program that starts another program, a child program, while it is still running (NOTE: Control passes back to the parent program when the child program has finished.)

**parity** /'pærɪti/ *noun* the fact of being equal 'The difference between them is that RAID level one offers mirroring, whereas level five stripes records in parity across the disks in the system.' [Computing]

**parity bit** /'pærɪti bɪt/ *noun* an extra bit added to a data word as a parity checking device

**parity check** /'pærɪti tʃek/ *noun* a method of checking for errors and that transmitted binary data has not been corrupted by adding an extra bit

**park** /pɑ:k/ *verb* to move the read/write head of a hard disk drive over a point on the disk where no data is stored ○ *When parked, the disk head will not damage any data if it touches the disk surface.*

**parse** /pɑ:z/ *verb* to break down high-level language code into its element parts when translating into machine code (NOTE: parses – parsing – parsed)

**parsing** /'pɑ:zɪŋ/ *noun* an operation to break down high-level language code into its element parts when translating into machine code

**part** /pɑ:t/ *noun* **1.** a section of something **2.** one of a series

**particle** /'pɑ:tɪk(ə)/ *noun* a very small piece of matter

**partition** /pɑ:'tɪf(ə)n/ *noun* an area of a hard disk that is treated as a logical drive and can be accessed as a separate drive ○ *I defined two partitions on this hard disk – called drive C: and D:.* ■ *verb* to divide a hard disk into two or more logical drives that can be accessed as separate drives

**parts per quarter note** /,pɑ:ts pɜ:'kɔ:tə ,nəʊt/ *noun* full form of **PPQN**

**pascal** /'pæskəl/ *noun* a unit of pressure

**PASCAL** /'pæskæl/ *noun* a high-level structured programming language used both on micros and for teaching programming

**passage** /'pæsɪdʒ/ *noun* a number of notes that form a small section of a musical score

**password** /'pɑ:s,wɜ:d/ *noun* a word or series of characters which identifies a user so that he or she can access a system ○ *The user has to key in the password before he can access the database.*

‘...the system’s security features let you divide the disk into up to 256 password-protected sections’ [Byte]

**password protection** /,pɑ:swɜ:d prə'tekʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a computer software that requires the user to enter a password before he or she can gain access

**paste** /peɪst/ *verb* to insert text or graphics that has been copied or cut into a file ○ *Now that I have cut this paragraph from the end of the document, I can paste it in here.* (NOTE: pastes – pasting – pasted)

**Paste Special** /,peɪst 'speʃ(ə)/ *noun* a facility for inserting a special object such as sound, images or data from other applications into a document

**patch** /pætʃ/ *noun* **1.** a temporary correction made to a program by a user, often on the instructions of the software publisher **2.** a

thin piece of translucent film which is used to repair a tear in the film **3.** data that defines a sound in a synthesiser; a patch is also called a program and can be altered by issuing a program-change message

**patchboard** /'pætʃbɔ:d/ *noun* same as **plugboard**

**patch cord** /'pætʃ kɔ:d/ *noun* a short cable with a connector at each end, used to make an electrical connection on a patch panel

**patch panel** /'pætʃ ,pæn(ə)/ *noun* a set of electrical terminals that can be interconnected using short patch cords, allowing quick and simple reconfiguration of a network

**path** /pɑ:θ/ *noun* **1.** a route from one point in a communications network to another **2.** (in the DOS operating system) a list of subdirectories in which the operating system should look for a named file

**pathname** /,pɑ:θ'neɪm/ *noun* the location of a file with a listing of the subdirectories leading to it ○ *The pathname for the letter file is .DOC.*

**pattern** /'pæt(ə)n/ *noun* a series of regular lines or shapes which are repeated again and again

**patterned** /'pæt(ə)nd/ *adjective* with patterns

**pattern palette** /'pæt(ə)n ,pælət/ *noun* a range of predefined patterns that can be used to fill an area of an image

**pattern recognition** /,pæt(ə)n ,rekəg'nɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* algorithms or program functions that can identify a shape, e.g. from a video camera

**pause control** /'pɔ:z kən'trəʊl/ *noun* a tape recorder control which temporarily stops the tape movement; it does not always produce a still frame picture on a video tape recorder (film)

**pause key** /'pɔ:z ki:/ *noun* a keyboard key that temporarily stops a process, often a scrolling screen display, until the key is pressed a second time

**PAX** *abbr* private automatic exchange

**paycable** /'peɪkəɪb(ə)/ *noun* US a form of cable television where the viewer pays an extra fee for extra channels

**payment gateway** /'peɪmənt ,geɪtwɛɪ/ *noun* a server or organisation that acts as an interface between the payment systems of the seller and the buyer when payments are made over the Internet

**payment gateway certificate authority** /,peɪmənt ,geɪtwɛɪ sə'tɪfɪkət ɔ:,θɔ:rtɪti/ *noun* an organisation that issues, renews or cancels the certificates that identify an Internet payment gateway. Abbr **PGCA**

**pay TV** /'peɪ ti: vi:/ *noun* a form of cable television, where the viewer pays for programs or channels watched

**PB** *abbr* petabyte

**PBX** *abbr* private branch exchange

**PC** /,pi: 'si:/ *noun* a computer that uses an Intel 80x86 processor and is based on the IBM PC-style architecture. Full form **personal computer** (NOTE: PC originally referred to a microcomputer specification with an 8086-based low-power computer.)

**PC Card** /,pi: 'si: kɑ:d/ *noun* an electronic device, about the same size as a thick credit card, that can be plugged into a PCMCIA adapter to provide a particular function. Also called **PCMCIA card**. ◊ **PCMCIA** (NOTE: For example PC Cards are available that provide a modem, NIC, extra memory and hard disk drive functions.)

**PC-compatible** /,pi: 'si: kəm'pætəb(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to a computer that is compatible with the IBM PC

**p-channel metal oxide semiconductor** /,pi: 'tʃæn(ə)l ,met(ə)l ,ɒksaɪd ,semɪkən'daktə/ *noun* full form of **PMOS**

**PCI** /,pi: si: 'eɪ/ *noun* a specification produced by Intel defining a type of fast local bus that allows high-speed data transfer between the processor and expansion cards. Full form **peripheral component interconnect**

**PCM** /,pi: si: 'em/ *noun* 1. a company that produces add-on boards which are compatible with another manufacturer's computer. Full form **plug-compatible manufacturer** 2. a way of storing sounds in an accurate, compact format that is used by high-end sound cards. Full form **pulse-code modulation**

**PCMCIA** /,pi: si: em si: ar 'eɪ/ *noun* a specification for add-in expansion cards that are the size of a credit card with a connector at one end ◊ *The extra memory is stored on this PCMCIA card and I use it on my laptop.* Full form **Personal Computer Memory Card International Association**

**PCMCIA card** /,pi: si: ,em ,si: ar 'eɪ kɑ:d/ *noun* add-in memory or a peripheral which complies with the PCMCIA standard

**PCMCIA connector** /,pi: si: ,em ,si: ar 'eɪ kə'nektə/ *noun* a 68-pin connector that is inside a PCMCIA slot and on the end of a PCMCIA card

**PCMCIA slot** /,pi: si: ,em ,si: ar 'eɪ slɒt/ *noun* an expansion slot, normally on a laptop, that can accept a PCMCIA expansion card

**PC/TV** /,pi: si: ti: 'vi:/ *noun* a personal computer that can receive, decode and display standard television images

**PCU** /,pi: si: 'ju:/ *noun* a device used to convert input and output signals and instructions to a form that a peripheral device will understand. Full form **peripheral control unit**

**PCX** *noun* a standard file format for storing colour graphics images

**PCX file** /,pi: si: eks 'faɪl/ *noun* a method of storing a bitmap graphic image file on disk

**PD** *abbr* public domain

**PDA** /,pi: di: 'eɪ/ *noun* a lightweight palm-top computer that provides the basic functions of a diary, notepad, address-book and to-do list together with fax or modem communications. Full form **personal digital assistant** (NOTE: Current PDA designs do not have a keyboard, but use a touch-sensitive screen with a pen and handwriting-recognition to control the software.)

**PDF** /,pi: di: 'ef/ *noun* a file format used by Adobe Acrobat. Full form **portable document format**

**PDL** *abbr* 1. page description language 2. program design language

**PWM** *noun* a pulse modulation system in which the pulse width varies with the magnitude of the input signal. Full form **pulse duration modulation**

**PDN** *abbr* public data network

**peak** /pi:k/ *noun* the highest point ■ *verb* to reach the highest point

**peek** /pi:k/ *noun* a BASIC computer instruction that allows the user to read the contents of a memory location ◊ *You need the instruction PEEK 1452 here to examine the contents of memory location 1452.* Compare **poke**

**peer** /pɪə/ *noun* each of two similar devices operating on the same network protocol level  
**peer-to-peer network** /,pɪə tə ,pɪə 'netwɜ:k/ *noun* a local area network, usually using NICs in each computer, that does not use a central dedicated server, but instead each computer in the network shares the jobs ◊ *We have linked the four PCs in our small office using a peer-to-peer network.*

**pen** /pen/ *noun* same as **light pen**

**pen computer** /,pen kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* a type of computer that uses a light pen instead of a keyboard for input (NOTE: The computer has a touch-sensitive screen and uses handwriting-recognition software to interpret the commands written on the screen using the light pen.)

**pen plotter** /'pen ,plɒtə/ *noun* a plotter that uses removable pens to draw an image on paper

**Pentium** /'pentɪəm/ a trade name for a range of electronic processor components de-

veloped by Intel (NOTE: They are backwards-compatible with the 80x86 family used in IBM PCs. The processor uses a 32-bit address bus and a 64-bit data bus.)

**per** /pɜː, pə/ *preposition* **1.** at a rate of **2.** out of or for each ○ *The rate of imperfect items is about 25 per 1,000.*

**per cent** /pə'sent/ *adjective, adverb* out of each hundred or for each hundred ○ *what is the increase per cent? fifty per cent of nothing is still nothing* □ **10 per cent** ten in every hundred ○ *what is the increase per cent? fifty per cent of nothing is still nothing*

**percentage** /pə'sentɪdʒ/ *noun* an amount shown as part of one hundred □ **percentage increase** increase calculated on the basis of a rate for one hundred □ **percentage point** one per cent

**percentile** /pə'sen,tail/ *noun* one of a series of 99 figures below which a certain percentage of the total falls

**per day** /pə'deɪ/ *phrase* for each day

**perfect** /pə'fekt/ *verb* to make something which is completely correct ○ *He perfected the process for making high grade steel.*

**perfect binding** /,pɜːfɪkt 'baɪndɪŋ/ *noun* a method of binding paperback books, where the pages are trimmed at the spine, and glued to the cover

**perfect bound** /,pɜːfɪkt baʊnd/ *adjective* (of a book, usually a paperback) bound without sewing, where the pages are trimmed at the spine and glued to the cover with strong glue

**perfectly** /'pɜːfɪktli/ *adverb* with no mistakes or correctly ○ *She typed the letter perfectly.*

**perfector** /pə'fektə/ *noun* a printing machine that prints on both sides of a sheet of paper

**perforated tape** /'pɜːfə'reɪtɪd teɪp/ *noun* a paper tape or long strip of tape on which data can be recorded in the form of punched holes

**perforation** /,pɜːfə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* any one of a line of very small holes in a sheet of paper or continuous stationery, to help when tearing

**perforator** /'pɜːfə'reɪtə/ *noun* a machine that punches holes in a paper tape

**perform** /pə'fɔːm/ *verb* to do well or badly

**performance** /pə'fɔːməns/ *noun* the way in which someone or something works

**perigee** /'perɪdʒiː/ *noun* the point during the orbit of a satellite when it closest to the earth

**period** /'pɪəriəd/ *noun* **1.** a length of time ○ *for a period of time or for a period of months*

or for a six-year period **2.** a printing sign used at the end of a piece of text, the full stop **periodic** /,pɪəri'ɒdɪk/, **periodical** /,pɪəri'ɒdɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* happening from time to time ○ *a periodic review of the company's performance*

**periodically** /,pɪəri'ɒdɪkli/ *adverb* from time to time

**peripheral** /pə'rɪf(ə)rəl/ *adjective* which is not essential ■ *noun* **1.** a piece of computer hardware that is not part of the central processing unit but is controlled by it, e.g. a printer or scanner ○ *Peripherals such as disk drives or printers allow data transfer and are controlled by a system, but contain independent circuits for their operation.* Also called **auxiliary device, peripheral unit** **2.** any device that allows communication between a system and itself but is not directly operated by the system

**peripheral component interconnect** /pə,rɪf(ə)rəl kəm,pəʊnənt 'ɪntəkənekt/ *noun* full form of **PCI**

**peripheral control unit** /pə,rɪf(ə)rəl kən'trəʊl ,juːnɪt/ *noun* full form of **PCU**

**peripheral interface adapter** /pə,rɪf(ə)rəl 'ɪntəfeɪs ə,dæptə/ *noun* full form of **PIA**

**peripheral unit** /pə,rɪf(ə)rəl 'juːnɪt/ *noun* **1.** an item of hardware such as a terminal, printer or monitor which is attached to a main computer system. Same as **peripheral** **2.** any device that allows communication between a system and itself, but is not operated only by the system

**Perl** /pɜːl/ *noun* an interpreted programming language, usually used under Unix, used to create CGI scripts that can process forms or carry out functions on a web server to enhance a website. Full form **practical extraction and report language**

**perlux** /'pɜːlɒks/ *noun* a material used for a projection screen which is highly reflective and also wide-angle (*film*)

**permanent** /'pɜːmənənt/ *adjective* which will last for a very long time or for ever

**permanently** /'pɜːmənəntli/ *adverb* in a way which will last for a long time or for ever ○ *The production number is permanently engraved on the back of the computer casing.*

**permeability** /,pɜːmiə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* a measure of the ratio of the magnetic flux in a material to the size of the generating field

**permission** /pə'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* authorisation given to a particular user to access a certain shared resource or area of disk ○ *This user cannot access the file on the server because he does not have permission.*

**permutation** /,pɜːmju'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* each of a number of different ways in which

something can be arranged ○ *The cipher system is very secure since there are so many possible permutations for the key.*

**persistence** /pə'sɪstəns/ *noun* the length of time that a CRT will continue to display an image after the picture beam has stopped tracing it on the screen ○ *Slow scan rate monitors need long persistence phosphor to prevent the image flickering.*

**person** /'pɜ:s(ə)n/ *noun* a human being

**personal** /'pɜ:s(ə)n(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to one person

**personal computer** /,pɜ:s(ə)n(ə)l kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* full form of **PC**

**Personal Computer Memory Card International Association** /,pɜ:s(ə)nəl kəm'pjʊ:tə ,mem(ə)ri kɑ:d ,ɪntənəʃ(ə)nəl ə,səʊsi'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **PCMCIA**

**personal digital assistant** /,pɜ:s(ə)n(ə)l ,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l ə'sɪstənt/ *noun* full form of **PDA**

**personal identification device** /,pɜ:s(ə)n(ə)l aɪ,dentɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n dɪ,vaɪs/ *noun* full form of **PID**

**personal identification number** /,pɜ:s(ə)n(ə)l aɪ,dentɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n ,nʌmbə/ *noun* full form of **PIN**

**personal information manager** /,pɜ:s(ə)n(ə)l ,ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n ,mænɪdʒə/ *noun* full form of **PIM**

**personalise** /'pɜ:s(ə)nəlaɪz/, **personalize** *verb* to customise or adapt a product specially for a certain user (NOTE: **personalises** – **personalising** – **personalised**)

**personnel** /,pɜ:sə'nel/ *noun* staff or all the people working in an office or factory

**perspective** /pə'spektɪv/ *noun* the appearance of depth in an image in which objects that are further away from the viewer appear smaller

**PERT** /pɜ:t/ *noun* a definition of tasks or jobs and the time each requires, arranged in order to achieve a goal. Full form **program evaluation and review technique**

**per week** /pə 'wi:k/ *adverb* for each week

**per year** /pə 'jɪə/ *adverb* for each year

**peta** /petə/ *prefix* one quadrillion (2<sup>50</sup>). Abbr **P**

**petabyte** /'petəbaɪt/ *noun* one quadrillion bytes. Abbr **PB**

**pF** *noun* the unit of measurement of capacitance equal to one million millionth of a farad. Full form **picofarad**

**PFL** *abbr* pre-fade listen (*film*)

**PgDn** /,peɪdʒ 'daʊn/ *abbr* page down key

**PGP** /,pi: dʒɪ: 'pi:/ *noun* an encryption system developed to allow anyone to protect the contents of his or her email messages from

unauthorised readers. Full form **pretty good privacy** (NOTE: This system is often used when sending credit card or payment details over the Internet.)

**PgUp** /,peɪdʒ 'ʌp/ *abbr* page up key

**phantom ROM** /'fæntəm rɒm/ *noun* a duplicate area of read-only memory that is accessed by a special code

**phase** /feɪz/ *noun* **1.** one part of a larger process **2.** the coincidence of reference signal and colour burst

**phase alternation line** /,feɪz ,ɔ:ltə 'neɪʃ(ə)n ,laɪn/ *noun* full form of **PAL**

**phasing** /'feɪzɪŋ/ *noun* (*film*) **1.** two systems or circuits which are adjusted so that they operate in phase **2.** a television and video tape recorder standard alignment process **3.** the loss of quality in transmitted sound when two microphones are placed too near each other

**PHIGS** /fɪgz/ *noun* a standard application interface between software and a graphics adapter that uses a set of standard commands to draw and manipulate 2D and 3D images. Full form **programmer's hierarchical interactive graphics standard**

**phon** /fɒn/ *noun* a measure of sound equal to a one thousand Hertz signal at one decibel; zero is just audible to the human ear

**phone** /fəʊn/ *noun* a telephone or machine used for speaking to someone over a long distance ○ *We had a new phone system installed last week.*

**phone back** /,fəʊn 'bæk/ *verb* to reply by phone ○ *The chairman is in a meeting, can you phone back in about half an hour?* ○ *Mr Smith called while you were out and asked if you would phone him back.*

**phoneme** /'fəʊni:m/ *noun* one small meaningful sound, several of which may make up a spoken word (NOTE: Phonemes are relevant to the analysis of voice input to recognise words and in the reproduction of speech.)

**phonetic** /fə'netɪk/ *adjective* referring to phonetics ○ *The pronunciation is indicated in phonetic script.*

**phonetics** /fə'netɪks/ *noun* written symbols that are used to represent the correct pronunciation of a word

**phono connector** /,fəʊnəʊ kə'nektə/ *noun* a plug and socket standard used to connect audio and video devices. Also called **RCA connector** (NOTE: The male plug has a 1/8-inch metal central core that sticks out from within the centre of an insulated core.

If you have fitted a sound card to your PC you will see two phono connectors on the back plate. These let you connect your

sound card directly to your CD player or tape recorder.)

**phosphor** /'fɒfsə/ *noun* a substance that produces light when excited by some form of energy, usually an electron beam, used for coating the inside of a cathode ray tube

COMMENT: A thin layer of phosphor is arranged in a pattern of small dots on the inside of a television screen which produces an image when scanned by the picture beam.

**phosphorescence** /,fɒsfə'res(ə)ns/ *noun* the ability of a material to produce light when excited by some form of energy

**photocell** /'fəʊtəʊsəl/ *noun* an electronic device that produces or varies an electrical signal according to the amount of light shining on it

**photocomposition** /,fəʊtəʊkɒmpə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the composition of typeset text direct onto film

**photoconductivity** /,fəʊtəʊkɒndʌk'tɪvɪti/ *noun* a material which varies its resistance according to the amount of light striking it

**photoconductor** /'fəʊtəʊkən,dʌktə/ *noun* a photocell whose resistance varies with the amount of light shining on it

**photocopier** /'fəʊtəʊkɒpiə/ *noun* a machine which makes a copy of a document by photographing and printing it

**photocopy** /'fəʊtəʊkɒpi/ *noun* a copy of a document made by photographing and printing it ○ *Make six photocopies of the contract.* ■ *verb* to make a copy of a document by photographing and printing it ○ *She photocopied the contract.*

**photocopying** /'fəʊtəʊkɒpiɪŋ/ *noun* the process of making photocopies (NOTE: no plural) □ **photocopying bureau** office which photocopies documents for companies which do not possess their own photocopiers □ **there is a mass of photocopying to be done** there are many documents waiting to be photocopied

**photodigital memory** /fəʊtəʊ'dɪdʒɪt(ə)l'mem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* a computer memory system that uses a laser to write data onto a piece of film which can then be read many times but not written to again. Also called **WORM**

**photodiode** /,fəʊtəʊ'daɪəʊd/ *noun* an electronic component displaying the electrical properties of a diode but whose resistance varies with the amount of light that shines on it. ▽ **avalanche**

**photoelectric** /fəʊtəʊ'lektɪk/ *adjective* (material) that generates an electrical signal when light shines on it ○ *The photoelectric*

*cell detects the amount of light passing through the liquid.*

**photoelectric cell** /,fəʊtəʊ'lektɪk'sel/ *noun* a component which produces or varies an electrical signal when a light shines on it ○ *The photoelectric cell detects the amount of light passing through the liquid.*

**photoelectricity** /,fəʊtəʊ'lek'trɪsɪti/ *noun* the production of an electrical signal from a material that has light shining on it

**photoemission** /,fəʊtəʊ'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a material that emits electrons when light strikes it

**photograph** /'fəʊtə,grɑ:f/ *noun* an image formed by light striking a light-sensitive surface, usually coated paper ○ *colour photograph* ○ *black and white photograph* ○ *It's a photograph of the author.* ○ *He took six photographs of the set.* ○ *We will be using a colour photograph of the author on the back of the jacket.*

**photographic** /,fəʊtə'græfɪk/ *adjective* referring to photography or photographs ○ *The copier makes a photographic reproduction of the printed page.*

**photographically** /,fəʊtə'græfɪkli/ *adverb* using photography ○ *The text film can be reproduced photographically.*

**photographic film** /,fəʊtə'græfɪk fɪlm/ *noun* light-sensitive film used in a camera to record images

**photographic sound** /,fəʊtə'græfɪk saʊnd/ *noun* a method of recording and reproducing on film where the sound track takes the form of variations in the density or width of a photographic image (*film*)

**photography** /fə'tɒgrəfi/ *noun* a method of creating images by exposing light-sensitive paper to light, using a camera

**photolithography** /,fəʊtəʊ,lɪ'thɒgrəfi/ *noun* the process of printing using a lithographic printing plate formed photographically

**photomechanical transfer** /,fəʊtəʊmɪkænɪk(ə)l'trænsfɜ:/ *noun* a system for transferring line drawings and text onto film before printing. Abbr **PMT**

**photometer** /fəʊ'tɒmɪtə/ *noun* a device which measures the brightness of light (*film*)

**photometry** /fəʊ'tɒmɪtri/ *noun* study and measurement of light

**photon** /'fəʊtɒn/ *noun* a packet of electromagnetic radiation

**photoprint** /'fəʊtəʊprɪnt/ *noun* a final proof

**photorealistic** /,fəʊtəʊrɪə'lɪstɪk/ *adjective* referring to a computer image that has almost the same quality and clarity as a photograph

**photosensitive** /ˌfəʊtəʊ'sensɪtɪv/ *adjective* sensitive to light (*film*)

**photosensor** /ˌfəʊtəʊ'sensə/ *noun* a component or circuit that can produce a signal related to the amount of light striking it

**photostat** /ˌfəʊtəʊ'stæt/ *noun* a type of photocopy ■ *verb* to make a photostat of a document

**phototelegraphy** /ˌfəʊtətə'leɪgrəfi/ *noun* the transmission of images over a telephone line

**phototransistor** /ˌfəʊtəʊ'træn'zɪstə/ *noun* an electronic component that can detect light and amplify the generated signal or vary a supply according to light intensity

**phototypesetter** /ˌfəʊtəʊ'taɪpset/ *noun* 1. a device that can produce very high-resolution text on photosensitive paper or film 2. a company which specialises in phototypesetting

**phototypesetting** /ˌfəʊtəʊ'taɪpsetɪŋ/ *noun* a method of typesetting that creates characters using a computer and exposing a sensitive film in front of a mask containing the required character shape

**physical** /ˈfɪzɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* real or solid, or which can be touched

**physical record** /ˈfɪzɪk(ə)l'rekɔ:d/ *noun* 1. the maximum unit of data that can be transmitted in a single operation 2. all the information, including control data, for one record stored in a computer system

**PIA** /ˌpi: aɪ 'eɪ/ *noun* a circuit which allows a computer to communicate with a peripheral by providing serial and parallel ports and other handshaking signals required to interface the peripheral. Full form **peripheral interface adapter**

**PIC** /ˌpi: aɪ 'si:/ *noun* an image compression algorithm used in Intel's DVI video system. Full form **picture image compression**

**pica** /'paɪkə/ *noun* 1. a method of measurement used in printing and typesetting (equal to twelve point type) 2. the width of characters in a typeface, usually 12 characters to the inch

**PICK** /pɪk/ *noun* a multi-user, multitasking operating system that runs on mainframe, mini or PC computers

**pickup** /'pɪkʌp/ *noun* 1. the arm and cartridge used to playback music from a record 2. the inserting of a shot in a film 3. a graph showing the sensitivity of a microphone according to the direction of the source. The two most common patterns are omnidirectional (the microphone will pick up sound from any direction) and uni-directional (the microphone is focused and responds to sound from one direction only).

**pico-** /ˌpi:kəʊ/ *prefix* one million millionth of a unit. Abbr **p**

**picosecond** /ˌpi:kəʊ'sekənd/ *noun* one million millionth of a second. Abbr **ps**

**PICS** /pɪks/ *noun* a file format used to import a sequence of PICT files on an Apple Mac

**PICT** /pɪkt/ *noun* a method of storing vector graphic images, developed by Lotus for its 1–2–3 spreadsheet charts and graphs. Full form **PICTure**

**picture** /'pɪktʃə/ *noun* a printed or drawn image of an object or scene ○ *This picture shows the new design.* ■ *verb* to visualise an object or scene ○ *Try to picture the layout before starting to draw it in.* (NOTE: **pictures – picturing – pictured**)

**PICTURE** /'pɪktʃə/ *noun* full form of **PICT**

**picture beam** /'pɪktʃə bi:m/ *noun* a moving electron beam in a TV that produces an image on the screen by illuminating the phosphor coating and by varying its intensity according to the received signal

**picture element** /'pɪktʃə ,elɪmənt/ *noun* same as **pixel**

**picture image compression** /ˌpɪktʃə 'ɪmɪdʒ kəmp'reʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **PIC**

**picture level benchmark** /ˌpɪktʃə ,lev(ə)l 'bentʃmɑ:k/ *noun* full form of **PLB**

**picture object** /'pɪktʃə ,ɒbdʒekt/ *noun* an image created with a vector drawing package and stored as vectors rather than as a bit-map

**picture processing** /ˌpɪktʃə ,prə'sesɪŋ/ *noun* the analysis of information contained in an image, usually by computer or electronic methods, providing analysis or recognition of objects in the image

**picture transmission** /'pɪktʃə træn'z ,mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the transmission of images over a telephone line

**PID** /ˌpi: aɪ 'di:/ *noun* a device such as a bank card connected with or inserted into a system to identify or provide authorisation for a user. Full form **personal identification device**

**piece fraction** /ˌpi:s 'frækʃən/ *noun* a printed fraction contained in one character space

**pie chart** /'paɪ tʃɑ:t/ *noun* a diagram in which ratios are shown as slices of a circle ○ *The memory allocation is shown on this pie chart.*

**piezoelectric** /ˌpi:zəʊ'lektrɪk/ *adjective* being able to change their electrical properties when a force is applied or to change their physical dimensions when an electrical signal is applied

**PIF** /,pi: aɪ 'ef/ *noun* a Microsoft Windows file that contains the environment settings for a particular program. Full form **program information file**

**piggyback** /'pɪgɪbæk/ *verb* to connect two integrated circuits in parallel, one on top of the other to save space ○ *Piggyback those two memory chips to boost the memory capacity.*

**piggybacking** /'pɪgɪbækɪŋ/ *noun* the process of using transmitted messages to carry acknowledgements from a message which has been received earlier

**pilot** /'paɪlət/ *adjective* used as a test, which if successful will then be expanded into a full operation ○ *The company set up a pilot project to see if the proposed manufacturing system was efficient.* ■ *verb* to test something ○ *They are piloting the new system.*

**PIM** /,pi: aɪ 'em/ *noun* a software utility that stores and manages a user's everyday data such as diary, telephone numbers, address book and notes. Full form **personal information manager**

**pin** /pɪn/ *noun* **1.** one of several short pieces of wire attached to an integrated circuit package that allows the IC to be connected to a circuit board **2.** a short piece of metal, part of a plug which fits into a hole in a socket ○ *Use a three-pin plug to connect the printer to the mains.* **3.** part of a mechanism in a camera or a projector which engages in the perforation hole in order to find the frame

**PIN** /pɪn/ *noun* a unique sequence of digits that identifies a user to provide authorisation to access a system, often used on automatic cash dispensers or with a PID or password to enter a system. Full form **personal identification number**

**pincushion distortion** /,pɪnkʊʃ(ə)n dɪ 'stɔ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a fault with a monitor that causes the distortion of an image displayed in which the edges curve in towards the centre

**pinfeed** /'pɪnfɪ:d/ *noun* same as **tractor feed**

**PING** /pɪŋ/ *noun* a software utility that will test all the nodes on a network or Internet to ensure that they are working correctly. Full form **packet Internet groper**

**pinout** /'pɪnaʊt/ *noun* a description of the position of all the pins on an integrated circuit together with their function and signal

**PIO** /,pi: aɪ 'əʊ/ *noun* data input or output from a computer in a parallel form. Full form **parallel input/output**. ◊ **PIPO, PISO**

**pipe** /paɪp/ *noun* (in *DOS* and *UNIX*) a symbol, usually (|), that tells the operating system to send the output of one command to another command, instead of displaying it

**pipeline** /'paɪplæn/ *verb* to carry out more than one task at a time: e.g., to compress and store an image on disk as it is being scanned (NOTE: **pipelines – pipelining – pipelined**)

**pipelining** /,paɪp,læn 'mem(ə)rɪ/, **pipeline memory** *noun* a method of executing several instructions in parallel to increase performance (NOTE: Some computers use pipelining to try and boost performance by executing several instructions at once.)

**PIPO** /,pi: aɪ pi: 'əʊ/ *noun* a device that can accept and transmit parallel data. Full form **parallel input/parallel output**

**piracy** /'paɪrəsi/ *noun* the process of copying patented inventions or copyright works

**pirate** /'paɪrət/ *noun* a person who copies a patented invention or a copyright work and sells it ○ *The company is trying to take the software pirates to court.* ■ *verb* to manufacture copies of an original copyrighted work illegally ○ *a pirated DVD or a pirated design* (NOTE: **pirates – pirating – pirated**)

COMMENT: The items most frequently pirated are programs on magnetic disks and tapes, which are relatively simple to copy.

**pirate copy** /,paɪrət 'kɒpi/ *noun* a copy of software or other copyrighted material which has been made illegally ○ *A pirate copy of a computer program.*

**pirate software** /,paɪrət 'sɒftweə/ *noun* an illegal copy of a software package

**PISO** /,pi: aɪ es 'əʊ/ *noun* a device that can accept parallel data and transmit serial data. Full form **parallel input/serial output**

**pitch** /pɪtʃ/ *noun* **1.** the number of characters which will fit into one inch of line, when the characters are typed in single spacing **2.** the actual frequency of a sound **3.** a satellite or antenna movement about the horizontal axis **4.** the standard distance between the leading edges of the perforation holes on a film which is to be used as film stock

**pitch scale factor** /,pɪtʃ 'skeɪl ,fæktə/ *noun* an instruction to a waveform audio device to change the pitch of the sound by a factor

**pix** /pɪks/ *plural noun* pictures

**pixel** /'pɪksəl/ *noun* the smallest single unit or point of a display whose colour or brightness can be controlled. Also called **picture element**

'...adding 40 to each pixel brightens the image and can improve the display's appearance' [Byte]

COMMENT: In high resolution display systems the colour or brightness of a single pixel can be controlled; in low resolution systems a group of pixels are controlled at the same time.

**pixelated** /'pɪksəleɪtɪd/ *adjective* referring to an image on a computer or television

screen that is made up of pixels, especially one that is unclear or distorted

**pixillation** /ˌpɪksəˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* (film) **1.** a film and video visual effect where action is shown as a sequence of stills **2.** an effect in video where the picture is reproduced as a number of enlarged pictures

**pix lock** /ˈpɪks lɒk/ *noun* the synchronisation of a video playback circuit by an external signal

**PLA** /ˌpi: el 'ei/ *noun* an integrated circuit that can be permanently programmed to perform logic operations on data using a matrix of links between input and output pins. Full form **programmable logic array**

COMMENT: A PLA consists of a large matrix of paths between input and output pins, with logic gates and a fusible link at each connection point that can be broken or left to conduct when programming to define a function from input to output.

**plain old telephone service** /ˌpleɪn ɔʊld 'telɪfəʊn ˌsɜ:vɪs/ *noun* full form of **POTS**

**plaintext** /ˌpleɪn'tekst/ *noun* text or information that has not been encrypted or coded  
○ *The messages were sent as plaintext by telephone.* Opposite **ciphertext**

**plan** /plæn/ *noun* **1.** an organised way of doing something **2.** a drawing which shows how something is arranged or how something will be built ■ *verb* to organise carefully how something should be done (NOTE: **planning** – **planned**)

**PLAN** /plæn/ *noun* a low-level programming language

**planar** /ˈpleɪnə/ *adjective* referring to a method of producing integrated circuits by diffusing chemicals into a slice of silicon to create the different components ■ *noun* referring to graphical objects or images arranged on the same plane

**plane** /pleɪn/ *noun* one layer of an image that can be manipulated independently within a graphics program

**planet** /ˈplæɪnɪt/ *noun* a large body in space (such as the earth), moving in orbit round the sun

**planetary camera** /ˌplæɪnɪt(ə)ri 'kæm(ə)rə/ *noun* a microfilm camera in which the film and article being photographed are stationary

**planner** /ˈplænə/ *noun* a software program that allows appointments and important meetings to be recorded and arranged in the most efficient way

**planning** /ˈplæniŋ/ *noun* the activity of organising how something should be done ○ *long-term planning* or *short-term planning*

**plasma display** /ˈplæzmə dɪˌspleɪ/ *noun* same as **gas discharge display**

COMMENT: This is a thin display usually used in small portable computers.

**plastic bubble keyboard** /ˌplæstɪk ˌbʌb(ə)l 'ki:bɔ:d/ *noun* a keyboard whose keys are small bubbles in a plastic sheet over a contact which when pressed completes a circuit

COMMENT: These are very solid and cheap keyboards but are not ideal for rapid typing.

**platform** /ˈplætˌfɔ:m/ *noun* a standard type of hardware that makes up a particular range of computers ○ *This software will only work on the IBM PC platform.*

**platform independence** /ˌplætˌfɔ:m ˌɪndɪˈpendəns/ *noun* the fact that software or a network can work with or connect to different types of incompatible hardware

**platter** /ˈplætə/ *noun* one disk within a hard disk drive

COMMENT: The disks are made of metal or glass and coated with a magnetic compound; each platter has a read/write head that moves across its surface to access stored data.

**play back** /ˌpleɪ 'bæk/ *verb* to read data or a signal from a recording ○ *After you have recorded the music, press this button to play it back and hear what it sounds like.*

**playback** /ˈpleɪbæk/ *noun* recording reproduction; running a multimedia title, viewing a video clip or listening to a recorded sound

**playback head** /ˈpleɪˌbæk hed/ *noun* a piece of equipment that reads signals recorded on a storage medium and usually converts them to an electrical signal ○ *disk playback head*

**playback rate scale factor** /ˈpleɪbæk reɪt skeɪl ˌfæktə/ *noun* **1.** (in *waveform audio*) sound played back at a different rate, directed by another application, to create a special effect **2.** (in *video displayed on a computer*) the point at which video playback is no longer smooth and appears jerky because of missed frames

**PLB** /ˌpi: el 'bi:/ *noun* benchmark used to measure the performance (not the quality) of a graphics adapter or workstation. Full form **picture level benchmark**

**PLD** *abbr* programmable logic device

**plex database** /ˈpleks ˌdeɪtəbeɪs/ *noun* a database structure in which data items can be linked together

**plex structure** /ˈpleks ˌstrʌktʃə/ *noun* a network structure or data structure in which each node is connected to all the others

**PL/M** /ˌpi: el 'em/ *noun* a high level programming language derived for use on mi-

croprocessors. Full form **programming language for microprocessors**

**plot** /plɒt/ *noun* a graph or map ■ *verb* to draw an image (especially a graph) based on information supplied as a series of coordinates

**plotter** /'plɒtə/ *noun* a computer peripheral that draws straight lines between two coordinates

COMMENT: Plotters are used for graph and diagram plotting and can plot curved lines as a number of short straight lines.

**plug** /plʌg/ *noun* a connector with protruding pins that is inserted into a socket to provide an electrical connection ○ *The printer is supplied with a plug.* ■ *verb* 1. ○ *No wonder the computer does nothing, you haven't plugged it in at the mains.* □ **plug in** to make an electrical connection by pushing a plug into a socket ○ *No wonder the computer does nothing, you haven't plugged it in at the mains.* 2. to publicise or to advertise ○ *They ran six commercials plugging holidays in Spain.*

**plug and play** /,plʌg ən 'pleɪ/ *noun* a facility in PCs that allows a user to plug a new adapter card into their PC without having to configure it or set any switches. Abbr **PNP**

**plugboard** *noun* a board with a number of sockets connected to devices into which plugs can be inserted to connect various other devices. Also called **patchboard**

**plug-compatible manufacturer** /,plʌg kəm.pætɪb(ə)l ,mænju'fæktʃərə/ *noun* full form of **PCM**

**plug-in** /'plʌg ɪn/ *noun* a program that works with a web browser to increase the functionality of the browser. ♠ **browser, helper application**

**plug-in unit** /'plʌg ɪn ,ju:nɪt/ *noun* a small electronic circuit that can be simply plugged into a system to increase its power

**plus** /plʌs/, **plus sign** /'plʌs saɪn/ *noun* a printed or written sign (+) showing that figures are added or showing a positive value

**PLV** /,pi: el 'vi:/ *noun* the highest-quality video compression algorithm used with DVI full-motion video sequences. Full form **production level video**

**PMBX** *noun* a small telephone exchange inside a company where all calls coming in or going out have to be placed through the switchboard. Full form **private manual branch exchange**

**PMOS** /'pi: mɒs/ *noun* a metal oxide semiconductor transistor that conducts via a small region of p-type semiconductor. Full form **p-channel metal oxide semiconductor**

**PMS** /,pi: em 'es/ *abbr* Pantone Matching System

**point** /pɔɪnt/ *noun* 1. a measurement system used in typesetting (one point is equal to 0.351 mm) ○ *The text of the book is set in 9 point Times.* ○ *If we increase the point size to 10, will the page extent increase?* (NOTE: usually written **pt** after figures: **10pt Times Bold**) 2. the exposure increment which is used in a film printing machine; a printer point scale of 1 to 50 is normally used

'...the arrow keys, the spacebar or the mouse are used for pointing, and the enter key or the left mouse button are to pick' [PC User]

**pointer** /'pɔɪntə/ *noun* 1. a variable in a computer program that contains the address to a data item or instruction ○ *Increment the contents of the pointer to the address of the next instruction.* 2. a graphical symbol used to indicate the position of a cursor on a computer display ○ *Desktop publishing on a PC is greatly helped by the use of a pointer and mouse.*

**pointing device** /'pɔɪntɪŋ dɪ.vaɪs/ *noun* an input device that controls the position of a cursor on screen as it is moved by the user. ♠ **mouse**

**point of presence** /,pɔɪnt əv 'prezəns/ *noun* full form of **POP**

**point-of-sale** /,pɔɪnt əv 'seɪl/ *noun* a place in a shop where goods are paid for. Abbr **POS**

**point sampling** /'pɔɪnt ,sɑ:mplɪŋ/ *noun* a method of adding texture and shading to a three-dimensional scene or object, in which the algorithm calculates the perceived depth, position and shade of each point on the image and applies a texture map pixel, or texel, to that point

**point size** /,pɔɪnt 'saɪz/ *noun* (in *typography*) a unit of measure equal to 1/72-inch, used to measure type or text

**point to point** /,pɔɪnt tə 'pɔɪnt/ *noun* 1. a direct link between two devices 2. communications network in which every node is directly connected to every other node

**point-to-point tunneling protocol** /,pɔɪnt tə pɔɪnt 'tʌn(ə)lɪŋ ,prəʊtəkwɒl/ *noun* full form of **PPTP**

**poke** /pəʊk/ *noun* a computer instruction that modifies an entry in a memory by writing a number to an address in memory ○ *Poke 1423,74 will write the data 74 into location 1423.* Compare **peek**

**POL** *abbr* problem-orientated language

**polar** /'pəʊlə/ *adjective* referring to poles

**polarising filter** /,pəʊləraɪzɪŋ 'fɪltə/ *noun* (film) 1. a lens filter which has thousands of tiny lines which allow light of a certain polarity through, reducing glare 2. a filter which is used to decrease the amount of

polarised light passing through the lens by the specific angling of the slits

**polarity** /pəʊ'lærəti/ *noun* **1.** the definition of direction of flow of flux or current in an object **2.** negative or positive elements in a black and white television image

**Polaroid™** /'pəʊləɔɪd/ *noun (film)* **1.** an instant-picture photographic camera **2.** translucent plastic material which is able to polarise visible light

**polaroid filter** /,pəʊləɔɪd 'fɪltə/ *noun* a photographic filter that only allows light in one plane, vertical or horizontal, to be transmitted

**polar orbit** /,pəʊlə 'ɔ:bɪt/ *noun* a satellite flight path that goes over the earth's poles

**policy** /'pɒləsi/ *noun* ▶ **acceptable use policy**

**Polish notation** /,pəʊlɪʃ nəʊ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* ▶ **reverse Polish notation**

**poll** /pəʊl/ *verb* (of a computer) to determine the state of a peripheral in a network

**polling** /'pəʊlɪŋ/ *noun* a system of communication between a controlling computer and a number of networked terminals (the computer checks each terminal in turn to see if it is ready to receive or transmit data, and takes the required action)

COMMENT: The polling system differs from other communications systems in that the computer asks the terminals to transmit or receive, not the other way round.

**polygon** /'pɒlɪɡən/ *noun* a graphics shape with three or more sides

**polygon mesh model** /,pɒlɪɡən 'meʃ ,mɒd(ə)/ *noun* same as **wire frame model**

**polynomial code** /,pɒli'nəʊmɪəl kəʊd/ *noun* an error detection system that uses a set of mathematical rules applied to the message before it is transmitted and again when it is received to reproduce the original message

**pop** /pɒp/ *verb* to read and remove the last piece of data from a stack

**POP** /pɒp/ *noun* telephone access number for a service provider that can be used to connect to the Internet via a modem. Full form **point of presence**

**POP 2** /'pɒp tu:/ *noun* a high level programming language used for list processing applications

**POP 3** /,pɒp 'θri:/ *noun* a system used to transfer electronic mail messages between a user's computer and a server at an ISP

**pop-down menu** /,pɒp daʊn 'menju:/ *noun* a menu that can be displayed on the screen at any time by pressing the appropriate key, usually displayed over material already on the screen. Also called **pop-up menu**

**pop filter** /'pɒp ,fɪltə/ *noun* an electronic circuit used when recording voices to attenuate signals caused by wind or breathing ○ *Every time you say a 'p' you overload the tape recorder, so put this pop filter in to stop it.*

**populate** /'pɒpjʊleɪt/ *verb* to fill the sockets on a printed circuit board with components

**pop-up menu** /,pɒp ʌp 'menju:/ *noun* same as **pop-down menu**

**pop-up window** /,pɒp ʌp 'wɪndəʊ/ *noun* a window that can be displayed on the screen at any time on top of anything that is already on the screen

'...you can use a mouse to access pop-up menus and a keyboard for word processing' [*Byte*]

**port** /pɔ:t/ *noun* a socket or physical connection allowing data transfer between a computer's internal communications channel and another external device

**portability** /,pɔ:tə'bɪləti/ *noun* an extent to which software or hardware can be used on several systems

'...although portability between machines is there in theory, in practice it just isn't that simple' [*Personal Computer World*]

**portable** /'pɔ:təb(ə)/ *noun* a compact self-contained computer that can be carried around and used either with a battery pack or mains power supply ■ *adjective* referring to any hardware or software or data files that can be used on a range of different computers

**portable document format** /,pɔ:təb(ə)l 'dɒkjʊmənt ,fɔ:mæt/ *noun* full form of **PDF**

**portable operating system interface** /,pɔ:təb(ə)l 'ɒpəreɪtɪŋ ,sɪstəm ,ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* full form of **POSIX**

**portal** /'pɔ:t(ə)l/ *noun* a website that provides links to information and other websites

**portapack** /'pɔ:təpæk/ *noun* a battery-operated, portable video camera and recorder (*film*)

**portrait** /'pɔ:trɪt/ *adjective* the orientation of a page or piece of paper in which the long-edge is vertical

**port replicator** /'pɔ:t ,replɪkeɪtə/ *noun* a version of a docking station that allows a laptop computer to be connected to duplicate the connection ports on the back of the laptop, allowing a user to keep a mouse, power cable, and printer connected to the port replicator and easily insert the laptop to use these ports without having to plug in cables each time the machine is used

**POS** /pɒz/ *abbr* point-of-sale

**positional** /pə'zɪʃ(ə)nəl/ *adjective* referring to position

**positive** /'pɒzɪtɪv/ *adjective* **1.** meaning 'yes' **2.** referring to an image that shows objects as they are seen

**positive display** /,pɒzɪtɪv dɪ'spleɪ/ *noun* a display in which the text and graphics are shown as black on a white background to imitate a printed page

**positive feedback** /,pɒzɪtɪv 'fi:d'bæk/ *noun* part of an output signal that is added into the input of a device ○ *Make sure the microphone is not too close to the loudspeaker or positive feedback will occur and you will overload the amplifier.*

**positive photoresist** /,pɒzɪtɪv 'fəʊtəʊrɪ'zɪst/ *noun* a method of forming photographic images where exposed areas of photoresist are removed, used in making PCBs

**POSIX** /'pɒsɪks/ *noun* the IEEE standard that defines software that can be easily ported between hardware platforms. Full form **portable operating system interface**

**post** /pəʊst/ *verb* to enter data into a record in a file

**poster** /'pəʊstə/ *noun* a large printed sheet, used to advertise something

**posterisation** /,pəʊstəraɪzeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a special effect in which an image is processed to reduce the number of colours or tones

**post-filtering** /,pəʊst 'fɪltəriŋ/ *noun* image processing carried out after the image has been compressed

**postfix** /'pəʊstfɪks/ *noun* a word or letter written after another

**postmaster** /'pəʊstmɑ:stə/ *noun* the email address of the person nominally in charge of email within a company

**post office protocol** /'pəʊst ,ɒfɪs ,prəʊtəkl/ *noun* ▶ **POP 3**

**postprocessor** /,pəʊst'prəʊsesə/ *noun* **1.** a microprocessor that handles semi-processed data from another device **2.** a program that processes data from another program, which has already been processed

**post production** /,pəʊst prə'dʌkʃən/ *noun* the final editing process of a video or animation in which titles are added and sequences finalised

**pot** /pɒt/ *abbr* potentiometer

**potentiometer** /pə'tenʃi'ɒmɪtə/ *noun* a mechanical variable resistance component consisting of a spindle which is turned to move a contact across a resistance track to vary the resistance of the potentiometer. ◊ **variable resistor**

**POTS** /pɒts/ *noun* the simplest, standard telephone line without any special features such as call waiting or forwarding, and with-

out high-speed digital access such as ADSL. Full form **plain old telephone service**

**power** /'paʊə/ *noun* **1.** the unit of energy in electronics equal to the product of voltage and current, measured in watts **2.** a mathematical term describing the number of times a number is to be multiplied by itself ○ *5 to the power 2 is equal to 25.* (NOTE: written as small figures in superscript: **10<sup>5</sup>**: say: 'ten to the power five') ■ *verb* to provide electrical or mechanical energy to a device ○ *The monitor is powered from a supply in the main PC.*

**power down** /'paʊə daʊn/ *verb* to turn off the electricity supply to a computer or other electronic device

**powered** /'paʊəd/ *adjective* driven by a type of energy or motor ○ *a motor powered by electricity* ○ *a solar-powered calculator*

**power user** /'paʊə ,ju:zə/ *noun* a user who needs the latest, fastest model of computer because he or she runs complex or demanding applications

**ppm** /,pi: pi: 'em/ *noun* the number of pages that a printer can print in one minute, used for describing the speed of a printer. Full form **pages per minute**

**PPP** /,pi: pi: 'pi:/ *noun* a protocol that supports a network link over an asynchronous (modem) connection and is normally used to provide data transfer between a user's computer and a remote server on the Internet using the TCP/IP network protocol. Full form **point to point protocol**

**PPQN** /,pi: pi: kju: 'en/ *noun* the most common time format used with standard MIDI sequences. Full form **parts per quarter note**

**PPS** *noun* film or video frame speed. Full form **pictures per second**

**PPTP** /,pi: pi: ti: 'pi:/ *noun* a protocol that allows a standard local-area network protocol (such as Novell's IPX or Microsoft's NetBEUI) to be sent over the Internet in a transparent manner without the user or operating system noticing, used by companies that want to use the Internet to connect servers in different offices. Full form **point-to-point tunneling protocol**

**practical extraction and report language** /,præktɪk(ə)l ɪk'strækʃ(ə)n ən rɪ'pɔ:t ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **Perl** ○ *If you want to add a search engine to your website, you will need to write a Perl program.*

**pre-** /pri:/ *prefix* before

**pre-amplifier** /pri 'æmplɪ,faiə/ *noun* an electronic circuit which amplifies a signal to a particular level, before it is fed to an amplifier for output

**precede** /pri:'si:d/ *verb* to come before something ○ *This instruction cancels the instruction which precedes it.*

**precedence** /'presɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* a set of computational rules defining the order in which mathematical operations are calculated

**precise** /pri:'saɪs/ *adjective* very exact ○ *The atomic clock will give the precise time of starting the process.*

**precision** /pri:'sɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* the fact that something is very accurate

**precompiled code** /'prikəm,paɪld 'kəʊd/ *noun* a code that is output from a compiler, ready to be executed

**predefined** /,pri:'dɪ'faɪnd/ *adjective* which has been defined in advance

**pre-designed** /,pri:'dɪ'zaɪnd/ *adjective* (of a graphic material) provided to the customer already designed ○ *A wide selection of pre-designed layouts help you automatically format typical business and technical documents.*

**predetermined** /,pri:'dɪ'tɜ:mɪnd/ *adjective* which has already been determined

**pre-edit** /pri 'edɪt/ *verb* to change text before it is run through a machine to make sure it is compatible

**pre-emphasise** /pri: 'emfəsaɪz/ *verb* to boost certain frequencies of a signal before transmission or processing to minimise noise (signals are de-emphasised on reception)

**preemptive multitasking** /pri,emptɪv 'mʌltɪtɜ:skɪŋ/ *noun* a form of multitasking in which the operating system executes a program for a period of time, then passes control to the next program so preventing any one program using all the processor time

**pre-fade listen** /,pri: feɪd 'lɪs(ə)n/ *noun* a sound desk device which permits channels to be heard before fading up (film)

**pre-fetch** /pri: 'fetʃ/ *verb* CPU instructions stored in a short temporary queue before being processed, increasing the speed of execution

**pre-filtering** /pri:'fɪltəɪŋ/ *noun* image processing before the image is compressed (e.g., scaling the image)

**prefix** /'pri:,'fɪks/ *noun* **1.** a code, instruction or character at the beginning of a message or instruction **2.** a word attached to the beginning of another word to give it a special meaning

**prefix notation** /'pri:,'fɪks nəʊ,tɛɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* mathematical operations written in a logical way, so that the operator appears before the operands, removing the need for brackets ○ *normal notation: (x-y) + z, but using prefix notation: - xy + z*

**pre-flash, pre-fog** *noun* the process of exposing film to light before filming so that it has a higher sensitivity to light and reduces contrast (film)

**preformatted** /pri:'fɔ:mætɪd/ *adjective* which has been formatted already ○ *a preformatted disk*

**pre-imaging** /pri 'ɪmɪdʒɪŋ/ *noun* the process of generating one frame of an animation or video in a memory buffer before it is transferred on screen for display

**premix** /'pri:mɪks/ *noun* the combination of a number of signals before they have been processed in any way

**preparation** /,prepə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of getting something ready

**preprinted** /pri:'prɪntɪd/ *adjective* already printed or printed in advance □ **pre-printed form** paper used for printing databases or applications programs that already contain some information printed □ **pre-printed stationery** computer stationery (such as invoices) which has already been printed with the company's logo and address as well as the blank columns, etc.

**preprocess** /pri:'prəʊses/ *verb* to carry out initial organisation and simple processing of data

**preprocessor** /pri:'prəʊsesə/ *noun* **1.** software that partly processes or prepares data before it is compiled or translated **2.** a small computer that carries out some initial processing of raw data before passing it to the main computer

'...the C preprocessor is in the first stage of converting a written program into machine instructions the preprocessor can be directed to read in another file before completion, perhaps because the same information is needed in each module of the program' [*Personal Computer World*]

**preproduction** /,pri:prə'dʌkʃən/ *noun* the organisation of the filming or recording of a video or compact disk, taking the form of diagrams and scene descriptions

**preprogrammed** /pri:'prəʊgræmd/ *adjective* referring to a chip that has been programmed in the factory to perform one function

**pre-record** /,pri:rɪ'kɔ:d/ *verb* to record something which will be played back later or to record sound effects that are added to a film at a later date ○ *The answerphone plays a pre-recorded message.* ■ *noun* a section of text stored in a word-processor system which will be used as the basis for a form letter

**pre-roll** /'pri: rɔ:l/ *noun* time needed after having started a telecine, projector or video tape recorder in order to produce steady sound and picture (film)

**prescan** /'pri:skæn/ *noun* a feature of many flat-bed scanners that carry out a quick, low-resolution scan to allow you to re-position the original or mark the area that is to be scanned at a higher resolution

**presentation graphics**  
/,prez(ə)nteɪf(ə)n 'græfɪks/ *plural noun*  
graphics used to represent business information or data ○ *The sales for last month looked even better thanks to the use of presentation graphics.*

**presentation layer** /,prez(ə)n'teɪf(ə)n ,leɪə/ *noun* the sixth ISO/OSI standard network layer that agrees on formats, codes and requests for the start and end of a connection

**Presentation Manager** /,prez(ə)n'teɪf(ə)n ,mæntɪdʒə/ *noun* a graphical user interface supplied with the OS/2 operating system

**presentation software**  
/,prez(ə)nteɪf(ə)n 'sɒftweə/ *noun* a software application that allows a user to create a business presentation with graphs, data, text and images

**preset** /,pri:'set/ *verb* to set something in advance ○ *The printer was preset with new page parameters.*

**press** /pres/ *verb* to push a key with the fingers ○ *To end the program press ESCAPE.*

**press cuttings** /'pres ,kʌtɪŋz/ *plural noun* pieces cut from newspapers or magazines which refer to someone or to a company

**pressure pad** /'preʃə pæd/ *noun* a transducer that converts pressure changes into an electrical signal ○ *The pressure pad under the carpet will set off the burglar alarm if anyone steps on it.*

**prestore** /pri:'stɔ:/ *verb* to store data in memory before it is processed

**presynchronisation, presynchronisation**  
*noun* the pre-recording of dialogue which is used in synchronisation with lip movements in animation work (*film*)

**pretty good privacy** /,prɪti ɡʊd 'prɪvəsi/ *noun* full form of **PGP**

**prevent** /prɪ'vent/ *verb* to stop something happening ○ *We have changed the passwords to prevent hackers getting into the database.*

**preventative** /prɪ'ventətɪv/, **preventive** /prɪ'ventɪv/ *adjective* which tries to stop something happening

**prevention** /prɪ'ventʃən/ *noun* the process of preventing something happening

**preventive maintenance** /prɪ'ventɪv 'meɪntənəns/ *noun* a regular inspection and cleaning of a system to prevent faults occurring

**preview** /'pri:vju:/ *verb* to display text or graphics on a screen as it will appear when it is printed out

**previewer** /'pri:vju:ə/ *noun* a feature that allows a user to see on screen what a page will look like when printed ○ *The built-in previewer allows the user to check for mistakes.*

**primarily** /'praɪm(ə)rɪli/ *adverb* mainly

**primary** /'praɪməri/ *adjective* first or basic or most important

**prime** /praɪm/ *adjective* very important ■ *noun* a number that can only be divided by itself and by one ○ *The number seven is a prime.*

**primer** /'praɪmə/ *noun* a manual or simple instruction book with instructions and examples to show how a new program or system operates

**primitive** /'prɪmɪtɪv/ *noun* **1.** (*in programming*) a basic routine that can be used to create more complex routines **2.** (*in graphics*) a simple shape such as circle, square, line or curve used to create more complex shapes in a graphics program

**print** /prɪnt/ *noun* **1.** characters made in ink on paper ○ *The print from the new printer is much clearer than that from old one.* **2.** a positive photographic image in which black is black and white is white. Compare **negative** **3.** an image produced using an etched printing plate ○ *He collects 18th-century prints.* ○ *The office is decorated with Japanese prints.*

**4.** a take to be used in the finished film if it is not cut out during the editing process ■ *verb* **1.** to put letters or figures in ink on paper **2.** to put letters or illustrations onto sheets of paper so that they form a book ○ *The book was printed in Hong Kong.* ○ *The book is printing at the moment, so we will have bound copies at the end of the month.* **3.** to write in capital letters ○ *Please print your name and address on the top of the form.*

**printed circuit** /,prɪntɪd 'sɜ:kɪt/, **printed circuit board** *noun* a flat insulating material that has conducting tracks of metal printed or etched onto its surface which complete a circuit when components are mounted on it. Abbr **PCB**

**printer** /'prɪntə/ *noun* **1.** a device that converts input data in an electrical form into a printed readable form. Abbr **PRN** **2.** a person that prints documents or pictures for private customers or other businesses **3.** a company which prints books or newspapers ○ *The book will be sent to the printer next week.* ○ *We are using Japanese printers for some of our magazines.*

**printer quality** /'prɪntə ,kwɒlɪti/ *noun* the standard of printed text from a particular printer

**print format** /'prɪnt ,fɔ:mæt/ *noun* a way in which text is arranged when printed out, according to embedded codes, used to set features such as margins and headers

**printhead** /'prɪnθed/ *noun* **1.** a row of needles in a dot-matrix printer that produce characters as a series of dots **2.** the metal form of a character that is pressed onto an inked ribbon to print the character on paper

**printing** /'prɪntɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the action of putting text and graphics onto paper **2.** the number of copies printed at one time ○ *The first printing was 50,000 copies.*

**printing negative** /,prɪntɪŋ 'negətɪv/ *noun* a negative copy of an optical sound track on a positive picture print which is used to improve the quality of sound (*film*)

**Print Manager** /'prɪnt ,mæɪnɪdʒə/ a software utility that is part of Microsoft Windows and is used to manage print queues

**printout** /'prɪnt,aʊt/ *noun* the final printed page

**print preview** /,prɪnt 'pri:vju:/ *noun* a function of a software product that lets the user see how a page will appear when printed

**print quality** /'prɪnt ,kwɒlɪti/ *noun* the quality of the text or graphics printed, normally measured in dots per inch ○ *A desktop printer with a resolution of 600 dpi provides good print quality.*

**printron** /'prɪntrɒn/ *noun* the number of copies of a book which are printed at one time

**Print Screen key** /,prɪnt 'skri:n ,ki:/ *noun* a key in the top right-hand side of the keyboard that sends the characters that are displayed on the screen to the printer

**print server** /'prɪnt ,sɜ:və/ *noun* a computer in a network which is dedicated to managing print queues and printers

**print shop** /'prɪnt ʃɒp/ *noun* a shop where jobbing printing takes place

**printwheel** /'prɪntwi:l/ *noun* a daisy-wheel or the wheel made up of a number of arms, with a character shape at the end of each arm, used in a daisy-wheel printer

**priority** /praɪ'ɒrɪti/ *noun* the importance of a device or software routine in a computer system ○ *The operating system has priority over the application when disk space is allocated.*

**privacy** /'prɪvəsi/ *noun* the right of an individual to limit the extent of and control the access to the data that is stored about him

**privacy of data** /,prɪvəsi əv 'dɜ:tɪə/ *noun* the fact that particular data is secret and must

not be accessed by users who have not been authorised

**privacy of information** /,prɪvəsi əv ,ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the fact that unauthorised users must not obtain data about private individuals from databases, or that each individual has the right to know what information is being held about him or her on a database

**privacy statement** /'prɪvəsi ,steɪtmənt/ *noun* the policy of a company, published on their website, that explains to visitors and customers what the company will or will not do with a customer's personal details

**private** /'praɪvət/ *adjective* belonging to an individual or to a company, not to the public

**private key cryptography** /,praɪvət ki: kɪp'tɒgrəʒi/ *noun* a method of encrypting Internet messages that uses a single key both to encode and decode them

**privilege** /'prɪvɪlɪdʒ/ *noun* the status of a user as regards to the type of program he or she can run and the resources he or she can use

**privileged account** /,prɪvəlɪdʒd ə 'kaʊnt/ *noun* a computer account that allows special programs or access to sensitive system data

**PRN** /,pi: ɑ: 'en/ *noun* an acronym used in MS-DOS to represent the standard printer port. Full form **printer**

**problem** /'prɒbləm/ *noun* a question to which it is difficult to find an answer

**problem definition** /'prɒbləm ,defəniʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the clear explanation, in logical steps, of a problem that is to be solved

**problem diagnosis** /'prɒbləm ,daɪəgnəʊsɪs/ *noun* the process of finding the cause of a fault or error and finding the method of repairing it

**problem-orientated language**

/,prɒbləm ,ɔ:riəntɪtɪd 'læŋgwidʒ/ *noun* a high-level programming language that allows certain problems to be expressed easily.

Abbr **POL**

**procedural** /prə'si:dʒərəl/ *adjective* using a procedure to solve a problem

**procedure** /prə'si:dʒə/ *noun* **1.** a small section of computer instruction code that provides a frequently used function and can be called upon from a main program ○ *This procedure sorts all the files into alphabetical order.* † **subroutine** **2.** a method or route used when solving a problem ○ *You should use this procedure to retrieve lost files.*

**proceed** /prə'si:d/ *verb* to move forward ○ *After spellchecking the text, you can proceed to the printing stage.*

**process** /prəʊ'ses/ *noun* a number of tasks that must be carried out to achieve a goal ○

The process of setting up the computer takes a long time. ■ **verb** to carry out a number of tasks to produce a result ○ We processed the new data.

**process control** /'prəʊses kəntrəʊl/ *noun* the automatic control of a process by a computer

**processing** /'prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the use of a computer to solve a problem or organise data ○ Page processing time depends on the complexity of a given page. ◇ **CPU 2.** the treatment of exposed film with chemicals in order to make the latent image everlastingly visible

**processor** /'prəʊsesə/ *noun* a hardware or software device that is able to manipulate or modify data according to instructions

**produce** /prə'dju:s/ *verb* to make or manufacture something

**producer** /prə'dju:sə/ *noun* a person, company or country that manufactures ○ Country which is a producer of high quality computer equipment.

**product** /'prɒdʌkt/ *noun* **1.** an item that is made or manufactured **2.** a manufactured item for sale **3.** the result after multiplication

**product design** /'prɒdʌkt dɪzajɪn/ *noun* the activity of designing products

**product engineer** /'prɒdʌkt ɛndʒɪ'nɪə/ *noun* an engineer in charge of the equipment for making a product

**production** /prə'dʌkʃən/ *noun* **1.** the process of making or manufacturing of goods for sale ○ Production will probably be held up by industrial action. **2.** the preparation for broadcast of a programme or advertisement **3.** the complete process of making a film (film)

**production control** /prə'dʌkʃən kəntrəʊl/ *noun* the control of the manufacturing of a product (using computers)

**production level video** /prə'dʌkʃən ,lev(ə)l 'vɪdɪəʊ/ *noun* full form of **PLV**

**production standards** /prə'dʌkʃən ,stændədz/ *plural noun* the quality of production

**product line** /'prɒdʌkt laɪn/, **product range** /'prɒdʌkt reɪndʒ/ *noun* a series of different products made by the same company, which form a group

**product range** /'prɒdʌkt reɪndʒ/ *noun* same as **product line**

**professional publishing** /prə ,feʃ(ə)n(ə)l 'pʌblɪʃɪŋ/ *noun* publishing books on law, accountancy, and other professions

**program** /'prəʊgræm/ *noun* **1.** a complete set of instructions which direct a computer to carry out a particular task **2.** data that defines

a sound in a synthesiser; a program is also called a patch and can be altered by issuing a program-change message ■ **verb** to write or prepare a set of instructions that direct a computer to perform a certain task

**program crash** /'prəʊgræm kræʃ/ *noun* an unexpected failure of a program owing to a programming error or a hardware fault ○ I forgot to insert an important instruction which caused a program to crash, erasing all the files on the disk!

**program design language** /,prəʊgræm dɪ'zajɪn ,læŋgʷɪdʒ/ *noun* a programming language used to design the structure of a program. Abbr **PDL**

**program documentation** /,prəʊgræm ,dɒkjʊmən'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a set of instruction notes, examples and tips on how to use a program

**program evaluation and review technique** /,prəʊgræm ɪ ,vælju:ɪʃ(ə)n ən rɪ'vju: tek,nɪ:k/ *noun* full form of **PERT**

**program icon** /'prəʊgræm ,aɪkɒn/ *noun* (in a GUI) an icon that represents an executable program file ○ To run the program, double-click on the program icon.

**program information file** /,prəʊgræm ,ɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n ,faɪl/ *noun* full form of **PIF**

**programmable** /'prəʊgræməb(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to a device that can accept and store instructions then execute them

**programmable key** /,prəʊgræməb(ə)l 'ki:z/ *noun* a special key on a computer terminal keyboard that can be programmed with various functions or characters

**programmable logic array** /,prəʊgræməb(ə)l ,lədʒɪk ə'reɪ/ *noun* full form of **PLA**

**programmable logic device** /,prəʊgræməb(ə)l 'lədʒɪk dɪ,vaɪs/ *noun* full form of **PLD**

**programmable memory** /,prəʊgræməb(ə)l 'mem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* full form of **PROM**

**programmable read only memory** /,prəʊgræməb(ə)l rɪ:d ,əʊnli 'mem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* full form of **PROM**

**Program Manager** /,prəʊgræm 'mænɪdʒə/ *noun* (in Windows 3.x) the main part of Windows that the user sees

**programmer** /'prəʊgræmə/ *noun* **1.** a person who is capable of designing and writing a working program ○ The programmer is still working on the new software. **2.** a device that allows data to be written into a programmable read only memory

**programmer's hierarchical interactive graphics standard** /,prəʊgræməz haɪə'rɑ:kɪk(ə)l ɪntər,æktɪv 'græfɪks ,stændəd/ *noun* full form of **PHIGS**

**programming** /'prəʊgræmɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of writing programs for computers

COMMENT: Programming languages are grouped into different levels: the high-level languages such as BASIC and PASCAL are easy to understand and use, but offer slow execution time since each instruction is made up of a number of machine code instructions; low-level languages such as assembler are more complex to read and program in but offer faster execution time.

**programming in logic** /,prəʊgræmɪŋ ɪn 'lɒdʒɪk/ *noun* full form of **PROLOG**

**programming language for micro-processors** /,prəʊgræmɪŋ ,læŋgwɪdʒ fə 'maɪkrəɪ,prəʊsesəz/ *noun* full form of **PL/M**

**program specification** /,prəʊgræm ,spesɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* detailed information about a program's abilities, features and methods

**program testing** /'prəʊgræm ,testɪŋ/ *noun* the process of testing a new program with test data to ensure that it functions correctly

**progressive scanning** /prəʊ,gresɪv 'skæɪnɪŋ/ *noun* a method of displaying and transmitting video images in which each line of the image is displayed consecutively, unlike non-interlaced image, which shows alternate lines. ◊ **scan conversion**

**project** *noun* /prɒ'dʒekt/ a planned task ◯ *His latest project is computerising the sales team.* ■ *verb* /prə'dʒekt/ to forecast future figures from a set of data ◯ *The projected sales of the new PC.*

**projection** /prə'dʒekʃən/ *noun* 1. the forecasting of a situation from a set of data ◯ *The projection indicates that sales will increase.* 2. the process of showing pictures on a screen

**projector leader** /prə'dʒektə ,li:də/ *noun* a short part of the beginning of a reel of film which allows projectionists to make fast changeovers from one reel to the next when projecting a film

**PROLOG** /'prəʊlɒg/ *noun* a high-level programming language using logical operations for artificial intelligence and data retrieval applications. Full form **programming in logic**

**PROM** /prɒm/ *noun* 1. read only memory that can be programmed by the user, as distinct from ROM, which is programmed by the manufacturer. Full form **programmable read only memory** 2. an electronic device in which data can be stored. Full form **programmable memory**

**prompt** /prɒmpt/ *noun* a message or character displayed to remind the user that an input is expected ◯ *The prompt READY indi-*

*cates that the system is available to receive instructions.*

**prompter** /'prɒmptə/ *noun* the person on a set who gives cues to performers during action filming (*film*) ◊ **cue**

**proof** /pru:f/ *noun* printed matter from a printer that has to be checked and corrected ■ *verb* to produce proofs of a text

**proofer** /'pru:fə/ *noun* a printer which produces proofs, as opposed to finished printed pages ◯ *output devices such as laser proofers and typesetters*

**proofing** /'pru:fɪŋ/ *noun* the process of producing proofs of text which have to be read and corrected

**proofread** /'pru:fri:d/ *verb* to correct spelling and printing errors in a printed text ◯ *Has all the text been proofread yet?*

**proofreader** /'pru:fri:də/ *noun* a person who reads and corrects proofs

**propagate** /'prɒpə,geɪt/ *verb* to travel or spread

**propagation delay** /,prɒpə'geɪf(ə)n dɪ ,leɪ/ *noun* 1. the time taken for an output to appear in a logic gate after the input is applied 2. the time taken for a data bit to travel over a network from the source to the destination

**properties** /'prɒpətɪz/ *noun* (*in Windows*) the attributes of a file or object

**proportionally spaced** /prə'pɔ:ʃ(ə)nəli 'speɪst/ *adjective* referring to a font in which each letter takes a space proportional to the character width. Compare **monospaced**

**proprietary file format** /prə'praɪət(ə)rɪ 'faɪl ,fɔ:mæt/ *noun* a method of storing data devised by a company for its products and incompatible with other products ◯ *You cannot read this spreadsheet file because my software saves it in a proprietary file format.*

**protect** /prə'tekt/ *verb* to stop something being damaged

**protection** /prə'tekʃən/ *noun* the action of protecting something

**protective** /prə'tektɪv/ *adjective* designed to protect something ◯ *The disks are housed in hard protective cases.*

**protocol** /'prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* the pre-agreed signals, codes and rules to be used for data exchange between systems

**prototype** /'prəʊtə,taɪp/ *noun* the first working model of a device or program, which is then tested and adapted to improve it

**prototyping** /'prəʊtətaɪpɪŋ/ *noun* the process of making a prototype

**proxar** /'prɒksə:/ *noun* an additional lens which is used in close-up shots to shorten the focal length (*film*)

**proxy server** /,prɒksi 'sɜ:və/ *noun* a computer that stores copies of files and data normally held on a slow server and so allows users to access files and data quickly. Proxy servers are often used as a firewall between an intranet in a company and the public Internet.

**PrtSc** /,prɪnt 'skri:n/ *noun* (on an IBM PC keyboard) a key that sends the contents of the current screen to the printer. Full form **print screen**

**pS** /,pi: 'es/ *abbr* picosecond

**PSA** *noun* US an advertisement for a public service or charity, which is shown on TV, but for which the TV company is not paid. Full form **public service announcement**

**pseudo-** /sju:dəʊ/ *prefix* similar to something, but not genuine

**pseudo-code** /'sju:dəʊ kəʊd/ *noun* English sentence structures, used to describe program instructions that are translated at a later date into machine code

**pseudo-digital** /,sju:dəʊ 'dɪdʒɪt(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to modulated analog signals that are produced by a modem and transmitted over telephone lines

**pseudo-operation** /,sju:dəʊ ,ɒpə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a command in an assembler program that controls the assembler rather than producing machine code

**pseudo-random** /,sju:dəʊ 'rændəm/ *noun* a generated sequence that appears random but is repeated over a long period

**psophometer** /sɒ'fɒmɪtəl/ *noun* a meter which measures noise

**PSS** *abbr* packet switching service

**PSTN** *abbr* public switched telephone network

**PSU** /,pi: es 'ju:/ *noun* an electrical circuit that provides certain direct current voltage and current levels from an alternating current source to other electrical circuits. Full form **power supply unit**

COMMENT: A PSU will regulate, smooth and step down a higher voltage supply for use in small electronic equipment.

**public** /'pʌblɪk/ *adjective* available for anyone to use

**publication** /,pʌblɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the process of making something public ○ *the publication of the report on data protection* ○ *The publication date of the book is November 15th.* **2.** a printed book or leaflet, etc. which is sold to the public or which is given away ○ *Government publications can be bought at special shops.* ○ *The company specialises in publications for the business reader.*

**public data network** /,pʌblɪk ,deɪtə'netwɜ:k/ *noun* a data transmission service

for the public, e.g. the main telephone system in a country. *Abbr* **PDN**

**public domain** /,pʌblɪk dəʊ'meɪn/ *noun* the status of documents, text or programs that are not protected by copyright and can be copied by anyone

**publicise** /'pʌblɪsaɪz/, **publicize** *verb* to attract people's attention to a product or service ○ *They are publicising their low prices for computer stationery.* ○ *The new PC has been publicised in the press.*

**publicity** /pʌ'blɪsɪti/ *noun* the process of attracting the attention of the public to products or services by mentioning them in the media or by advertising them

**publicity bureau** /pʌ'blɪsɪti ,bjʊərəʊ/ *noun* an office which organises publicity for companies

**publicity campaign** /pʌ'blɪsɪti kæm'peɪn/ *noun* a period when planned publicity takes place

**publicity department** /pʌ'blɪsɪti dɪ'pɑ:tmənt/ *noun* a department in a company which organises the publicity for the company's products

**publicity matter** /pʌ'blɪsɪti ,mætə/ *noun* leaflets or posters, etc., which publicise a product or service

**public key cipher system** /,pʌblɪk ki:'saɪfə ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a cipher that uses a public key to encrypt messages and a secret key to decrypt them. Conventional cipher systems use one secret key to encrypt and decrypt messages.

**public key encryption** /,pʌblɪk ki:ɪn'krɪptʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a method of encrypting data that uses one key to encrypt the data and another different key to decrypt the data

**publish** /'pʌblɪʃ/ *verb* **1.** to produce and sell software **2.** to design, edit and print a text (such as a book or newspaper or catalogue) and sell or give it to the public ○ *The institute has published a list of sales figures for different home computers.* ○ *The company specialises in publishing reference books.* **3.** to share a local resource with other users on a network (such as a file or folder)

**publisher** /'pʌblɪʃə/ *noun* a company which prints books or newspapers and sells or gives them to the public

**publishing** /'pʌblɪʃɪŋ/ *noun* the business of printing books or newspapers and selling them or giving them to the public

‘...desktop publishing or the ability to produce high-quality publications using a minicomputer, essentially boils down to combining words and images on pages’ [Byte]

**pull-down** /'pʊl daʊn/ *verb* moving film frame to frame in a camera or projector by means of a claw (*film*)

**pull-down menu** /'pʊl daʊn ,menju:/ *noun* a set of options that are displayed below the relevant entry on a menu-bar ○ *The pull-down menu is viewed by clicking on the menu bar at the top of the screen.* Compare **pop-down menu**

**pull-up** /'pʊl ʌp/ *noun* a loop of film used to keep the film flowing steadily through the picture gate over the sound head

**pulse** /pʌls/ *noun* a short period of a voltage level ■ *verb* to apply a short-duration voltage level to a circuit ○ *We pulsed the input but it still would not work.*

COMMENT: Electric pulse can be used to transmit information, as the binary digits 0 and 1 correspond to 'no pulse' and 'pulse' (the voltage level used to distinguish the binary digits 0 and 1, is often zero and 5 or 12 volts, with the pulse width depending on transmission rate).

**pulse-code modulation** /,pʌls kəʊd ,mɒdju'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **PCM**

**pulse-dialling** /'pʌls ,daɪəlɪŋ/ *noun* telephone dialling that dials a telephone number by sending a series of pulses along the line ○ *Pulse-dialling takes longer to dial than the newer tone-dialling system.*

**punch** /pʌntʃ/ *noun* **1.** a device for making holes in punched cards **2.** a mechanism which punches a cue mark in a film leader to show when printing or editorial synchronisation should start **3.** a mechanism which eliminates the splicing noises in prints which are made from an optical sound negative ■ *verb* to make a hole in something

**punch-down block** /,pʌntʃ daʊn 'blɒk/ *noun* a device used in a local area network to connect UTP cable

**punctuation mark** /,pʌŋktʃu'eɪʃ(ə)n mɑ:k/ *noun* a printing symbol such as a comma or full stop, used for making the meaning of text clear

**purge** /pɜ:dʒ/ *verb* to remove unnecessary or out-of-date data from a file or disk ○ *Each month, I purge the disk of all the old email messages.*

**push** /pʊʃ/ *verb* to press something or to move something by pressing on it

**pushbutton** /'pʊʃbʌt(ə)n/ *adjective* which works by pressing on a button

**push technology** /'pʊʃ tek,nɒlədʒi/ *noun* Internet technology that allows subscribers to receive customised information directly

**PWM** *abbr* pulse width modulation

# Q

**QAM** *abbr* quadrature amplitude modulation

**QBE** /,kju: bi: 'i:/ *noun* a simple language used to retrieve information from a database management system by, normally, entering a query with known values, which is then matched with the database and used to retrieve the correct data ○ *In most QBE databases, the query form looks like the record format in the database – retrieving data is as easy as filling in a form.* Full form **query by example**

**Q Channel** /'kju: tʃæn(ə)l/ *noun* (in a CD audio disc) one of the eight information channels that holds data identifying the track and the absolute playing time

**QL** *abbr* query language

**qty** *abbr* quantity

**quad** /kwɒd/ *adjective* operating at four times the standard speed, or processing four times the standard amount of data ■ *noun* 1. a sheet of paper four times as large as a basic sheet 2. same as **quadruplex**

**quadding** /'kwɒdɪŋ/ *noun* the insertion of spaces into text to fill out a line

**quadr-** /kwɒdr/ *prefix* four

**quadrphony** /kwɒ'drɒfəni/ *noun* a four-channel system of sound (*film*)

**quadrature** /'kwɒdrətʃə/ *noun* a video playback error due to the heads being wrongly aligned to the edge of the tape

**quadrature amplitude modulation** /,kwɒdrətʃə 'æmplitʃu:d mɒdʒu ,leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a data encoding method used by high-speed modems (transmitting at rates above 2,400bps). It combines amplitude modulation and phase modulation to increase the data transmission rate. *Abbr* **QAM**

**quadrature encoding** /'kwɒdrətʃə ɪn ,kəʊdɪŋ/ *noun* a system used to determine the direction in which a mouse is being moved. In a mechanical mouse, two sensors send signals that describe its horizontal and vertical movements, these signals being transmitted using quadrature encoding.

**quadrophonic** /,kwɒdrə'fɒnik/ *adjective* (of an audio music system) using four speakers

**quadruplex** /'kwɒdrɒpleks/ *noun* 1. a set of four signals combined into a single one 2. a four unit video tape recorder which produc-

es video information in continuous almost vertical stripes

**quadruplicate** /kwɒ'dru:plikət/ *noun* ○ *The statements are printed in quadruplicate.* □ **in quadruplicate** with the original and three copies ○ *the statements are printed in quadruplicate* (NOTE: no plural)

**quad-speed drive** /,kwɒd spi:d 'draɪv/ *noun* a CD-ROM drive that spins the disc at four times the speed of a single-speed drive, providing higher data throughput of 600Kbps and shorter seek times

**quality control** /'kwɒlɪti kən,t'rəʊl/ *noun* the process of checking that the quality of a product is good

**quality of service** /,kwɒlɪti əv 'sɜ:vɪs/ *noun* the degree to which a network can transfer information without error or fault

**Quantel** /'kwɒntel/ the hardware graphics company that developed Paintbox and Harry production graphics systems

**quantifiable** /'kwɒntɪfaɪəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be quantified ○ *The effect of the change in the pricing structure is not quantifiable.*

**quantifier** /'kwɒntɪ,faɪə/ *noun* a sign or symbol that indicates the quantity or range of a predicate

**quantisation, quantization** *noun* the conversion of an analog signal to a numerical representation

**quantise, quantize** *verb* 1. to convert an analog signal into a numerical representation ○ *The input signal is quantised by an analog to digital converter.* 2. to process a MIDI file and align all the notes to a regular beat, so removing any timing errors ○ *An analog to digital converter quantises the input signal.*

**quantiser, quantizer** *noun* a device used to convert an analog input signal to a numerical form, that can be processed by a computer

**quantity** /'kwɒntɪti/ *noun* the amount or number of items ○ *A small quantity of illegal copies of the program have been imported.* ■ *adjective* in large amounts ○ *The company offers a discount for quantity purchases.*

**quantum** /'kwɒntəm/ *noun* (in communications) a packet of data that is the result of a signal being quantised

**quarter-inch tape** /,kwɔ:tər ɪntʃ 'teɪp/ *noun* a standard diameter of magnetic tape

which is used in tape cartridges and reel-to-reel recorders (*film*)

**quartile** /'kwɔ:təl/ *noun* one of three figures below which 25%, 50% or 75% of a total falls

**quarto** /'kwɔ:təʊ/ *noun* a paper size, made when a sheet is folded twice to make eight pages

**quasi-** /kweɪzə/ *prefix* almost, or similar to

**quaternary** /'kwɔ:tɜ:nəri/ *adjective* existing as four bits, levels or objects

**query** /'kwɪəri/ *noun* a question ■ *verb* to ask a question about something or to suggest that something may be wrong

**query by example** /,kwɪəri baɪ ɪg 'zɑ:mpl/ *noun* full form of **QBE**

**query facility** /'kwɪəri fə,sɪlɪti/ *noun* a program, usually a database or retrieval system, that allows the user to ask questions and receive answers or access certain information according to the query

**query language** /'kwɪəri ,læŋgwidʒ/ *noun* a language in a database management system that allows a database to be searched and queried easily. Abbr **QL**

**question** /'kwɛstʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** words which need an answer ○ *The managing director refused to answer questions about faulty keyboards.* ○ *The market research team prepared a series of questions to test the public's reactions to colour and price.* **2.** a problem ○ *He raised the question of moving to less expensive offices.* ○ *The main question is that of cost.* ○ *The board discussed the question of launching a new business computer.* ■ *verb* **1.** to ask questions ○ *The police questioned the accounts staff for four hours* ○ *she questioned the chairman on the company's sales in the Far East.* **2.** to query or to suggest that something may be wrong ○ *We all question how accurate the computer printout is.*

**question mark** /'kwɛstʃən mɑ:k/ *noun* the character (?) that is often used as a wildcard to indicate that any single character in the position will produce a match ○ *To find all the letters, use the command DIR LETTER?DOC which will list LETTER1.DOC, LETTER2.DOC and LETTER3.DOC.* ♢ **asterisk**

**questionnaire** /,kwɛstʃə'neə/ *noun* a printed list of questions, especially used in market research ○ *to send out a questionnaire to test the opinions of users of the sys-*

*tem* ○ *to answer or to fill in a questionnaire about holidays abroad*

**queue** /kju:/ *noun* **1.** a line of people waiting one behind the other ○ *to form a queue* or *to join a queue* **2.** a list of data or tasks that are waiting to be processed, or a series of documents that are dealt with in order ■ *verb* to add more data or tasks to the end of a queue

**quick** /kwɪk/ *adjective* operating at high speed, or taking little time ○ *The company made a quick recovery.*

**QuickDraw** /'kwɪkdrɔ:/ (*in an Apple Macintosh*) a trade name for the graphics routines built into the Macintosh's operating system that control displayed text and images

**quickly** /'kwɪkli/ *adverb* without taking much time

**quicksort** /'kwɪksɔ:t/ *noun* a very rapid file sorting and ordering method

**QuickTime** /'kwɪktaɪm/ (*in an Apple Macintosh*) a trade name for the graphics routines built into the Macintosh's operating system that allow windows, boxes and graphic objects, including animation and video files, to be displayed

**quit** /kwɪt/ *verb* to leave a system or a program ○ *Do not forget to save your text before you quit the system.*

**quonking** /'kwɒŋkɪŋ/ *noun* undesired sounds which are picked up by a microphone (*film*)

**quotation** /kwəʊ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* part of a text borrowed from another text

**quotation marks** /kwəʊ'teɪʃ(ə)n mɑ:ks/ *noun* punctuation marks used for enclosing text to show that it has been quoted from another source

**quote** /kwəʊt/ *verb* to repeat words used by someone else

**quotient** /'kwəʊʃ(ə)nt/ *noun* the result of one number divided by another

COMMENT: When two numbers are divided, the answer is made up of a quotient and a remainder (the fractional part). 16 divided by 4 is equal to a quotient of 4 and zero remainder; 16 divided by 5 is equal to a quotient of 3 and a remainder of 1.

**quoting** /'kwəʊtɪŋ/ *noun* a feature of many electronic mail applications that allows you to reply to a message and include the text of the original message

**QWERTY keyboard** /,kwɜ:ti 'ki:bɔ:d/ *noun* a standard English language key layout. The first six letters on the top left row of keys are QWERTY.

# R

**rack** /ræk/ *noun* **1.** a metal supporting frame for electronic circuit boards and peripheral devices such as disk drives **2.** a frame to hold items for display ○ *a display rack* ○ *a rack for holding mag tapes*

**racking** /'rækɪŋ/ *noun* ♦ **framing**

**rack mounted** /'ræk ˌmaʊntɪd/ *adjective* referring to a system consisting of removable circuit boards in a supporting frame

**radar** /'reɪdɑː/ *noun* a method of finding the position of objects such as aircraft, by transmitting radio waves which are reflected back if they hit an object and are displayed on a screen

**radial transfer** /ˌreɪdiəl ˈtrænsfɜː/ *noun* data transfer between two peripherals or programs that are on different layers of a structured system (such as an ISO/OSI system)

**radiant** /'reɪdiənt/ *adjective* which radiates

**radiant energy** /ˌreɪdiənt ˈenədʒi/ *noun* the amount of energy radiated by an aerial

**radiate** /'reɪdiət/ *verb* **1.** to go out in all directions from a central point **2.** to send out rays **3.** to convert electrical signals into travelling electromagnetic waves

**radiating element** /ˌreɪdiətɪŋ ˈelɪmənt/ *noun* a single basic unit of an antenna that radiates signals

**radiation** /ˌreɪdiˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the sending out of waves of energy from certain substances **2.** the conversion of electrical signals in an antenna into travelling electromagnetic waves

**radiator** /'reɪdiətə/ *noun* the single basic unit of an antenna or any device that radiates signals

**radio** /'reɪdiəʊ/ *noun* a medium used for the transmission of speech, sound and data over long distances by radio frequency electromagnetic waves

**radio button** /'reɪdiəʊ ˌbʌt(ə)n/ *noun* (*in a GUI*) a circle displayed beside an option that, when selected, has a dark centre. Only one radio button can be selected at one time.

**radiocommunications** /ˌreɪdiəʊkə ˌmjuːnɪ'keɪʃ(ə)nz/ *noun* the transmission and reception of sound and data by radio waves

**radio frequency** /'reɪdiəʊ ˌfriːkwənsi/ *noun* full form of **RF**

**radix** /'reɪdɪks/ *noun* the value of the base of the number system being used ○ *The hexadecimal number has a radix of 16.*

**ragged** /'ræɡɪd/ *adjective* not straight, or with an uneven edge

**RAID** /reɪd/ *noun* a fast, fault tolerant disk drive system that uses multiple drives which would, typically, each store one byte of a word of data, so allowing the data to be saved faster. Full form **redundant array of inexpensive disks**

'A Japanese investor group led by system distributor Technography has pumped \$4.2 million (#2.8 million) into US disk manufacturer Storage Computer to help with the development costs of RAID 7 hard disk technology.' [*Computing*]

**RAM** /ræm/ *noun* memory that allows access to any location in any order, without having to access the rest first. Full form **random access memory**. Compare **sequential access**

'The HP Enterprise Desktops have hard-disk capacities of between 260Mb and 1Gb, with RAM ranging from 16Mb up to 128Mb.' [*Computing*]  
'...fast memory is RAM that does not have to share bus access with the chip that manages the video display' [*Byte*]

**COMMENT:** Dynamic RAM, which uses a capacitor to store a bit of data, needs to have each location refreshed from time to time to retain the data, but is very fast and can contain more data per unit area than static RAM, which uses a latch to store the state of a bit. Static RAM, however, has the advantage of not requiring to be refreshed to retain its data, and will keep data for as long as power is supplied.

**ramcorder** /'ræmkɔːdə/ *noun* a digital video recorder which stores images as digital data in RAM rather than on film

**RAMDAC** /'ræmdæk/ *noun* an electronic component on a video graphics adapter that converts the digital colour signals into electrical signals that are sent to the monitor

**R & D** *noun* investigation of new products, discoveries and techniques. Full form **research and development**

**R & D department** /ˌɑːr ən ˈdiː dɪ ˌpɑːtmənt/ *noun* a department in a company that investigates new products, discoveries and techniques

**random** /'rændəm/ *adjective* not arranged or happening according to a particular order or pattern

**random access** /ˌrændəm ˈækses/ *noun* the ability to access immediately memory locations in any order ○ *Disk drives are random access, whereas magnetic tape is sequential access memory.*

**random access digital to analog converter** /ˌrændəm ˈækses ˌdɪdʒɪt(ə)l tə ˌænalɒɡ kənˈvɜːtə/ *noun* an electronic component on a video graphics adapter that converts the digital colour signals into electrical signals that are sent to the monitor. Abbr **RAMDAC**

**random access memory** /ˌrændəm ˈækses ˌmem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* full form of **RAM**

**range** /reɪndʒ/ *noun* **1.** a series of items from which the customer can choose ○ *a wide range of products* **2.** a set of allowed values between a maximum and minimum ■ **verb** **1.** to vary or to be different ○ *The company's products range from a cheap laptop micro to a multistation mainframe.* **2.** to put text in order to one side

**rank** /ræŋk/ *verb* to sort data into an order, usually according to size or importance

**raster** /ˈræstə/ *noun* a system of scanning the whole of a CRT screen with a picture beam by sweeping across it horizontally, moving down one pixel or line at a time

**raster graphics** /ˈræstə ˌɡræfɪks/ *plural noun* graphics in which the picture is built up in lines across the screen or page

**raster image processor** /ˌræstə ˈɪmɪdʒ ˌprəʊsesə/ *noun* raster which translates software instructions into an image or complete page which is then printed by the printer ○ *An electronic page can be converted to a printer-readable video image by an on-board raster image processor.* Abbr **RIP**

**raster scan** /ˈræstə skæn/ *noun* one sweep of the picture beam horizontally across the front of a CRT screen

**rate** /reɪt/ *noun* the quantity of data or tasks that can be processed in a set time ○ *The processor's instruction execution rate is better than the older version.* ■ **verb** to evaluate how good something is or how large something is

**ratings** /ˈreɪtɪŋz/ *noun* a calculation of how many people are watching a TV programme

**ratings battle, ratings war** *noun* a fight between two TV companies to increase their share of the market

**ratio** /ˈreɪʃiəʊ/ *noun* the proportion of one number to another ○ *The ratio of 10 to 5 is 2:1.*

**rational number** /ˌræʃ(ə)nəl ˈnʌmbə/ *noun* a number that can be written as the ratio of two whole numbers ○ *24 over 7 is a rational number.*

**raw** /rɔː/ *adjective* in the original state or not processed

**raw data** /ˌrɔː ˈdeɪtə/ *noun* pieces of information which have not been input into a computer system

**ray** /reɪ/ *noun* one line of light or radiation in a beam or from a source ○ *The rays of light pass down the optical fibre.*

**ray tracing** /reɪ ˈtreɪsɪŋ/ *noun (in graphics)* a method of creating life-like computer-generated graphics which correctly show shadows and highlights on an object to suggest the existence of a light source ○ *To generate this picture with ray tracing will take several hours on this powerful PC.*

**RCA connector** /ˌɑː siː ˈeɪ kəˌnektə/ *noun* same as **phono connector**

**RD** /ˌɑː ˈdiː/ *noun (in DOS)* a command to remove an empty subdirectory. Full form **remove directory**

**RDBMS** *abbr* relational database management system

**reaction** /riˈækʃən/ *noun* an action which takes place because of something which has happened earlier

**reaction time** /riˈækʃən taɪm/ *noun* same as **access time**

**read** /riːd/ *verb* **1.** to look at printed words and understand them ○ *Conditions of sale are printed in such small characters that they are difficult to read.* **2.** to retrieve data from a storage medium ○ *This instruction reads the first record of a file.*

**readable** /ˈriːdəb(ə)l/ *adjective* that can be read or understood by someone or by an electronic device ○ *The electronic page is converted to a printer-readable video image.*

**reader** /ˈriːdə/ *noun* a device that reads data stored on one medium and converts it into another form

**reading** /ˈriːdɪŋ/ *noun* a note taken of figures or degrees, especially of degrees on a scale

**readout** /ˈriːdaʊt/ *noun* a display of data ○ *The readout displayed the time.*

**read/write cycle** /ˌriːd ˈraɪt ˌsaɪk(ə)l/ *noun* a sequence of events used to retrieve and store data

**ready** /ˈredi/ *adjective* waiting and able to be used ○ *The green light indicates the system is ready for another program.*

**Real** /rɪəl/ a trade name for a system used to transmit sound and video over the Internet, normally used to transmit live sound, e.g. from a radio station, over the Internet. ♀

**plug-in, streaming data**

**real address** /ˌrɪəl əˈdres/ *noun* an absolute address that directly accesses a memory location. Compare **paged address**

**RealAudio** /ˌrɪəl ˈɔːdiəʊ/ a trade name for a system used to transmit sound, usually live, over the Internet

**realise** /ˈrɪələɪz/, **realise the palette** /ˌrɪələɪz ðə ˈpælət/ *verb* to select a particular set of colours for a 256-colour palette and use this palette when displaying an image, normally by mapping the colours in a logical palette into the system palette

**real memory** /ˌrɪəl ˈmem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* the actual physical memory that can be addressed by a CPU. Compare **virtual memory**

**RealNames** /ˌrɪəl ˈneɪmz/ a system of assigning a trade name or descriptive name to a website address

**real number** /ˌrɪəl ˈnʌmbə/ *noun* (in computing) a number that is represented with a fractional part, or a number represented in floating point notation

**real time** /ˈrɪəl taɪm/ *noun* the instant nature of the responses of some computer system to events, changes and other stimuli ○ *A navigation system needs to be able to process the position of a ship in real time and take suitable action before it hits a rock.*

'Quotron provides real-time quotes, news and analysis on equity securities through a network of 40,000 terminals to US brokers and investors.' [Computing]

'...define a real-time system as any system which is expected to interact with its environment within certain timing constraints' [British Telecom Technology Journal]

**real-time animation** /ˌrɪəl taɪm ˌænɪ ˈmeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an animation in which objects appear to move at the same speed as they would in real life. Real-time animation requires display hardware capable of displaying a sequence with tens of different images every second.

**real-time authorisation** /ˌrɪəl taɪm ˌɔːθəraɪˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/, **real-time authentication** /ˌrɪəl taɪm ˌɔːθentɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an online system that can check the authenticity and validity of a customer's credit card within a few seconds, allowing the Internet shop to deliver goods or confirm an order immediately

**real-time input** /ˌrɪəl taɪm ˈɪnpʊt/ *noun* data input to a system as it happens or is required

**real-time system** /ˈrɪəl taɪm ˌsɪstəm/ *noun* a computer system that responds instantly to events, changes and other stimuli ○ *In a real-time system, as you move the joystick left, the image on the screen moves left. If there is a pause for processing it is not a true real-time system.*

**real-time video** /ˌrɪəl taɪm ˈvɪdɪəʊ/ *noun* full form of **RTV**

**rear projection** /ˌrɪə prəˈdʒekʃən/ *noun*  
**back projection**

**reboot** /rɪˈbuːt/ *verb* to reload an operating system during a computing session ○ *We rebooted and the files reappeared.* † **boot**

**recall** /rɪˈkɔːl/ *noun* the process of bringing back text or files from store ■ **verb** /rɪˈkɔːl/ to bring back text or files from store for editing

**receipt notification** /rɪˈsiːt ˌnəʊtɪfɪkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a feature of many electronic mail applications that will send an automatic message to confirm that the recipient has received the message

**receive** /rɪˈsiːv/ *verb* to accept data from a communications link ○ *The computer received data via the telephone line.*

**receive only** /rɪˌsiːv ˈəʊnli/ *noun* full form of **RO**

**receiver** /rɪˈsiːvə/ *noun* an electronic device that can detect transmitted signals and present them in a suitable form

**reception** /rɪˈsepʃən/ *noun* the quality of a radio or TV signal received ○ *Signal reception is bad with that aerial.*

**re-chargeable** /rɪː ˈtʃɑːdʒəb(ə)/ *adjective* (of a battery) which can be charged again with electricity when it is flat

**reciprocal link** /rɪˌsɪprək(ə)l ˈlɪŋk/ *noun* a link connecting two websites and working in both directions so that each site is effectively providing advertising space for the other

**recode** /rɪˈkəʊd/ *verb* to code a program which has been coded for one system, so that it will work on another

**recognisable** /ˈrekəɡnaɪzəb(ə)/, **recognizable** *adjective* which can be recognised  
**recognise** /ˈrekəɡˌnaɪz/, **recognize** *verb* to see something and remember that it has been seen before ○ *The scanner will recognise most character fonts.*

**recognition** /ˌrekəɡˈnɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* 1. being able to recognise something 2. a process that allows something such as letters on a printed text or bars on bar codes to be recognised,

**recompile** /rɪˌkɛmˈpaɪl/ *verb* to compile a source program again, usually after changes or debugging

**reconfiguration** /ˌrɪːkənˈfɪɡəˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of altering the structure of data in a system

**reconfigure** /rɪˌkənˈfɪɡə/ *verb* to alter the structure of data in a system ○ *I reconfigured the field structure in the file.* † **configure, set up**

**reconnect** /ˌri:kə'nekt/ *verb* to connect again ○ *The telephone engineers are trying to reconnect the telephone.*

**record** *noun* /'rekɔ:d/ a set of items of related data ○ *Your record contains several fields that have been grouped together under the one heading.* ■ *verb* /'ri:kɔ:d/ to store data or signals ○ *Record the results in this column.*

**recordable CD** /ˌri:kɔ:dəb(ə)l si: 'di:z/ *noun* full form of **CD-R**

**recorder** /'ri:kɔ:də/ *noun* equipment able to transfer input signals onto a storage medium

COMMENT: The signal recorded is not always in the same form as the input signal. Many recorders record a modulated carrier signal for better quality. A recorder is usually combined with a suitable playback circuit since the read and write heads are often the same physical device.

**recording** /'ri:kɔ:dɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the action of storing signals or data **2.** a signal (especially music) which has been recorded on tape or disk ○ *a new recording of Beethoven's quartets*

**recordset** /'rekɔ:dset/ *noun* a group of records selected from a main database by a filter, search or query

**recover** /rɪ'kʌvə/ *verb* to get back something which has been lost ○ *It is possible to recover the data but it can take a long time.*

**recoverable error** /rɪ,kʌv(ə)rəb(ə)l 'erə/ *noun* an error type that allows program execution to be continued after it has occurred

**recovery** /rɪ'kʌv(ə)rɪ/ *noun* **1.** the process of returning to normal operating after a fault **2.** the process of getting back something that has been lost ○ *The recovery of lost files can be carried out using the recovery procedure.*

**recovery procedure** /rɪ'kʌv(ə)rɪ pɹə 'si:dʒə/ *noun* the processes required to return a system to normal operation after an error

**rectangular waveguide** /ˌrektæŋgju:lə 'weɪvgaɪd/ *noun* a microwave channel that is rectangular in cross section

**rectifier** /'rektɪfaɪə/ *noun* an electronic circuit that converts an alternating current supply into a direct current supply

**rectify** /'rektɪfaɪ/ *verb* **1.** to correct something or to make something right ○ *They had to rectify the error at the printout stage.* **2.** to remove the positive or negative sections of a signal so that it is unipolar

**recursion** /rɪ'kɜ:ʒ(ə)n/ *noun* a subroutine in a program that calls itself during execution. Also called **recursive routine**

**recursive filtering** /rɪ,kɜ:ʒɪv 'fɪləɪŋ/ *noun* a technique which reduces video noise and defects (*film*)

**recursive routine** /rɪ,kɜ:ʒɪv 'ru:ti:n/ *noun* same as **recursion**

**Recycle Bin** /rɪ:'saɪk(ə)l bɪn/ *noun* a folder in Windows 95 where deleted files are automatically stored, with an icon on the Desktop that looks like a wastepaper bin ○ *If you want to delete a file or folder, drag it onto the Recycle Bin icon or press the Delete key.*

**red, green, blue** /ˌred grɪ:n 'blu:z/ *noun* the three colour picture beams used in a colour TV

COMMENT: There are three colour guns producing red, green, and blue beams acting on groups of three phosphor dots at each pixel location.

**red, green, blue display** /ˌred grɪ:n 'blu: dɪ'spleɪ/ *noun* full form of **RGB display**

**red book audio** /ˌred bʊk 'ɔ:diəʊ/ *noun* ▶ **compact disc-digital audio**

**redefinable** /ˌri:dɪ'faɪnəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be redefined

**redefine** /ˌri:dɪ'faɪn/ *verb* to change the function or value assigned to a variable or object ○ *I have redefined this key to display the figure five when pressed.*

...one especially useful command lets you redefine the printer's character-translation table' [Byte]

**redirect** /ˌri:daɪ'rekt/ *verb* **1.** to send a message to its destination by another route **2.** (in DOS and UNIX operating systems) to treat the output of one program as input for another program

**redirection** /ˌri:daɪ'rekʃən/ *noun* the process of sending a message to its destination by another route ○ *Call forwarding is automatic redirection of calls.*

**redliner** /'redlaɪnə/ *noun* a feature of workgroup or word-processor software that allows a user to highlight text in a different colour

**redo** /rɪ:'du:z/ *verb* to do something again

**redraw** /rɪ:'drɔ:z/ *verb* to draw something again ○ *Can the computer redraw the graphics showing the product from the top view?*

**reduce** /rɪ'dju:z/ *verb* to make something smaller

**reduced instruction set computer** /rɪ 'dju:st ɪn'strʌkʃən set kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* full form of **RISC**

**redundancy** /rɪ'dʌndənsɪ/ *noun* the process of providing extra components in a system in case there is a breakdown

**redundant** /rɪ'dʌndənt/ *adjective* **1.** referring to data that can be removed without losing any information ○ *The parity bits on the*

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received data are redundant and can be removed. **2.** referring to an extra piece of equipment kept ready for a task in case of faults

**redundant array of inexpensive disks** /rɪ,dʌndənt ə,rɛɪ əv ˌɪnɪkspɛnsɪv 'dɪskz/ *noun* full form of **RAID**

**re-entrant program** /rɪ: ˌentrənt 'prəʊgræm/, **re-entrant code** /kəʊd/, **re-entrant routine** /ru:'ti:n/ *noun* one program or code shared by many users in a multi-user system. It can be interrupted or called again by another user before it has finished its previous run, and will return to the point at which it was interrupted when it has finished that run.

**reference** /'ref(ə)rəns/ *noun* **1.** a value used as a starting point for other values, often zero **2.** the act of mentioning or dealing with something ■ *verb* to access a location in memory ○ *The access time taken to reference an item in memory is short.*

**reflect** /rɪ'flekt/ *verb* to send back (light or image) from a surface ○ *In a reflex camera, the image is reflected by an inbuilt mirror.*

**reflectance** /rɪ'flektəns/ *noun* the difference between the amount of light or signal incident and the amount that is reflected back from a surface. Opposite **absorbance**

**reflection** /rɪ'flekʃən/ *noun* light or an image which is reflected

**reflective disk** /rɪ'flektɪv dɪsk/ *noun* a videodisk that uses a reflected laser beam to read the data etched into the surface

**reformat** /rɪ:'fɔ:mæt/ *verb* to format a disk that already contains data, and erasing the data by doing so ○ *Do not reformat your hard disk unless you can't do anything else.*

**reformatting** /rɪ:'fɔ:mætɪŋ/ *noun* the act of formatting a disk which already contains data ○ *Reformatting destroys all the data on a disk.* † **format**

**refract** /rɪ'frækt/ *verb* to change the direction of light as it passes through a material (such as water or glass)

**refraction** /rɪ'frækfən/ *noun* the apparent bending of light or sound that occurs when it travels through a material

**refractive index** /rɪ,fræktɪv 'ɪndeks/ *noun* a measure of the angle that light is refracted by, as it passes through a material

**refresh** /rɪ'freʃ/ *verb* to update regularly the contents of dynamic RAM by reading and rewriting stored data to ensure data is retained ○ *memory refresh signal*

**refresh rate** /rɪ'freʃ reɪt/ *noun* the number of times every second that the image on a CRT is redrawn

Philips autoscans colour monitor, the 4CM6099, has SVGA refresh rates of 72Hz (800 x 600) and

EVGA refresh rates of 70Hz (1,024 x 768). [Computing]

**regenerate** /rɪ'dʒenə,reɪt/ *verb* **1.** to redraw an image on a screen many times a second so that it remains visible **2.** to receive distorted signals, process and error check them, then retransmit the same data

**regeneration** /rɪ,ʒenə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of regenerating a signal

**regenerator** /rɪ'dʒenə'reɪtə/ *noun* a device used in communications that amplifies or regenerates a received signal and transmits it on. Regenerators are often used to extend the range of a network.

**region** /'rɪ:dʒən/ *noun* a special or reserved area of memory or program or screen

**region fill** /'rɪ:dʒ(ə)n fɪl/ *noun* the process of filling an area of the screen or a graphics shape with a particular colour

**register** /'redʒɪstə/ *noun* **1.** a special location within a CPU that is used to hold data and addresses to be processed in a machine code operation **2.** a reserved memory location used for special storage purposes ■ *verb* **1.** to react to a stimulus **2.** to correctly superimpose two images

**Registry** /'redʒɪstri/ *noun* a database of information about configuration and program settings that forms the basis of Windows

**regulate** /'regjuleɪt/ *verb* to control a process, usually using sensors and a feedback mechanism

**regulation** /,regjʊ'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a law or rule, which most people have to obey

**regulation line** /,regjuleɪʃ(ə)n 'laɪn/ *noun* the ability of a power supply to prevent input line changes affecting output supplies

**regulation load** /,regjuleɪʃ(ə)n 'ləʊd/ *noun* the ability of a power supply to prevent output load changes affecting output supplies

**rehyphenation** /rɪ:,haɪfə'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of changing the hyphenation of words in a text after it has been put into a new page format or line width

**reject** /rɪ'dʒekt/ *verb* to refuse to accept something ○ *The computer rejects all incoming data from incompatible sources.*

**rejection** /rɪ'dʒekʃən/ *noun* the process or fact of refusing to accept something

**relational database** /rɪ,leɪʃ(ə)n(ə)l 'deɪtəbeɪs/, **relational database management system** /rɪ,leɪʃn(ə)l 'deɪtəbeɪs ,mænɪdʒmənt 'sɪstəm/ *noun* a database in which all the items of data can be interconnected. Data is retrieved by using one item of data to search for a related field. ○ *If you search the relational database for the surname, you can pull out his salary from the related accounts database.* Abbr **RDBMS**

**relationship** /rɪ'leɪf(ə)nʃɪp/ *noun* a way in which two similar things are connected

**relative** /rɪ'lətɪv/ *adjective* compared to something else

**relay** /'ri:leɪ/ *noun* an electromagnetically controlled switch ○ *There is a relay in the circuit.* ■ *verb* to receive data from one source and then retransmit it to another point ○ *All messages are relayed through this small micro.*

**release** /rɪ'li:s/ *noun* **1.** a version of a product ○ *The latest software is release 5.* **2.** the process of putting a new product on the market ■ *verb* to put a new product on the market

**reliability** /rɪ,ləɪə'bɪlətɪ/ *noun* the ability of a device to function as intended, efficiently and without failure ○ *It has an excellent reliability record.*

**reliable** /rɪ'laɪəb(ə)/ *adjective* which can be trusted to work properly ○ *The early versions of the software were not completely reliable.*

**relief printing** /rɪ,lɪf 'prɪntɪŋ/ *noun* a printing process in which the ink is held on a raised image

**reload** /rɪ:'ləʊd/ *verb* to load something again ○ *We reloaded the program after the crash.* † **load**

**relocatable** /rɪ:ləʊ'keɪtəb(ə)/ *adjective* which can be moved to another area of memory without affecting its operation

**relocate** /rɪ:ləʊ'keɪt/ *verb* to move data from one area of storage to another ○ *The data is relocated during execution.*

**relocation** /rɪ:ləʊ'keɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the process of moving to another area in memory

**REM** /rem/ *noun* a statement in a BASIC program that is ignored by the interpreter, allowing the programmer to write explanatory notes. Full form **remark**

**remainder** /rɪ'meɪndə/ *noun* a number equal to the dividend minus the product of the quotient and divisor ○ *7 divided by 3 is equal to 2 remainder 1.* Compare **quotient**

**remark** /rɪ'mɑ:k/ *noun* full form of **REM**

**remedial maintenance** /rɪ,mɪ:diəl 'meɪntənəns/ *noun* maintenance to repair faults which have developed in a system

**remote** /rɪ'məʊt/ *adjective* referring to communications with a computer at a distance from the systems centre ○ *Users can print reports on remote printers.*

**remote job entry** /rɪ,məʊt dʒɒb 'entri/ *noun* full form of **RJE**

**removable** /rɪ'mu:vəb(ə)/ *adjective* which can be removed ○ *a removable hard disk*

**removal** /rɪ'mu:v(ə)/ *noun* the act of taking something away ○ *The removal of this instruction could solve the problem.*

**remove** /rɪ'mu:v/ *verb* to take something away or to move something to another place ○ *The file entry was removed from the floppy disk directory.*

**remove directory** /rɪ,mu:v daɪ'rekt(ə)rɪ/ *noun* full form of **RD**

**rename** /rɪ:'neɪm/ *verb* to give a new name to a file

**rendering** /'rend(ə)rɪŋ/ *noun* the process of colouring and shading a (normally wireframe or vector object) graphic object so that it looks solid and real

**renumber** /'rɪ:nʌmbə/ *noun* a feature of some computer languages which allows the programmer to allocate new values to all or some of a program's line numbers

**reorganize** /rɪ:'ɔ:gənaɪz/, **reorganize** *verb* to organise something again or in a different way ○ *Wait while the spelling checker database is being reorganised.*

**repaginate** /rɪ:'pædʒɪneɪt/ *verb* to change the lengths of pages of text before they are printed ○ *The text was repaginated with a new line width.*

**repagination** /rɪ:,pædʒɪ'neɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the action of changing pages lengths ○ *The dtp package allows simple repagination.*

**repeat** /rɪ'pi:t/ *verb* to do an action again

**repeater** /rɪ'pi:tə/ *noun* a device used in communications that amplifies or regenerates a received signal and transmits it on. Regenerators are often used to extend the range of a network, while the repeater works at the physical layer of the OSI network model. †

**bridge, OSI, router**

**repeating group** /rɪ'pi:tɪŋ gru:p/ *noun* a pattern of data that is duplicated in a bit stream

**reperforator** /rɪ:'pɜ:fəreɪtə/ *noun* a machine that punches paper tape according to received signals

**repertoire** /'repə,twa:/ *noun* the range of functions of a device or software ○ *The manual describes the full repertoire.*

**repetitive letter** /rɪ,petətɪv 'letə/ *noun* a form letter or standard letter into which the details of each addressee are inserted

**repetitive strain injury** /rɪ,petɪtɪv 'streɪn ,ɪndʒəri/, **repetitive stress injury** /rɪ,petɪtɪv stres 'ɪndʒəri/ *noun* pain in the arm, wrist or hands felt by someone who performs the same movement many times over a certain period, as when operating a computer ○ *RSI can be avoided by adjusting your chair so that you do not excessively flex your wrists when typing.* Abbr **RSI**

**replace** /rɪˈpleɪs/ *verb* **1.** to put something back where it was before **2.** to find a certain item of data and put another in its place. ♠ **search and replace**

**replay** /rɪˈpleɪ/ *noun* **1.** the playing back or reading back of data or a signal from a recording **2.** the process of repeating a short section of filmed action, usually in slow motion ○ *The replay clearly showed the winner.* ○ *This video recorder has a replay feature.* ■ *verb* /rɪˈpleɪ/ to play back something that has been recorded

**replenish** /rɪˈpleniʃ/ *verb* to charge a battery with electricity again

**replicate** /ˈreplɪˌkeɪt/ *verb* to copy something ○ *The routine will replicate your results with very little effort.*

**report program generator** /rɪˈpɔːt ˌprəʊgræm ˌdʒenəreɪtə/ *noun* a programming language used mainly on personal computers for the preparation of business reports, allowing data in files, databases, etc., to be included. Abbr **RPG**

**represent** /ˌreprɪˈzent/ *verb* **1.** to act as a symbol for something ○ *The hash sign is used to represent a number in a series.* **2.** to act as a salesperson for a product

**representation** /ˌreprɪzenˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the action of representing something

**representative** /ˌreprɪˈzentətɪv/ *adjective* typical example of something ■ *noun* salesman who represents a company ○ *The representative called yesterday about the order.*

**reprint** /rɪˈprɪnt/ *verb* **1.** to print more copies of a document or book **2.** to create a positive film print from a negative ■ *noun* the printing of copies of a book after the first printing ○ *We ordered a 10,000 copy reprint.*

**repro** /rɪˈprəʊ/ *noun* finished artwork or camera-ready copy, ready for filming and printing (*informal*)

**reproduce** /ˌrɪːprəˈdjuːz/ *verb* to copy data or text from one material or medium to another similar one

**reproduction** /ˌrɪːprəˈdʌkʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the action of copying

**reprogram** /rɪˈprəʊgræm/ *verb* to alter a program so that it can be run on another type of computer

**repro proof** /rɪˈprəʊ pruːf/ *noun* a perfect proof ready to be reproduced

**request** /rɪˈkwest/ *noun* something that someone asks for ■ *verb* to ask for something

**require** /rɪˈkwaɪə/ *verb* to need something or to demand something ○ *Delicate computer systems require careful handling.*

**required hyphen** /rɪˈkwaɪəd ˈhaɪf(ə)n/ *noun* hyphen which is always in a word, even if the word is not split (as in co-administrator)

**requirements** /rɪˈkwaɪəmənts/ *plural noun* things which are needed ○ *Memory requirements depend on the application software in use.*

**re-route** /rɪˈruːt/ *verb* to send something by a different route

**rerun** /rɪˈrʌn/ *verb* to run a program or a printing job again

**res** /rez/ *noun* same as **resolution**

**resample** /rɪˈsɑːmp(ə)l/ *verb* to change the number of pixels used to make up an image

**resave** /rɪˈseɪv/ *verb* to save a document or file again ○ *It automatically resaves the text.*

**rescue dump** /ˈreskjʊː dʌmp/ *noun* data automatically saved on disk when a computer fault occurs. The rescue dump describes the state of the system at that time, and is used to help in debugging.

**research** /rɪˈsɜːtʃ/ *noun* scientific investigation carried out in order to learn new facts about a field of study

**research and development** /rɪˈsɜːtʃ ən dɪˈveləpmənt/ *noun* full form of **R & D** ○ *The company has spent millions of dollars on R & D.*

**reserved character** /rɪˌzɜːvd ˈkærɪktə/ *noun* a special character which is used by the operating system or which has a particular function to control an operating system and cannot be used for other uses

**reserved sector** /rɪˌzɜːvd ˈsektə/ *noun* the area of disk space that is used only for control data storage

**reset** /rɪˈset/ *verb* **1.** to return a system to its initial state, in order to allow a program or process to be started again **2.** to set a register or counter to its initial state ○ *When it reaches 999 this counter resets to zero.* **3.** to set data equal to zero

COMMENT: Hard reset is similar to soft reset but with a few important differences. Hard reset is a switch that directly signals the CPU, while soft reset signals the operating system; hard reset clears all memory contents, while a soft reset does not affect memory contents; hard reset should always reset the system, while a soft reset does not always work if the operating system has been upset in a significant way.

**reset-set flip-flop** /rɪˈset set ˈflɪp ˌflɒp/ *noun* full form of **RS-flip-flop**

**reshape handle** /ˈrɪːʃeɪp ˌhænd(ə)l/ *noun* (*in a GUI*) a small square displayed on a frame around an object or image that a user can select and drag to change the shape of the frame or graphical object

**resident** /'rezɪd(ə)nt/ *adjective* referring to data or a program that is always in a computer

**resident fonts** /,rezɪd(ə)nt 'fɒnts/ *plural noun* font data which is always present in a printer or device and which does not have to be downloaded

**resident software** /,rezɪd(ə)nt 'sɒftweɪ/ *noun* a program that is held permanently in memory (whilst the machine is on)

**residual** /rɪ'zɪdʒuəl/ *adjective* remaining after the rest or the others have disappeared or have been dealt with

**resist** /rɪ'zɪst/ *verb* to fight against something or to refuse to do something ■ *noun* a substance used to protect a pattern of tracks on a PCB, which is not affected by etching chemicals

**resistance** /rɪ'zɪstəns/ *noun* a measure of the voltage drop across a component with a current flowing through it. ▽ **Ohm's Law**

**resistor** /rɪ'zɪstə/ *noun* an electronic component that provides a known resistance. Abbr **RTL**

**resistor transistor logic** /rɪ,zɪstə træn ,zɪstə 'lɒdʒɪk/ *noun* a circuit design method using transistors and resistors. Abbr **RTL**

**resolution** /,rezə'lu:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the number of pixels that a screen or printer can display per unit area ○ *The resolution of most personal computer screens is not much more than 70 dpi (dots per inch).* Also called **res 2.** the difference between two levels that can be differentiated in a digitised signal **3.** the degree of accuracy with which something can be measured or timed

'Group IV fax devices can send a grey or colour A4 page in about four seconds, at a maximum resolution of 15.7 lines per millimetre over an Integrated Services Digital Network circuit.' [*Computing*]

**resolver** /rɪ'zɒlvə/ *noun* a system which regulates the speed of a magnetic film recorder or a tape playback machine (*film*)

**resolving power** /rɪ'zɒlvɪŋ ,paʊə/ *noun* a measurement of the ability of an optical system to detect fine black lines on a white background, given as the number of lines per millimetre

**resonance** /'rez(ə)nəns/ *noun* a situation in which a body oscillates with a very large amplitude because the frequency applied to it is the same as its natural frequency

**resource** /rɪ'zɔ:s/ *noun* a useful device, product, program or graphic object

**resource interchange file format** /rɪ ,zɔ:s ,ɪntəʃ'eɪndʒ 'faɪl ,fɔ:mət/ *noun* full form of **RIFF**

**resource sharing** /rɪ'zɔ:s ʃ'eərɪŋ/ *noun* the use of one resource in a network or system by several users

**respond** /rɪ'spɒnd/ *verb* to reply or to react because of something

**response** /rɪ'spɒns/ *noun* a reaction caused by something

**restart** /rɪ'stɑ:t/ *verb* to start something again ○ *First try to restart your system.*

**rest in proportion** /,rest ɪn prə 'pɔ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **RIP**

**restore** /rɪ'stɔ:t/ *verb* to put something back into an earlier state

'...first you have to restore the directory that contains the list of deleted files' [*Personal Computer World*]

**restrict** /rɪ'strɪkt/ *verb* to keep something within a certain limit

**restriction** /rɪ'strɪkʃ(ə)n/ *noun* something that restricts data flow or access

**result code** /rɪ'zʌlt kəʊd/ *noun* a message sent from a modem to the local computer indicating the state of the modem

**retain** /rɪ'teɪn/ *verb* to keep something

**retention** /rɪ'tenʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of keeping something

**retouch** /rɪ:'tʌʃ/ *verb* to change a print or photograph slightly by hand, to make it clearer or to remove any blemishes ○ *I retouched the scratch mark on the last print.* ○ *The artwork for the line drawings needs retouching in places.*

**retrain** /,rɪ:'treɪn/ *verb* to re-establish a better quality connection when the quality of a line is very bad

**retransmission** /,rɪ:trænz'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a signal or data that has been retransmitted

**retransmit** /,rɪ:trænz'mɪt/ *verb* to transmit again (a received signal)

**retrieval** /rɪ'tri:v(ə)l/ *noun* the process of searching, locating and recovering information from a file or storage device

**retrieve** /rɪ'tri:v/ *verb* to extract information from a file or storage device ○ *These are the records retrieved in that search.*

**retro-** /retrəʊ/ *prefix* relating to an earlier time, state, or stage of development

**retrospective parallel running** /,retrəʊspektɪv 'pærəlel ,rʌnɪŋ/ *noun* running a new computer system with old data to check if it is accurate

**retrospective search** /,retrəʊspektɪv 'sɜ:tʃ/ *noun* a search of documents on a certain subject since a certain date

**return** /rɪ'tɜ:n/ *noun* **1.** an instruction that causes program execution to return to the main program from a subroutine ○ *The program is not working because you missed out*

the return instruction at the end of the sub-routine. **2.** a key on a keyboard used to indicate that all the required data has been entered ○ *You type in your name and code number then press return.* **3.** the indication of an end of line (in printing)

**return to zero signal** /rɪ,tʰɜːn tə 'ziərəʊ ,sɪgn(ə)l/ *noun* a recording reference mark taken as the level of unmagnetised tape

**reveal** /rɪ'viːl/ *verb* to display previously hidden information once a condition has been met

**reverse** /rɪ'vɜːs/ *adjective* going in the opposite direction ■ *verb* to go or travel in the opposite direction

'...the options are listed on the left side of the screen, with active options shown at the top left in reverse video' [PC User]

**reverse engineering** /rɪ,vɜːs ,endʒɪ 'nɒrɪŋ/ *noun* a method of product design in which the finished item is analysed to determine how it should be constructed

**reverse Polish notation** /rɪ,vɜːs ,pəʊlɪʃ nəʊ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* mathematical operations written in a logical way, so that the operator appears after the numbers to be acted upon, removing the need for brackets ○ *Three plus four, minus two is written in RPN as 3 4 + 2 - = 5.* Abbr **RPN**

**reverse video** /rɪ,vɜːs 'vɪdɪəʊ/ *noun* a screen display mode in which white and black are reversed and colours are complemented

**revert** /rɪ'vɜːt/ *verb* to return to a normal state ○ *After the rush order, we reverted back to our normal speed.*

**review** /rɪ'vjuː/ *verb* to see something again, usually in order to check it ○ *The program allows the user to review all wrongly spelled words.*

**revise** /rɪ'vaɪz/ *verb* to update or correct a version of a document or file ○ *The revised version has no mistakes.*

**rewind** /rɪ:'waɪnd/ *verb* to return a tape or film or counter to its starting point ○ *The tape rewinds onto the spool automatically.*

**rewrite** *verb* /rɪ:'raɪt/ to write something again. ♢ **regenerate** ■ *noun* /'rɪ:raɪt/ the act of writing something again ○ *The program is in its second rewrite.*

**RF, R/F** *noun* the electromagnetic spectrum that lies between the frequency range 10KHz and 3000GHz. Full form **radio frequency**

**RFC** /,ɑː ef 'siː/ *noun* a document that contains information about a proposed new standard and asks users to look at the document and make any comments. Full form **request for comment**

**RGB** /,ɑː dʒɪː 'biː/ *noun* a high-definition monitor system that uses three separate input

signals controlling red, green and blue colour picture beams. Full form **red, green, blue**

COMMENT: There are three colour guns producing red, green, and blue beams acting on groups of three phosphor dots at each pixel location.

**RGB display** /,ɑː dʒɪː ,biː drɪ'spleɪ/, **RGB monitor** /'mɒnɪtə/ *noun* a monitor that uses RGB

**Rl** *abbr* ring indicator

**RIAA curve** *noun* standards for recording and equalisation set by the RIAA – Recording Industries Association of America (*film*)

**ribbon** /'rɪbən/ *noun* a long thin flat piece of material

**rich text format** /,rɪtʃ 'tekst ,fɔːmæt/ *noun* a way of storing a document that includes all the commands that describe the page, type, font and formatting. Abbr **RTF**

**RIFF** /rɪf/ *noun* a multimedia data format jointly introduced by IBM and Microsoft that uses tags to identify parts of a multimedia file structure and allows the file to be exchanged between platforms. Full form **resource interchange file format**

**RIFF chunk** /'rɪf tʃʌŋk/ *noun* a chunk with the ID RIFF

**RIFF file** /'rɪf faɪl/ *noun* a file that contains tagged information that complies with the RIFF file format

**rifle microphone** /,raɪf(ə)l 'maɪkrəfəʊn/ *noun* a long, highly directional microphone which can pick up sound over a great distance (*film*)

**right-click** /,raɪt 'kɪk/ *verb* to press and release the right-hand button of a computer mouse

**right-click menu** /,raɪt 'kɪk ,menjuː/ *noun* a small pop-up menu that appears when you click on the right-hand button of a two-button mouse

**right-hand button** /,raɪt hænd 'bʌt(ə)n/ *noun* a button on the right-hand side of a two or three-button mouse

**right justification** /,raɪt ,dʒʌstɪfɪ 'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of aligning the text and spacing characters so that the right margin is straight

**right justify** /,raɪt 'dʒʌstɪfɪ/ *verb* to align the right margin so that the text is straight

**rightsizing** /'raɪt ,saɪzɪŋ/ *noun* the process of moving a company's information technology structure to the most cost-effective hardware platform, which in practice often means moving from a mainframe-based network to a PC-based network

**rigid** /'rɪdʒɪd/ *adjective* which cannot easily bend

**ring** /rɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** a data list whose last entry points back to the first entry **2.** the topology of a network in which the wiring sequentially connects one workstation to another ■ *verb* to telephone

**ring counter** /'rɪŋ ,kaʊntə/ *noun* an electronic counter in which any overflow from the last digit is fed into the input

**ringing** /'rɪŋɪŋ/ *noun* (*film*) **1.** interference in a television picture **2.** noise caused by an alternating or pulsating current

**ring topology network** /,rɪŋ tə,pɒlədʒi 'netwɜ:k/ *noun* a type of network in which each terminal is connected one after the other in a circle

**RIP** *abbr* **1.** raster image processor **2.** routing information protocol

**ripple** /'rɪp(ə)/ *noun* **1.** a small alternating current voltage apparent on a badly regulated direct current output supply **2.** a visual effect which creates wavy images during film dissolves

**ripple-through effect** /'rɪp(ə)l θru: ɪ ,fekt/ *noun* (*in a spreadsheet*) the results, changes or errors appearing in a spreadsheet as a result of the value in one cell being changed

**RISC** /,ɪ: əɪ es 'si:/ *noun* a CPU design whose instruction set contains a small number of simple fast-executing instructions, which makes program writing more complex but increases speed. Full form **reduced instruction set computer**. ◊ **WISC**

**rise time** /'raɪz taɪm/ *noun* the time taken for a voltage to increase its amplitude (from 10 to 90 per cent or zero to RMS value of its final amplitude) □ **the circuit has a fast rise time** electronic circuit that is able to handle rapidly changing signals such as very high frequency signals

**RJ11 connector** *noun* a popular standard of four-wire modular connector

**RJ45 connector** *noun* a popular name for an eight-pin modular connector used in 10BaseT networks to connect UTP cables

**RJE** /,ɪ: ə dʒeɪ 'i:/ *noun* a batch processing system in which instructions are transmitted to the computer from a remote terminal. Full form **remote job entry**

**RLE** /,ɪ: ə el 'i:/ *noun* a data compression technique that stores any sequence of bits of data with the same value to a single value. Full form **run-length encoding**

**RLL encoding** /,ɪ: ə el el ɪn 'kæʊdɪŋ/ *noun* a fast and efficient method of storing data onto a disk in which the changes in a run of data bits is stored. Full form **run-length limited encoding**

**rm** /,ɪ: ə 'em/ *noun* (*in UNIX*) a command to remove an empty subdirectory

**RMDIR** *abbr* remove directory. Same as **RD**  
**RMS line current** /,ɪ: ə em es 'laɪn ,kʌrənt/ *noun* the root mean square of the electrical current on a line

**RO** /,ɪ: ə/ *noun* a computer terminal that can only accept and display data, not transmit. Full form **receive only**

**roam** /rəʊm/ *verb* (*in wireless communications*) to move around freely and still be in contact with a wireless communications transmitter

**robot** /'rəʊ,bɒt/ *noun* **1.** a device that can be programmed to carry out certain manufacturing tasks which are similar to tasks carried out by people **2.** same as **bot**

**robotics** /rəʊ'bɒtɪks/ *noun* the study of artificial intelligence, programming and building involved with robot construction

**robust** /rəʊ'bʌst/ *adjective* referring to a system which can resume working after a fault

**robustness** /rəʊ'bʌstnəs/ *noun* **1.** the strength of a system's casing and its ability to be knocked or dropped ○ *This hard disk is not very robust.* **2.** a system's ability to continue functioning even with errors or faults during a program execution

**rock and roll** /,rɒk ən 'rəʊl/ *verb* to move backwards and forwards in synchronization during editing

**rogue indicator** /rəʊg 'ɪndɪ,keɪtə/ *noun* a special code used only for control applications, e.g. an end of file marker

**rogue value** /rəʊg 'vælju:/ *noun* an item in a list of data which shows that the list is terminated. Also called **terminator**

**role indicator** /'rəʊl ,ɪndɪ,keɪtə/ *noun* a symbol used to show the role of an index entry in its particular context

**roll** /rəʊl/ *noun* **1.** a length of film or tape wound around itself ○ *He put a new roll of film into the camera.* **2.** unwanted vertical movement in a picture ■ *verb* **1.** to rotate a device about its axis **2.** to start filming

**rollback** /'rəʊlbæk/ *noun* reloading software after the master software has been corrupted

**rolling headers** /,rəʊlɪŋ 'hedəs/ *noun* titles or headers of (teletext) pages displayed as they are received

**rolling title** /,rəʊlɪŋ 'taɪt(ə)/ *noun* titles which move vertically up a picture area. ◊ **crawling title**

**roll in/roll out** /,rəʊl ɪn ,rəʊl 'aʊt/ *noun* the transfer of one process (in a multiprogramming system) from storage to processor then back once it has had its allocated processing time

**rollover** /'rɒləʊvəl/ *noun* a keyboard with a small temporary buffer so that it can still transmit correct data when several keys are pressed at once

**roll scroll** /'rɒl skrɒl/ *noun* displayed text that moves up or down the computer screen one line at a time

**ROM** /rɒm/ *abbr* read only memory

**roman** /'rɒmən/ *noun* ordinary typeface, neither italic nor bold ○ *The text is set in Times Roman.*

**Roman numerals** /,rɒmən 'nju:mərəlz/ *plural noun* numbers represented using the symbols I, V, X, L, C, D and M

**romware** /'rɒmwɛə/ *noun* software which is stored in ROM

**root** /ru:t/ *noun* a fractional power of a number

**rotary** /'rɒtəri/ *adjective* which works by turning

**rotary camera** /,rɒtəri 'kæm(ə)rə/ *noun* a camera able to photograph microfilm as it is moved in front of the lens by moving the film at the same time

**rotary erase head** /,rɒtəri 'ri:ɛz ,hed/ *noun* a video tape recorder's erase head

**rotary movement** /'rɒtəri ,mu:vmənt/ *noun* the effect of spinning images on film created by an optical-spin device in an optical printer

**rotary press** /'rɒtəri pres/ *noun* a printing press whose printing plate is cylindrical

**rotary printer** /'rɒtəri ,prɪntə/ *noun* a constant contact printing machine where the two films at the time of exposure are transported on a revolving sprocket

**rotary shutter, rotating shutter** *noun* a rotating camera or projector shutter which intermittently blocks the passage of light as it moves through

**rotate** /rəu'teɪt/ *verb* to move data within a storage location in a circular manner

**rotating helical aperture scanner** /rəu'teɪtɪŋ ,helɪk(ə)l 'æpətʃə ,skænə/ *noun* a type of scanner in which the original image is lit and the reflection sent, through a lens and mirror, through a rotating spiral slit and finally onto a photodetector cell; as the spiral slit turns, it has the effect of moving up the image

**rotation** /rəu'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the degree to which an object has been rotated

**rough copy** /,rʌf 'kɒpi/ *noun* a draft of a program which, it is expected, will have changes made to it before it is complete

**round** /raʊnd/ *adjective* in the form of a circle or curve

**rounding** /'raʊndɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** an approximation of a number to a slightly larger or smaller one of lower precision **2.** the process of giving graphics a smoother look

**route** /ru:t/ *noun* the path taken by a message between a transmitter and receiver in a network ○ *The route taken was not the most direct since a lot of nodes were busy.*

**router** /ru:tɪd/ *noun* **1.** a communications device that receives data packets in a particular protocol and forwards them to their correct location via the most efficient route **2.** (*in a LAN*) a device that connect two or more LANs that use the same protocol and allows data to be transmitted between each network. The router works at the network-layer level of the OSI model. † **bridge, OSI**

**routine** /ru:'ti:n/ *noun* a number of instructions that perform a particular task, but are not a complete program. They are included as part of a program. ○ *The routine copies the screen display onto a printer.*

'Hewlett-Packard has announced software which aims to reduce PC-network downtime and cut support costs by automating housekeeping routines such as issuing alerts about potential problems.' [Computing]

COMMENT: Routines are usually called from a main program to perform a task. Control is then returned to the part of the main program from which the routine was called once that task is complete.

**routing** /'ru:tɪŋ/ *noun* the process of determining a suitable route for a message through a network ○ *There is a new way of routing data to the central computer.*

**routing information protocol** /'ru:tɪŋ ,ɪnfəmeɪʃ(ə)n ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* a protocol used on the Internet to calculate the best route by which to transfer information over the Internet. RIP bases its selection on the distance that each route takes. Abbr **RIP**

**row** /rəʊ/ *noun* **1.** a line of printed or displayed characters ○ *The figures are presented in rows, not in columns.* **2.** a horizontal line on a punched card ○ *Each entry is separated by a row of dots.* **3.** a horizontal set of data elements in an array or matrix

**RPG** *abbr* report program generator

**RS-232C** *noun* an EIA approved standard used in serial data transmission, covering voltage and control signals

**RS-422** *noun* an EIA approved standard that extends the RS-232's 50ft limit

**RS-423** *noun* an EIA approved standard that extends the RS-232's 50ft limit, introduced at the same time as the RS-422 standard, but less widely used

COMMENT: The RS232C has now been superseded by the RS423 and RS422 inter-

face standards, which are similar to the RS232 but allow higher transmission rates.

**RSA cipher system** /,ɑ:r es ei 'sɑ:fə ,sɪstəm/ *noun* the Rivest, Shamir and Adleman public key cipher system

**RS-flip-flop** /,ɑ:r es 'flɪp ,flɒp/ *noun* electronic bistable device whose output can be changed according to the Reset and Set inputs. Full form **reset-set flip-flop**.  $\diamond$  **flip-flop**

**RTF** *abbr* rich text format

**RTL** *abbr* resistor transistor logic

**RTV** /,ɑ: ti: 'vi:/ *noun* real-time video compression used within DVI software to provide usable, but lower-quality, images that are compressed in real-time at 10 frames per second. Full form **real-time video**

**rubber banding** /,rʌbə 'bændɪŋ/ *noun*  $\dagger$  elastic banding

**rubber numbers** /,rʌbə 'nʌmbəz/ *plural noun* identification numbers which are imprinted on developed rush prints and sound records during film editing (*film*)

**rubric** /'ru:brɪk/ *noun* printed headings of a book chapter or section

**rule** /ru:l/ *noun* **1.** a set of conditions that describe a function  $\circ$  *The rule states that you wait for the clear signal before transmitting.* **2.** in printing, a thin line

**ruler** /'ru:lə/ *noun* a bar displayed on screen that indicates a unit of measurement, often used in DTP or word-processor software to help with layout

**run** /rʌn/ *verb* to operate, or to make a device operate  $\circ$  *The computer has been running ten hours a day.*

**rundown** /'rʌndaʊn/ *noun* the order in which programme events will be broadcast (*film*)

**run-duration** /'rʌn dʒʊ,reiʃ(ə)n/ *noun, adjective* same as **run-time**

**run-length encoding** /,rʌn leŋθ en 'kəʊdɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **RLE**

**run-length limited encoding** /,rʌn leŋθ ,lɪmɪtɪd en 'kəʊdɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **RLL encoding**

**running head** /'rʌnɪŋ hed/ *noun* the title line of each page in a document

**run off** /,rʌn 'ɒf/ *noun* an error in positioning of film which causes it to move over a sprocket's teeth and be damaged (*film*)

**run on** /,rʌn 'ɒn/ *verb* **1.** to make text continue without a break  $\circ$  *The line can run on to the next without any space.* **2.** to print more copies to add to a print run  $\circ$  *We decided to run on 3,000 copies to the first printing.*

**run-time** /'rʌn taɪm/, **run duration** /'rʌn dʒʊ,reiʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the period of a time that a program takes to run **2.** the time during which a computer is executing a program  $\blacktriangleright$  also called **run-duration**  $\blacksquare$  *adjective* referring to an operation carried out only when a program is running

**rushes** /'rʌʃɪz/ *plural noun (film)* **1.** the initial prints made from a picture or sound negative in order to check the quality **2.** unedited video tape

**R/W** *abbr* read/write

**R/W cycle** /,ɑ: 'dʌb(ə)l ju: ,saɪ(ə)l/ *abbr* read/write cycle

**R/W head** /,ɑ: 'dʌb(ə)l ju: ,hed/ *noun* an electromagnetic device that allows data to be read from or written to a storage medium. Full form **read/write head**

# S

**S100 bus, S-100 bus** *noun* an IEEE-696 standard bus, a popular 8- and 16-bit micro-computer bus using 100 lines and a 100-pin connector.  $\diamond$  **bus** (NOTE: say 'S one hundred bus')

**SAA** a trade name for a standard developed by IBM which defines the look and feel of an application regardless of the hardware platform. SAA defines which keystrokes carry out standard functions, the application's display and how the application interacts with the operating system. Full form **Systems Application Architecture**

**SAFE** a signature validation technique. Full form **signature analysis using functional analysis**

**safe area** /'seif ,eəriə/ *noun* the area of a TV image that will be seen on a standard television set

**safe format** /,seif 'fɔ:mæt/ *noun* a format operation that does not destroy the existing data and allows the data to be recovered in case the wrong disk was formatted

**safe mode** /,seif 'məʊd/ *noun* a special operating mode of Windows 95 that is automatically selected if Windows 95 detects that there is a problem when starting

**safety margin** /'seifti ,mɑ:dʒɪn/ *noun* an extra amount of time or space provided so that errors can be absorbed

**safety measures** /'seifti ,meʒəz/ *plural noun* actions taken to make sure that something is safe

**safety net** /'seifti net/ *noun* a software or hardware device that protects the system or files from excessive damage in the event of a system crash  $\circ$  *If there is a power failure, we have a safety net in the form of a UPS.*

**salami technique** /sə'lɑ:mi tek,nɪ:k/ *noun* computer fraud involving many separate small transactions that are difficult to detect and trace

**SAM** /,es eɪ 'em/ *noun* a type of storage in which a particular data item can only be accessed by reading through all the previous items in the list. Full form **serial-access memory**

COMMENT: Magnetic tape is a form of SAM. You have to go through the whole tape to access one item, while disks provide random access to stored data.

**sample** /'sɑ:mpəl/ *noun* a measurement of a signal at a point in time  $\circ$  *The sample at three seconds showed an increase.*  $\blacksquare$  *verb* to obtain a number of measurements of a signal which can be used to provide information about the signal

**sampler** /'sɑ:mplə/ *noun* **1.** an electronic circuit that takes many samples of a signal and stores them for future analysis **2.** an electronic circuit used to record audio signals in digital form and store them to allow future playback

**sample rate** /'sɑ:mpəl reɪt/ *noun* a number of measurements of a signal that are recorded every second. A PC sound card normally supports one of the following three standard rates: 11,025, 22,050 and 44,100 samples per second, normally written as 11.025KHz, 22.05KHz and 44.1KHz.

**sample size** /'sɑ:mpəl saɪz/ *noun* the size of the word used to measure the level of the signal when it is sampled

**sans serif** /,sænz 'serɪf/ *noun* a typeface whose letters have no serifs

**sapphire** /'sæfəɪə/ *noun* a blue-coloured precious stone used as a substrate for certain chips

**SAS** *abbr* single attachment station

**satellite** /'sætə,laɪt/ *noun* **1.** a small system that is part of a larger system **2.** a device that orbits the earth receiving, processing and transmitting signals or generating images or data to be transmitted back to earth, such as weather pictures

COMMENT: In a network the floppy disk units are called 'satellites' and the hard disk unit the 'server'. In a star network each satellite is linked individually to a central server.

**satellite computer** /,sætəlaɪt kəm 'pju:tə/ *noun* a computer doing various tasks under the control of another computer

**saturated colour** /,sætʃəreɪtɪd 'kʌlə/ *noun* bright colours such as red and orange that do not reproduce well on video and can cause distortion or can spread over the screen

**saturation** /,sætʃə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a point where a material cannot be further magnetised

**save** /seɪv/ *verb* to store data or a program on an auxiliary storage device  $\circ$  *This WP saves the text every 15 minutes in case of a fault.*

**save as** /'seɪv əz/ *noun* an option in an application that allows the user to save the current work in a file with a different name

**SBC** /,es bi: 'si:/ *noun* a computer whose main components such as processor, input/output and memory are all contained on one PCB. Full form **single board computer**

**SBM** /,es bi: 'em/ *noun* an extension to the Red Book CD-Audio specification in which studio-quality 20-bit sound samples are stored in the 16-bit data format used by CD-Audio. Full form **super bit mapping**

**scalable** /'skeɪləb(ə)/ *adjective* referring to fonts used for computer graphics that can be made to appear in a wide range of sizes

**scalable font** /,skeɪləb(ə)l 'frɒnt/ *noun* a method of describing a font so that it can produce characters of different sizes

**scalable software** /,skeɪləb(ə)l 'sɒftweə/ *noun* a groupware application that can easily accommodate more users on a network without the need for investment in new software

**scalar** /'skeɪlə/ *noun* a variable that has a single value assigned to it ○ *A scalar has a single magnitude value, a vector has two or more positional values.*

**scale** /skeɪl/ *noun* the ratio of two values

**scan** /skæn/ *noun* an examination of an image or object or list of items to obtain data describing it ○ *The heat scan of the computer quickly showed which component was overheating.* ■ *verb* **1.** to examine and produce data from the shape or state of an object or drawing or file or list of items ○ *The facsimile machine scans the picture and converts this to digital form before transmission.* **2.** to convert a printed image or photograph into a digital bitmap form (*optical*) **3.** to move a picture beam across a screen, one line at a time, to refresh the image on the CRT **4.** to convert an optical image (from a video camera) into a digital form by examining each pixel on one line of a frame, then moving down one line ○ *The fax machine scans the picture and converts this to digital form before transmission.* ○ *The machine scans at up to 300 dpi resolution.*

**scan conversion** /'skæn kən,vɜ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of converting an interlaced video signal to a non-interlaced signal or a composite to a separated RGB signal

**scan line** /,skæn 'laɪn/ *noun* one of the horizontal lines of phosphor, or phosphor dots, on the inside of a CRT or monitor. The monitor's picture beam sweeps along each scan line to create the image on the screen.

**scanner** /'skænə/ *noun* **1.** a device which scans ○ *A scanner reads the bar-code on the product label using a laser beam and photo-*

*diode.* **2.** a device that converts an image or document into graphical data which can be manipulated by a computer

'RicoH's Fax 300L Computer Link is connected to a PC via a RS232C serial interface, and enables users to send faxes from within Dos and Windows applications without printing a hard copy: It can also act as a scanner for graphics, and a printer for documents.' [*Computing*]

**scanner memory** /'skænə ,mem(ə)ri/ *noun* the memory area allocated to store images which have been scanned

**scanning** /'skæniŋ/ *noun* **1.** the action of examining and producing data from the shape of an object or drawing **2.** a method which examines an area line-by-line through the use of an electron beam, and is particularly used in television

COMMENT: A modem with auto-baud scanning can automatically sense which baud rate to operate on and switches automatically to that baud rate.

**scanning line** /'skæniŋ laɪn/ *noun* a path traced on a CRT screen by the picture beam

**scanning rate** /'skæniŋ reɪt/ *noun* the time taken to scan one line of a CRT image

**scanning resolution** /'skæniŋ rezə ,lu:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the ability of a scanner to distinguish between small points. The usual resolution is 300 dpi.

**scanning software** /'skæniŋ ,sɒf(t)weə/ *noun* a dedicated program that controls a scanner and allows certain operations, e.g. rotate, edit or store, to be performed on a scanned image

**scanning spot** /'skæniŋ spɒt/ *noun* **1.** a small area of an image that is being read by a facsimile machine that moves over the whole image **2.** a small area covered by the picture beam on a TV screen that moves to follow a scanning line to write the whole of an image onto the screen

'...scanning time per page ranged from about 30 seconds to three minutes' [*PC Business World*]

**scanning spot beam** /,skæniŋ 'spɒt ,bi:m/ *noun* a satellite transmission to a number of areas, as the satellite passes over them

**SCART connector** /'skɑ:t kə,nektə/ *noun* a special connector normally used to carry video or audio signals between video equipment

**scatter** /'skætə/ *noun* part of a beam that is deflected or refracted. ♪ **backscatter**

**scatter graph** /'skætə grɑ:f/ *noun* individual points or values plotted on a two axis graph

**scatter proofs** /'skætə pru:fs/ *plural noun* proofs not arranged in any order prior to PMT. ♪ **backscatter**

**scavenging** /'skævɪndʒɪŋ/ *noun* the act of searching through and accessing database material without permission

**scene** /si:n/ *noun (film)* **1.** a group of inter-related shots combined into a continuous action **2.** a location for a specific shot or a group of shots

**scene sync** /'si:n sɪŋk/ *noun* a system which allows both movement of the foreground camera to be synchronised with the mask camera in chroma key, and colour separation overlay special effects (*film*)

**schedule** /'ʃedju:l/ *noun* the order in which tasks are to be done, or the order in which CPU time will be allocated to processes in a multi-user system

**scheduled circuits** /,ʃedʒu:ld 'sɜ:kɪtʒ/ *noun* telephone lines for data communications only

**scheduler** /'ʃedju:lə/ *noun* a program that organises the use of a CPU or of peripherals which are shared by several users

**scheduling** /'ʃedju:ɪŋ/ *noun* a method of working that allows several users to share the use of a CPU

**schema** /'ski:mə/ *noun* a graphical description of a process or database structure

**schematic** /ski'mæti:k/ *adjective* a diagram showing system components and how they are connected

**scissor** /'sɪzə/ *verb* **1.** to define an area of an image and then cut out this part of the image so it can then be pasted into another image **2.** to define an area of an image and delete any information that is outside this area

**scissoring** /'sɪzəɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the process of defining an area of an image and then cutting out this part of the image so that it can then be pasted into another image **2.** the process of defining an area of an image and deleting any information that is outside this area

**scope** /skəʊp/ *noun* **1.** the range of values that a variable can contain **2.** electronic test equipment that displays on a CRT the size and shape of an electrical signal (*informal*) Also called **oscilloscope**

**score** /skɔ:/ *noun* **1.** a list of actions that control how objects or cast members move with time within a presentation **2.** the description of a piece of music using musical notes

**scramble** /'skræmb(ə)/ *verb* to code speech or data which is transmitted in such a way that it cannot be understood unless it is decoded

**scrambler** /'skræmblə/ *noun* **1.** a device that codes a data stream into a pseudo-random form before transmission to eliminate any series of ones or zeros or alternate ones and zeros that would cause synchronisation

problems at the receiver **2.** a device that codes speech or other signals prior to transmission so that someone who is listening in without authorisation cannot understand what is being transmitted (the scrambled signals are de-scrambled on reception to provide the original signals) ○ *He called the President on the scrambler telephone.*

**scrapbook** /'skræp,bʊk/ *noun* a utility on an Apple Macintosh that stores frequently used graphic images ○ *We store our logo in the scrapbook.*

**scrape flutter** /'skreɪp ,flʌtə/ *noun* an error in magnetic recording which is caused by the recording tape sticking which produces flutter (*film*)

**scratch** /skrætʃ/ *noun* **1.** an area of memory or of a file used for the temporary storage of data **2.** a mark on the surface of a disk ○ *This scratch makes the disk unreadable.* ■ *verb* to delete or move an area of memory to provide room for other data

**scratch file** /'skrætʃ faɪl/ *noun* same as **work file**

**scratchpad** /'skrætʃpæd/ *noun* a workspace or area of high speed memory used for temporary storage of data currently in use

'Mathcad is described as an easy-to-use 'handy scratch pad for quick number crunching', which is positioned as an alternative to popular spreadsheets.' [*Computing*]

**screen** /skri:n/ *noun* **1.** a display device capable of showing a quantity of information, such as a CRT or VDU. ◊ **readout** **2.** a grid of dots or lines placed between the camera and the artwork, which has the effect of dividing the picture up into small dots, creating an image which can be used for printing **3.** something which protects ■ *verb* **1.** to protect something with a screen ○ *The PSU is screened against interference.* **2.** to select **3.** to display or show information ○ *The film is now being screened.*

**screen angle** /'skri:n ,æŋɡ(ə)/ *noun* the angle at which a screen is set before the photograph is taken

**screen attribute** /'skri:n ,ætrɪbjʊt/ *noun* a set of attribute bits which define how each character will be displayed on screen. They set background and foreground colour and bold, italic or underline.

**screen buffer** /'skri:n ,bʌfə/ *noun* a temporary storage area for characters or graphics before they are displayed

**screen capture** /'skri:n ,kæptʃə/ *verb* to store the image currently displayed on screen in a file

**screen cleaning kit** /'skri:n ,kli:nɪŋ ,ki:t/ *noun* the liquids and cloth which remove any static and dirt from a VDU screen

**screen dump** /'skri:n ,dʌmp/ *noun* the process of outputting the text or graphics displayed on a screen to a printer

**screen editor** /'skri:n ,editə/ *noun* software which allows the user to edit text on-screen, with one complete screen of information being displayed at a time

**screen format** /'skri:n ,fɔ:mæt/ *noun* a way in which a screen is laid out

**screenful** /'skri:nfʊl/ *noun* a complete frame of information displayed on a screen

**screen grab** /,skri:n 'græb/ *noun* **1.** the process of digitising a single frame from a display or television **2.** the process of capturing what is displayed on a monitor and storing it as a graphics file

**screen refresh** /,skri:n rɪ'frefʃ/ *verb* to update regularly the images on a CRT screen by scanning each pixel with a picture beam to make sure the image is still visible

**screen saver** /'skri:n ,seɪvə/ *noun* software which, after a pre-determined period of user inactivity, replaces the existing image on screen and displays moving objects to protect against screen burn

**screen shot** /,skri:n 'ʃɒt/ *noun* ♦ **screen capture**

**script** /skript/ *noun* **1.** a set of instructions which carry out a function, normally used with a macro language or batch language ○ *I log in automatically using this script with my communications software.* **2.** text which will be spoken by actors in a film or TV programme

**scripting language** /'skriptɪŋ ,læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* a simple programming language (normally proprietary to an application) that allows a user to automate the application's functions ○ *This communications software has a scripting language that lets me dial and log in automatically.*

**scriptwriter** /'skriptwaɪtə/ *noun* a person who writes film or TV scripts

**scroll** /skrɔ:l/ *verb* to move displayed text vertically up or down the screen, one line or pixel at a time

**scroll arrows** /'skrɔ:l ,æɹəʊz/ *plural noun* (in a GUI) arrows that when clicked, move the contents of the window up or down or sideways

**scroll bar** /'skrɔ:l bɑ:/ *noun* (in a GUI) a bar displayed along the side of a window with a marker which indicates how far you have scrolled ○ *The marker is in the middle of the scroll bar so I know I am in the middle of the document.*

**scrub** /skrʌb/ *verb* to wipe information off a disk or remove data from store ○ *Scrub all files with the .BAK extension.*

**SCSI** /'skʌzi/ *noun* a standard high-speed parallel interface used to connect computers to peripheral devices (such as disk drives and scanners). Full form **small computer system interface**

'...the system uses SCSI for connecting to the host and ESDI for interconnecting among drives within a multidrive system' [Byte]

COMMENT: SCSI is the current standard used to interface high-capacity, high-performance disk drives to computers. Smaller disk drives are connected with an IDE interface, which is slower, but cheaper. SCSI replaced the older ESDI interface and allows several (usually eight) peripherals to be connected, in a daisy-chain, to one controller.

**SD** *abbr* single density

**SD card** /,es 'di: ,kɑ:d/ *noun* same as MMC

**SDLC** /,es di: el 'si:/ *noun* data transmission protocol most often used in IBM's Systems Network Architecture (SNA). It defines how synchronous data is transmitted. Full form **synchronous data link control**

**seal** /si:/ *verb* to close something tightly so that it cannot be opened ○ *The hard disk is in a sealed case.*

**seamless integration** /,si:mɫəs ,ɪntɪ 'greɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the process of including a new device or software into a system without any problems ○ *It took a lot of careful planning, but we succeeded in a seamless integration of the new application.*

**search** /sɜ:tʃ/ *noun* the process of looking for and identifying a character or word or section of data in a document or file ■ *verb* **1.** to look for an item of data **2.** to move quickly backwards and forwards to different parts of a programme without losing the synchronisation of the sound and picture (*film*)

'...a linear search of 1,000 items takes 500 comparisons to find the target, and 1,000 to report that it isn't present. A binary search of the same set of items takes roughly ten divisions either to find or not to find the target' [Personal Computer World]

**searchable** /'sɜ:tʃəb(ə)l/ *adjective* able to be accessed by a search facility

**search and replace** /,sɜ:tʃ ənd rɪ'pleɪs/ *noun* a feature on word-processors which allows the user to find certain words or phrases, then replace them with another word or phrase

**search directory** /'sɜ:tʃ daɪ'rekt(ə)rɪ/ *noun* a website in which links to information are listed in categories or in alphabetical order

**search engine** /'sɜ:tʃ ,endʒɪn/ *noun* **1.** (on the Internet) software that searches a database. ♦ **agent** **2.** (on the Internet) a website that compiles a list of websites and allows a

visitor to find a website by searching for words

**searching storage** /'sɜ:tʃɪŋ ,stɔ:ɪrɪdʒ/ *noun* a method of data retrieval that uses part of the data rather than an address to locate the data

**SECAM** /,es i: si: eɪ 'em/ *noun* a standard for television transmission and reception similar to PAL except that SECAM uses frequency modulation to transmit the chroma signal. SECAM is used in France and Eastern Europe. Full form **Système Electronique Couleur Avec Mémoire**

**second** /'sekənd/ *adjective* (thing) which comes after the first ○ *We have two computers, the second one being used if the first is being repaired.*

**secondary** /'sekənd(ə)rɪ/ *adjective* second in importance or less important than the first

**sector** /'sektə/ *noun* the smallest area on a magnetic disk which can be addressed by a computer; the disk is divided into concentric tracks, and each track is divided into sectors which, typically, can store 512 bytes of data

■ *verb* to divide a disk into a series of sectors  
COMMENT: A disk is divided into many tracks, each of which is then divided into a number of sectors which can hold a certain number of bits.

**secured** /sɪ'kjʊəd/ *adjective* (of a file) protected against accidental writing or deletion or against unauthorised access

**Secure Digital Card** /sɪ,kjʊə ,dɪdʒɪt(ə)l 'kɑ:d/ *noun* same as **MMC**

**secure electronic transactions** /sɪ ,kjʊə ,elektrɒnɪk trænʒ'æksfənz/ *plural noun* full form of **SET**

**secure encryption payment protocol** /sɪ,kjʊə ɪn,kɹɪpʃən 'peɪmənt ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **SEPP**

**secure hypertext transfer protocol** /sɪ,kjʊə ,haɪpətɛkst 'trænsfɜ: ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **S-HTTP**

**secure server** /sɪ,kjʊə 'sɜ:və/ *noun* an Internet server that allows data to be encrypted and thus is suitable for use in e-commerce

**secure site** /sɪ,kjʊə 'saɪt/ *noun* a website that includes features to ensure that any information transferred between the user and the website is encrypted and cannot be read by a hacker. Also called **secure website**

COMMENT: A secure website is usually used in a shopping site to allow a customer to type in their personal details (such as their credit-card number) without risk. Secure websites almost always use a system called SSL (secure sockets layer) that creates a secure channel when you visit the site; when you visit a secure site, the small padlock icon in the status bar at the bottom

of your web browser is locked. If the padlock icon is open, this is not a secure site and you should not type in sensitive information, such as a credit-card number.

**secure sockets layer** /sɪ,kjʊə 'sɒkɪts ,leɪə/ *noun* full form of **SSL**

**secure system** /sɪ,kjʊə 'sɪstəm/ *noun* a system that cannot be accessed without authorisation

**secure transaction technology** /sɪ ,kjʊə træn'zækʃən tek,nɒlədʒɪ/ *noun* full form of **STT**

**secure website** /sɪ,kjʊə 'websaɪt/ *noun* same as **secure site**

**security** /sɪ'kjʊərɪti/ *noun* the state of being protected or being secret ○ *The system has been designed to assure the security of the stored data.*

**security backup** /sɪ'kjʊərɪti ,bækʌp/ *noun* a copy of a disk, tape or file kept in a safe place in case the working copy is lost or damaged

**security check** /sɪ'kjʊərɪti tʃek/ *noun* identification of authorised users (by a password) before granting access

**Sega™** /'seɪgə/ *noun* a videogame company that develops software and hardware for the console games market; developed the Mega-Drive console

**segment** /'segmənt/ *noun* a section of a main program which can be executed in its own right, without the rest of the main program being required ■ *verb* to divide a long program into shorter sections which can then be called up when required. ⚡ **overlay**

...you can also write in smaller program segments. This simplifies debugging and testing' [*Personal Computer World*]

**select** /sɪ'lekt/ *verb* **1.** to find and retrieve specific information from a database **2.** to position a pointer over an object (such as a button or menu option) and click on the mouse-button

**selectable** /sɪ'lektəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be selected

**selectable attributes** /sɪ,lektəb(ə)l 'ætrɪbjʊ:tɪz/ *plural noun* the attributes of a device which can be chosen by the user

**selection** /sɪ'lekʃən/ *noun* **1.** the action or process of selecting ○ *Selection of information from a large database may take some time.* **2.** the process of defining an area of an image (often used to cut out an area of the image, or to limit a special effect to an area)

**selection tool** /sɪ'lekʃən tu:l/ *noun* (in a paint or drawing program) an icon in a toolbar that allows a user to select an area of an image which can then be cut, copied or processed in some way

**selective** /sɪ'lektɪv/ *adjective* which chooses certain items

**selective sort** /sɪ'lektɪv sɔ:t/ *noun* the process of sorting a section of data items into order

**selectivity** /sɪ,lek'tɪvɪti/ *noun* the ability of a radio receiver to distinguish between two nearby carrier frequencies

**selector** /sɪ'lektə/ *noun* a mechanical device which allows a user to choose an option or function

**self-** /self/ *prefix* oneself or itself

**self-correcting codes** /,self kə,rektɪŋ 'kəʊdz/ *plural noun* a character coding system which is able to detect and correct an error or bad character

**self extracting archive** /,self ɪk ,stræktɪŋ 'ɑ:kɑ:ɪv/ *noun* a compressed file that includes the program to de-compress the contents

**semi-** /semi/ *prefix* half or partly

**semicolon** /,semi'kəʊlɒn/ *noun* a printed sign (;) which marks the end of a program line or statement in some languages (such as C and Pascal)

**semiconductor** /,semɪkən'dɑktə/ *noun* a material with conductive properties between those of a conductor (such as a metal) and an insulator

COMMENT: Semiconductor material such as silicon is used as a base for manufacturing integrated circuits and other solid-state components, usually by depositing various types of doping substances on or into its surface.

**sender** /'sendə/ *noun* a person who sends a message

**Send to Command** /'send tə kə,mɑ:nd/ *noun* a menu command, available from the File menu of Windows applications, that allows a user to send the file or data currently open in the application to another application

**sense** /sens/ *verb* to examine the state of a device or electronic component ○ *The condition of the switch was sensed by the program.*

**sensitive** /'sensɪtɪv/ *adjective* which can sense even small changes ○ *The computer is sensitive even to very slight changes in current.*

**sensor** /'sensə/ *noun* an electronic device which produces an output dependent upon the condition or physical state of a process ○ *The sensor's output varies with temperature.*

♢ **transducer**

**sentinel** /'sentɪn(ə)l/ *noun* a marker or pointer to a special section of data

**separate** *adjective* /'sep(ə)rət/ not together ■ *verb* /'sepəreɪt/ to divide

**separated graphics** /,sepə'reɪtɪd 'græfɪks/ *plural noun* displayed characters

that do not take up the whole of a character matrix, resulting in spaces between them

**separator** /'sepə'reɪtə/ *noun* a symbol used to distinguish parts of an instruction line in a program, such as command and argument. ♢ **delimiter**

**SEPP** /,es i: pi: 'pi:/ *noun* a system developed to provide a secure link between a user's browser and a vendor's Website to allow the user to pay for goods over the Internet. Full form **secure encryption payment protocol**. ♢ **PGP, S-HTTP, SSL, STT**

**sequence** /'si:kwəns/ *noun* **1.** a number of items or data arranged as a logical, ordered list **2.** a series of musical notes that define a tune **3.** a series of video frames

**sequence control register** /,si:kwəns kən'trəʊl 'redʒɪstə/, **sequence counter** /,si:kwəns 'kaʊntə/ *noun* a CPU register which contains the address of the next instruction to be processed. Abbr **SCR**. Also called **sequence register, instruction address register, instruction counter**

**sequenced packet exchange** /,si:kwənsd 'pækɪt ɪks,tʃeɪndʒ/ *noun* full form of **SPX**

**sequencer** /'si:kwənsə/ *noun* **1.** software that allows a user to compose tunes for MIDI instruments, record notes from instruments and mix together multiple tracks **2.** a hardware device that can record or playback a sequence of MIDI notes

**sequence register** /'si:kwəns ,redʒɪstə/ *noun* same as **sequence control register**

**sequence shot** /'si:kwəns ʃɒt/ *noun* a long shot in which both cameras and actors move about; used to remove the necessity of shooting close-ups when the action is very intense (*film*)

**sequential** /sɪ'kwɛnf(ə)l/ *adjective* arranged in an ordered manner

**sequential access** /sɪ,kwɛnf(ə)l 'ækses/ *noun* a method of retrieving data from a storage device by starting at the beginning of the medium and reading each record until the required data is found

COMMENT: A tape storage system uses sequential access, since the tape has to be played through until the section required is found. The access time of sequential access storage is dependent on the position in the file of the data, compared with random access which has the same access time for any piece of data in a list.

**sequentially** /sɪ'kwɛnfəli/ *adverb* (done) one after the other, in sequence

**serial** /'sɪəriəl/ *adjective* referring to data or instructions which are ordered sequentially (one after the other) and not in parallel

**serial-access memory** /,sɪəriəl ˌækses 'mem(ə)ri/ *noun* full form of **SAM**

**serial data transmission** /,sɪəriəl 'deɪtə trænzmɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the transmission of the separate bits that make up data words, one at a time down a single line

**serial input/output** /,sɪəriəl ˌɪnpʊt 'aʊtpʊt/ *noun* full form of **SIO**

**serial input/parallel output** /,sɪəriəl ˌɪnpʊt ˌpærəlel 'aʊtpʊt/ *noun* a device which can accept serial data and transmit parallel data. Abbr **SIPO**. Also called **serial to parallel converter**

**serial input/serial output** /,sɪəriəl ˌɪnpʊt ˌsɪəriəl 'aʊtpʊt/ *noun* full form of **SISO**

**serially** /'sɪəriəli/ *adverb* one after the other or in a series ○ *Their transmission rate is 64,000 bits per second through a parallel connection or 19,200 serially.*

**series** /'sɪəri:z/ *noun* a group of related items ordered sequentially

**serif** /'serɪf/ *noun* a small decorative line attached to parts of characters in certain typefaces

**server** /'sɜ:və/ *noun* a dedicated computer which provides a function to a network

'Sequent Computer Systems' Platform division will focus on hardware and software manufacture, procurement and marketing, with the Enterprise division concentrating on services and server implementation.' [*Computing*]

COMMENT: In a network the hard disk machine is called the 'server' and the floppy disk units the 'satellites'. In a star network each satellite is linked individually to a central server.

**server access logs** /,sɜ:və ˌækses lɒgz/ *plural noun* ▶ **access log**

**server farm** /'sɜ:və fɑ:m/ *noun* a business consisting of a group of Internet servers, all of which are linked to one another and are engaged in web hosting

**server message block** /,sɜ:və 'mesɪdʒ blɒk/ *noun* full form of **SMB**

**service** /'sɜ:vɪs/ *verb* to check or repair or maintain a system ○ *The disk drives were serviced yesterday and are working well.*

**service contract** /'sɜ:vɪs ˌkɒntrækt/ *noun* an agreement that an engineer will service equipment if it goes wrong

**service provider** /'sɜ:vɪs prəˌvaɪdə/ *noun* a company that offers users a connection to the Internet; the service provider has a computer that acts as a domain name server and has a high-speed link to the Internet. It provides modem access to the Internet via point-of-presence telephone numbers. You connect to the Internet by setting up an account with the service provider then dialling

into its point-of-presence telephone number with a modem.

**services** /'sɜ:vɪsɪz/ *plural noun* **1.** a set of functions provided by a device **2.** (*in an OSI network model*) a set of functions provided by one OSI layer for use by a higher layer

**session** /'seɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a period of work **2.** the time during which a program or process is running or active **3.** a separate occasion when image data is recorded onto a disc

**set** /set/ *noun* **1.** a number of related data items **2.** the width of a printed typeface **3.** a radio or television receiver **4.** the physical layout of a stage or filming studio including props and background ■ *verb* **1.** to make one variable equal to a value ○ *We set the right-hand margin at 80 characters.* **2.** to define a parameter value **3.** to give a binary data bit the value of one **4.** to compose a text into typeset characters ○ *The page is set in 12 point Times Roman.* † **typeset**

**SET** /set/ *plural noun* the standards created by a group of banks and Internet companies that allow users to buy goods over the Internet without risk of hackers. Full form **secure electronic transactions**. Same as **SSL**

**setting** /'setɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the action of fixing or arranging something □ **tab settings** preset points along a line, where the printing head or cursor will stop for each tabulation command **2.** the action of composing text into typeset characters

**set up** /'set ʌp/ *verb* to configure, initialise, define or start an application or system ○ *The new computer worked well as soon as the engineer had set it up.*

**sex changer** /'seks ˌtʃeɪndʒə/ *noun* a device for changing a female connection to a male or vice versa

**sf signalling** /,es ef 'sɪŋ(ə)lɪŋ/ *noun* same as **single-frequency signalling**

**SGML** /,es dʒɪ: em'el/ *noun* a hardware-independent standard which defines how documents should be marked up to indicate bolds, italics, margins and so on. Full form **Standard Generalized Markup Language**

**shade** /ʃeɪd/ *noun* **1.** a variation in a printed colour due to added black **2.** the quantity of black added to a colour to make it darker

**shading** /'ʃeɪdɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the process of showing darker sections of a line drawing by adding dark colour or by drawing criss-cross lines **2.** the adjustment of contrast in a television picture

**shadow** /'ʃædəʊ/ *noun* the area where broadcast signals cannot be received because of an obstacle that blocks the transmission medium ○ *The mountain casts a shadow*

over those houses, so they cannot receive any radio broadcasts.

**shadowmask** /'ʃædəʊmɑːsk/ *noun* a sheet with holes placed just behind the front of a colour monitor screen to separate the three-colour picture beams

**shadow memory** /,ʃædəʊ 'mem(ə)rɪ/,  
**shadow page** /'ʃædəʊ peɪdʒ/ *noun* duplicate memory locations accessed by a special code

**shadow ROM** /'ʃædəʊ rɒm/ *noun* read-only shadow memory

**shannon** /'ʃænən/ *noun* a measure of the information content of a transmission

**Shannon's Law** /'ʃænənz lɔː/ *noun* a law defining the maximum information-carrying capacity of a transmission line

COMMENT: Shannon's Law is defined as  $B \lg(1 + S/N)$  where  $B$  = Bandwidth,  $\lg$  is logarithm to the base two and  $S/N$  is Signal to Noise ratio.

**share** /ʃeə/ *verb* to own or use something together with someone else ○ *The facility is shared by several independent companies.*

**shared access** /,ʃeəd 'ækses/ *noun* the use of a computer or peripheral by more than one person or system

**shared file** /,ʃeəd 'faɪl/ *noun* a stored file which can be accessed by more than one user or system

**shared folder** /,ʃeəd 'fəʊldə/ *noun* a folder of files stored on a computer's local hard disk drive that can be used (or shared) by other users on the network

**shareware** /'ʃeə,weə/ *noun* software which is available free to try, but if kept the user is expected to pay a fee to the writer (often confused with public domain software which is completely free)

'Bulletin board users know the dangers of 'flaming' (receiving hostile comments following a naive or ridiculous assertion) and of being seen 'troughing' (grabbing every bit of shareware on the network).' [Computing]

**sheet** /ʃi:t/ *noun* a large piece of paper

**shelf life** /'ʃelf laɪf/ *noun* the maximum storage time of a product before it is no longer guaranteed good to use ○ *The developer has a shelf life of one year.*

**shell** /ʃel/ *noun* software which operates between the user and the operating system, often to try and make the operating system more friendly or easier to use

**shell out** /,ʃel 'aʊt/ *verb* (when running an application) to exit to the operating system, whilst the original application is still in memory; the user then returns to the application ○ *I shelled out from the word-processor to check which files were on the floppy, then went back to the program.*

**shell script** /,ʃel 'skrɪpt/ *noun* a scripting language (such as Perl) that is used to create programs that can enhance a website, e.g. to search a site for a key word

**shell sort** /,ʃel 'sɔ:t/ *noun* an algorithm for sorting data items, in which items can be moved more than one position per sort action

**SHF** *abbr* super high frequency

**shield** /ʃi:ld/ *noun* a metal screen connected to earth, used to prevent harmful voltages or interference reaching sensitive electronic equipment ■ *verb* to protect a signal or device from external interference or harmful voltages

**shift** /ʃɪft/ *verb* 1. to move a bit or word of data left or right by a certain amount (usually one bit) 2. to change from one character set to another, allowing other characters (such as capitals) to be used

**Shift key** /'ʃɪft kiː/ *noun* the key on a keyboard which switches on secondary functions for keys, such as another character set, by changing the output to upper case

**Shockwave** /'ʃɒkweɪv/ a trade name for a system developed by Macromedia that allows web browsers to display complex multimedia effects

**shoot** /ʃu:t/ *verb* to take a picture or record a video sequence with a camera

**shopping agent** /'ʃɒpɪŋ ,eɪdʒənt/ *noun* a computer program used to browse websites searching for a product or service

**shopping basket** /'ʃɒpɪŋ ,bɑːskɪt/,

**shopping cart** /'ʃɒpɪŋ kɑ:t/ *noun* software that runs on a web server and provides an electronic version of a real shopping basket; the software allows a visitor to the website to view items in the catalogue, add items to their shopping basket and then pay for the goods at an electronic checkout. † **real-time authorisation, secure site**

**short circuit** /,ʃɔ:t 'sɔːkɪt/ *noun* an electrical connection of very low resistance between two points ■ *verb* to connect two points together with a (very low resistance) link

**short-circuited** /,ʃɔ:t 'sɔːkɪt/ *adjective* used to describe two points that are electrically connected, usually accidentally

**shortcut** /'ʃɔ:t ,kʌt/ *noun* a feature of Windows that allows a user to define an icon that links to another file or application, e.g., you could place shortcut icons on the Windows Desktop to allow you to start an application without using the menu commands. The shortcut has the same icon as the original file but has a tiny arrow in the bottom left-hand corner. It is not a duplicate of the original, rather it is a pointer to the original file.

**short message service** /ˌʃɔ:t 'mesɪdʒ ,sɜ:vɪs/ *noun* a system that allows short text messages to be sent between and to mobile telephones; the service depends upon the telephone company. Abbr **SMS**

**short-run** /ˌʃɔ:t rʌn/ *adjective* with a print run of only a few hundred copies ○ *a printer specialising in short-run printing* ○ *The laser printer is good for short-run leaflets.*

**short wave** /ˌʃɔ:t weɪv/ *noun* radio communications frequency below 60 metres

**short-wave receiver** /ˌʃɔ:t weɪv rɪ 'si:və/ *noun* a radio receiver able to pick up broadcasts on the short wave bands

**shot** /ʃɒt/ *noun* the continuous recording of action or images by a film camera in a small number of frames

**show copy** /ˌʃəʊ ,kɒpi/ *noun* a selected copy of a finished film, video or programme which is to be shown to an audience

**show-through** /ˌʃəʊ θru:z/ *noun* text printed on one side of a piece of paper that can be seen from the other

**shrink** /ʃrɪŋk/ *verb* to become smaller ○ *The drawing was shrunk to fit the space.* (NOTE: **shrinks – shrank – has shrunk**)

**S-HTTP** /,es ,eɪtʃ ti: 'pi: / *noun* a system developed to provide a secure link between a user's browser and a vendor's Website to allow the user to pay for goods over the Internet. Full form **secure hypertext transfer protocol**. † **PGP, SEPP, SET, SSL, STT**

**shut down** /ʃʌt 'daʊn/ *verb* to switch off and stop the functions of a machine or system

**shut-off mechanism** /ʃʌt ɒf ,mekənɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a device which stops a process in case of fault

COMMENT: Most hard disks have an automatic shut-off mechanism to pull the head back from the read position when the power is turned off.

**shutter** /'ʃʌtə/ *noun* **1.** a revolving device which protects a film from light at the aperture in a camera and diminishes the projection light in a projector while the film is moving at the aperture **2.** a device to control intensity of a spotlight

**shutter control** /'ʃʌtə kən'trəʊl/ *noun* **1.** a device on a camera which diminishes exposure by partly closing the shutter **2.** a camera device which slowly opens and closes the shutter in order to attain fade-in and fade-out effects

**shutter speed** /'ʃʌtə spi:d/ *noun* the time span for which a shutter is open during the required frame exposure

**shuttle search** /'ʃʌt(ə)l sɜ:tʃ/ *noun* the capacity to play back a film, video and audio

tape in both directions and to duplicate the picture over a large range of speeds

**sideband** /'saɪdbænd/ *noun* the frequency band of a modulated signal, a little above or below the carrier frequency

**side lobe** /'saɪd ləʊb/ *noun* the side sections of an aerial's response pattern

**sideways ROM** /'saɪdweɪz rɒm/ *noun* software which allows selection of a particular memory bank or ROM device

**SIG** /sɪg/ *noun* a group within a larger club which is interested in a particular aspect of software or hardware ○ *Our local computer club has a SIG for comms and networking.* Full form **special interest group**

**sign** /saɪn/ *noun* polarity of a number or signal (whether it is positive or negative) ■ *verb* to identify oneself to a computer using a personalised signature

**signal** /'sɪgn(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** a generated analog or digital waveform used to carry information ○ *The signal received from the computer contained the answer.* **2.** a short message used to carry control codes ■ *verb* to send a message to a computer ○ *Signal to the network that we are busy.*

**signalling** /'sɪgn(ə)lɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** a method used by a transmitter to warn a receiver that a message is to be sent **2.** a communication to the transmitter about the state of the receiver

**signal reflection** /'sɪgn(ə)l rɪ'flekʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the amount of transmitted signal that is reflected at the receiver due to an impedance mismatch or fault

**signal to noise ratio** /,sɪgn(ə)l tə 'nɔ:z ,reɪʃiəʊ/ *noun* the difference between the power of the transmitted signal and the noise on the line. Abbr **S/N**

**signature** /'sɪɡnɪtʃə/ *noun* **1.** a special authentication code, such as a password, which a user gives prior to access to a system or prior to the execution of a task (to prove identity) **2.** the name written in a special way by someone ○ *Do you recognise the signature on the cheque?* **3.** a series of printed and folded pages in a book (usually 8, 16 or 32 pages)

**significance** /sɪg'nɪfɪkəns/ *noun* a special meaning

**significant** /sɪg'nɪfɪkənt/ *adjective* which has a special meaning

**signify** /'sɪɡnɪ'faɪ/ *verb* to mean ○ *A carriage return code signifies the end of an input line.*

**silicon** /'sɪlɪkən/ *noun* an element with semiconductor properties, used in crystal form as a base for IC manufacture

COMMENT: Silicon is used in the electronics industry as a base material for integrated circuits. It is grown as a long crystal which is then sliced into wafers before being

etched or treated, producing several hundred chips per wafer. Other materials, such as germanium or gallium arsenide, are also used as a base for ICs.

**Silicon Valley** /sɪlɪkən 'væli/ *noun* an area in California where many US semiconductor device manufacturers are based

**SIMD** /es aɪ em 'di:/ *noun* the architecture of a parallel computer which has a number of ALUs and data buses with one control unit. Full form **single instruction stream multiple data stream**

**SIMM** /es aɪ em 'em/ *noun* a small, compact circuit board with an edge connector along one edge that carries densely-packed memory chips ○ *You can expand the main memory of your PC by plugging in two more SIMMs.* Full form **single in-line memory module**

**simple device** /sɪmp(ə)l dɪ'vaɪs/ *noun* a multimedia device that does not require a data file for playback, such as a CD drive used to play audio CDs

**simple mail transfer protocol** /sɪmpəl meɪl 'trænsfɜː ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **SMTP**

**simple network management protocol** /sɪmpəl ,netwɜːk 'mænɪdʒmənt ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* a network management system which defines how status data is sent from monitored nodes back to a control station; SNMP is able to work with virtually any type of network hardware and software. Abbr **SNMP**

**simplex** /'sɪmpleks/ *noun* full form of **SPX**. opposite **duplex**

**simplify** /'sɪmplɪfaɪ/ *verb* to make something simpler ○ *Function keys simplify program operation.*

**simulate** /'sɪmjʊ ,leɪt/ *verb* to copy the behaviour of a system or device with another ○ *This software simulates the action of an aircraft.*

**simulation** /sɪmjʊ'leɪf(ə)n/ *noun* an operation where a computer is made to imitate a real life situation or a machine, and shows how something works or will work in the future ○ *Simulation techniques have reached a high degree of sophistication.*

**simulator** /'sɪmjʊ ,leɪtə/ *noun* a device which simulates another system

**simulcast** /'sɪmʌlkɑːst/ *noun* to broadcast a programme at the same time on both television and radio

**simultaneous** /sɪm(ə)'teɪniəs/ *adjective* which takes place at the same time as something else

**simultaneously** /sɪm(ə)'teɪniəsli/ *adverb* at the same time

**simultaneous transmission** /sɪm(ə)'teɪniəs trænz'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the transmission of data or control codes in two directions at the same time. Same as **duplex**

**sin** /sɪn/, **sine** *noun* a mathematical function defined as: the sine of an angle (in a right-angled triangle) is equal to the ratio of opposite to hypotenuse sides

**sine wave** /'saɪn weɪv/ *noun* a waveform that is the sine function with time (classic wave shape, changing between a maximum and minimum with a value of zero at zero time)

**single** /'sɪŋg(ə)l/ *adjective* only one  
**single attachment station** /sɪŋg(ə)l ə ,tætʃmənt 'steɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* (in an **FDDI network**) a station with only one port through which to attach to the network; SAS stations are connected to the FDDI ring through a concentrator. Abbr **SAS**

**single board computer** /sɪŋg(ə)l bɔːd kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* full form of **SBC**

**single-frequency signalling** /sɪŋg(ə)l 'friːkwənsɪ ,sɪŋ(ə)lɪŋ/ *noun* the use of various frequency signals to represent different control codes. Also called **sf signalling**

**single function software** /sɪŋg(ə)l 'fʌŋkʃən ,sɒftweə/ *noun* an applications program used for one kind of task only

**single in-line memory module** /sɪŋg(ə)l ɪn laɪn 'mem(ə)ri ,mɒdjuːl/ *noun* full form of **SIMM**

**single in-line package** /sɪŋg(ə)l ɪn laɪn 'pækɪdʒ/ *noun* an electronic component which has all its leads on one side of its package. Abbr **SIP**

**single instruction stream multiple data stream** /sɪŋg(ə)l ɪn ,strʌŋkʃən ,striːm ,mʌltɪp(ə)l 'deɪtə ,striːm/ *noun* full form of **SIMD**

**single instruction stream single data stream** /sɪŋg(ə)l ɪn ,strʌŋkʃən ,striːm ,sɪŋg(ə)l 'deɪtə ,striːm/ *noun* full form of **SISD**

**single mode fibre** /sɪŋg(ə)l məʊd 'faɪbə/ *noun* an optic fibre that has a very narrow diameter (of 10 microns or less) and is designed to transmit a single light signal over a long distance; this type of fibre has a bandwidth of 5Gbits/second and is normally used for long distance telephone networks

**single sideband** /sɪŋg(ə)l 'saɪdbænd/ *noun* a modulated signal filtered to leave just one sideband, usually the upper (this is very economical on bandwidth but requires more complex circuitry)

**single-sided disk** /sɪŋg(ə)l ,saɪdɪd 'dɪsk/ *noun* a floppy disk that can only store data on one side, because of the way it is manufactured or formatted. Abbr **SSD**

**single-user system** /ˌsɪŋɡ(ə)l ˌjuːzə 'sɪstəm/ *noun* a computer system which can only be used by a single user at a time (as opposed to a multi-user system)

**sink** /sɪŋk/ *noun* the receiving end of a communications line. Opposite **source**

**sinusoidal** /ˌsaɪnə'sɔɪd(ə)l/ *adjective* waveform or motion that is similar to a sine wave ○ *The carrier has a sinusoidal waveform.*

**SIO** *abbr* serial input/output

**SIP** *abbr* single in-line package

**siphoning** /'saɪfənɪŋ/ *noun* the transmission of a direct broadcast TV programme over a cable network

**SISD** /ˌes əs 'diː/ *noun* the architecture of a serial computer, which has one ALU and data bus, with one control unit. Full form **single instruction stream single data stream**

**SISO** *abbr* serial input/serial output

**site** /saɪt/ *noun* a place where something is based

**site licence** /'saɪt ˌlaɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* a licence between a software publisher and a user which allows any number of users in that site to use the software ○ *We have negotiated a good deal for the site licence for the 1200 employees in our HQ.*

**site poll** /ˌsaɪt 'pɒl/ *verb* to poll all the terminals or devices in a particular location or area. ◇ **polling**

**SI units** /ˌes 'aɪ ˌjuːnɪts/ *plural noun* international measurement units such as candela, lumen, and ampere. Full form **Système International units**. ◇ **MKS**

**sixteen-bit** /ˌsɪks'tiːn bɪt/ *adjective* (of a microcomputer system or CPU) which handles data in sixteen bit words, providing much faster operation than older eight-bit systems

**16-bit sample** /ˌsɪkstɪːn bɪt 'sɑːmp(ə)l/ *noun* a single sample of an analog signal which is stored as a 16-bit number, meaning that there are 65,536 possible levels. A '16-bit sound card' can sometimes mean that the card generates 16-bit samples, but it can also mean that it generates 8-bit samples, but fits into a 16-bit expansion slot. ◇ **8-bit sample**, **24-bit sample**

**64-bit** /ˌsɪkstɪ 'fɔː bɪt/ *data* that is transferred sixty-four bits at a time along sixty-four parallel conductors; in a processor this refers to its ability to manipulate numbers that are sixty-four bits long

**size** /saɪz/ *noun* the physical dimensions of an image, object or page ■ *verb* to calculate the resources available, and those required, to carry out a particular job

**sizing** /'saɪzɪŋ/ *noun* the process of reducing or enlarging a picture to fit ○ *Photographs can be edited by cropping, sizing, etc.*

**sketch** /sketʃ/ *noun* a rough drawing made rapidly ■ *verb* to make a rough rapid drawing

**skew** /skjuː/ *noun* **1.** the amount by which something is not correctly aligned **2.** a television picture distortion in a zig zag shape which can be caused by a mechanical fault in the video tape motion or tension ■ *verb* to align something incorrectly ○ *This page is badly skewed.*

**skip** /skɪp/ *verb* **1.** to ignore an instruction in a sequence of instructions ○ *The printer skipped the next three lines of text. **2.** to transmit radio waves over an abnormally long distance due to the reflective properties of the atmosphere*

**slashed zero** /ˌslæʃd 'zɪərəʊ/ *noun* a printed or written sign (Ø)

**slave** /sleɪv/ *noun* **1.** a remote secondary computer or terminal controlled by a central computer **2.** a recorder which dubs playbacks from a master tape; the video tape used for this dubbing process

**sleep** /sliːp/ *noun* the state of a system that is waiting for a signal (log-on) before doing anything. ◇ **wake**

**sleeve** /sliːv/ *noun* a paper or plastic cover for a magnetic disk

**slaw** /sluː/ *noun* a rapid movement of paper in a printer, ignoring the normal line advance

**slicing** /'slaɪsɪŋ/ *noun* the process of cutting thin round wafers from a bar of silicon crystal

**slide** /slaɪd/ *noun* **1.** one image in a presentation or a single frame of positive photographic film **2.** a transparency which is to be projected by transmitted light ■ *verb* to move smoothly across a surface ○ *The disk cover slides on and off easily.*

**slide show** /'slaɪd ʃəʊ/ *noun* a feature of a presentation graphics software in which slides (static images) are displayed in a sequence under the control of the presenter

**slip pages** /'slɪp ˌpeɪdʒɪz/, **slip proofs** /'slɪp pruːfs/ *noun* proofs, where each page of text is printed on a separate piece of paper

**slot** /slɒt/ *noun* a long thin hole ○ *The system disk should be inserted into the left-hand slot on the front of the computer. ■ *verb* to insert an object into a hole ○ *The disk slots into one of the floppy drive apertures.**

**slow motion** /ˌsləʊ 'məʊʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the playing back of a video tape or disk sequence slower than recorded ○ *The film switched to slow motion.* ○ *Play the film again in slow motion. **2.** the process of filming with a motion picture camera with the film moving at a more accelerated speed than*

normal so that when the film is projected at a normal rate, the action seems to be slowed down

**slow scan** /'sləʊ skæn/ *noun* a television transmission and scanning at a slower frame rate than usual

**slow scan TV** /,sləʊ skæn ti: 'vi:/ *noun* a system used to transmit still video frames over a telephone line

**SLSI** *abbr* super large scale integration

**slur** /slɜ:/ *noun* **1.** a printed image which is blurred because of movement during printing **2.** distortion of voice during transmission

**small** /smɔ:ɪ/ *adjective* not large

**small computer system interface** /,smɔ:ɪl kəm'pjʊ:tə 'sɪstəm ,ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* full form of **SCSI**

**small-scale** /'smɔ:ɪl skeɪl/ *adjective* working with small amounts of data. Compare **large-scale**

**small scale integration** /,smɔ:ɪl skeɪl ,ɪntɪ'greɪf(ə)n/ *noun* an integrated circuit with 1 to 10 components. *Abbr SSI*

**smart** /smɑ:t/ *adjective* intelligent

**smart card** /'smɑ:t kɑ:d/ *noun* a plastic card with a memory and microprocessor device embedded in it, so that it can be used for electronic funds transfer or for identification of the user

**smart terminal** /,smɑ:t 'tɜ:mɪn(ə)l/ *noun* a computer terminal which can process information. Compare **dumb terminal**

**SMATV** *noun* a distributor of cable or microwave satellite broadcasts to separate viewers from a central antenna. Full form **satellite master antenna television**

**SMB** /,es em 'bi:/ *noun* a system developed by Microsoft which allows a user to access another computer's files and peripherals over a network as if they were local resources. Full form **server message block**

**smiley** /'smaɪli/ *noun* a face created with text characters, used to provide the real meaning to an email message; e.g., :- ) means laughter or a joke, and :- ( means sad

**smooth scroll** /,smu:ð 'skrɔ:ʊl/ *noun* text which is moved up a screen pixel by pixel rather than line by line, which gives a smoother movement

**SMPTE** /,es em pi: ti: 'i:/ *noun* an organisation that defines standards for television production systems; e.g., the SMPTE time code standard is widely used to synchronise audio and video equipment using hours, minutes, seconds, frame data that is stored in an 80-bit word. Full form **Society for Motion Picture and TV Engineers**

**SMPTE division type** /,es em pi: ti: ,i: dɪ'vɪʒ(ə)n ,taɪp/ *noun* a timing format

which specifies the number of frames per second used, and in which time is shown as hours, minutes, seconds, frames; standard SMPTE division types are 24, 25 and 30 frames per second

**SMPTE offset** /,es em pi: ti: i: 'ɒfset/ *noun* a MIDI event that defines when a MIDI file is to be played back

**SMPTE time code** /,es em pi: ti: i: 'taɪm ,kɔ:ʊd/ *noun* a method of assigning a unique identifying number to each frame in a video sequence

**SMS** *abbr* short message service

**SMT** /,es em 'ti:/ *noun* a method of manufacturing circuit boards in which the electronic components are bonded directly onto the surface of the board rather than being inserted into holes and soldered into place ○ *Surface-mount technology is faster and more space-efficient than soldering.* Full form **surface-mount technology**

**SMTP** /,es em ti: 'pi:/ *noun* a standard protocol which allows electronic mail messages to be transferred from one system to another, normally used as the method of transferring mail from one Internet server to another or to send mail from a computer to a server. Full form **simple mail transfer protocol**. Compare **POP 3**

**S/N** *abbr* signal to noise ratio

**SNA** /,es en 'eɪ/ *noun* design methods developed by IBM which define how communications in a network should occur and allow different hardware to communicate. Full form **Systems Network Architecture**

**snail mail** /'sneɪl meɪl/ *noun* a term used to refer to the usually slow postal delivery as opposed to nearly instant electronic mail delivery (*slang*)

**snapshot** /'snæp ,ʃɒt/ *noun* **1.** a recording of all the states of a computer at a particular instant **2.** the process of storing in main memory the contents of a screen full of information at an instant **3.** a personal photograph taken quickly

**snapshot dump** /'snæp ,ʃɒt dʌmp/ *noun* a printout of all the registers and a section of memory at a particular instant, used when debugging a program

**snd** /saʊnd/ *noun* a filename extension used to indicate a file that contains digitised sound data. Full form **Sound**

**SNMP** *abbr* simple network management protocol

**SNOBOL** /'snəʊbɒl/ *noun* a high-level programming language which uses string processing methods. Full form **string orientated symbolic language**

**snow** /snəʊ/ *noun* interference displayed as flickering white flecks on a monitor

**s/n ratio** /,ɛs 'en ,reɪʃəʊ/ *noun* the ratio of the amplitude of the transmitted signal to the noise on the received signal. Full form **signal to noise ratio**

**soak** /səʊk/ *verb* to run a program or device continuously for a period of time to make sure it functions correctly

**Society for Motion Picture and TV Engineers** /sə'saɪətɪ fə ,məʊvɪ(ə)n ,pɪktʃə ən ,ti: 'vi:/ *noun* full form of **SMPTÉ**

**socket** /'sɒkɪt/ *noun* a device with a set of holes, into which a plug fits

**socket driver** /'sɒkɪt ,draɪvə/ *noun* same as **Winsock**

**SOCKS** /sɒks/ *noun* a network protocol developed to support the transfer of TCP/IP (Internet) traffic through a proxy server. It is commonly used to provide a way for users on a local area network to access the Internet via a single shared connection.

**SOF** /,ɛs əʊ 'ef/ *noun* an indication of synchronised picture and sound on film. Full form **sound-on-film**

**soft** /sɒft/ *adjective* **1.** referring to material which loses its magnetic effects when removed from a magnetic field **2.** referring to data which is not permanently stored in hardware. Soft usually refers to data stored on magnetic medium. Compare **hard error** **3.** one shape that gradually changes to another

**soft copy** /,sɒft 'kɒpi/ *noun* text listed on screen (as opposed to hard copy on paper). ☐

**hard copy**

**soft error** /,sɒft 'erə/ *noun* a random error caused by software or data errors which is very difficult to trace and identify since it only appears under certain conditions

**soft-fail** /,sɒft 'feɪl/ *adjective* referring to a system which is still partly operational even after a part of the system has failed

**soft font** /,sɒft 'fɒnt/ *noun* fonts or typefaces stored on a disk, which can be downloaded or sent to a printer and stored in temporary memory or RAM

**soft goods** /'sɒft gudz/ *plural noun* software that can be purchased and paid for in an online shop, and which is then downloaded directly onto a computer instead of receiving a CD-ROM sent by post

**soft hyphen** /,sɒft 'haɪf(ə)n/ *noun* same as **discretionary hyphen**

**soft keyboard** /,sɒft 'ki:bɔ:d/ *noun* a keyboard where the functions of the keys can be changed by programs

**soft keys** /,sɒft 'ki:z/ *plural noun* keys which can be changed by means of a program

**soft reset** /,sɒft 'rɪ:zɛt/ *noun* an instruction that terminates any program execution and returns the user to the monitor or BIOS

**soft-sectored disk** /,sɒft ,sektəd 'dɪsk/ *noun* a disk where the sectors are described by an address and start code data written onto it when the disk is formatted

**software** /'sɒftweə/ *noun* **1.** any program or group of programs which instructs the hardware on how it should perform, including operating systems, word processors and applications programs **2.** films, audio tapes and audio disks that are commercially accessible (NOTE: no plural for **software**.) **3.** programmes for broadcast which are presented on electronic equipment

**software compatible** /,sɒftweə kəm 'pætɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to a computer which will load and run programs written for another computer

**software developer** /'sɒftweə dɪ ,veləpə/ *noun* a person or company which writes software

**software development** /'sɒftweə dɪ ,veləpmənt/ *noun* the processes required to produce working programs from an initial idea

**software documentation** /,sɒftweə ,dɒkjʊmənt'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* information, notes and diagrams describing the function, use and operation of a piece of software

**software engineer** /'sɒftweə ,endʒɪniə/ *noun* a person who can write working software to fit an application

**software engineering** /'sɒftweə ,endʒɪniəɪŋ/ *noun* a field of study covering all software-related subjects

**software house** /'sɒftweə haʊs/ *noun* a company which develops and sells computer programs

**software library** /'sɒftweə ,laɪbrəri/ *noun* a number of specially written routines, stored in a library file which can be inserted into a program, saving time and effort. Abbr **H**

**software licence** /'sɒftweə ,laɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* an agreement between a user and a software house, giving details of the rights of the user to use or copy the software

**software life cycle** /,sɒftweə 'laɪf ,saɪk(ə)l/ *noun* the period of time when a piece of software exists, from its initial design to the moment when it becomes out of date

**software maintenance** /'sɒftweə ,meɪntənəns/ *noun* the process of carrying out updates and modifications to a software package to make sure the program is up to date

**software-only video playback** /,sɒftweə ˌəʊnli ˌvɪdiəʊ ˈpleɪbæk/ *noun*

the ability to display full-motion video standard on any multimedia computer, without requiring special hardware

**software package** /'sɒftweə ˌpækɪdʒ/ *noun* computer programs and manuals designed for a special purpose

**software piracy** /'sɒftweə ˌpaɪrəsi/ *noun* the illegal copying of software for sale

**software quality assurance** /,sɒftweə ˌkwɒləti ə'ʃʊərəns/ *noun* the process of making sure that software will perform as intended. Abbr **SQA**

**software reliability** /,sɒftweə rɪˌlaɪə ˈbɪləti/ *noun* the ability of a piece of software to perform the task required correctly

**software specification** /,sɒftweə ˌspesɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* detailed information about a piece of software's abilities, functions and methods

**software system** /'sɒftweə ˌsɪstəm/ *noun* all the programs required for one or more tasks

**soft zone** /,sɒft ˈzəʊn/ *noun* a text area to the left of the right margin in a word-processed document, where if a word does not fit completely, a hyphen is automatically inserted

**solar** /'səʊlə/ *adjective* referring to the sun

**solar cell** /'səʊlə sel/ *noun* a component that converts the light of the sun into electrical energy

**Solaris™** /səʊ'lɑːrɪs/ a multi-tasking, multiprocessing operating system and system utilities developed by SunSoft for SPARC computers and PCs with a 80386

**solarisation** /səʊləraɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/, **solarization** *noun* **1.** a flare in a film image due to the film having been struck by light during processing **2.** a photographic effect where the picture image colours or tones are reversed, such as normally light areas becoming darker and vice versa; an almost identical effect can be created by video techniques

**solar power** /'səʊlə ˌpaʊə/ *noun* (electrical) power derived from the sun

**solenoid** /'sɒlənoɪd/ *noun* a mechanical device operated by an electromagnetic field

**solid modelling** /,sɒlɪd ˈmɒd(ə)lɪŋ/ *noun* a function in a graphics program that creates three-dimensional solid-looking objects by shading

**solid-state** /'sɒlɪd steɪt/ *adjective* referring to semiconductor devices

**solution** /sə'luːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the answer to a problem **2.** a liquid in which certain chemicals have been dissolved

**solve** /sɒlv/ *verb* to find the answer to a problem

**sonar** /'səʊnɑː/ *noun* a device that uses sound waves to determine the state and depth of water

**son file** /'sʌn faɪl/ *noun* the latest working version of a file. Compare **father file**, **grandfather file**

**song** /sɒŋ/ *noun* a complete musical tune

**song key** /'sɒŋ kiː/ *noun* a musical key used to play a MIDI song

**sonic** /'sɒnɪk/ *adjective* referring to sound; (sound signals) within the human hearing range (20 – 20,000Hz)

**sophisticated** /sə'fɪstɪkeɪtɪd/ *adjective* technically advanced ○ *A sophisticated desktop publishing program.*

**sophistication** /sə'fɪstɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the state of being technically advanced ○ *The sophistication of the new package is remarkable.*

**sort** /sɔːt/ *verb* to put data in order, according to a system, on the instructions of the user ○ *To sort addresses into alphabetical order.*

**sortkey** /'sɔːtkiː/, **sort field** /'sɔːt fiːld/ *noun* a field in a stored file which is used to sort the file ○ *The orders were sorted according to dates by assigning the date field as the sortkey.*

**sound** /saʊnd/ *noun* a noise

**Sound Blaster** /'saʊnd ˌblɑːstə/ a trade name for a type of sound card for PC compatibles developed by Creative Labs that allows sounds to be recorded to disk (using a microphone) and played back

**sound capture** /'saʊnd ˌkæptʃə/ *noun* the conversion of an analog sound into a digital form that can be used by a computer

**sound card** /,saʊnd ˈkɑːd/ *noun* an expansion card which produces analog sound signals under the control of a computer ○ *This software lets you create almost any sound – but you can only hear them if you have a sound card fitted.*

**sound chip** /,saʊnd ˈtʃɪp/ *noun* a device that will generate a sound or tune

**sound file** /,saʊnd ˈfaɪl/ *noun* a file stored on disk that contains sound data

**sound pressure level** /,saʊnd ˈpreʃə ˌlev(ə)/ *noun* full form of **SPL**

**soundproof** /'saʊndpruːf/ *adjective* which does not allow sound to pass through ○ *The telephone is installed in a soundproof booth.*

**Sound Recorder** /'saʊnd rɪˌkɔːdə/ a utility included with Microsoft Windows that allows a user to play back digitised sound files or record sound onto disk and carry out very basic editing

**source** /sɔ:s/ *noun* **1.** a point where a transmitted signal enters a network. Opposite **sink** **2.** an original or initial point **3.** the name of a terminal on an FET device

**source document** /'sɔ:s ˌdɒkjʊmənt/ *noun* a form or document from which data is extracted prior to entering it into a database

**source file** /,sɔ:s 'faɪl/ *noun* a program written in source language, which is then converted to machine code by a compiler

**source language** /'sɔ:s ˌlæŋɡwɪdʒ/ *noun* **1.** a language in which a program is originally written **2.** a language of a program prior to translation. Opposite **object language**, **target language**

**space** /speɪs/ *noun* **1.** a gap between characters or lines **2.** a transmitted signal representing a binary zero. Opposite **mark** **verb** to spread out text ○ *The line of characters was evenly spaced out across the page.*

**space bar** /'speɪs baɪ/ *noun* a long bar at the bottom of a keyboard, which inserts a space into the text when pressed

**spacing** /'speɪsɪŋ/ *noun* the process of putting spaces between characters or lines of printed text ○ *The spacing on some lines is very uneven.*

**spam** /spæm/ *noun* an article that has been posted to more than one newsgroup, so is likely to contain commercial messages (*slang*)

**spam killer** /'spæm ˌkɪlə/ *noun* a piece of software that automatically identifies and deals with spam in incoming e-mail

**spanning tree** /'spænɪŋ tri:/ *noun* a method of creating a network topology that does not contain any loops and provides redundancy in case of a network fault or problem

**spark printer** /'spɑ:k ˌprɪntə/ *noun* a thermal printer which produces characters on thermal paper by electric sparks

**sparse array** /,spɑ:s ə'reɪ/ *noun* a data matrix structure containing mainly zero or null entries

**spatial measurement** /,speɪf(ə)l 'meʒəmənt/ *noun* a method of allowing a computer to determine the position of a pointer within three dimensions (often using a sensitive glove)

**speaker** /'spi:kə/ *noun* **▶** **loudspeaker**

**spec** /spek/ *noun* same as **specifications** (*informal*)

**special** /'speʃ(ə)l/ *adjective* which is different or not usual

**special character** /,speʃ(ə)l 'kærɪktə/ *noun* a character which is not a standard one in a certain font (such as a certain accent or a symbol)

**special interest group** /,speʃ(ə)l 'ɪntrəst ˌgru:p/ *noun* full form of **SIG**

**specialise** /'speʃəlaɪz/ *verb* to study and be an expert in a subject ○ *He specialises in the design of CAD systems.*

**specialist** /'speʃəlist/ *noun* an expert in a certain field of study ○ *You need a specialist programmer to help devise a new word-processing program.*

**specifications** /,spesɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)nz/ *noun* detailed information about what is to be supplied or about a job to be done ○ *high spec cabling needs to be very carefully handled* □

**to work to standard specifications** to work to specifications which are accepted anywhere in the same industry □ **the work is not up to specification, does not meet the customer's specifications** the product was not manufactured in the way which was detailed in the specifications

**specific code** /spə'sɪfɪk 'kəʊd/ *noun* a binary code which directly operates the central processing unit, using only absolute addresses and values

**specificity** /,spesɪ'fɪsətɪ/ *noun* the ratio of non-relevant entries not retrieved to the total number of non-relevant entries contained in a file, database or library

**specify** /'spesɪ,faɪ/ *verb* to state clearly what is needed

**spectrum** /'spektrəm/ *noun* a range of frequencies; range of colours

**spectrum analyser** /'spektrəm ˌænəlaɪzə/ *noun* electronic test equipment that displays the amplitudes of a number of frequencies in a signal

**speech** /spi:tʃ/ *noun* the act of speaking or making words with the voice

...speech conveys information, and the primary task of computer speech processing is the transmission and reception of that information' [*Personal Computer World*]

**speech recognition** /,spi:tʃ ˌrekəŋ 'nɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of analysing spoken words in such a way that a computer can recognise spoken words and commands

**speech synthesis** /'spi:tʃ ˌsɪnθəʃɪs/ *noun* the production of spoken words by a speech synthesiser

**speech synthesiser** /'spi:tʃ ˌsɪnθəsaɪzə/ *noun* a device which takes data from a computer and outputs it as spoken words

**spellcheck** /'speltʃek/ *verb* to check the spelling in a text by comparing it with a dictionary held in the computer

**spellchecker** /'speltʃekə/, **spelling checker** /,speliŋ 'tʃekə/ *noun* a dictionary of correctly spelled words, held in a computer, and used to check the spelling of a text ○

*The program will be upgraded with a word-processor and a spelling checker.*

**spherical aberration** /ˌsfɛrɪk(ə)l ˌæbə'reɪʃ(ə)n/, **spherical distortion** *noun* optical distortion causing lines to appear curved

**spherical optics** /ˌsfɛrɪk(ə)l ˈɒptɪks/ *plural noun* camera or spotlight lenses which have surfaces with different curvatures which are used to create changes in the paths followed by light rays

**spherisation** /ˌsfɪərəɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a special effect provided by a computer graphics program that converts an image into a sphere, or 'wraps' the image over a spherical shape

**spider** /'spaɪdə/ *noun* a program that searches through the millions of pages that make up the world wide web for new information, changes or pages that have been deleted. These changes are then added to a search engine index to ensure that it is always up to date.

**spike** /spaɪk/ *noun* a very short duration voltage pulse

**spill** /spɪl/, **spill light** /'spɪl laɪt/ *noun* unwanted light created by a diffusion of light along the principal beam of a light source

**spillage** /'spɪlɪdʒ/ *noun* a situation when too much data is being processed and cannot be contained in a buffer

**spin** /spɪn/ *verb* to turn round fast ○ *The disk was spun by the drive.*

**spindle** /'spɪnd(ə)l/ *noun* an object which grips and spins a disk in the centre hole

**spindling** /'spɪndlɪŋ/ *noun* the process of turning a disk by hand

**spine** /spaɪn/ *noun* the back edge of the book which is covered by the binding ○ *The author's name and the title usually are shown on the spine as well as on the front cover.*

**spirit duplicator** /ˌspɪrɪt ˈdju:plɪkətə/ *noun* a short-run printing method using spirit to transfer ink onto the paper

**SPL** /ˌes pi: 'el/ *noun* a measure of loudness, in decibels (dB). Full form **sound pressure level**

**splash screen** /'splæʃ skri:n/ *noun* the initial screen that is displayed for a few seconds when a program is started ○ *The splash screen normally displays the product logo and gives basic copyright information.*

**splice** /splaɪs/ *verb* to join two lengths of magnetic tape, forming a continuous length

**split-field lens** /ˌsplɪt fi:ld ˈlenz/, **split-focus lens** /ˌsplɪt ˈfəʊkəs ˈlenz/ *noun* a camera lens which is able to achieve perfect focus at two different planes

**split-focus shot** /ˌsplɪt ˈfəʊkəs ʃɒt/ *noun* a shot where the focus of the camera is altered from one plane to another

**split screen** /'splɪt skri:n/ *noun* **1.** software which can divide the display into two or more independent areas, to display two text files or a graph and a text file ○ *We use split screen mode to show the text being worked on and another text from memory for comparison. **2.** a shot where two or more images are visible in different areas of the same picture*

**splitter** /'splɪtə/ *noun* a device which allows a number of other a devices to be plugged into one supply or line

**spoof** /spu:ʃ/ *verb* to send e-mail using a false name or e-mail address

**spool** /spu:l/ *noun* a reel on which a tape or printer ribbon is wound ■ *verb* to transfer data from a disk to a tape

**spooler** *noun* a device which holds a tape and which receives information from a disk for storage

**spooling** /'spu:lɪŋ/ *noun* the process of transferring data to a disk from which it can be printed at the normal speed of the printer, leaving the computer available to do something else

**spooling device** /'spu:lɪŋ dɪˌvaɪs/ *noun* same as **spooler**

**spot** /spɒt/ *noun* a point on a CRT screen that is illuminated by the electron beam

**spot beam** /'spɒt bi:m/ *noun* narrow (satellite) antenna coverage of a select region (on earth)

**spotting** /'spu:lɪŋ/ *noun* the retouching, with an opaque substance, of undesirable marks on film which appeared during the developing process

**spot wobble** /'spɒt ˌwɒb(ə)l/ *noun* vertical fluctuation of a television display's scanning beam in order to make the raster spacing less obvious

**spreadsheet** /'spredʃi:t/ *noun* a program which allows calculations to be carried out on several columns of numbers

**sprite** /sprɪt/ *noun* an object which moves round the screen in computer graphics

**sprocket** *noun* a wheel with teeth round it which fit into holes in continuous stationery or punched tape

**sprocket feed** /'sprɒkɪt fi:d/ *noun* a paper feed where the printer pulls the paper by turning sprocket wheels which fit into a series of holes along each edge of the sheet. ☐

**tractor feed**  
**sprocket holes** /'sprɒkɪt həʊlz/ *plural noun* **1.** a series of small holes on each edge of continuous stationery, which allow the

sheet to be pulled through the printer **2**. perforations in the edges of a strip of film

**sprocket wheel** /'sprɒkɪt wi:l/ *noun* same as **sprocket**

**spur** /spɜː/ *noun* a connection point into a network

**spurious data** /,spjʊəriəs 'deɪtə/ *noun* unexpected or unwanted data or an error in a signal, often due to noise

**SPX** /,es pi: 'eks/ a trade name for a network transport protocol developed by Novell and used to carry IPX network traffic. Full form **sequenced packet exchange** ■ *noun* data transmission in only one direction. Full form **simplex**. Opposite **duplex**

**spyware** /'spaiweɪ/ *noun* a type of software that can be installed on someone's hard disk without that person's knowledge. It is designed to send back encoded information about the computer owner's identity and the way he or she uses the Internet to the person who installed it.

**SQA** *abbr* software quality assurance

**SQL** /,es kju: 'el/ *noun* a simple, commonly used standard, database programming language that is only used to create queries to retrieve data from the database. Full form **structured query language**

**square wave** /,skweɪ 'weɪv/ *noun* a pulse that rises vertically, levels off, then drops vertically; the ideal shape for a digital signal

**squeeze** /skwiːz/ *noun* the horizontal compression of film images by using an anamorphic lens

**squeeze room** /'skwiːz ru:m/ *noun* a system which alters the shape of a television image for an artistic effect

**SSD** *abbr* single-sided disk

**SSI** *abbr* small scale integration

**SSL** /,es es 'el/ *noun* a protocol designed by Netscape that provides secure communications over the Internet. Full form **secure sockets layer**. ◊ **PGP, SEPP, SET, STT**

**ST** *noun* a range of personal computers developed by Atari that use the Motorola 68000 series CPU

**stabiliser** /'steɪbɪlaɪzə/, **stabilizer** *noun* a mount which holds the camera steady

**stability** /stə'bilɪti/ *noun* the condition of being stable

**stable** /'steɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* not moving or not changing

**stack** /stæk/ *noun* temporary storage for data, registers or tasks where items are added and retrieved from the same end of the list. ◊ **LIFO**

**stackable hub** /,stækəb(ə)l 'hʌb/ *noun* a hub device that has an external connector to

allow several devices to be connected together so that network information can pass from one network ring to another

**stage** /steɪdʒ/ *noun* one of several points in a process ◊ *The text is ready for the printing stage.*

**staged** /steɪdʒd/ *adjective* carried out in stages, one after the other

**stage window** /,steɪdʒ 'wɪndəʊ/ *noun* a window in which a video or animation sequence is viewed (normally refers to a window in which a Movie Player sequence is played)

**stand-alone** /'stænd ə,ɔ:n/, **standalone** *adjective* referring to a device or system that can operate without the need of any other devices ◊ *The workstations have been networked together rather than used as stand-alone systems.* ■ *noun* such a device or system

**standard** /'stændəd/ *adjective* normal or usual

**standard document** /,stændəd 'dɒkjʊmənt/, **standard form** /'stændəd fɔ:m/ *noun* a printed document or form which is used many times (with different names and addresses often inserted – as in a form letter)

**standard function** /,stændəd 'fʌŋkʃən/ *noun* a special feature included as normal in a computer system

**Standard Generalized Markup Language** /,stændəd ,dʒen(ə)rəlaɪzd 'mɑ:kʌp ,læŋɡwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **SGML**

**standardise** /'stændədəɪz/ *verb* to make a series of things conform to a standard ◊ *to standardise control of transmission links*

**standard letter** /,stændəd 'letə/ *noun* a letter which is sent without any change to the main text, but which is personalised by inserting the names and addresses of different people

**standard paragraph** /,stændəd 'pærəgrɑ:f/ *noun* a printed paragraph which is used many times (with different names and addresses often inserted – as in a form letter)

**standards** /'stændədz/ *plural noun* normal quality or normal conditions which are used to judge other things ◊ *this batch of disks is not up to standard* ◻ **up to standard** of an acceptable quality ◊ *this batch of disks is not up to standard*

**standards converter** /'stændədz kən ,vɜ:tə/ *noun* a device to convert received signals conforming to one standard into a different standard

**standard text** /,stændəd 'tekst/ *noun* a printed text which is used many times (with

different names and addresses often inserted – as in a form letter)

**standby** /ˈstændbaɪ/ *adjective* referring to a device or program that is ready for use in case of failure ■ *noun* such a device or program

**standby equipment** /ˈstændbaɪ ɪ ,kwɪpmənt/ *noun* a secondary system identical to the main system, to be used if the main system breaks down

**staple** /ˈsteɪp(ə)/ *noun* a bent metal pin which attaches pages together ■ *verb* to attach papers together with a bent metal pin ○ *The booklet is stapled together.* ○ *The collator gathers signatures together before stapling.*

**star filter** /ˈstɑː ,fɪltə/ *noun* a filter with an engraved design which creates star effects on strong light sources

**star network** /ˈstɑː ,netwɜːk/ *noun* a network of several machines where each node is linked individually to a central hub. Compare **bus network**, **ring topology network**

**start** /stɑːt/ *noun* the beginning or first part

**start bit** /ˈstɑːt ,bɪt/ *noun* a transmitted bit used (in asynchronous communications) to indicate the start of a character. Opposite **stop bit**

**Start button** /ˈstɑːt ,bʌt(ə)n/ *noun* a button that is normally in the bottom left-hand corner of a Windows 95 Desktop screen and provides a convenient route to the programs and files on the computer

**start of text** /ˌstɑːt əv ˈtekst/ *noun* a transmitted code indicating the end of control or address information and the start of the message. Abbr **SOT**, **STX**

**start page** /ˈstɑːt peɪdʒ/ *noun* the webpage to which a visitor to a website is automatically taken first

**startup disk** /ˈstɑːtʌp dɪsk/ *noun* a floppy disk which holds the operating system and system configuration files which can, in case of hard disk failure, be used to boot the computer

**Startup folder** /ˈstɑːtʌp ,fəʊldə/ *noun* a special folder on a hard disk that contains programs that will be run automatically when the user next starts Windows

**startup screen** /ˈstɑːtʌp skriːn/ *noun* text or graphics displayed when an application or multimedia book is run

**statement** /ˈsteɪtmənt/ *noun* **1.** an expression used to convey an instruction or define a process **2.** an instruction in a source language which is translated into several machine code instructions

**state-of-the-art** /ˌsteɪt əv ðɪ ˈɑːt/ *adjective* very modern or technically as advanced as possible

‘...the main PCB is decidedly non-state-of-the-art’ [*Personal Computer World*]

**static** /ˈstætɪk/ *adjective* **1.** referring to data that does not change with time **2.** referring to a system that is not dynamic

COMMENT: Static RAM uses bistable devices such as flip-flops to store data; these take up more space on a chip than the capacitive storage method of dynamic RAM but do not require refreshing.

**static object** /ˌstætɪk ˈɒbdʒekt/ *noun* an object in an animation or video that does not move within the frame

**station** /ˈsteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a point in a network or communications system which contains devices to control the input and output of messages, allowing it to be used as a sink or source

**stationary** /ˈsteɪʃ(ə)n(ə)rɪ/ *adjective* not moving

**stationery** /ˈsteɪʃ(ə)n(ə)rɪ/ *noun* office supplies for writing, especially paper, envelopes, labels, etc.

**statistical** /stəˈtɪstɪk(ə)/ *adjective* based on statistics

**statistician** /ˌstætɪˈstɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a person who analyses statistics

**statistics** /stəˈtɪstɪks/ *noun* the study of facts in the form of figures ■ *plural noun* a collection of numerical data

**status** /ˈsteɪtəs/ *noun* importance or position of something

**status bar** /ˈsteɪtəs bɑː/ *noun* a line at the top or bottom of a screen which gives information about the task currently being worked on, e.g. position of cursor, number of lines, filename, time

**status line** /ˈsteɪtəs laɪn/ *noun* same as **status bar**

**ST connector** /ˌes tiː kəˈnektə/ *noun* a connector used to terminate optical fibres

**STD** *abbr* subscriber trunk dialling

**STDM** *abbr* statistical time division multiplexing

**steadicam** /ˈstedɪkæm/ *noun* a device which prevents camera shake and provides smooth action with a hand-held camera

**steep learning curve** /ˌstiːp ˈlɜːnɪŋ ,kɜːv/ *noun* **1.** referring to a product that is very difficult to use **2.** such a product

**steg analysis** /ˈsteg ə,næləsɪs/ *noun* the process of searching through computerised graphics or music files to find slight changes in the normal patterns that may show the presence of hidden messages

**step** /step/ *noun* a single unit

**step frame** /ˈstep freɪm/ *verb* to capture a video sequence one frame at a time, used when the computer is not powerful or fast

enough to capture real-time full-motion video

**stepper motor, stepping motor** *noun* a motor which turns in small steps as instructed by a computer (used in printers, disk drives and robots)

**step printing** /'step ,prɪntɪŋ/ *noun* a printing process where the film is exposed one frame at a time

**step through** /'step θruː/ *noun* a function of a debugger that allows a developer to execute a program one instruction at a time to see where the fault lies

**steradian** /stə'reɪdɪən/ *noun* a unit of solid angle

**stereo** /'steriəʊ/, **stereophonic** /,steriə'fɒnɪk/ *adjective* referring to sound recorded onto two separate channels from two separate microphone elements and played back through a pair of headphones or two speakers

**stereophony** /,steri'ɒfəni/ *noun* sound reproduction using two or more channels to produce a three dimensional effect of sound

**stereoscopy** /,steri'ɒskəpi/ *noun* a photography system which provides a three dimensional effect

**stickiness** /'stɪkɪnəs/ *noun* the ability of a website to attract visitors and to keep them interested for a long time

**sticky** /'stɪki/ *adjective* used to describe an Internet site that attracts visitors, especially one that keeps them interested for a long time

**still** /stɪl/ *noun* a single image or frame within a video or film sequence

**still frame** /'stɪl freɪm/ *noun* an individual film or video tape frame which is continuously reproduced

**stochastic model** /stə'kæstɪk ,mɒd(ə)l/ *noun* a mathematical representation of a system which includes the effects of random actions

**stock control program** /,stɒk kən'trəʊl ,prəʊgræm/ *noun* software designed to help manage stock in a business

**stop** /stɒp/ *verb* to cease doing something

**stop-action photos** /,stɒp ,ækʃən'fəʊtəʊz/ *noun* images in which objects have been intermittently filmed one frame at a time so that when they are projected at a normal speed the changes that occur to these objects will be apparent

**stop and wait protocol** /,stɒp ən'weɪt ,prəʊtəkəl/ *noun* communications protocol in which the transmitter waits for a signal from the receiver that the message was correctly received before transmitting further data

**stop bit** /'stɒp bɪt/ *noun* a transmitted bit used in asynchronous communications to in-

dicate the end of a character. Opposite **start bit**

**stop down** /,stɒp 'daʊn/ *verb* to decrease the width of a lens aperture by altering the diaphragm of the iris

**stop element** /'stɒp ,elɪmənt/ *noun* same as **stop bit**

**stop frame** /'stɒp freɪm/ *noun* ▶ **still frame**

**stop motion** /,stɒp 'məʊʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the filming, projecting or printing of one frame at a time

**storage** /'stɔːrɪdʒ/ *noun* memory or the part of a computer system in which data or programs are kept for further use

**storage device** /'stɔːrɪdʒ dɪ'vaɪs/ *noun* any device which can store data and then allow it to be retrieved when required

**storage medium** /'stɔːrɪdʒ ,miːdiəm/ *noun* any physical material that can be used to store data for a computer application

**storage tube** /'stɔːrɪdʒ tjuːb/ *noun* a special CRT used for computer graphics, which retains an image on screen without the need for refresh actions

**store** /stɔː/ *noun* memory or the part of a computer system in which data or programs are kept for further use ■ *verb* to save data, which can then be used again as necessary ○ *Storing a page of high resolution graphics can require 3Mb.*

COMMENT: Storage devices include hard and floppy disk, RAM, punched paper tape and magnetic tape.

**store and forward** /,stɔː ən'fɔːwəd/ *noun* an electronic mail communications system which stores a number of messages before retransmitting them

**story board** /'stɔːrɪ bɔːd/ *noun* a series of pictures or drawings that show how a video or animation progresses

**straight cut** /'streɪt kʌt/ *noun* the cutting from one shot to another with no intervening visual effect

**stray** /streɪ/ *adjective* referring to something that has avoided being stopped ○ *The metal screen protects the CPU against stray electromagnetic effects from the PSU.*

**striking** /'striːkɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** vertical stripes on a camera pick-up tube which can divide an image light into red-blue-green components without using dichroic mirrors **2.** horizontal television picture distortion

**stream** /striːm/ *noun* a long flow of serial data

**streaming** /'striːmɪŋ/ *noun* the process of reading data from a storage device in one continuous operation, without processor intervention

'...the product has 16Mb of memory, 45Mb of Winchester disk storage and 95Mb streaming tape storage' [*Minicomputer News*]

**streaming audio** /,stri:mɪŋ 'ɔ:ɪdiəʊ/ *noun* digital audio data that is continuously transmitted (normally over the Internet) using a streaming protocol to provide stereo sound

**streaming data** /,stri:mɪŋ 'deɪtə/, **streaming protocol** *noun* a method of sending a continuous stream of data over the Internet to provide live video or sound transmission

COMMENT: Older methods of sending continuous live data used a standard web server (an HTTP server) to transmit the data. However, an HTTP server is designed to send data when it is ready rather than sending a regular stream of data that is required by multimedia. If you have ever tried to view a video clip over the Internet, you may have encountered this burst-transmission problem: when traffic or server load lightens, you can watch 20 frames per second, when the server is busy, you can watch one frame per minute. To provide a good multimedia server, the data delivery must be regulated and ideally synchronised. There are many different standards used to deliver sound and video over the Internet including Progressive Network's RealAudio, Microsoft's NetShow server, with supports both audio and video, and Netscape's MediaServer. Each of these streaming data technologies allows the user or publisher to limit the delivery of data to a maximum data rate. There are several standard formats used including Microsoft's multimedia delivery format, ASF (active streaming format) and other standards developed by Macromedia, VDOnet, Vivo, and VXtreme.

**streaming video** /,stri:mɪŋ 'vɪdiəʊ/ *noun* video image data that is continuously transmitted (normally over the Internet) using a streaming protocol to provide smooth moving images

**strikethrough** /'straɪkθru:/ *noun* a horizontal line used for indicating deleted text

**string** /strɪŋ/ *noun* any series of consecutive alphanumeric characters or words that are manipulated and treated as a single unit by the computer

**string orientated symbolic language** /,striŋ ɔ:riəntɪtɪd sɪm,bɒlɪk 'læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **SNOBOL**

**stringy floppy** /,striŋi 'flɒpi/ *noun* same as **tape streamer**

**strip** /stri:p/ *noun* a long thin piece of material ■ *verb* to remove the control data from a received message, leaving only the relevant information

**stripe** /straɪp/ *noun* a long thin line of colour

**striping** /'straɪŋ/ *noun* the process of adding longitudinal time-code to video rushes

**strobe** /strəʊb/ *verb* to send a pulse, usually on the selection line, of an electronic circuit ■ *noun* the pulse of an electric circuit

**strobe lighting** /,strəʊb 'laɪtɪŋ/ *noun* electronic flash lighting working at the same rate as a motion picture camera frame, creating sharp images of fast-moving objects

**stroboscope** /strəʊb/, **strobe** *noun* a light source which produces flashes of light  
**stroke** /strəʊk/ *noun* **1.** the width (in pixels) of a pen or brush used to draw on-screen **2.** a basic curved or straight line that makes up a character

**structure** /'strʌktʃə/ *noun* a way in which something is organised or formed ■ *verb* to organise or to arrange in a certain way

**structured design** /,strʌktʃəd dɪ'zain/ *noun* a number of interconnected modules which are intended to solve problems

**structured query language** /,strʌktʃəd 'kwɪəri,læŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **SQL**

**STT** /,es ti: 'ti:/ *noun* a system developed to provide a secure link between a user's browser and a vendor's Website to allow the user to pay for goods over the Internet. Full form **secure transaction technology**. ♦ **PGP, SEPP, SET, S-HTTP, SSL**

**stub** /stʌb/ *noun* a short program routine which contains comments to describe the executable code that will, eventually, be inserted into the routine

**studio** /'stju:diəʊ/ *noun* a place where a designer draws; a place where recordings take a place; a place where films are made

**STX** *abbr* start of text

**style** /stɑɪl/ *noun* the typeface, font, point size, colour, spacing and margins of text in a formatted document

**style sheet** /'stɑɪl ʃi:t/ *noun* **1.** a template which can be preformatted to generate automatically the style or layout of a document such as a manual, book or newsletter **2.** a sheet giving the style which should be followed by an editor

**stylus** /'stɑɪləs/ *noun* **1.** a pen-like device which is used in computer graphics systems to dictate cursor position on the screen **2.** (*in a transducer*) a needle which converts signals on an audio record into electrical signals **3.** a transducer that detects data stored on a videodisc

**stylus printer** /'stɑɪləs ,prɪntə/ *noun* ♦ **dot-matrix printer**

**sub-** /sʌb/ *prefix* less than, less important than or lower than

**subdirectory** /'sʌbdɪ,rɛkt(ə)ri/ *noun* a directory of disk or tape contents contained within the main directory

'...if you delete a file and then delete the subdirectory where it was located, you cannot restore the file because the directory does not exist' [*Personal Computer World*]

**sub-domain** /'sʌb dəʊ,mɛɪn/ *noun* a second level of addressing on the Internet that normally refers to a department name within a larger organisation

**subdomain name** /,sʌbdə'mɛɪn ,nɛɪm/ *noun* an organisational name consisting of two or three letters, e.g. ac or .com, that precedes the two-letter country domain name in an Internet address, as in '.com.au', the address for Australian commercial sites.

**subjective camera** /səb,dʒɛktɪv 'kæm(ə)rə/ *noun* scenes shot from the point of view of the camera in order to intensify audience reaction

**submenu** /'sʌbmɛnju:/ *noun* a secondary menu displayed as a choice from a menu

**submit button** /səb,mɪt 'bʌt(ə)n/ *noun* a button displayed on a webpage that sends information entered by a user on a web form to a program running on a web server for processing, e.g., the submit button could be used to start a search query

**subnet** /'sʌbnet/ *noun* a self-contained part of a large network, normally referring to one, independently-managed part of the Internet

**subnet address** /'sʌbnet ə,dres/, **subnet number** /'sʌbnet ,nʌmbə/ *noun* the part of an IP address that identifies a subnet that is connected to a larger network. The first part of the IP address identifies the network, the next part of the IP address identifies the subnet and the last part of the IP address identifies a single host server.

**subnet mask** /'sʌbnet mɑ:sk/ *noun* a filter that is used to select the portion of an IP address that contains the subnet address

**subnotebook** /sʌb'nəʊtbʊk/ *noun* a very small portable computer, smaller and lighter than a standard full-size notebook or laptop computer. A subnotebook often has a smaller keyboard and display and often only includes a hard disk drive with any floppy disk drive or CD-ROM drive in a separate, external unit that can be plugged in when needed.

**subprogram** /'sʌbprəʊgræm/ *noun* **1.** a subroutine in a program **2.** a program called up by a main program

**subroutine** /'sʌbru:tɪn/ *noun* a section of a program which performs a required function and can be called upon at any time from inside the main program

COMMENT: A subroutine is executed by a call instruction which directs the processor to its address; when finished it returns to the instruction after the call instruction in the main program.

**subscriber** /səb'skrɪbə/ *noun* **1.** a person who has a telephone **2.** a person who pays for access to a service such as a BBS

**subscript** /'sʌbskrɪpt/ *noun* a small character which is printed below the line of other characters. ⚡ **superscript** (NOTE: used in chemical formulae: CO<sub>2</sub>)

**subset** /'sʌb,set/ *noun* a small set of data items which forms part of a another larger set

**substance** /'sʌbstəns/ *noun* any matter whose properties can be described

**substitute** /'sʌbstɪtju:t/ *verb* to put something in the place of something else (NOTE: you substitute one thing for another)

**substitution** /,sʌbstɪ'tju:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of replacing something by something else

**substrate** /'sʌbstreɪt/ *noun* a base material on which an integrated circuit is constructed. ⚡ **integrated circuit**

**subsystem** /'sʌbsɪstəm/ *noun* one smaller part of a large system

**subtitle** /'sʌbtɪt(ə)l/ *noun* a caption which is inserted over the filmed action, generally at the bottom of the screen, to provide information, to give a direct translation of dialogue in a foreign language, or as an aid to the hard of hearing

**subtotal** /'sʌb,təʊt(ə)l/ *noun* the total at the end of a column, which when added to others makes the grand total

**subtractive primaries** /səb,tɹæktɪv 'praɪməɪrɪz/ *plural noun* the colours cyan, magenta and yellow

**subtrahend** /'sʌbtrəhend/ *noun* in a subtraction operation, the number to be subtracted from the minuend

**subvoice grade channel** /,sʌbvɔɪs greɪd 'tʃæn(ə)l/ *noun* a communications channel using frequencies (240 – 300Hz) below a voice channel, used for low speed data transmission

**successive** /sək'sesɪv/ *adjective* which follow one after the other ○ *Each successive operation adds further characters to the string.*

**suffix notation** /,sʌfɪks nəʊ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* mathematical operations written in a logical way, so that the symbol appears after the numbers to be acted upon

**suitcase** /'su:tkeɪs/ *noun* (in the Apple Macintosh environment) an icon which contains a screen font and allows fonts to be easily installed onto the system

**suite of programs** /,swi:t əv 'prəʊgræmz/ *noun* **1.** a group of programs

which run one after the other ○ *The word-processing system uses a suite of three programs, editor, spelling checker and printing controller.* **2.** a number of programs used for a particular task

**summation check** /sʌ'meɪʃ(ə)n tʃek/ *noun* an error detection check performed by adding together the characters received and comparing with the required total

**sun outage** /'sʌn ˌaʊtɪdʒ/ *noun* the length of time during which a satellite does not operate due to the position of the moon or earth, causing a shadow over the satellite's solar cells

**super-** /su:pəl/ *prefix* very good or very powerful

**super bit mapping** /,su:pə 'bɪt ˌmæpɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **SBM**

**supercomputer** /,su:pəkəm'pjʊ:təl/ *noun* a very powerful mainframe computer used for high speed mathematical tasks

**super high frequency** /,su:pə haɪ 'fri:kwənsi/ *noun* the frequency range between 3 – 30GHz. Abbr **SHF**

**superimpose** /,su:pəɪm'pəʊz/ *verb* **1.** to lay one picture over another so that they both remain visible **2.** to add a graphic or a caption over a picture

**superior number** /su:pɪəriə 'nʌmbə/ *noun* a superscript figure

**super large scale integration** /,su:pə ˌlɑ:dʒ skeɪl ˌɪntɪ'greɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an integrated circuit with more than 100,000 components. Abbr **SLSI**

**super master group** /,su:pə 'mɑ:stə gru:p/ *noun* a collection of 900 voice channels

**superscript** /'su:pə'skrɪpt/ *noun* a small character printed higher than the normal line of characters. Compare **subscript** (NOTE: used often in mathematics:  $10^5$  say: ten to the power five)

**supersede** /,su:pə'si:di/ *verb* to take the place of something which is older or less useful ○ *The new program supersedes the earlier one, and is much faster.*

**superstation** /'su:pə'steɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* US a TV system, where a single TV station broadcasts many programmes simultaneously via satellite and cable

**superuser** /'su:pəˌju:zəl/ *noun* a UNIX user with all access rights, equivalent to an administrator under the Windows system

**super VGA** /,su:pə vi: dʒi: 'eɪ/ *noun* full form of **SVGA**

**super VHS** /,su:pə ˌvi: eɪtʃ 'es/ *noun* full form of **S-VHS**

**supervise** /'su:pəˌvaɪz/ *verb* to watch carefully to see if work is well done

**supervision** /,su:pə'vɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of supervising

**supervisor** /'su:pəˌvaɪzə/ *noun* **1.** a person who makes sure that equipment is always working correctly **2.** a section of a computer operating system that regulates the use of peripherals and the operations undertaken by the CPU

**supervisory** /'su:pəˌvaɪzəri/ *adjective* as a supervisor

**supplier** /sə'plaɪə/ *noun* a company which supplies something ○ *a supplier of computer parts*

**supply** /sə'plaɪ/ *noun* the process of providing goods, products or services ○ *The electricity supply has failed.* ■ *verb* to provide something which is needed and for which someone will pay ○ *The computer was supplied by a recognised dealer.*

**support** /sə'pɔ:t/ *verb* to give help to or to help to run ○ *The main computer supports six workstations.*

**suppress** /sə'pres/ *verb* to remove ○ *The filter is used to suppress the noise due to static interference.*

**suppression** /sə'preʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of suppressing

**suppressor** /sə'presə/ *noun* a device which suppresses interference

**surf** /sɜ:f/ *verb* to explore a website looking at the webpages in no particular order, but simply moving between pages using the links

**surface-mount technology** /,sɜ:fɪs maʊnt tek'nɒlədʒi/ *noun* full form of **SMT**

**surge** /sɜ:dʒ/ *noun* a sudden increase in electrical power in a system, due to a fault, noise or component failure

COMMENT: Power surges can burn out circuits before you have time to pull the plug. A surge protector between your computer and the wall outlet will help prevent damage.

**surge protector** /'sɜ:dʒ prəˌtektə/ *noun* an electronic device which cuts off the power supply to sensitive equipment if it detects a power surge that could cause damage

**suspend** /sə'spend/ *noun* a command that is used when running Windows on a battery-powered laptop computer to shut down almost all of the electronic components of the laptop

**sustain** /sə'steɪn/ *verb* to keep a voltage at a certain level for a period of time ■ *noun* the body of a sound signal. Compare **attack**, **decay**

**SVGA** /,es vi: dʒi: 'eɪ/ *noun* an enhancement to the standard VGA graphics display system which allows resolutions of up to 800x600pixels with 16million colours. Full form **super VGA**

**S-VHS** /,es vi: etʃ 'es/ *noun* a high-resolution version of the standard VHS video cassette standard which can record 400 lines of a video signal rather than the usual 260 lines of VHS. Full form **super VHS**

**S-Video** /,es 'vidiəʊ/ *noun* a method of transmitting a video signal in which the luminance and colour components (the luma, Y, and chroma, C) are transmitted over separate wires to improve the quality of the video, used in Hi8, S-VHS and other video formats to provide better quality than composite video. Also called **Y/C video**

**SW** *abbr* short wave

**swap** /swɒp/ *noun* same as **swapping** ■ *verb* to stop using one program, put it into store temporarily, run another program, and when that is finished, return to the first one

**swap file** /'swɒp faɪl/ *noun* a file stored on the hard disk used as a temporary storage area for data held in RAM, to provide virtual memory

**swapping** /'swɒpɪŋ/ *noun* (in a virtual memory system) an activity in which program data is moved from main memory to disk, while another program is loaded or run. ⇨ **virtual memory**. Also called **swap**

**sweep** /swi:p/ *noun* the movement of the electron beam over the area of a television screen in regular horizontal and vertical steps, producing the image

**sweetening** /'swi:t(ə)nɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the addition of new sound to a voice track **2.** the addition of sound effects to the visual images **3.** the improvement of the quality of image, colour, etc., through electronic modification

**swim** /swɪm/ *noun* computer graphics which move slightly due to a faulty display unit

**switch** /swɪtʃ/ *noun* **1.** (in some command-line operating systems) an additional character entered on the same line as the program command, which affects how the program runs **2.** a point in a computer program where control can be passed to one of a number of choices **3.** a mechanical or solid state device that can electrically connect or isolate two or more lines ■ *verb* to connect or disconnect two lines by activating a switch

**switchboard** /'swɪtʃbɔ:d/ *noun* a central point in a telephone system, where the lines from various telephone handsets meet, where calls can be directed to any other telephone

**switchboard operator** /'swɪtʃbɔ:d ɒpəreɪtə/ *noun* a person who works a central telephone switchboard, by connecting incoming and outgoing calls to various lines

**switching** /'swɪtʃɪŋ/ *noun* a constant update of connections between changing sinks and sources in a network

**symbol** /'sɪmbəl/ *noun* a sign or picture which represents something ○ *This language uses the symbol ? to represent the print command.*

**symbolic** /sɪm'bɒlɪk/ *adjective* which acts as a symbol or which uses a symbol name or label

**sync** /sɪŋk/ *noun* **1.** two events or timing signals which happen at the same time **2.** the exact aligning of the sound and picture components of a film so that they coincide

**synchronisation** /,sɪŋkrənaɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the action of synchronising two or more devices

**synchronise** /'sɪŋkrə,naɪz/ *verb* to make sure that two or more devices or processes are coordinated in time or action

**synchroniser** /'sɪŋkrənaɪzə/ *noun* **1.** a device that will perform a function when it receives a signal from another device **2.** a machine used to edit the sound track and the film at the same time

**synchronous** /'sɪŋkrənəs/ *adjective* which runs in sync with something else (such as a main clock)

**synchronous data link control** /,sɪŋkrənəs 'deɪtə lɪŋk kən,trəʊl/ *noun* full form of **SDLC**

**synonym** /'sɪnənɪm/ *noun* a word which means the same thing as another word

**synonymous** /sɪ'nɒnɪməs/ *adjective* meaning the same ○ *The words 'error' and 'mistake' are synonymous.*

**syntactic error** /sɪn,tæktɪk 'erə/ *noun* a programming error in which the program statement does not follow the syntax of the language

**syntax** /'sɪntæks/ *noun* grammatical rules which apply to a programming language

**synthesis** /'sɪnθəsis/ *noun* the process of producing something artificially from a number of smaller elements

**synthesise** /'sɪnθəsaɪz/ *verb* to produce something artificially from a number of smaller elements

'...despite the fact that speech can now be synthesized with very acceptable quality, all it conveys is linguistic information' [*Personal Computer World*]

**synthesiser** /'sɪnθəsaɪzə/ *noun* a device which generates signals, sound or speech

**SyQuest** /'saɪkwɛst/ a manufacturer of storage devices, including a range of removable hard disk drives and backup units. ⇨ **Zip disk**

**system** /'sɪstəm/ *noun* any group of hardware or software or peripherals, etc., which work together

**System 7™** /,sɪstəm 'sev(ə)n/ a version of the operating system for the Apple Macin-

tosh personal computer that introduces multitasking, virtual memory and peer-to-peer file sharing

**system administrator** /,sɪstəm əd'mɪnɪstreɪtə/ *noun* † **network administrator**

**system backup** /,sɪstəm 'bækʌp/ *noun* a copy of all the data stored on a computer, server or network

**system colours** /,sɪstəm 'kɒləz/ *plural noun* same as **default palette**

**system crash** /'sɪstəm kræʃ/ *noun* a situation where the operating system stops working and has to be restarted

**system design** /,sɪstəm drɪ'zaɪn/ *noun* the process of identifying and investigating possible solutions to a problem, and deciding upon the most appropriate system to solve the problem

**Système Electronique Couleur Avec Mémoire** *noun* full form of **SECAM**

**system life cycle** /,sɪstəm 'laɪf ,saɪk(ə)/ *noun* the time when a system exists, between its initial design and its becoming out of date

**system manager** /,sɪstəm 'mænɪdʒə/ *noun* a person responsible for the computers or network in a company

**System Monitor** /'sɪstəm ,mɒnɪtə/ *noun* a Windows utility that allows a user to view how the resources on their PC are performing and, if they have shared the device, who else on the network is using the resources

**system operator** /,sɪstəm 'ɒpəreɪtə/ *noun* a person who manages an online bulletin board or maintains a computer network

**system palette** /,sɪstəm 'pælət/ *noun* the range of colours that are available on a particular operating system and can be shared by all applications

**systems analysis** /'sɪstəmz ə,næləsɪs/ *noun* **1.** the process of analysing a process or system to see if it could be more efficiently carried out by a computer **2.** the process of examining an existing system with the aim of improving or replacing it

**Systems Application Architecture** /,sɪstəmz ,æplɪkeɪʃ(ə)n 'ɑ:kɪtektʃə/ *noun* full form of **SAA**

**system security** /,sɪstəm sɪ'kjʊərɪti/ *noun* measures, such as password, priority protection, authorisation codes, designed to stop browsers and hackers

**Systems Network Architecture** /,sɪstəmz 'netwɜ:k ,ɑ:kɪtektʃə/ *noun* full form of **SNA**

**system software** /,sɪstəm 'sɒftweə/ *noun* programs which direct the basic functions, input-output control, etc., of a computer

**system specifications** /,sɪstəm ,spesɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* details of hardware and software required to perform certain tasks

**system support** /,sɪstəm sə'pɔ:t/ *noun* a group of people who maintain and operate a system

**system tray** /'sɪstəm treɪ/ *noun* (*in Windows*) an area of the taskbar normally in the bottom right-hand corner next to the clock. The system tray displays tiny icons that show which system software programs were run automatically when Windows started and are now running in the background.

# T

**T** *abbr* tera-

**T1 committee** /,ti: 'wʌn kə,mɪti/ *noun* an ANSI committee which sets digital communications standards for the US, particularly ISDN services

**T1 link** /,ti: 'wʌn ,lɪŋk/ *noun* (in the US) a high speed, long distance data transmission link not related to the T1 committee, that can carry data at 1.544Mbits per second

**tab** /tæb/ *verb* **1.** to tabulate or to arrange text in columns with the cursor automatically running from one column to the next in key-boarding ○ *The list was neatly lined up by tabbing to column 10 at the start of each new line.* **2.** in a GUI, method of moving from one button or field to another without using the mouse, but by pressing the tab key to move the focus

**tabbing** /'tæbɪŋ/ *noun* the movement of the cursor in a word-processing program from one tab stop to the next ○ *Tabbing can be done from inside the program.*

**table** /'teɪb(ə)/ *noun* a list of data in columns and rows on a printed page or on the screen

**table of contents** /,teɪb(ə) əv 'kɒntents/ *noun* **1.** a list of the contents of a book, usually printed at the beginning **2.** data at the start of a disc that describes how many tracks are on the CD, their position and length **3.** a page with a list of the headings of all the other main pages in the title and links so that a user can move to them

**tablet** /'tæblət/ *noun* a graphics pad or flat device which allows a user to input graphical information into a computer by drawing on its surface

**tab settings** /'tæb ,setɪŋz/, **tab stops** /'tæb stɒps/ *plural noun* preset points along a line, where the printing head or cursor will stop for each tabulation command

**tabulate** /'tæbjʊ,leɪt/ *verb* to arrange text in columns, with the cursor moving to each new column automatically as the text is key-boarded

**tabulating** /'tæbjʊleɪtɪŋ/ *noun* the action of processing punched cards, such as a sorting operation

**tabulation** /,tæbjʊ'leɪf(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** arrangement of a table of figures **2.** the process

of moving a printing head or cursor a preset distance along a line

**tabulator** /'tæbjʊleɪtə/ *noun* part of a word-processor which automatically sets words or figures into columns

**TACS** *noun* a UK standard for cellular radio systems. Full form **total access communication system**

**tactile** /'tæktail/ *adjective* using the sense of touch

**tag** /tæg/ *noun* **1.** one section of a computer instruction **2.** a set of identifying characters attached to a file or item (of data) ○ *Each file has a three letter tag for rapid identification.*

**tag image file format** /,tæg ,ɪmɪdʒ 'faɪl ,fɔ:mæt/ *noun* full form of **TIFF**

**tail** /teɪl/ *noun* **1.** data recognised as the end of a list of data **2.** a control code used to signal the end of a message

**take** /teɪk/ *noun* a camera shot of an individual piece of action

**take-up** /'teɪk ʌp/ *noun* a device such as a reel on which film or tape is wound from a projector, camera gate or editing machine

**take-up reel** /'teɪk ʌp ,ri:l/ *noun* a reel onto which magnetic tape is collected

**talk** /tɔ:k/ *verb* to speak or to communicate  
'...a variety of technologies exist which allow computers to talk to one another' [Which PC?]

**talkback** /'tɔ:k bæk/ *noun* speech communications between a control room and a studio

'...a variety of technologies exist which allow computers to talk to one another' [Which PC?]

**tape** /teɪp/ *noun* a long thin flat piece of material

COMMENT: Cassettes or reels of tape are easy to use and cheaper than disks, the cassette casing usually conforming to a standard size. They are less adaptable and only provide sequential access, usually being used for master copies or making back-ups.

**tape backup** /'teɪp ,bækʌp/ *noun* the process of using (usually magnetic) tape as a medium for storing back-ups from faster main or secondary storage, such as RAM or hard disk

**tape drive** /'teɪp draɪv/ *noun* a mechanism which controls magnetic tape movement over the tape heads ○ *Our new product has a 96MB streaming tape drive.*

**tape format** /'teɪp ,fɔ:mæt/ *noun* a way in which blocks of data, control codes and location data is stored on tape

**tape streamer** /'teɪp ,stri:mə/ *noun* a device containing a continuous loop of tape, used as backing storage. Also called **stringy floppy**

**Targa** /'tɑ:gə/ *noun* a graphics file format which uses the .TGA extension on a PC, developed by Truevision to store raster graphic images in 16-, 24- and 32-bit colour.

**target** /'tɑ:ɡɪt/ *noun* a goal which you aim to achieve

**targetcast** /'tɑ:ɡɪtkɑ:st/ *verb* to broadcast a website only to a group of people who are known to be potentially interested in it, and not to everyone on the Internet

**target computer** /,tɑ:ɡɪt kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* a computer on which software is to be run

**target disk** /'tɑ:ɡɪt dɪsk/ *noun* a disk onto which a file is to be copied

**target language** /'tɑ:ɡɪt ,læŋɡwɪdʒ/ *noun* a language into which a language will be translated from its source language ○ *The target language for this PASCAL program is machine code.* Opposite **source language**

**target program** /,tɑ:ɡɪt 'prəʊgræm/ *noun* an object program or computer program in object code form, produced by a compiler

**target window** /'tɑ:ɡɪt ,wɪndəʊ/ *noun* a window in which text or graphics will be displayed

**tariff** /'tærɪf/ *noun* a charge incurred by a user of a communications or computer system ○ *There is a set tariff for logging on, then a rate for every minute of computer time used.*

**TASI** *noun* a method of using a voice channel for other signals during the gaps and pauses in a normal conversation. Full form **time assigned speech interpolation**

**task** /tɑ:sk/ *noun* a job which is to be carried out by a computer

**taskbar** /'tɑ:skbɑ:z/ *noun* a bar that normally runs along the bottom of the screen in Windows and displays the Start button and a list of other programs or windows that are currently active

**task management** /'tɑ:sk ,mænɪdʒmənt/ *noun* system software which controls the use and allocation of resources to programs

**task swapping** /'tɑ:sk ,swɒpɪŋ/ *noun* the process of exchanging one program in memory for another which is temporarily stored on disk. Task switching is not the same as multitasking which can execute several programs at once.

**task switching** /'tɑ:sk ,swɪtʃɪŋ/ *noun* same as **task swapping**

**TAT** *abbr* turnaround time

**TBC** *abbr* time-base corrector

**T carrier** /'ti: ,kæriəl/ *noun* a US standard for digital data transmission lines, such as T1, T1C, and corresponding signal standards DS1, DS1C

**TCIP** *noun* discernable time-code numerals in video-tape editing. Full form **time code in picture**

**TCM** *abbr* thermal control module

**T-commerce** /,ti: 'kɒmɜ:s/ *noun* a business conducted by means of interactive television

**T connector** /'ti: kə,nektə/ *noun* a coaxial connector, shaped like the letter 'T', which connects two thin coaxial cables using BNC plugs and provides a third connection for another cable or network interface card

**TCP** /,ti: si: 'pi:/ *noun* standard data transmission protocol that provides full duplex transmission, bundles data into packets and checks for errors. Full form **transmission control protocol**

**TCP/IP** /,ti: si: pi: aɪ 'pi:/ *noun* a data transfer protocol used in networks and communications systems, often used in Unix-based networks. This protocol is used for all communications over the internet. Full form **transmission control protocol/interface program**

**TDM** /,ti: di: 'em/ *noun* a method of combining several signals into one high-speed transmission carrier, each input signal being sampled in turn and the result transmitted to a receiver which re-constructs the signals. Full form **time division multiplexing**

**TDR** /,ti: di: 'ɑ:/ *noun* a test that identifies where cable faults lie by sending a signal down the cable and measuring how long it takes for the reflection to come back. Full form **time domain reflectometry**

**TDS** /,ti: di: 'es/ *noun* a computer system that will normally run batch processing tasks until interrupted by a new transaction, at which point it allocates resources to the new transaction. Full form **transaction-driven system**

**technical** /'teknɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to a particular machine or process ○ *The document gives all the technical details on the new computer.*

**technically** /'teknɪkli/ *adverb* in a technical way ○ *Their system is technically far more advanced than ours.*

**technical support** /,teknɪk(ə)l sə'pɔ:t/ *noun* a person who provides such advice

**technician** /tek'niʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a person who is specialised in industrial work

**technique** /tek'ni:k/ *noun* a skilled way of doing a job ○ *The company has developed a new technique for processing customers' disks.*

**technological** /,teknə'lɒdʒɪk(ə)/ *adjective* referring to technology

**technology** /tek'nɒlədʒi/ *noun* the process of applying scientific knowledge to industrial processes

**tel** *abbr* telephone

**tele-** /teli/ *prefix* long distance

**televoting** /'teli,bæŋkiŋ/ *noun* a system by which an account holder can carry out transactions with his bank via a terminal and communications network

**telecommunications** /,telikə,mju:nɪ'keɪʃ(ə)nz/ *noun* the technology of passing and receiving messages over a distance, as in radio, telephone, telegram, satellite broadcast, etc.

**telecommuting** /'telikəmju:tɪŋ/ *noun* the practice of working on a computer in one place (normally from home) that is linked by modem to the company's central office allowing messages and data to be transferred

**teleconference** /'teli,kɒnf(ə)rəns/ *noun* a meeting held among people in different locations by means of telecommunications equipment

**teleconferencing** /'teli,kɒnf(ə)rənsɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the process of linking video, audio and computer signals from different locations so that distant people can talk and see each other, as if in a conference room **2.** part of video-conferencing where the image is renewed only at intervals in order to decrease the transmission bandwidth required

**telecontrol** /'telikən,traʊl/ *noun* the control of a remote device by a telecommunications link

**telegram** /'telɪgræm/ *noun* a message sent to another country by telegraph ○ *to send an international telegram*

**telegraph** /'telɪgrɑ:f/ *noun* a message transmitted using a telegraphy system ■ *verb* to send a telegram to another person; to send printed or written or drawn material by long-distance telegraphy ○ *They telegraphed their agreement.* ○ *The photographs were telegraphed to New York.*

**telegraphic** /,teli'græfɪk/ *adjective* referring to a telegraph system

**telegraphic address** /,teli'græfɪk ə'dres/ *noun* a short address to which a telegram is sent

**telegraph office** /'telɪgrɑ:f,ɒfɪs/ *noun* an office from which telegrams can be sent

**telegraphy** /tə'leɪgrəfi/ *noun* a system of sending messages along wires using direct current pulses

**teleinformatic services** /teliɪn'fə:mætɪk 'sɜ:vɪsɪz/ *plural noun* any of various data only services, such as telex, facsimile, which use telecommunications

**telematics** /,teli'mætɪks/ *noun* the interaction of all data processing and communications devices

**telemesssage** /'telmesɪdʒ/ *noun* a message sent by telephone, and delivered as a card

**telemetry** /tə'lemɪtri/ *noun* data from remote measuring devices transmitted over a telecommunications link

**teleordering** /'teli,ɔ:dəɪŋ/ *noun* a book ordering system, in which the bookseller's orders are entered into a computer which then puts the order through to the distributor at the end of the day

**telephone** /'telɪfəʊn/ *noun* a machine used for speaking to someone or communicating with another computer (using modems) over a long distance

**telephone line** /'telɪfəʊn laɪn/ *noun* a cable used to connect a telephone handset with a central exchange

**telephonist** /tə'lefənɪst/ *noun* a person who works a telephone switchboard

**telephony** /tə'lefəni/ *noun* a series of standards that define the way in which computers can work with a telephone system to provide voice-mail, telephone answering, and fax services

**telephony application programming interface** /tə'lefəni ,æplɪkeɪʃ(ə)n 'prəʊgræmɪŋ ,ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* a system developed by Microsoft and Intel that allows a PC to control a single telephone. *Abbr TAPI*

**telephony services application programming interface** /tə'lefəni ,sɜ:vɪsɪz ,æplɪkeɪʃ(ə)n 'prəʊgræmɪŋ ,ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* a system developed by Novell and AT&T that allows a PC to control a PBX telephone exchange. *Abbr TSAPI*

**telephoto distortion** /,telɪfəʊtəʊ dɪs'tɔ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the compression result which occurs in shots filmed with a telephoto lens; objects far away from the camera seem to be closer, and a performer's movement towards or away from the camera seems to be slower

**telephoto lens** /,telɪfəʊtəʊ 'lenz/ *noun* a camera objective lens with long focal length and short back focus. This type of lens gives the impression that an object is closer than it really is.

**teleprinter** /'teli,prɪntə/ *noun* a device that is capable of sending and receiving data

from a distant point by means of a telegraphic circuit, and printing out the message on a printer ○ *You can drive a teleprinter from this modified serial port.*

**teleprinter interface** /ˈtelɪprɪntə ,ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* a terminal interface or hardware and software combination required to control the functions of a terminal

**teleprinter roll** /ˈtelɪprɪntə ,rɔʊl/ *noun* a roll of paper onto which messages are printed

**teleprocessing** /ˈtelɪ,prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* the processing of data at a distance (as on a central computer from outside terminals). Abbr **TP**

**telerecording** /ˌtelɪrɪˈkɔːdɪŋ/ *noun* the transferral of a television or video programme to motion picture film

**telesales** /ˈtelɪ,seɪlz/ *noun* sales made by telephone

**teleshopping** /ˈtelɪ,ʃɒpɪŋ/ *noun* the use of a telephone-based data service such as viewdata to order products from a shop

**telesoftware** /ˈtelɪ,sɒftweə/ *noun* software which is received from a viewdata or teletext service. Abbr **TSW**

**teletext** /ˈtelɪ,tekst/ *noun* a method of transmitting text and information with a normal television signal, usually as a serial bit stream which can be displayed using a special decoder

**teletype** /ˈtelɪtaɪp/ *noun* a term used for teleprinter equipment. Abbr **TTY**

**teletypesetting** /ˌtelɪˈtaɪpsetɪŋ/ *noun* a typesetter operated from a punched paper tape

**teletypewriter** /ˌtelɪˈtaɪpraɪtə/ *noun* a keyboard and printer attached to a computer system which can input data either direct or by making punched paper tape

**television** /ˌtelɪˈvɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a device which can receive (modulated) video signals from a computer or broadcast signals with an aerial and display images on a CRT screen with sound **2.** a system for broadcasting pictures and sound using high-frequency radio waves, captured by a receiver and shown on a screen **3.** the actual broadcasts themselves, or the set on which they are seen ▶ abbr **TV**

**television monitor** /ˌtelɪˈvɪʒ(ə)n ,mɒnɪtə/ *noun* a device able to display signals from a computer without sound, but is not able to broadcast signals, usually because there is no demodulator

**television receiver/monitor** /ˌtelɪvɪʒ(ə)n rɪˌsɪːvə 'mɒnɪtə/ *noun* a device able to act as a TV receiver or monitor

**television scan** /ˈtelɪ,ɪvɪʒ(ə)n skæn/ *noun* a horizontal movement of the picture

beam over the screen, producing one line of an image

**television tube** /ˈtelɪ,ɪvɪʒ(ə)n tjuːb/ *noun* a CRT with electronic devices which provide the line by line horizontal and vertical scanning movement of the picture beam

**telex** /ˈteleks/ *noun* a system for sending messages using telephone lines, which are printed out at the receiving end on a special printer ○ *to send information by telex* ○ *The order came by telex.* ■ **verb** to send a message using a teleprinter ○ *Can you telex the Canadian office before they open?* ○ *He telexed the details of the contract to New York.*

◇ **a telex 1.** a machine for sending and receiving telex messages ○ *he sent a telex to his head office* **2.** a message sent by telex ○ *we received his telex this morning*

**telnet** /ˈtelnet/ *noun* a TCP/IP protocol that allows a user to connect to and control via the Internet a remote computer as if they were there and type in commands as if they were sitting in front of the computer

**template** /ˈtem,pleɪt/ *noun* **1.** a plastic or metal sheet with cut-out symbols to help in the drawing of flowcharts and circuit diagrams **2.** (*in text processing*) standard text, such as a standard letter or invoice, into which specific details can be added ○ *a template paragraph command enables the user to specify the number of spaces each paragraph should be indented* **3.** an opaque sheet which is placed in a spotlight and which has been cut into a certain shape in order to produce a patterned shadow

**template command** /ˈtempleɪt kə ,mɑːnd/ *noun* a command which allows functions or other commands to be easily set ○ *A template paragraph command enables the user to specify the number of spaces each paragraph should be indented.*

**tempo** /ˈtempəʊ/ *noun* **1.** (*in MIDI or music*) the speed at which the notes are played, measured in beats per minute ○ *A typical MIDI tempo is 120 beats per minute.* **2.** (*in a multimedia title*) the speed at which frames are displayed

**temporary** /ˈtemp(ə)rəri/ *adjective* not permanent

**temporary storage** /ˌtemp(ə)rəri 'stɔːrɪdʒ/ *noun* storage which is not permanent

**temporary swap file** /ˌtemp(ə)rəri 'swɒp ,faɪl/ *noun* a file on a hard disk which is used by software to store data temporarily or for software that implements virtual memory, such as Microsoft's Windows

**10Base2** /ˌten beɪs 'tuː/ *noun* IEEE standard specification for running Ethernet over thin coaxial cable

**10Base5** /,ten beɪs 'faɪv/ IEEE standard specification for running Ethernet over thick coaxial cable

**10Base-FX** *noun* IEEE standard specification for running Ethernet over optical fibre at speeds up to 10Mbps

**10BaseT** /,ten beɪs 'ti:/ *noun* IEEE standard specification for running Ethernet over unshielded twisted pair cable

**tera-** /terə/ *prefix* 10<sup>12</sup>; one million million. Abbr T

**terabyte** /'terəbaɪt/ *noun* one thousand gigabytes or one million megabytes of data

**terahertz** /'terəhɜ:ts/ *noun* a frequency of one million million hertz

**terminal** /'tɜ:mɪn(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** a device usually made up of a display unit and a keyboard which allows entry and display of information when on-line to a central computer system ○ *The new intelligent terminal has a built-in text editor.* **2.** an electrical connection point **3.** a point in a network where a message can be transmitted or received. ♢ **source, sink**

**terminal character set** /,tɜ:mɪn(ə)l 'kæɪrɪktə ,set/ *noun* the range of characters available for a particular type of terminal, which might include graphics or customised characters

**terminate** /'tɜ:mɪ,neɪt/ *verb* to end

**terminate and stay resident program** /,tɜ:mɪneɪt ən steɪ 'rezɪd(ə)nt ,prəʊgræm/ *noun* a program which loads itself into main memory and carries out a function when activated ○ *When you hit Ctrl-F5, you will activate the TSR program and it will display your day's diary.* Also called **TSR program**

**termination** /,tɜ:mɪ'neɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the process of ending or stopping

**terminator** /'tɜ:mɪneɪtə/ *noun* **1.** (in a LAN) a resistor that fits onto each end of a coaxial cable in a bus network to create an electrical circuit **2.** (in an SCSI installation) a resistor that fits onto the last SCSI device in the daisy-chain, creating an electrical circuit **3.** same as **rogue value**

**ternary** /'tɜ:nəri/ *adjective* referring to a number system with three possible states

**test** /test/ *verb* to carry out an examination of a device or program to see if it is working correctly

**test data** /'test ,deɪtə/ *noun* data with known results prepared to allow a new program to be tested

**test equipment** /'test ɪ,kwɪpmənt/ *noun* special equipment which tests hardware or software

**text** /tekst/ *noun* a set of alphanumeric characters that convey information

**text-editing facilities** /'tekst ,edɪtɪŋ fə ,sɪltɪz/ *plural noun* a word-processing system which allows the user to add, delete, move, insert and correct sections of text

**text editor** /'tekst ,edɪtə/ *noun* same as **screen editor**

**text file** /'tekst faɪl/ *noun* a file that contains text rather than digits or data

**text message** /'tekst ,mesɪdʒ/ *noun* a message sent in the form of text, especially one that appears on the viewing screen of a mobile phone or pager

**text processing** /'tekst ,prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* the use of a computer to create, store, edit and print or display text

**text retrieval** /'tekst rɪ,tri:v(ə)l/ *noun* an information retrieval system that allows the user to examine complete documents rather than just a reference to a document

**textual** /'tekstʃuəl/ *adjective* referring to text ○ *The editors made several textual changes before the proofs were sent back for correction.*

**texture mapping** /'tekstʃə ,mæpɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** a special computer graphics effect using algorithms to produce an image that looks like the surface of something such as marble, brick, stone or water **2.** the process of covering one image with another to give the first a texture

**text window** /'tekst ,wɪndəʊ/ *noun* a window in a graphics system, where the text is held in a small space on the screen before being allocated to a final area

**TFT** *adjective* a technology used in high-resolution LCD flat-panel screens, in which each pixel is controlled by one or more transistors. Full form **thin film transistor**

**TFT display** *noun* a computer display that uses TFT technology. Also called **active matrix display**

**TFTP** /,ti: ef ti: 'pi:/ *noun* a simple form of the standard FTP (file transfer protocol) system, commonly used to load the operating system software onto a diskless workstation from a server when the workstation boots up when it is switched on. Full form **trivial file transfer protocol.** ♢ **FTP**

**TFT screen** /,ti: ef ti: ,skri:n/ *noun* same as **TFT display**

**thaw** /θə:/ *noun* a special effect in which action starts again after a freeze frame effect, especially in a videowall presentation (*film*)

**thermal** /'θɜ:m(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to heat

**thermal printing** /,θɜ:m(ə)l 'prɪntɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** a printing system which has a print

head with a number of quick-heating elements which work with heat-sensitive paper, or with ordinary paper when using a special ribbon **2**. an imaging system which uses enclosed bubbles in an emulsion

**thermal transfer** /θɜ:m(ə)l træns'fɜ:z/, **thermal wax** /θɜ:m(ə)l wæks/, **thermal wax transfer printer** /θɜ:m(ə)l wæks ,trænsfɜ: 'prɪntə/ *noun* a method of printing where the colours are produced by melting coloured wax onto the paper ○ *Thermal wax transfer technology still provides the best colour representation on paper for PC output.*

**thermistor** /θɜ:'mɪstə/ *noun* an electronic device whose resistance changes with temperature

**thermo-sensitive** /θɜ:məʊ 'sensɪtv/ *adjective* which is sensitive to heat

**thesaurus** /θɪ'sɔ:rəs/ *noun* a file which contains synonyms that are displayed as alternatives to a misspelt word during a spell-check

**thick-Ethernet** /θɪk 'i:θənet/ *noun* a network implemented using thick coaxial cable and transceivers to connect branch cables. †

**Ethernet, thin-Ethernet**

**thimble printer** /θɪmb(ə)l ,prɪntə/ *noun* a computer printer using a printing head similar to a daisy wheel but shaped like a thimble

**thin** /θɪn/ *adjective* with only a small distance between two surfaces

**thin-Ethernet** /θɪn 'i:θənet/ *noun* the most popular type of Ethernet network implemented using thin coaxial cable and BNC connectors. † **Ethernet, thick-Ethernet** (NOTE: It is limited to distances of around 1000 m)

**thin-film transistor** /θɪn fɪlm træn 'zɪstə/ *noun* full form of **TFT**

**32-bit** /θɜ:ti tu: ,bɪt/ *data* that is transferred thirty-two bits at a time along thirty-two parallel conductors; in a processor this refers to its ability to manipulate numbers that are thirty-two bits long

**thirty-two bit system** /θɜ:ti tu: ,bɪt 'sɪstəm/, **32-bit system** *noun* a microcomputer system or CPU that handles data in 32 bit words

**thrashing** /θræʃɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** excessive disk activity **2.** a configuration or program fault in a virtual memory system that results in a CPU wasting time moving pages of data between main memory and disk or backing store

**thread** /θred/ *noun* **1.** a program which consists of many independent smaller sections or beads **2.** the accurate positioning of film or tape in the path of a projector, or another film mechanism for take-up (NOTE:

'thread up' also used in the context of definition (ii))

'WigWam makes it easier for a user to follow a thread in a bulletin-board conference topic by ordering responses using a hierarchical indent similar to that found in outline processor.' [*Computing*]

**threaded file** /θredɪd 'faɪl/ *noun* a file in which an entry contains data and an address to the next entry that contains the same data, allowing rapid retrieval of all identical entries

**threaded language** /θredɪd 'læŋgɪdʒ/ *noun* a programming language which allows many small sections of code to be written then used by a main program

**threaded tree** /θredɪd 'tri:/ *noun* a structure in which each node contains a pointer to other nodes

**three-colour process** /θri: ,kʌlə 'prəʊses/ *noun* a process used to convert a colour image into three separate colours (red, blue and yellow)

**3D** /θri: 'di:/ *adjective* referring to an image which has three dimensions (width, breadth and depth), and therefore gives the impression of being solid. Full form **three-dimensional**

**three-dimensional** /θri: daɪ 'menʃ(ə)nəl/ *adjective* full form of **3D**

**three input adder** /θri: ,ɪnpʊt 'ædə/ *noun* † **full adder**

**threshold** /θreʃhəʊld/ *noun* a preset level which causes an action if a signal exceeds or drops below it

**threshold howl** /θreʃhəʊld haʊl/ *noun* acoustic feedback which is created by sound from the loudspeakers re-entering the microphone

**throughput** /θru: pʊt/ *noun* the rate of production by a machine or system, measured as total useful information processed in a set period of time ○ *For this machine throughput is 1.3 inches per second scanning speed.*

**through-the-lens focus** /θru: ðə ,lenz 'fəʊkəs/ *noun* a camera viewfinder which can focus through the camera lens without parallax

**thumbnail** /θʌm,neɪl/ *noun* a miniature graphical representation of an image, used as a quick and convenient method of viewing the contents of graphics or DTP files before they are retrieved

**TIFF** /tɪf/ *noun* standard file format used to store graphic images. Full form **tag image file format**

**tilde** /'tɪldə/ *noun* a printed accent ( ~ ), commonly used over the letter 'n' in Spanish, vowels in Portuguese, etc.

**tile** /taɪl/ *verb* (in a GUI) to arrange a group of windows so that they are displayed side by side without overlapping (NOTE: **tiles** – **tiling** – **tiled**)

**tilt** /tɪlt/ *verb* **1.** to sweep a video camera up and down. Compare **pan 2.** to alter the slope of the frequency response in a sound reproducer

**tilt and swivel** /ˈtɪlt ən ˈswɪv(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to a monitor which is mounted on a pivot so that it can be moved to point in the most convenient direction for the operator

**time** /taɪm/ *noun* a period expressed in hours, minutes, seconds and related units ■ *verb* to measure the time taken by an operation ○ *If you do not answer this question within one minute, the program times out and moves onto the next question.* (NOTE: **times** – **timing** – **timed**) □ **to time out** (of an event or option) to become no longer valid after a period of time ○ *If you do not answer this question within one minute, the program times out and moves onto the next question.*

**time bomb** /ˈtaɪm bɒm/ *noun* a computer virus that is designed to take effect on a particular date or when a computer application is used for a particular length of time

**time code** /ˈtaɪm kəʊd/ *noun* a sequence of timing information recorded on an audio track in a videotape

**time division multiplexing** /ˌtaɪm dɪ ˌvɪz(ə)n ˈmʌltɪpleksɪŋ/ *noun* full form of **TDM**

**time domain reflectometry** /ˌtaɪm dəʊ ˌmeɪn ˌrɪːflekˈtɒmətri/ *noun* full form of **TDR**

**time of peak demand** /ˌtaɪm əv ˌpiːk dɪ ˈmɑːnd/ *noun* the time when something is being used most

**time out** /ˌtaɪm ˈaʊt/ *verb* (of an event or option) to become no longer valid after a period of time ○ *If you do not answer this question within one minute, the program times out and moves onto the next question.*

**timeout** /ˈtaɪmaʊt/ *noun* **1.** a logoff procedure carried out if no data is entered on an on-line terminal **2.** a period of time reserved for an operation

**timer** /ˈtaɪmə/ *noun* a device which records the time taken for an operation to be completed

**time-sharing** /ˈtaɪm ˌʃeərɪŋ/ *noun* an arrangement which allows several independent users to use a computer system or be online at the same time

COMMENT: In time-sharing, each user appears to be using the computer all the time, when in fact each is using the CPU for a short time slice only. The CPU processes

one user for a short time then moves on to the next.

**time slice** /ˈtaɪm slɑɪs/ *noun* the amount of time allowed for a single task in a time-sharing system or in multiprogramming

**tiny model** /ˌtaɪni ˈmɒd(ə)l/ *noun* a memory model of the Intel 80x86 processor family that allows a combined total of 64 Kb for data and code

**title** /ˈtaɪt(ə)l/ *noun* an identification name given to a file or program or disk

**title bar** /ˈtaɪt(ə)l bɑː/ *noun* a horizontal bar at the top of a window which displays the title of the window or application

**T junction** /ˌtiː ˈdʒʌŋkʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a connection at right angles to a cable carrying the main signal or power

**TK** *abbr* telecine

**TMP** *noun* the high-speed duplication of a videotape from a master tape. Full form **thermal magnetic duplication**

**TMSF time format** /ˌtiː em es ef ˈtaɪm ˌfɔːmæt/ *noun* a time format used mainly by audio CD devices to measure time in frames and tracks. Full form **tracks, minutes, seconds, frames time format**

**T network** /ˌtiː ˌnetwɜːk/ *noun* a simple circuit network with three electronic components connected in the shape of a letter T

**T-number** /ˌtiː ˌnʌmbə/ *noun* ▶ **T-stop**

**toggle** /ˈtɒɡ(ə)l/ *verb* to switch something between two states (NOTE: **toggles** – **toggling** – **toggled**)

**token** /ˈtəʊkən/ *noun* **1.** an internal code which replaces a reserved word or program statement in a high-level language **2.** (in a local area network) a control packet which is passed between workstations to control access to the network

**token bus network** /ˌtəʊkən ˈbʌs ˌnetwɜːk/ *noun* an IEEE 802.4 standard for a local area network formed with a bus-topology cable, in which workstations transfer data by passing a token

**token-passing** /ˈtəʊkən ˌpɑːsɪŋ/ *noun* a method of controlling access to a local area network by using a token (NOTE: A workstation cannot transmit data until it receives the token.)

**Token Ring network** /ˈtəʊkən rɪŋ ˌnetwɜːk/ *noun* an IEEE 802.5 standard that uses a token passed from one workstation to the next in a ring network ○ *Token Ring networks are very democratic and retain performance against increasing load.* (NOTE: A workstation can only transmit data if it captures the token. Token Ring networks, although logically rings, are often physically wired in a star topology.)

**tone** /təʊn/ *noun* **1.** sound at one single frequency **2.** a shade of a colour ○ *The graphics package can give several tones of blue.*

**tone dialling** /'təʊn ,daɪəlɪŋ/ *noun* a method of dialling a telephone number using sounds to represent the digits of the number (NOTE: This method of dialling is the current standard method of dialling numbers and has generally replaced the older pulse dialling system. A Hayes-compatible modem can dial the number '123' using tone dialling with the AT command 'ATDT123' or using pulse dialling with the AT command 'ATDP123')

**toner** /'təʊnə/ *noun* a finely powdered ink, usually black, that is used in laser printers ○ *If you get toner on your hands, you can only wash it off with cold water.* (NOTE: The toner is transferred onto the paper by electrical charge, then fixed permanently to the paper by heating.)

**tone signalling** /'təʊn ,sɪŋn(ə)lɪŋ/ *noun* tones used in a telephone network to convey control or address signals

**tool** /tuːl/ *noun* (in a graphical front end) a function accessed from an icon in a toolbar, e.g. a circle-draw option

**toolbar** /'tuːlbɑː/ *noun* a window that contains a range of icons that access tools

**Toolbook** /'tuːlbʊk/ *noun* a multimedia authoring tool developed by Asymetrix which uses the OpenScript script language to control objects and actions

**toolbox** /'tuːlbɒks/ *noun* a set of predefined routines or functions that are used when writing a program

**Toolbox** /'tuːlbɒks/ *noun* (in an Apple Mac) a set of utility programs stored in ROM to provide graphic functions

**toolkit** /'tuːlkit/ *noun* a series of functions which help a programmer to write or debug programs

**tools** /tuːlz/ *noun* a set of utility programs such as backup and format in a computer system

**top** /tɒp/ *noun* a part which is the highest point of something

**top-level domain** /,tɒp ,lev(ə)l dəʊ 'meɪn/ *noun* the part of an Internet address that identifies an Internet domain, e.g. a two-letter country code or a three-letter code such as .edu for education or .com for commercial when used without a country code.

**topology** /tɒ'pɒlədʒi/ *noun* a way in which the various elements in a network are interconnected (NOTE: The plural is **topologies**.)

**total access communication system** /,təʊt(ə)l ,æksəs kə'mjuːnɪ,keɪʃ(ə)n 'sɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **TACS**

**touch** /tʌtʃ/ *verb* to make contact with something with the fingers

**touch pad** /'tʌtʃ pæd/ *noun* a flat device which can sense where on its surface and when it is touched, used to control a cursor position or switch a device on or off

**touch screen** /'tʌtʃ skriːn/ *noun* a computer display which has a grid of infrared transmitters and receivers, positioned on either side of the screen used to control a cursor position (NOTE: When a user wants to make a selection or move the cursor, he or she points to the screen, breaking two of the beams, which gives the position of the pointing finger.)

**touch up** /,tʌtʃ 'ʌp/ *verb* to remove scratches or other marks from a photograph or image

**TP** *abbr* **1.** teleprocessing **2.** transaction processing

**TPI** *abbr* tracks per inch

**trace** /treɪs/ *noun* **1.** a method of verifying that a program is functioning correctly, in which the current status and contents of the registers and variables used are displayed after each instruction step **2.** a cathode ray tube image which is produced by a flowing electronic stream **3.** a function that can take a bitmap image and process it to find the edges of the shapes and so convert these into a vector line image

**trace program** /'treɪs ,prəʊgræm/ *noun* a diagnostic program which executes a program that is being debugged, one instruction at a time, displaying the states and registers

**traceroute** /'treɪsrʊt/ *noun* a software utility that finds and displays the route taken for data travelling between a computer and a distant server on the Internet

COMMENT: The display shows the different servers that the data travels through, together with the time taken to travel between each server (called a hop). Traceroute works by sending out a time-to-live (TTL) query data packet to the distant server. It starts by sending out packets with a very low time-to-live, then gradually increases the length of time that the packet can survive until one is returned by the host – this then provides the shortest time it will take to reach the host. If you are trying to view a website you can use traceroute to check which section of the link to the website's server is the slowest. Windows includes a traceroute utility 'tracert'. Click the Start button and select the Run option then type in 'tracert' followed by the domain name of the distant web server, e.g. tracert 'www.bloomsbury.com'

**tracing** /'treɪsɪŋ/ *noun* a function of a graphics program that takes a bitmap image and processes it to find the edges of the

shapes and so convert these into a vector line image that can be more easily manipulated

**tracing function** /,treɪsɪŋ ˈfʌŋkʃən/ *noun* the function of a graphics program that takes a bitmap image and processes it to find the edges of the shapes and so convert these into a vector line image that can be more easily manipulated

**track** /træk/ *noun* **1.** any one of a series of thin concentric rings on a magnetic disk which the read/write head accesses and along which the data is stored in separate sectors **2.** a song **3.** a method of separating the notes within a tune either by channel or by part or instrument **4.** a series of instructions that define how an object moves with time ■ *verb* **1.** to follow a path or track correctly ○ *The read head is not tracking the recorded track correctly.* **2.** to move a camera and its mount towards or away from the action, or to follow a moving subject

COMMENT: The first track on a tape is along the edge and the tape may have up to nine different tracks on it, while a disk has many concentric tracks around the central hub. The track and sector addresses are set up during formatting.

**trackball** /ˈtrækboʊl/ *noun* a device used to move a cursor on-screen which is controlled by turning a ball contained in a case

**tracking** /ˈtrækɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the correct alignment of a read head and the tape in a tape player **2.** degradation of a video clip because the action moves too fast to be accurately captured by the camera

**tracks per inch** /,træks pɜːr ˈɪntʃ/ *noun* a measure of the number of concentric data tracks on a disk surface per inch. Abbr **TPI**

**tractor feed** /ˈtræktə fiːd/ *noun* a method of feeding paper into a printer, in which sprocket wheels on the printer connect with the sprocket holes on either edge of the paper to pull the paper through

**traffic** /ˈtræfɪk/ *noun* the totality of messages and other signals processed by a system or carried by a communications link ○ *Our Ethernet network begins to slow down if the traffic reaches 60 per cent of the bandwidth.*

**trail** /treɪl/ *noun* a line or route followed by something

**trailer** /ˈtreɪlə/ *noun* **1.** the final byte of a file containing control or file characteristics **2.** a brief film which advertises a motion picture that is about to be released **3.** a leader or piece of non magnetic tape to the start of a reel of magnetic tape to make loading easier

**transaction** /trænˈzækʃən/ *noun* a single action which affects a database, e.g. a sale, a change of address or a new customer

**transaction processing** /trænˈzækʃən ˌprəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* interactive processing in which a user enters commands and data on a terminal which is linked to a central computer, with results being displayed on-screen. Abbr **TP**

‘At present, users implementing client-server strategies are focusing on decision support systems before implementing online transaction processing and other mission-critical applications.’ [Computing]

**transborder data flow** /,trænzboʊːdə ˈdeɪtə ˌfləʊ/ *noun* the passing of data from one country to another using communications links such as satellites or land lines

**transceiver** /trænˈsiːvə/ *noun* a transmitter and receiver, or a device which can both transmit and receive signals, e.g. a terminal or modem

**transcoder** /trænsˈkəʊdə/ *noun* an electronic device used to convert television signal standards ○ *Use the transcoder to convert PAL to SECAM.*

**transcribe** /trænˈskraɪb/ *verb* to copy data from one backing storage unit or medium to another (NOTE: **transcribes** – **transcribing** – **transcribed**)

**transcription** /trænˈskrɪpʃən/ *noun* the action of transcribing data

**transducer** /trænzˈdjuːsə/ *noun* an electronic device which converts signals in one form into signals in another ○ *the pressure transducer converts physical pressure signals into electrical signals*

**transfer** /ˈtrænsfɜː/ *verb* **1.** to change command or control of something ○ *All processing activities have been transferred to the mainframe.* **2.** to copy a section of memory to another location (NOTE: **transferring** – **transferred**) ■ *noun* the process of changing command or control

**transfer rate** /ˈtrænsfɜː reɪt/ *noun* the speed at which data is transferred from backing store to main memory or from one device to another ○ *With a good telephone line, this pair of modems can achieve a transfer rate of 14.4Kbps.*

**transform** /trænsˈfɔːm/ *verb* to change something from one state to another

**transformation** /,trænsfəˈmeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the action of changing, or changing something, from one state to another

**transformational rules** /trænzfəˈmeɪʃ(ə)n(ə)l ruːlz/ *noun* a set of rules applied to data which is to be transformed into coded form

**transformer** /trænsˈfɔːmə/ *noun* a device which changes the voltage or current amplitude of an AC signal

**transient** /'trænzɪənt/ *adjective* referring to a state or signal which is present for a short period of time

**transistor** /træn'zɪstə/ *noun* an electronic semiconductor device which can control the current flow in a circuit (NOTE: There are two main types of transistor, bipolar and unipolar.)

**transition** /træn'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a short period of time between two events **2.** the period between two frames in a slide show or animation. The user can normally define how one frame changes to the next.

**translate** /træns'leɪt/ *verb* **1.** to convert data from one form into another (NOTE: **translates – translating – translated**) **2.** to move an image on screen without rotating it (*graphics*)

**translation tables** /træns'leɪʃ(ə)n ,teɪb(ə)lz/ *plural noun* same as **conversion tables**

**translator** /træns'leɪtə/, **translator program** /træns'leɪtə ,prəʊgræm/ *noun* a program which translates a high level language program into another language, usually machine code. † **interpreter, compiler**

**translucent** /træns'lu:s(ə)nt/ *adjective* material which allows light to pass through

**transmission** /trænz'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of sending signals from one device to another

**transmission channel** /trænz'mɪʃ(ə)n ,tʃæn(ə)l/ *noun* a physical connection between two points which allows data to be transmitted, e.g. a link between a CPU and a peripheral

**transmission control protocol** /trænz ,mɪʃ(ə)n kən'trəʊl ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **TCP**

**transmission control protocol/interface program** /trænz ,mɪʃ(ə)n kən'trəʊl ,prəʊtəkɒl ,ɪntəfeɪs ,prəʊgræm/ *noun* full form of **TCP/IP**

**transmissive disk** /trænz'mɪsɪv dɪsk/ *noun* an optical data storage disk in which the reading laser beam shines through the disk to a detector below

**transmit** /trænz'mɪt/ *verb* to send information from one device to another, using any medium such as radio, cable or wire link (NOTE: **transmitting – transmitted**)

**transmittance** /trænz'mɪtəns/ *noun* the amount of light transmitted through a material in ratio to the total light incident on the surface of the material

**transmitter** /trænz'mɪtə/ *noun* a device which will take an input signal, process it, e.g. to modulate or convert it to sound, then

transmit it by a medium such as radio or light. Abbr **TX**

**transparency** /træns'pærənsi/ *noun* **1.** transparent positive film, which can be projected onto a screen or to make film for printing **2.** the amount one image shows of another image beneath it

**transparent** /træns'pærənt/ *adjective* **1.** referring to an image that shows another image beneath it **2.** referring to a computer program which is not obvious to the user or which cannot be seen by the user when it is running ■ *noun* a device or network that allows signals to pass through it without being altered in any way

**transparent GIF** /træns'pærənt ,dʒɪ: aɪ 'ef/ *noun* a graphic image stored in the GIF file format with one colour from the palette assigned as a transparent colour (NOTE: When the image is displayed, any part of the image in this colour will be transparent to allow any image beneath to show through. This feature is used a lot in webpages to place images on a patterned background.)

**transphaser** /trænz'feɪzə/ *noun* an optical transistor constructed from a crystal which is able to switch a main beam of light according to a smaller input signal

COMMENT: This is used in the latest research for an optical computer that could run at the speed of light.

**transponder** /træn'spɒndə/ *noun* a communications device that receives and retransmits signals

**transport** /træns'pɔ:t/ *verb* to carry something from one place to another, often in a vehicle

**transportable** /træns'pɔ:təb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be carried, though perhaps requiring a vehicle ○ *A transportable computer is not as small as a portable or a laptop.*

**transposition** /,træns'pɔ:zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of changing the order of a series of characters (as 'compu<sup>t</sup>ter' for 'computer' or '1898' for '1988') ○ *A series of transposition errors caused faulty results.*

**transverse mode noise** /,trænz'vɜ:s məʊd nɔɪz/ *noun* interference which is apparent between power supply lines

**trap** /træp/ *noun* a device or piece of software or hardware that will catch something such as a variable, fault or value

**trapezium distortion** /trə'pi:ziəm dɪ 'stɔ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* in a visual or video system, image distortion which produces a rectangular shape

**trapezoidal distortion** /,træpɪzɔɪdəl dɪs'tɔ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* same as **keystone distortion**

**trashcan** /'træʃkæn/ *noun* (in a GUI) an icon which looks like a dustbin that deletes any file that is dragged onto it

**tree of folders** /,tri: əv 'fəʊldəz/ *noun* a view of all the folders stored on a disk arranged to show folders and subfolders

**tremendously high frequency** /trɪ ,mɛndəsli haɪ 'fri:kwənsi/ *noun* the radio frequency between 300GHz and 3000GHz. Abbr **THF**

**triad** /'traɪæd/ *noun* a triangular shaped grouping of the red, green and blue colour phosphor spots at each pixel location on the screen of a colour RGB monitor

**trial** /'traɪəl/ *noun* a test for new equipment to see if it works

**trials engineer** /'traɪəlz ,ɛndʒɪnɪə/ *noun* a person who designs, runs and analyses trials of new equipment

**triangle** /'traɪæŋɡəl/ *noun* a spreader with three sides for tripod legs (*film*)

**triax** /'traɪæks/ *noun* a coaxial cable with an additional screen which conveys power and coded commands to a television camera, and also receives the video signal from the camera (*film*) ○ *Triax is used when the camera is far away from the control unit.*

**tributary station** /,trɪbjʊt(ə)ri 'steɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* any station on a multilink network other than the main control station

**trim** /trɪm/ *verb* to cut off the edge of something ○ *The printed pages are trimmed to 198 x 129mm.* ○ *You will need to trim the top part of the photograph to make it fit.*

**triniscop** /'trɪnɪskəʊp/ *noun* a colour video display system which uses three different cathode ray tubes to produce the red, green and blue images

**Trinitron™** /'trɪnɪtrɒn/ *noun* a colour television cathode ray tube which uses striped phosphors and aperture grille

**triple standard** /,trɪp(ə)l 'stændəd/ *noun* a video tape recorder, television monitor or other apparatus which can receive NTSC, PAL or SECAM standard video signals

**trivial file transfer protocol** /,trɪvɪəl 'faɪl ,trænsfɜ: ,prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **TFTP**

**TRL** *abbr* transistor-resistor logic

**Trojan Horse** /'trɒdʒ(ə)n hɔ:s/ *noun* a program inserted into a system by a hacker that will perform a harmless function while copying information held in a classified file into a file with a low priority, which the hacker can then access without the authorised user's knowledge

**troposphere** /'trɒpəsfiə/ *noun* a region of space extending up to six miles above the

earth's surface, causing radio wave scatter. ○ **ionosphere**

**troubleshoot** /'trʌb(ə)lʃu:t/ *verb* **1.** to debug computer software **2.** to locate and repair faults in hardware

**troubleshooter** /'trʌb(ə)lʃu:tə/ *noun* a person who troubleshoots hardware or software (NOTE: **troubleshoot**)

**trough** /trɒf/ *noun* the lowest point in a waveform. Compare **peak**

**true** /tru:/ *adjective* referring to a logical condition representing a non-zero value

**TrueType** /'tru:tʌɪp/ a trade name for an outline font technology introduced by Apple and Microsoft as a means of printing exactly what is displayed on screen

**truncate** /trʌŋ'keɪt/ *verb* **1.** to cut something short **2.** to give an approximate value to a number by reducing it to a certain number of digits ○ *3.5678 truncated to 3.56* (NOTE: **truncates – truncating – truncated**)

**truncation** /trʌŋ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* removal of digits from a number so that it is a particular length

**trunk** /trʌŋk/ *noun* a bus or communication link consisting of wires or leads which connect different parts of a hardware system

**trunk call** /'trʌŋk kɔ:l/ *noun* a long-distance telephone call

**trunk exchange** /'trʌŋk ɪks,tʃeɪndʒ/ *noun* a telephone exchange that only handles trunk calls

**truth table** /'tru:θ ,teɪb(ə)l/ *noun* a method of defining a logic function as the output state for all possible inputs

**Tseng Labs** /'seŋ læbz/ a manufacturer of chipsets used in graphics adapters

**TSR** *abbr* terminate and stay resident

**T-stop** /'ti: stɒp/ *noun* a lens setting which shows the actual light transmission through the lens after being absorbed and reflected (*film*)

**TSW** *abbr* telesoftware

**TTL** /ti: ti: 'el/ *noun* the most common family of logic gates and high-speed transistor circuit designs in which the bipolar transistors are directly connected, usually collector to base. Full form **transistor-transistor logic**

**tune** /tju:n/ *verb* **1.** to set a system at its optimum point by careful adjustment (NOTE: **tunes – tuning – tuned**) **2.** to adjust a transmitter to the correct frequency **3.** to adjust a radio receiver's frequency until the required station is received clearly

**tuner** /'tju:nə/ *noun* an electronic circuit that detects a transmitted television carrier signal at a particular frequency and removes

the audio or video information to display on a CRT

**tunnelling** /ˈtʌn(ə)lɪŋ/ *noun* a method of enclosing a packet of data from one type of network within another packet so that it can be sent over a different, incompatible network

**Turing machine** /ˈtʃʊrɪŋ məˈʃiːn/ *noun* a mathematical model of a device which could read and write data to a controllable tape storage while altering its internal states

**Turing test** /ˈtʃʊrɪŋ test/ *noun* a test to decide if a computer is 'intelligent'

**turn** /tɜːn/ *verb* ○ *Turn off the power before unplugging the monitor.* □ **turn off** to switch off or disconnect the power supply to a machine ○ *Turn off the power before unplugging the monitor.* □ **turn on** to switch on or connect the power supply to a machine ○ *Turn on the computer and get to work.*

**turnaround document** /ˈtɜːnəraʊnd ˌdɒkjʊmənt/ *noun* a document which is printed out from a computer, sent to a user and returned by the user with new notes or information written on it, which can be read by a document reader

**turnaround time** /ˈtɜːnəraʊnd ˌtaɪm/ *noun* **1.** the length of time it takes to switch data flow direction in a half duplex system **2.** the time taken to activate a program and produce the result which the user has asked for ► abbr **TAT**

**turnkey system** /ˈtɜːnkiː ˌsɪstəm/ *noun* a complete system which is designed to a customer's needs and is ready to use (NOTE: To operate it, the user only has to switch it on or turn a key.)

**turn off** /ˌtɜːn ˈɒf/ *verb* to switch off or to disconnect the power supply to a machine ○ *Turn off the power before unplugging the monitor.*

**turn on** /ˌtɜːn ˈɒn/ *verb* to switch on or to connect the power supply to a machine

**turtle** /ˈtɜːt(ə)l/ *noun* a device whose movements and position are controllable, used to draw graphics with instructions in the computer language LOGO (NOTE: It is either a device which works on a flat surface (floor turtle) or one which draws on a VDU screen (screen turtle), and is often used as a teaching aid.)

**turtle graphics** /ˈtɜːt(ə)l ɡræfɪks/ *plural noun* graphic images created using a turtle and a series of commands ○ *The charts were prepared using turtle graphics.*

**TV** /ˌtiː ˈviː/ *abbr* television

**TV-out** /ˌtiː ˈviː aʊt/ *noun* a connector on a computer or graphics adapter that provides a modulated signal that can be displayed on a

standard television or recorded on a video recorder

**TVRO** *noun* equipment for reception and display without transmission. Full form **television receive only**

**TWAIN** /ˈtweɪn/ *noun* an application programming interface standard developed by Hewlett-Packard, Logitech, Eastman Kodak, Aldus, and Caere that allows software to control image hardware

**tweak** /twiːk/ *verb* to make small adjustments to a program or hardware to improve performance

**tweening** /ˈtwiːnɪŋ/ *noun* (in computer graphics) the process of calculating the intermediate images that lead from a starting image to a different finished image ○ *Using tweening, we can show how a frog turns into a princess in five steps.*

**tweeter** /ˈtwiːtə/ *noun* a small loudspeaker used for high frequency sounds only (informal) Compare **woofer**

**24/96** /ˌtwenti ˌfɔː ˌnaɪnti ˈsɪks/ a popular standard for high-performance digital audio equipment that provides 24-bit samples and a sample rate of 96KHz

**24-bit sample** /ˌtwenti ˌfɔː bɪt ˈsɑːmp(ə)l/ *noun* a single sample of an analogue signal which is stored as three bytes (a 24-bit digital number), meaning that there are 16,777,216 possible levels. ◊ **8-bit sample**, **16-bit sample**

**twisted-pair cable** /ˌtwɪstɪd peə ˈkeɪb(ə)l/ *noun* a cable which consists of two insulated copper wires twisted around each other, to reduce induction and so interference

COMMENT: The EIA specifies five levels of cable for different purposes. The Category 1 standard defines an older-style unshielded twisted-pair cable that is formed by loosely twisting two insulated wires together to reduce noise and interference; this type of cable is not suitable for data transmission. The Category 2 (part of the EIA/TIA 568 specification) standard defines a type of unshielded twisted-pair cable that can be used to transmit data at rates up to 4MHz. The Category 3 (part of the EIA/TIA 568 specification) standard defines a type of unshielded twisted-pair cable that can be used to transmit data at rates up to 10MHz; this type of cable is the minimum standard of cable required for a 10BaseT network. The standard suggests that the cable should have three twists per foot of cable. The Category 4 (part of the EIA/TIA 568 specification) standard defines a type of unshielded twisted-pair cable that is the minimum standard of cable required for data transmission rates up to 16Mbs on a Token Ring network. The Category 5 (part of the EIA/TIA 568 specification) standard defines a type of cable that

can carry data transmitted at up to 100MHz and is suitable for FDDI over copper wire, 100BaseT or other high-speed networks.

**twisted-pair Ethernet** /,twɪstɪd peə 'i:θənet/ *noun* a star-topology network that uses twisted-pair cable and transmits data at 10 Mbps;. Also called **10BaseT**

**twitter** /'twɪtə/ *noun* video picture distortion which produces a flicker at the horizontal edges of objects

**2D** /,tu: 'di:/ an object in a graphic image that has only the appearance of width and height, not depth, so does not look like a solid object

**two-dimensional** /,tu: dai'menʃən(ə)l/ *adjective* which has two dimensions, i.e. flat, with no depth

**two-part** /,tu:'pɑ:t/ *adjective* referring to paper with a top sheet for the original and a second sheet for a copy ○ *two-part invoices*

**two-way cable** /,tu: wei 'keɪb(ə)l/ *noun* US a system of cable TV, where the viewer can take which programmes he wants by selecting them or where the viewer can respond to broadcast questions by sending his response down the cable

**two-way radio** /,tu: wei 'reɪdiəʊ/ *noun* a radio transmitted and receiver in a single housing, allowing duplex communication with another user

**two-wire circuit** /,tu: waɪə 'sɜ:kɪt/ *noun* two insulated wires used to carry transmitted and received messages independently

**TX** *abbr* transmitter

**type** /taɪp/ *noun **1.** a sort or category of something **2.** printed characters on a page ○ *they switched to italic type for the heading* **3.** the definition of the processes or sorts of data which a variable in a computer can contain **4.** same as **font** **5.** a metal bars with a raised character used for printing ■ *verb* to enter information via a keyboard ○ *I typed in the command again, but it still didn't work.* (NOTE: **types** – **typing** – **typed**)*

**typeface** /'taɪpfeɪs/ *noun* a set of characters in a particular design and particular weight ○ *Most of this book is set in the Times typeface.*

**typescript** /'taɪpskrɪpt/ *noun* a copy of a text written by an author on a typewriter

**typeset** /'taɪpset/ *verb* to set text in type for printing ○ *In desktop publishing, the finished work should look almost as if it had been typeset.*

**typesetter** /'taɪpsetə/ *noun* **1.** a machine which produces very high-quality text output using a laser to create an image on photosensitive paper, usually at a resolution of 1275 or 2450 dpi **2.** a person who typesets ○ *the text is ready to be sent to the typesetter*

**typesetting** /'taɪpsetɪŋ/ *noun* the action of setting text in type ○ *Typesetting costs can be reduced by supplying the typesetter with prekeyed disks.* ♪ **phototypesetting**

**type size** /'taɪp saɪz/ *noun* the size of a font, measured in points

**type style** /'taɪp staɪl/ *noun* the weight and angle of a font, e.g. bold or italic

**typewriter** /'taɪpraɪtə/ *noun* a machine which prints letters or figures on a piece of paper when a key is pressed by striking an inked ribbon onto the paper with a character type

**typewriter faces** /'taɪpraɪtə ,feɪsɪz/ *plural noun* the spacing, size and font of characters available on a typewriter

**typewritten** /'taɪprɪt(ə)n/ *adjective* written on a typewriter ○ *He sent in a typewritten job application.*

**typing** /'taɪpɪŋ/ *noun* the process of writing letters with a typewriter (NOTE: no plural)

**typing error** /'taɪpɪŋ ,erə/ *noun* a mistake made when using a typewriter

**typo** /'taɪpəʊ/ *noun* a typographical error which is made while typesetting (*informal*)

**typographer** /taɪ'pɒgrəfə/ *noun* a person who designs a section of art or text to be printed

**typographic** /,taɪpə'græfɪk/, **typographical** /,taɪpə'græfɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to typography or to typesetting ○ *No typographical skills are required for this job.* ○ *A typographical error made while typesetting is called a 'typo'.*

**typography** /taɪ'pɒgrəfi/ *noun* the art and methods used in working with type

# U

**UART** /'ju:ɑ:t/ *noun* a chip which converts asynchronous serial bit streams to a parallel form or parallel data to a serial bit stream. Full form **universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter**

**U-format cassette** /ju: ,fɔ:mæt kə'set/ *noun* a standard size videocassette which uses a three-quarter inch tape for use with the U-Matic system

**UHF** /,ju: ɛtʃ 'ef/ *noun* a range of frequencies normally used to transmit television signals. Full form **ultra high frequency**

**ULA** /,ju: el 'ei/ *noun* a chip containing a number of unconnected logic circuits and gates which can then be connected by a customer to provide a required function. Full form **uncommitted logic array**

**Ultimedia** /,ɪlti'midiə/ a trade name for a multimedia concept developed by IBM that combines sound, video, images and text, and defines the hardware required to run it

**ultra-** /ɪltrə/ *prefix* **1.** very large **2.** further than

**Ultra ATA** /,ɪltrə ɛɪ ti: 'ei/ *noun* a version of the AT Attachment hard disk drive interface standard that can support a data transfer rate of up to 33 MBps (NOTE: To manage this high-speed data transfer from the hard disk interface to the rest of your PC, it needs to have a high-speed version of DMA)

**ultra high frequency** /,ɪltrə haɪ 'fri:kwənsi/ *noun* full form of **UHF**

**ultrasonic** /,ɪltrə'sɒnik/ *adjective* (sound pressure waves) at a frequency above the audio band (above 20kHz)

**U-Matic** /ju: 'mætɪk/ *noun* a video tape format, 3/4-inch wide, used for professional video recording

**U-Matic SP** *noun* an enhanced format of the U-Matic tape standard that offers better quality

**UMTS** /,ju: ɛm ti: 'es/ *noun* a third generation mobile communication system that supports voice data, and video signals to the handset. Full form **universal mobile telecommunications system**

**un-** /ʌn/ *prefix* meaning not ○ *the use of a password is to prevent unauthorised access to the data*

**unallowable digit** /ʌnə,laʊəb(ə)l 'dɪdʒɪt/ *noun* an illegal combination of bits in a word, according to predefined rules

**unary operation** /,ju:nəri ,ɒpə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a computing operation on only one operand, e.g. the logical NOT operation

**unattended operation** /,ʌnətendɪd ,ɒpə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an operation that can proceed without the need for a person to supervise

**unauthorised** /ʌn'ɔ:θəraɪzd/, **unauthorised** *adjective* which has not been authorised ○ *The use of a password is to prevent unauthorised access to the data.*

**unbundled software** /ʌn,bʌnd(ə)ld 'sɒftweə/ *noun* software which is not included in the price of the equipment

**unlocked** /ʌn'klɒkd/ *adjective* referring to an electronic circuit or flip-flop which changes state as soon as an input changes, not with a clock signal

**uncommitted logic array** /,ʌnkəmitɪd 'lɒdʒɪk ə,rei/ *noun* full form of **ULA**

**unconditional** /,ʌnkən'dɪʃ(ə)nəl/ *adjective* which does not depend on any condition being met

**undelete** /'ʌndɪti:t/ *verb* to restore deleted information or a deleted file ○ *Don't worry, this function will undelete your cuts to the letter.* (NOTE: **undeletes** – **undeleting** – **undeleted**)

**underflow** /'ʌndəfləʊ/ *noun* the result of a numerical operation that is too small to be represented with the given accuracy of a computer

**underline** /'ʌndəlaɪn/ *noun* a line drawn or printed under a piece of text. Also called **underscore** ■ *verb* to print or write a line under a piece of text (NOTE: **underlines** – **underlining** – **underlined**)

**underscore** /'ʌndəskɔ:/ *verb* same as **underline** (NOTE: **underscores** – **underscoring** – **underscored**)

**undertake** /,ʌndə'teɪk/ *verb* to agree to do something ○ *He has undertaken to reprogram the whole system.* (NOTE: **undertakes** – **undertaking** – **undertook** – **undertaken**)

**undetected** /,ʌndɪ'tektɪd/ *adjective* which has not been detected ○ *The programming error remained undetected for some time.*

**undetected error** /,ʌndɪtektɪd 'erə/ *noun* an error which is not detected by a coding system

**undo** /ʌn'du:/ *verb* to reverse the previous action, normally an editing command ○ *You've just deleted the paragraph, but you can undo it from the option in the Edit menu.* (NOTE: **undoes** – **undoing** – **undid**)

**unedited** /ʌn'edɪtɪd/ *adjective* which has not been edited

**unformatted** /ʌn'fɔ:mætɪd/ *adjective* **1.** referring to a text file which contains no formatting commands, margins or typographical commands ○ *It is impossible to copy to an unformatted disk.* **2.** referring to a disk which has not been formatted ○ *The cartridge drive provides 12.7Mbyte of unformatted storage.*

**ungroup** /ʌn'gru:p/ *verb* to convert a single complex object back into a series of separate objects

**uni-** /ju:ni/ *prefix* one or single

**unidirectional microphone** /ju:nɪdaɪrɛkʃən(ə)l 'mɪkrəfəʊn/ *noun* a microphone that is most sensitive in one direction only. Compare **omnidirectional**

**uniform resource locator** /ju:nɪfɔ:m rɪ'zɔ:s ləʊ,keɪtə/ *noun* full form of **URL**

**uninstall** /,ʌnɪn'stɔ:l/ *verb* to remove a piece of software from a computer

**uninterruptible power supply** /,ʌnɪntɜ:ptɪb(ə)l 'paʊə sə,plai/ *noun* full form of **UPS**

**unipolar** /ju:ni'pəʊlə/ *adjective* **1.** (referring to a transistor) which can act as a variable current flow control (NOTE: An external signal varies the resistance of the device.) **2.** referring to a transmission system in which a positive voltage pulse and zero volts represents the binary bits 1 and 0

**unique** /ju:ni:k/ *adjective* which is different from everything else ○ *Each separate memory byte has its own unique address.*

**unique identifier** /ju:ni:k aɪ'dentɪfaɪə/ *noun* a set of characters used to distinguish between different resources in a multimedia book

**unit** /'ju:ni:t/ *noun* **1.** the smallest element **2.** a single machine, possibly with many different parts

**universal** /,ju:nɪvɜ:s(ə)l/ *adjective* which applies everywhere or which can be used everywhere or used for a number of tasks

**universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter** /,ju:nɪvɜ:səl ,eɪsɪŋkrənəs rɪ,sɪ:və træn'zɪmɪtə/ *noun* full form of **UART**

**universal mobile telecommunications system** /,ju:nɪvɜ:s(ə)l ,məʊbaɪl ,telɪkəmju:nɪ'keɪʃ(ə)nz ,sɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **UMTS**

**universal product code** /,ju:nɪvɜ:s(ə)l 'prɒdʌkt ,kəʊd/ *noun* a standard printed bar coding system used to identify products in a shop using a bar code reader or at a EPOS. Abbr **UPC**

**universal resource locator** /,ju:nɪvɜ:s(ə)l rɪ'zɔ:s ləʊ,keɪtə/ *noun* full form of **URL**

**universal serial bus** /,ju:nɪvɜ:s(ə)l 'sɪəriəl ,bʌs/ *noun* full form of **USB**

**universal synchronous asynchronous receiver/transmitter** /,ju:nɪvɜ:səl ,sɪŋkrənəs ,eɪsɪŋkrənəs rɪ ,sɪ:və træn'zɪmɪtə/ *noun* full form of **USART**

**UNIX** /'ju:nɪks/ *noun* a popular multiuser, multitasking operating system developed by AT&T Bell Laboratories to run on almost any computer, from PCs to minicomputers and large mainframes

'Hampshire fire brigade is investing £2 million in a command and control system based on the new SeriesFT fault-tolerant Unix machine from Motorola.' [Computing]

**unjustified** /ʌn'dʒʌstɪfaɪd/ *adjective* referring to text which has not been justified

**unlock** /ʌn'lɒk/ *verb* to make it possible for other users to write to a file or access a system

**unmoderated list** /ʌn,mɒdərəɪtɪd 'lɪst/ *noun* a mailing list that sends any material submitted to the listserv on to all the subscribers without a person reading or checking the content

**unmodulated** /ʌn'mɒdʒjuleɪtɪd/ *adjective* referring to a signal which has not been modulated

**unmount** /ʌn'maʊnt/ *verb* **1.** to remove a disk from a disk drive **2.** to inform the operating system that a disk drive is no longer in active use

**unpack** /ʌn'pæk/ *verb* to remove packed data from storage and expand it to its former state ○ *This routine unpacks the archived file.*

**unplug** /ʌn'plʌg/ *verb* to take a plug out of a socket ○ *Do not move the system without unplugging it.* (NOTE: **unplugging** – **unplugged**)

**unpopulated** /ʌn'pɒpjuleɪtɪd/ *adjective* referring to a printed circuit board which does not yet contain any components or whose sockets are empty

**unprotected** /,ʌnprə'tektɪd/ *adjective* referring to data which can be modified and is not protected by a security measure

**unrecoverable error** /ʌnrɪ,kʌvərəb(ə)l 'erə/ *noun* a computer hardware or software error which causes a program to crash

**unshielded twisted-pair cable** /ˌʌnʃi:ldɪd ˌtwɪstɪd ˈpeə ˌkeɪb(ə)/ *noun*  
full form of **UTP cable**

**unsigned** /ʌn'saɪnd/ *adjective* referring to a number system which does not represent negative numbers

**unsolicited mail** /ˌʌnsɔːlɪsɪtɪd meɪl/ *noun*  
an advertising email message that has not been requested. ♢ **spam** (NOTE: Do not send out unsolicited mail to unknown email addresses unless you want to annoy the recipients and damage your company's reputation)

**unsorted** /ʌn'sɔːtɪd/ *adjective* referring to data which has not been sorted ○ *It took four times as long to search the unsorted file.*

**unsqueezed** /ʌn'swi:zd/ *adjective* (film print) where the compressed picture of an anamorphic negative has been altered for normal projection

**unsubscribe** /ˌʌnsəb'skraɪb/ *verb* to cancel a subscription to or registration with something, especially an email mailing list (NOTE: **unsubscribes** – **unsubscribing** – **unsubscribed**)

'All commercial messages will have to include full details of the sender's name and physical address, as well as an unsubscribe option allowing recipients to stop any further messages.' [The Guardian]

**unsupported** /ˌʌnsəp'ɔːtɪd/ *adjective*  
having no technical support system

**unwanted** /ʌn'wʌntɪd/ *adjective* which is not needed ○ *Use the global delete command to remove large areas of unwanted text.*

**unzip** /ʌn'zɪp/ *verb* to restore a compressed computer file to its original size (NOTE: **unzipping** – **unzipped**)

**up** /ʌp/ *adverb* referring to a computer or program that is working or running ○ *They must have found the fault – the computer is finally up and running.*

**up and down propagation time** /ˌʌp ən daʊn ˌprɒpə'geɪʃ(ə)n ˌtaɪm/ *noun*  
the total length of time that a transmission takes to travel from earth to a satellite and back to an earth station

**UPC** *abbr* universal product code

**update** /'ʌpdeɪt/ *noun* **1.** a master file which has been made up -to date by adding new material **2.** a piece of printed information which is an up-to-date revision of earlier information **3.** a new version of a system which is sent to users of the existing system  
■ *verb* /ʌp'deɪt/ to change or add to specific data in a master file so as to make the information up -to date ○ *He has the original and updated documents on disks.* (NOTE: **updates** – **updating** – **updated**)

**up/down counter** /ˌʌp ˈdaʊn ˌkaʊntə/ *noun*  
an electronic counter which can increment or decrement a counter with each input pulse

**upgrade** /ʌp'greɪd/ *verb* to make a system more powerful or more up -to date by adding new equipment or facilities ○ *They can upgrade the printer.* (NOTE: **upgrades** – **upgrading** – **upgraded**)

**upkeep** /'ʌpki:p/ *noun* **1.** the process of keeping data up-to-date ○ *The upkeep of the files means reviewing them every six months.* **2.** the process of keeping devices in working order

**uplink** /'ʌplɪŋk/ *noun* a transmission link from an earth station to a satellite

**upload** /'ʌp,ləʊd/ *verb* to transfer data files or programs from a small computer to a main CPU ○ *The user can upload PC data to update mainframe applications.* Opposite **download**

**uploading** /'ʌpləʊdɪŋ/ *noun* the action of transferring files to a main CPU

**uppercase** /ˌʌpə'keɪs/ *noun* the style of capital letters and other symbols on a keyboard which are accessed by pressing the shift key

**upper memory** /ˌʌpə ˈmem(ə)rɪ/ *noun*  
(in an IBM PC) 384 Kb of memory located between the 640 Kb and 1 Mb limits, after the 640 Kb conventional memory but before the high memory areas above the 1 Mb range

**UPS** /ˌju: pi: 'es/ *noun* a power supply which can continue to provide a regulated supply to equipment even after a mains power failure, using a battery. Full form **uninterruptible power supply**

'Magnum Power Systems has launched a new UPS for PCs. The BI-UPS prevents loss of data due to power dips or 'brown-outs' – voltage drops because of circuit overload.' [Computing]

**uptime, up time** *noun* the time during which a device is operational and error-free. Opposite **downtime**

**upward compatible** /ˌʌpwəd kəm'pæɪb(ə)l/, **upwards compatible** /ˌʌpwədz kəm'pæɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to hardware or software designed to be compatible either with earlier models or with future models which have not yet been developed

**URL** /ˌju: ɑ: 'el/ *noun* an Internet system used to standardise the way in which World Wide Web addresses are written. Full form **uniform resource locator**

COMMENT: It is made up of three parts: the first is the protocol, e.g. HTTP or FTP, then the domain name of the service and finally the directory or file name – 'http://www.bloomsbury.com/index.html'

**usability** /,ju:zə'bi:lɪti/ *noun* the ease with which hardware or software can be used ○ *We have studied usability tests and found that a GUI is easier for new users than a command line.*

**usable** /'ju:zəb(ə)/ *adjective* which can be used or which is available for use ○ *The PC has 512K of usable memory.*

**USART** /'ju:zɑ:t/ *noun* a chip which can be instructed by a CPU to communicate with asynchronous or synchronous bit streams or parallel data lines. Full form **universal synchronous asynchronous receiver/transmitter**

**USASCII** /,ju: es 'æski:/ *abbr* USA standard code for information interchange. ◇ **ASCII**

**USB** /,ju: es 'bi:/ *noun* a standard defining a high-speed serial interface that transfers data at up to 12Mbps and allows up to 127 compatible peripherals to be connected to a computer. Full form **universal serial bus**. ◇

### Firewire

**use** *noun* **1.** the state or fact of being employed for a particular purpose ○ *Sorry, the printer is already in use* □ **in use** already in operation ○ *Sorry, the printer is already in use* **2.** the purpose, value or usefulness of something ○ *What use is an extra disk drive?* ○ *It's no use, I cannot find the error.* ■ **verb**

**1.** to operate something or employ something for a particular purpose ○ *If you use the computer for processing the labels, it will be much quicker.* **2.** to consume a resource such as heat or light ○ *It's using too much electricity.*

**used** /ju:zd/ *adjective* which is not new ○ *special offer on used terminals*

**Usenet** /'ju:z.net/ *noun* a section of the Internet that provides forums, called newsgroups, in which any user can add a message or comment on any other message

**user** /'ju:zə/ *noun* **1.** a person who uses a computer, machine or software **2.** a keyboard operator

'...the user's guides are designed for people who have never seen a computer, but some sections have been spoiled by careless checking' [*PC User*]

**user-definable** /'ju:zə dɪ,fə'nəb(ə)/ *adjective* referring to a feature or section of a program that a user can customise as required ○ *The style sheet contains 125 user-definable symbols.*

**user documentation** /,ju:zə ,dɒkjʊmənt'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* documentation provided with a program which helps the user run it ○ *Using the package was easy with the excellent user documentation.*

**user-friendly** /,ju:zə 'frendli/ *adjective* referring to a language, system or program which is easy to use and interact with

'ModelMaker saves researchers a great deal of time and effort, and provides a highly user-friendly environment using menus and 'buttons', instant output, and instant access to a wide variety of mathematical techniques built into the system.' [*Computing*]

**user-friendly software** /,ju:zə ,frendli 'sɒftweə/ *noun* a program which is easy for a nonexpert to use and interact with

**user group** /'ju:zə gru:p/ *noun* an association or club of users of a particular system or computer ○ *I found how to solve the problem by asking people at the user group meeting.*

**user guide** /'ju:zə gaɪd/ *noun* a manual describing how to use a software package or system

**user ID** /,ju:zə aɪ 'di:/ *noun* a unique identification code which allows a computer to recognise a user ○ *If you forget your user ID, you will not be able to log on.*

**user interface** /'ju:zə ,ɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* hardware or software designed to make it easier for a user to communicate with a machine

**user level** /'ju:zə ,lev(ə)/ *noun* (in authoring software) one of two modes that allows a user to run and interact with a multimedia application but not to modify it in any way

**user name** /'ju:zə neɪm/ *noun* (in a network or multi-user system) a name by which a user is known to the system and which opens the correct user account

**user-selectable** /,ju:zə sɪ'lektəb(ə)/ *adjective* which can be chosen or selected by the user

**user's manual** /'ju:zəz ,mænjʊəl/ *noun* a booklet showing how a device or system should be used

**utility program** /ju:'tɪlɪti ,prəʊgrəm/ *noun* a program which is concerned with such routine activities as file searching, copying files, file directories, sorting and debugging and various mathematical functions

**UTP cable** /,ju: ti: 'pi: ,keɪb(ə)/ *noun* a cable consisting of two insulated copper wires twisted around each other, to reduce induction and so interference. Full form **unshielded twisted-pair cable**

COMMENT: UTP is normally used for telephone cabling, but is also the cabling used in the IEEE 802.3 (10BaseT) standard that defines Ethernet running over UTP at rates of up to 10 Mbits per second. Unlike STP cable, the pair of wires are not wrapped in any other layer.

**Uencoding** /ˌjuː juː ɪnˈkəʊdɪŋ/ *noun* a method of converting documents and files to a pseudo-text format that allows them to be transmitted as an email message

COMMENT: This gets around the Internet's inability to transfer messages that are not text. It has now been largely replaced by MIME.

# V

**V** /vi:/ *abbr* voltage

**V20** *noun* a range of processor chips made by NEC, which are compatible with the Intel 8088 and 8086. Also called **V30**

**V30** *noun* ▶ **V20**

**V.34** *noun* an outdated full-duplex modem communication standard that can transfer data at up to 28,800 bps. Like V.32, the V.34 standard allows the modem to automatically adjust its speed based on the quality of the telephone line to avoid errors.

**vaccine** /'væksɪn/ *noun* a software utility used to check a system to see if any viruses are present, and remove any that are found

**vacuum** /'vækjuəm/ *noun* a state with no air

**vacuum tube** /'vækjuəm tju:b/ *noun* an electronic current flow control device consisting of a heated cathode and an anode in a sealed glass tube with a vacuum inside it

**valid** /'vælɪd/ *adjective* correct, according to a set of rules

**validate** /'vælɪdeɪt/ *verb* to check that an input or data is correct according to a set of rules (NOTE: **validates** – **validating** – **validated**)

**validation** /,vælɪ'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a check performed to validate data. ◊ **verification**

**validity** /və'lɪdɪti/ *noun* the correctness of an instruction or password

**value** /'vælju:/ *noun* what something is worth, either in money or as a quantity

**value-added** /,vælju: 'ædɪd/ *adjective* (with extra benefit for a user

**value-added network**<sup>1</sup> /,vælju: 'ædɪd 'netwɜ:k/ *noun* a commercial network which offers information services, e.g. stock prices, weather, email or advice, as well as basic file transfer. *Abbr* **VAN**

**value-added network**<sup>2</sup> /,vælju: 'ædɪd 'netwɜ:k/ *noun* a network where the transmission lines are leased from a public utility such as the telephone service, but where the user can add on private equipment. *Abbr* **VAN**

**value-added reseller**<sup>1</sup> /,vælju: 'ædɪd 'ri:sæl/ *noun* a company that buys hardware or software and adds another feature, customises or offers an extra service to attract customers. *Abbr* **VAR**

**value-added reseller**<sup>2</sup> /,vælju: 'ædɪd 'ri:sæl/ *noun* a retailer who sells equipment

and systems which are specially tailored to certain types of operation. *Abbr* **VAR**

**valve** /vælv/ *noun* an electronic current flow control device consisting of a heated cathode and an anode in a sealed glass vacuum tube

**VAN** /væn/ *abbr* value-added network

**V & V** /,vi: ənd 'vi:/ *noun* the process of testing a system to check that it is functioning correctly and that it is suitable for the tasks intended. Full form **verification and validation**

**vanishing point perspective** /'væniʃɪŋ pɔɪnt pə'spektɪv/ *noun* graphics displayed in two dimensions that have the appearance of depth as all lines converge at a vanishing point and objects appear smaller as they are further from the user

**vapourware** /'veɪpəweə/ *noun* products which exist in name only (*informal*)

'Rivals dismissed the initiative as IBM vapourware, designed to protect its installed base of machines running under widely differing operating systems.' [*Computing*]

**VAR** *abbr* value-added reseller

**variable** /'veəriəb(ə)/ *adjective* which is able to change ■ *noun* **1.** a register or storage location which can contain any number or characters and which may vary during the program run. Opposite **constant** **2.** a computer program identifier for a variable

**variable data rate video** /,veəriəb(ə)l 'deɪtə reɪt 'vɪdɪəʊ/ *noun* full form of **VDRV**

**variable resistor** /,veəriəb(ə)l rɪ'zɪstə/ *noun* a component whose resistance can be changed by turning a knob

**varifocal lens** /,veərɪfəʊk(ə)l 'lenz/ *noun* same as **zoom lens** (*see*)

**varispeed** /'veərɪspi:d/ *noun* a variable speed control on magnetic audio recorders which generally provide a large range; can also be a pitch control

**vary** /'veəri/ *verb* to change, or to change something ○ *The clarity of the signal can vary with the power supply.*

**VB** *abbr* Visual Basic

**Vbox** /'vi:bɒks/ *noun* a device that allows several VCRs, videodiscs and camcorders to be attached and controlled by one unit, developed by Sony. Full form **video box**

**VBScript** /,vi:'bɪ: 'skrɪpt/ *abbr* Visual Basic Script. Compare **JavaScript**

**VBX** *abbr* Visual Basic Extension (NOTE: Originally developed as a way of adding extra programming features to the Microsoft VB programming language, it is now a standard that can be used by many Windows programming tools; a VBX can be used in 16-bit or 32-bit Windows (versions 3.x or 95) whereas an OCX control will only work with 32-bit Windows (version 95 and later).)

**VCPS** *abbr* Video Copyright Protection Society

**VCR** /,vi: si: 'ɑ:/ *noun* a machine that can record analog video signals onto a magnetic cassette tape and play back the tape to display video on a monitor. Full form **video cassette recorder**

COMMENT: The most popular formats are: 1-inch tape, used for studio-quality mastering; 3/4-inch tape, which was widely used but has now been mostly replaced by 1/2-inch tape; 1/2-inch VHS format tape, which was first used only in the home but has now mostly replaced 3/4-inch tape; 1/2-inch Beta format tape, which was the first home VCR format but is no longer used. Some VCRs can be used to store digital data for data backup.

**VDRV** /,vi: di: ɑ: 'vi:/ *noun* a digital video system that can adjust the amount of data used to represent each different frame and so adjust image quality or stay within bandwidth limits. Full form **variable data rate video**

**VDT** /,vi: di: 'ju:/ *abbr* visual display terminal

**VDU** *abbr* visual display unit

'...it normally consists of a keyboard to input information and either a printing terminal or a VDU screen to display messages and results' [Practical Computing]

'...a VDU is a device used with a computer that displays information in the form of characters and drawings on a screen' [Electronics & Power]

**vector** /'vektə/ *noun* **1.** the address which directs a computer to a new memory location **2.** a coordinate that consists of a magnitude and direction **3.** a line which connect points on a cathode ray tube

**vectored interrupt** /,vektəd 'ɪntəʁɪpt/ *noun* an interrupt signal which directs the processor to a routine at a particular address

**vector font** /'vektə fɒnt/ *noun* the shape of characters within a font that are drawn vector graphics, allowing the characters to be scaled to almost any size without changing the quality

**vector graphics** /'vektə ,græfɪks/, **vector image** /,vektə 'ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* a system of drawing objects using curves and lines. Also called **vector scan**. Compare **bit-mapped graphics**

COMMENT: The images are described by line length and direction from an origin to plot lines and so build up an image rather than a description of each pixel, as in a bit-map. A vector image can be easily and accurately resized with no loss of detail.

**vector processor** /'vektə ,prəʊsesə/ *noun* a coprocessor that operates on one row or column of an array at a time

**vector scan** /'vektə skæn/ *noun* same as **vector graphics**

**vectorscope** /'vektəskəʊp/ *noun* in television, an oscilloscope to show the form of the chroma signals in colour television systems

'...the great advantage of the vector-scan display is that it requires little memory to store a picture' [Electronics & Power]

**velocity** /'vɛlɪsɪtɪ/ *noun* speed ○ *The disk drive motor spins at a constant velocity.*

**vendor** /'vendə/ *noun* a person who manufactures, sells or supplies hardware or software products

**vendor-independent** /,vendə ,ɪndɪ 'pendənt/ *adjective* referring to hardware or software that will work with hardware and software manufactured by other vendors

**Venn diagram** /'ven ,dæɪəgræm/ *noun* a graphical representation of the relationships between the states in a system or circuit

**verification** /,verɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of checking that data has been keyboarded correctly or that data transferred from one medium to another has been transferred correctly

**verification and validation** /,verɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n ən ,vælɪ'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **V & V**

**verifier** /'verɪfɪə/ *noun* a special device for verifying input data

**verify** /'verɪ'faɪ/ *verb* to check that data recorded or entered is correct (NOTE: **verifies** – **verifying** – **verifies**)

**versamodule eurocard bus** /,vɜ:zəmə'dju:l 'ju:əʊkɑ:d ,bʌs/ *noun* full form of **VME bus**

**version** /'vɜ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a copy or program or statement which is slightly different from others ○ *The latest version of the software includes an improved graphics routine.*

**verso** /'vɜ:zəʊ/ *noun* the left hand page of a book (usually given an even number)

**vertical** /'vɜ:tɪk(ə)/ *adjective* at right angles to the horizontal

**vertical format unit** /,vɜ:tɪk(ə)l 'fɔ:mæt ,ju:nɪt/ *noun* a part of the control system of a printer which governs the vertical format of the document to be printed, e.g. vertical spacing or page length. Abbr **VFU**

**vertical interval time code** /ˌvɜːtɪk(ə)l ˌɪntəv(ə)l 'taɪm ˌkəʊd/ *noun* full form of **VITC**

**vertically** /ˌvɜːtɪkli/ *adverb* from top to bottom or going up and down at right angles to the horizontal ○ *The page has been justified vertically.*

**vertical portal** /ˌvɜːtɪk(ə)l 'pɔːt(ə)l/ *noun* full form of **VORTAL**

**vertical scan frequency** /ˌvɜːtɪk(ə)l 'skæn ˌfriːkwənsi/ *noun* the number of times a picture beam in a monitor moves from the last line back up to the first

**vertical scrolling** /ˌvɜːtɪk(ə)l 'skrɔʊlɪŋ/ *noun* displayed text which moves up or down the computer screen one line at a time

**very high frequency** /ˌveri haɪ 'friːkwənsi/ *noun* the range of radio frequencies between 30–300 MHz. Abbr **VHF**

**very large scale integration** /ˌveri lɑːdʒ skeɪl ˌɪntɪ'greɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **VLSI**

**very low frequency** /ˌveri ləʊ 'friːkwənsi/ *noun* the range of radio frequencies between 3–30 KHz. Abbr **VLF**

**VESA** *abbr* Video Electronics Standards Association

**VESA local bus** /ˌviː iː es eɪ 'ləʊk(ə)l bʌs/ *noun* full form of **VL-bus**

**vestigial side band** /ˌves,tɪdʒiəl 'saɪd ˌbænd/ *noun* full form of **VSb**

**VFU** *abbr* vertical format unit

**VFW** *abbr* Video for Windows

**VGA** /ˌviː dʒiː 'eɪ/ *noun* (in an IBM PC) a standard of video adapter developed by IBM that can support a display with a resolution up to 640 x 480 pixels in up to 256 colours, superseded by SVGA

**VHF** *noun* radio frequency between 30MHz and 300MHz (used for broadcasting radio and TV programmes). Full form **very high frequency**

**VHS** *noun* a video cassette tape format, using 1/2-inch wide tape, developed by JVC and now the standard for home and consumer markets. Full form **video home system**

**VHS-C** /ˌviː eɪtʃ 'es siː/ *noun* a video cassette system which uses the VHS format

**via** /ˌviːə/ *preposition* going through something or using something to get to a destination ○ *The signals have reached us via satellite.*

**VBGYOR** *noun* the colours in the visible spectrum: violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red

**VideoCap** /ˌviːdɪkæp/ *noun* a utility program used in the Microsoft VFW system to capture a video sequence

**video** /ˈvɪdiəʊ/ *noun* **1.** text or images or graphics viewed on television or a monitor **2.** an electronic system which records, stores and reproduces visual images

**video adapter** /ˈvɪdiəʊ əˌdæptə/ *noun* an add-in board which converts data into electrical signals to drive a monitor and display text and graphics. Also called **video board**, **video controller**

**video bandwidth** /ˌvɪdiəʊ ˈbændwɪðθ/ *noun* the maximum display resolution, measured in MHz, and calculated by horizontal x vertical resolution x refreshes/sec (NOTE: TV studio recording is limited to 5 MHz; TV broadcasting is limited to 3.58 MHz)

**video board** /ˈvɪdiəʊ bɔːd/ *noun* same as **video adapter**

**video box** /ˈvɪdiəʊ bɒks/ *noun* full form of **Vbox**

**video buffer** /ˈvɪdiəʊ ˌbʌfə/ *noun* memory in a video adapter that is used to store the bitmap of the image being displayed

**video capture board** /ˌvɪdiəʊ ˌkæptʃə ˌbɔːd/ *noun* a board that plugs into an expansion socket inside a PC and lets a user capture a TV picture and store it in memory so that it can then be processed by a computer

**video cassette recorder** /ˌvɪdiəʊ kə ˈset rɪˌkɔːdə/ *noun* full form of **VCR**

**video-CD** /ˌvɪdiəʊ ˌsiː ˈdiː/ *noun* a CD-ROM that stores digital video data conforming to the Philips White Book standard and uses MPEG compression for the full-motion video data

**video clip** /ˌvɪdiəʊ ˌklɪp/ *noun* a short video sequence

**video codec** /ˌvɪdiəʊ ˈkəʊdeɪk/ *noun* an electronic device to convert a video signal to or from a digital form

**video compression** /ˌvɪdiəʊ kəm ˈpreʃ(ə)n/ *noun* algorithms used to compress analog television signals so that they can be efficiently broadcast over a digital channel

**video conferencing** /ˌvɪdiəʊ ˌkɒnf(ə)rənsɪŋ/ *noun* the linking of video, audio and computer signals from different locations so that distant people can talk and see each other, as if in a conference room

**video controller** /ˌvɪdiəʊ kən'trɔʊlə/ *noun* same as **video adapter**

**video digitiser** /ˌvɪdiəʊ ˈdɪdʒɪtaɪzə/ *noun* a high-speed digital sampling circuit which stores a TV picture in memory so that it can then be processed by a computer

**videodisc** /ˌvɪdiəʊdɪsk/ *noun* a read-only optical disc that can store up to two hours of video data, usually used either to store a complete film, as a rival to video cassette, or to use in an interactive system with text, video and still images (NOTE: For interactive use, a

videodisc can store 54,000 frames of information. If the videodisc contains a complete film, the data is recorded using a constant linear velocity format; if it is used to store interactive data, it is stored in a constant angular velocity format.)

**video display** /'vɪdiəʊ dɪˌspleɪ/ *noun* a device which can display text or graphical information, e.g. a CRT

**video editing** /,vɪdiəʊ 'edɪtɪŋ/ *noun* a method of editing a video sequence in which the video is digitised and stored in a computer

**video editor** /'vɪdiəʊ ,edɪtə/ *noun* a computer that controls two videotape recorders to allow an operator to play back sequences from one and record these on the second machine

**Video Electronics Standards Association** /,vɪdiəʊ elekˌtrɒnɪks 'stændədz ə ,səʊsiəlf(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **VESA**

**Video for Windows** /,vɪdiəʊ fə 'wɪndəʊz/ a trade name for a set of software drivers and utilities for Microsoft Windows 3.1, developed by Microsoft, that allows AVI-format video files to be played back in a window. Abbr **VFW**

**video game** /'vɪdiəʊ geɪm/ *noun* a game played on a computer, with action shown on a video display

**video graphics array** /,vɪdiəʊ 'græfɪks əˌreɪ/ *noun* (in an IBM PC) a standard of video adapter developed by IBM that can support a display with a resolution up to 640 x 480 pixels in up to 256 colours, superseded by VGA. Abbr **VGA**

**video graphics card** /,vɪdiəʊ 'græfɪks ,kɑːd/ *noun* an expansion card that fits into an expansion slot inside a PC and that allows a computer to display both generated text and graphics and moving video images from an external camera or VCR. Also called **overlay card**

**video home system** /,vɪdiəʊ 'həʊm ,sɪstəm/ *noun* full form of **VHS**

**video interface chip** /,vɪdiəʊ 'ɪntəfeɪs ,tʃɪp/ *noun* a chip which controls a video display allowing information such as text or graphics stored in a computer to be displayed

**video lookup table** /,vɪdiəʊ 'lʊkʌp ,teɪb(ə)/ *noun* a collection of precalculated values of the different colours that are stored in memory and can be examined very quickly to produce an answer without the need to recalculate

**video memory** /,vɪdiəʊ 'mem(ə)rɪ/ *noun* a high speed random access memory used to store computer-generated or digitised images

**video monitor** /'vɪdiəʊ ,mɒnɪtə/ *noun* a device able to display, without sound, signals from a computer

**video RAM** /,vɪdiəʊ 'ræm/ *noun* full form of **VRAM**

**video random access memory** /,vɪdiəʊ ,rændəm ,æksɪs 'mem(ə)rɪ/, **video RAM** /,vɪdiəʊ 'ræm/ *noun* full form of **VRAM**. same as **video memory**

**video scanner** /'vɪdiəʊ ,skænə/ *noun* a device which allows images of objects or pictures to be entered into a computer ○ *New video scanners are designed to scan three-dimensional objects.*

**video server** /'vɪdiəʊ ,sɜːvə/ *noun* a dedicated computer on a network used to store video sequences

**video signal** /'vɪdiəʊ ,sɪɡn(ə)/ *noun* a signal which provides line picture information and synchronisation pulses (*informal*)

**video system control architecture** /,vɪdiəʊ ,sɪstəm kən'trəʊl ,ɑːkɪtektʃə/ *noun* full form of **VisCA**

**video tape** /'vɪdiəʊ teɪp/ *noun* a magnetic tape on which pictures and sound can be recorded

**video tape recorder** /,vɪdiəʊ 'teɪp rɪ ,kɔːdə/ *noun* full form of **VTR**

**video teleconferencing** /,vɪdiəʊ 'teli ,kɒnf(ə)rənsɪŋ/ *noun* the linking of computers that can capture and display video so that distant people can talk to and see each other, as if in a conference room

**video terminal** /'vɪdiəʊ ,tɜːmɪn(ə)/ *noun* a keyboard with a monitor

**videotext** /'vɪdiəʊteks/, **videotex** /'vɪdiəʊteks/ *noun* a system for transmitting text and displaying it on a screen

COMMENT: This covers information transmitted either by TV signals (teletext) or by signals sent down telephone lines (viewdata).

**video window** /'vɪdiəʊ ,wɪndəʊ/ *noun* a window that displays a moving video image, independent of other displayed material

**view** /vjuː/ *verb* to look at something, especially something displayed on a screen ○ *The user has to pay a charge for viewing pages on a bulletin board.*

**viewdata** /'vjuːdeɪtə/ *noun* an interactive system for transmitting text or graphics from a database to a user's terminal by telephone lines, providing facilities for information retrieval, transactions, education, games and recreation

COMMENT: The user calls up the page of information required, using the telephone and a modem, as opposed to teletext, where the pages of information are repeated one after the other automatically.

**viewer** /'vju:ə/ *noun* **1.** a utility that allows a user to see what is contained in an image or formatted document file without having to start the program that created it **2.** a device with an eyepiece through which a person can look at film or transparencies **3.** a person who watches television

**viewfinder** /'vju:faɪndə/ *noun* the eyepiece in a camera that allows a user to see what is being filmed

**viewfinder objective, objective lens** *noun* the lens of a visual monitoring viewfinder, in which the picture is formed

**vignetting** /vɪ'njetɪŋ/ *noun* the shading of the borders of a picture (*film*)

**virtual** /'vaɪrəl/ *adjective* referring to unsolicited emails that automatically forward themselves from one user to another, or to activities that use such emails

**virtual marketing** /'vaɪrəl ,mɑ:kɪtɪŋ/ *noun* a form of marketing in which an organisation's customers act as advertisers for its products by spreading knowledge of them to other people, especially over the Internet

**virgin** /'vɜ:dʒɪn/ *adjective* referring to a medium that has not been recorded on before

**virtual** /'vɜ:tʃuəl/ *adjective* referring to a feature or device which does not actually exist but which is simulated by a computer and can be used by a user as if it did exist

**virtual assistant** /,vɜ:tʃuəl ə'sɪst(ə)nt/ *noun* an employee who works as a personal assistant to somebody but does the job from another place solely by using computer and phone links

**virtual community** /,vɜ:tʃuəl kə'mju:nɪti/ *noun* a group of people who communicate with each other via the Internet

**virtual desktop** /,vɜ:tʃuəl 'deskɒp/ *noun* an area that is bigger than the physical limits of the monitor, and which can contain text, images, windows and other facilities. Also called **virtual screen**

**virtual device driver** /,vɜ:tʃuəl dɪ'vaɪs ,draɪvə/ *noun* full form of **VxD**

**virtual machine** /,vɜ:tʃuəl mə'ʃi:n/ *noun* a piece of software that allows a Java application to run on a computer. Abbr **VM**

COMMENT: When a developer writes a program in Java, it is compiled to a file format called bytecode (or pseudocode). This file can then be run using another application (the virtual machine) that is specific to the particular computer platform – there are virtual machine applications for PCs, Apple Macs and Sun computers, and each can run the same Java bytecode file, making Java a platform-independent language.

**virtual memory** /,vɜ:tʃuəl 'mem(ə)ri/ *noun* a system of providing extra main mem-

ory by using a disk drive as if it were RAM. Also called **virtual storage**

**virtual reality** /,vɜ:tʃuəl rɪ'ælɪti/ *noun* full form of **VR** ○ This new virtual reality software can create a three-dimensional room that you can navigate around.

'Autodesk suggests that anyone wishing to build Virtual Reality applications with the Cyberspace Developer's Kit should have solid knowledge of programming in C++ along with general knowledge of computer graphics.' [Computing]

**virtual reality modelling language** /,vɜ:tʃuəl rɪ,ælɪti 'mɒd(ə)lɪŋ ,læŋɡwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **VRML**

**virtual storage** /,vɜ:tʃuəl 'stɔ:ɪrɪdʒ/ *noun* abbr **VS**. same as **virtual memory**

**virus** /'vaɪrəs/ *noun* a program which adds itself to an executable file and copies itself to other executable files each time an infected file is run ○ If your PC is infected with a virus, your data is at risk.

COMMENT: Viruses can corrupt data, display a message, or do nothing. They are spread by downloading unchecked files from a bulletin board system or via unregulated networks or by inserting an unchecked floppy disk into your PC – always use a virus detector.

**virus checker** /'vaɪrəs ,tʃekə/ *noun* a piece of software that is used to try and detect and remove unwanted virus programs from the hard disk of a computer

**virus detector** /'vaɪrəs dɪ'tektə/ *noun* a utility software which checks executable files to see if they contain a known virus

**ViSCA** /'vɪskə/ *noun* a protocol used to synchronise multiple video devices, developed by Sony. Full form **video system control architecture**

**visible** /'vɪzɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* which can be seen

**visual** /'vɪʒuəl/ *adjective* which can be seen or which is used by sight

**Visual Basic** /,vɪʒuəl 'beɪsɪk/ a trade name for a programming tool, developed by Microsoft, that allows users to create Windows applications very easily. Abbr **VB**

**Visual Basic Extension** /,vɪʒuəl ,beɪsɪk ɪk'stenʃ(ə)n/ a trade name for a Windows custom software module that adds functionality to another application, similar to the OXC control. Abbr **VBX**

**Visual Basic for Applications** /,vɪʒuəl ,beɪsɪk fər ,æplɪ'keɪʃ(ə)nz/ a trade name for a complex macro language developed by Microsoft from its VB programming tool. Abbr **VBA**

**Visual Basic Script** /,vɪʒuəl ,beɪsɪk 'skrɪpt/ a trade name for a set of programming commands that can be included within

a normal webpage, written using HTML commands. Abbr **VBScript**

**visual display terminal** /ˌvɪzjʊəl dɪ 'splɛɪ ˌtɜːmɪnəl/, **visual display unit** /ˌvɪzjʊəl dɪ'splɛɪ ˌjuːnɪt/ *noun* full form of **VDT, VDU**

**visualisation** /ˌvɪzjʊəlɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/, **visualization** *noun* the conversion of numbers or data into a graphical format that can be more easily understood

**visualize** /ˌvɪzjʊəlaɪz/ *verb* to imagine how something will appear, even before it has been created

**VITC** /ˌviː ɑː tiː 'siː/ *noun* a time code recorded onto tape between video frames. Full form **vertical interval time code**

COMMENT: This is preferred to LTC because it does not use the audio track and can be read at slow playback speeds.

**VL-bus, VL local bus** *noun* a standard defined by the Video Electronics Standards Association which allows up to three special expansion slots that provide direct, bus-master control of the central processor and allow very high speed data transfers between main memory and the expansion card without using the processor ○ *For a high-performance PC, choose one with a VL-bus.* Full form

**VESA local bus**

**VLF** *noun* radio frequency between 30KHz and 30KHz. Full form **very low frequency**

**VLSI** /ˌviː el es 'aɪ/ *noun* a system with between 10,000 and 100,000 components on a single IC. Full form **very large scale integration**

**VM** *abbr* virtual machine

**v-mail** /ˌviː ˌmeɪl/ *noun* an email message with a video clip as an attachment

**VME bus** /ˌviː em 'iː bʌs/ *noun* an expansion bus standard that supports 32-bit data transfer, mostly used in industrial and test equipment. Full form **versamodule euro-card bus**

**voice** /vɔɪs/ *noun* **1.** the sound of human speech **2.** another name for a note or sound effect (such as a whistle) ○ *Instruments that are multi-voice can play several notes at the same time.*

**voice data entry** /ˌvɔɪs ˌdeɪtə 'entri/, **voice data input** /ˌvɔɪs ˌdeɪtə 'ɪnpʊt/ *noun* the input of information into a computer using a speech recognition system and the user's voice

**voicemail** /ˌvɔɪsmɛɪl/ *noun* a computer linked to a telephone exchange that answers a person's telephone when no one is there and allows messages to be recorded, in digital form ○ *I checked my voice mail to see if anyone had left me a message.*

**voice-over** /ˌvɔɪs ˌəʊvə/ *noun* spoken commentary by an actor who does not appear on the screen (as the text of a TV commercial)

**voice over Internet protocol** /ˌvɔɪs ˌəʊvə 'ɪntənət ˌprəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* full form of **VoIP**

**voice-over-the-Net** /ˌvɔɪs ˌəʊvə ðə 'net/ *adjective* used to describe voice communication using VoIP technology

**voice recognition** /ˌvɔɪs ˌrekəg'nɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the ability of a computer to recognise certain words in a human voice and provide a suitable response

**voice synthesis** /ˌvɔɪs ˌsɪnθəʃɪs/ *noun* the reproduction of sounds similar to those of the human voice

**voice synthesiser** /ˌvɔɪs ˌsɪnθəsəɪzə/ *noun* a device which generates sounds which are similar to the human voice

**voice unit** /ˌvɔɪs ˌjuːnɪt/ *noun* a unit of signal measurement equal to a one millivolt signal across a 600 ohm resistance

...the technology of voice output is reasonably difficult, but the technology of voice recognition is much more complex' [*Personal Computer World*]

**VoIP** /vɔɪp/ *noun* a technology that enables voice messages to be sent over the Internet, often at the same time as data in text or other forms. Full form **voice over Internet protocol**

**volatile memory** /ˌvɒləˌtaɪl 'mem(ə)ri/, **volatile store** /ˌvɒləˌtaɪl stɔː/, **volatile dynamic storage** /ˌvɒləˌtaɪl daɪˌnæmɪk 'stɔːrɪdʒ/ *noun* memory or storage medium which loses data stored in it when the power supply is switched off

**volatility** /ˌvɒlə'tɪlɪti/ *noun* the number of records that are added or deleted from a computer system compared to the total number in store

**volt** /vəʊlt/ *noun* an SI unit of electrical potential, defined as voltage across a one ohm resistance when one amp is flowing

**voltage** /ˌvəʊltɪdʒ/ *noun* an electromotive force expressed in volts. Abbr **V**

COMMENT: Electricity supply can have peaks and troughs of current, depending on the users in the area. Fluctuations in voltage can affect computers; a voltage regulator will provide a steady supply of electricity.

**volume** /ˌvɒljʊːm/ *noun* **1.** a disk or storage device **2.** the total space occupied by data in a storage system

**VORTAL** /ˌvɔːtəl/ *noun* a portal website that contains information for just one particular industry or interest group. Full form **vertical portal**

COMMENT: General-interest portals such as AOL, Yahoo!, and Excite provide a whole range of general-interest information for users, including news, weather, sports and financial information. An example of a vertical portal is Buzzsaw ([www.buzzsaw.com](http://www.buzzsaw.com)), which provides news and resources for the construction industry.

**VR** /,vi: 'ɑ:/ *noun* a simulation of a real-life scene or environment by computer. Full form **virtual reality**

**VRAM** /'vi: ræm/ *noun* high speed random access memory used to store computer-generated or digitised images. Full form **video random access memory**. Also called **video RAM**

**VRML** /,vi: ɑ:r em 'el/ *noun* a system that allows developers to create three-dimensional worlds within a webpage. Full form **virtual reality modelling language**

**VS** *abbr* virtual storage

**VSB** /,vi: es 'bi:/ *noun* a method of transferring data over coaxial cable, used to modulate and transmit digital television signals. Full form **vestigial side band**

**V series** /'vi: ,sɪəri:z/ *noun* a series of CCITT standards for data transmission using a modem, used in the UK and Europe

**VT** *abbr* videotape

**VT-52** /,vi: ti: ,fɪfti 'tu:/ *noun* a popular standard of a terminal that defines the codes used to display text and graphics

**VTR** /,vi: ti: 'ɑ:/ *noun* a machine used to record and play back video signals that are stored on open reels of magnetic tape rather than on the sealed, enclosed cassette used by a VCR. Full form **video tape recorder**

**VT-terminal emulation** /,vi: ti: 'tɜ:mɪn(ə)l emju:leɪf(ə)n/ *noun* a standard set of codes developed by Digital Equipment Corporation to control how text and graphics are displayed on its range of terminals

**VU** *abbr* voice unit

**VxD** /,vi: eks 'di:/ *noun* a device driver used to control one part of the Windows operating system or to link a peripheral to the Windows operating system. Full form **virtual device driver**

**Vxtreme** /,vi: eks'tri:m/ *noun* a format used to deliver streaming video sequences over the Internet

# W

**W** *abbr* Watt

**W3C** /ˌdʌb(ə)l juː θriː 'siː/ *noun* a group of international industry members that work together to develop common standards for the World Wide Web. Full form **World Wide Web Consortium**

COMMENT: Visit the [www.w3.org](http://www.w3.org) website for new standards and developments.

**wafer** /'weɪfə/ *noun* a thin round slice of a large single crystal of silicon onto which hundreds of individual integrated circuits are constructed, before being cut into individual chips

**wafer scale integration** /,weɪfə skeɪl ˌɪntɪ'greɪf(ə)n/ *noun* one large chip, the size of a wafer, made up of smaller integrated circuits connected together (NOTE: These are still in the research stage.)

**wait condition** /'weɪt kən,dɪf(ə)n/ *noun* 1. a state in which a processor is not active, but waiting for input from peripherals 2. a null instruction which is used to slow down a processor so that slower memory or a peripheral can keep up ► also called **wait state**

**wait loop** /'weɪt luːp/ *noun* a processor that repeats one loop of program until some action occurs

**wait state** /'weɪt steɪt/ *noun* same as **wait condition**

**wake** /weɪk/ *verb* □ **to wake up** to switch on a device or start or initiate a process

**wallpaper** /'wɔːl,peɪpə/ *noun* (in a GUI) an image or pattern used as a background in a window

**WAN** /wæn/ *noun* a network in which the various terminals are far apart and linked by radio or satellite. Full form **wide area network**. Opposite **LAN**

**wand** /wɒnd/ *noun* a bar-code reader or optical device which is held in the hand to read bar codes on products in a store

**WAP** /wæp/ *noun* 1. a system that allows a user to access information on an Internet server using a wireless handheld device such as a mobile telephone. Full form **Wireless Application Protocol** 2. a device that connects to a LAN and allows a computer to access the network using a wireless data transmission ○ *The WAP has an aerial and a built-in hub.* Full form **wireless access point**

COMMENT: WAP can be used over almost all of the current wireless networks, including the popular GSM mobile telephone standard, and can run on almost any operating system or hardware device. A device that supports WAP provides a very simple browser that can display basic graphics and text-based pages of information on a small, monochrome, 6–10 line display, similar to a tiny, simple web page. The user can navigate between pages using two or three buttons on the handheld device or mobile telephone. The arrival of WAP allows users to access email and news-based websites from a mobile telephone, but users have been put off by the very slow speed (no more than 9,600bps) at which data can be transferred over current wireless telephone systems.

**WAP markup language** /,wæp 'mɑːklɒp ˌlæŋɡwɪdʒ/ *noun* full form of **WML**

**WAP markup language script** /,wæp ˌmɑːklɒp ˌlæŋɡwɪdʒ 'skript/ *noun* same as **WMLScript**

**warm** /wɔːm/ *verb* □ **to warm up** to allow a machine to stand idle for a time after switching on, to reach the optimum operating conditions

**warm boot** /,wɔːm 'buːt/ *noun* the act of restarting a computer without switching it off. Compare **cold boot**

**warmboot** /'wɔːmbuːt/ *verb* to restart a computer without switching it off. Compare **coldboot**

**warm standby** /,wɔːm 'stændbaɪ/ *noun* a secondary backup device which can be switched into action a short time after the main system fails. Compare **cold standby**, **hot standby**

**warm start** /,wɔːm 'stɑːt/ *noun* the process of restarting a program which has stopped, without losing any data. Compare **cold start**

**warn** /wɔːn/ *verb* to say that something dangerous is about to happen or that there is a possible danger ○ *He warned the keyboarders that the system might become overloaded.* (NOTE: You warn someone of something, or that something may happen)

**warning** /'wɔːnɪŋ/ *noun* a notice of possible danger ○ *to issue a warning*

**warning light** /'wɔːnɪŋ laɪt/ *noun* a small light which lights up to show that something

dangerous may happen ○ *When the warning light on the front panel comes on, switch off the system.*

**warrant** /'wɒrənt/ *verb* to guarantee ○ *All the spare parts are warranted.*

**warranty** /,wɒrən'ti:/ *noun* a person who is given a warranty

**warrantor** /,wɒrən'tɔ:/ *noun* a person who gives a warranty

**warranty** /'wɒrənti/ *noun* **1.** a guarantee or legal document which promises that a machine will work properly or that an item is of good quality ○ *The printer is sold with a twelve-month warranty.* ○ *The warranty covers spare parts but not labour costs.* **2.** a promise in a contract

**watermark** /'wɔ:təmə:k/ *noun* a pattern of bits that is digitally embedded in a data file in order to make it possible to detect unauthorised copies

**watt** /wɒt/ *noun* an SI unit of measurement of electrical power, defined as power produced when one amp of current flows through a load that has one volt of voltage across it

**wave** /weɪv/ *noun* a signal motion which rises and falls periodically as it travels through a medium

**WAVE** /weɪv/ *noun* a standard method of storing an analog signal in digital form under Microsoft Windows. Also called **WAV file** (NOTE: Files have the .WAV extension.)

**waveform** /'weɪvfɔ:m/ *noun* the shape of a wave

**waveguide** /'weɪvgɑ:ɪd/ *noun* a physical system used to direct waves in a particular direction, usually metal tubes for microwave signals or optical fibres for light signals

**wavelength** /'weɪv,lɛŋθ/ *noun* the distance between two adjacent peaks of a wave, equal to the speed divided by the frequency

**WAV file** /'weɪv faɪl/ *noun* same as **WAVE**

**WBFM** *abbr* wideband frequency modulation

**wearable computer** /,weərəb(ə)l kəm'pjʊ:tə/ *noun* a battery-powered computer small enough to be worn on the body

**web** /web/ *noun* same as **World Wide Web**

**web application** /'web ,æplɪkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a software program that works behind the scenes at a website, runs on a web server and uses the HTTP protocol to deliver information to a user (NOTE: An example is a database of information that can be searched from a webpage or a method of ordering and paying for a product using a webpage.)

**WebBot** /'webbɒt/ a trade name for a utility used in Microsoft Internet software that

helps a user create a particular function in a webpage

**web browser** /'web ,braʊzə/ *noun* same as **browser**

**web cam** /'web kæm/ *noun* a video camera linked to a website that allows visitors to see live video images of a scene

COMMENT: These devices have become very popular and have been used to display the inside of an office, the view over a city, an office coffee machine, the inside of a bedroom and many other scenes.

**webcast** /'webkɑ:st/ *noun* a broadcast made on the World Wide Web

'It is spending \$450m on a community support programme for developers: webcasts, free on-site training, seminars, roadshows and 125 new books.' [The Guardian]

**web crawler** /'web ,krɔ:lə/ *noun* software that moves over every new webpage on the Internet and produces an index based on the content of the webpages

**web designer** /'web dɪ,zɑɪnə/ *noun* a person who designs websites

**weber** /'veɪbəl/ *noun* a unit of magnetic flux (film)

**weblog** /'weblɒg/ *noun* a frequently updated personal journal on a website, intended for public viewing

**webmaster** /'webmɑ:stə/ *noun* a person in charge of a website

**webpage** /'webpeɪdʒ/ *noun* a single file stored on a web server that contains formatted text, graphics and hypertext links to other pages on the Internet or within a website

**webpage design software** /,webpeɪdʒ dɪ,zɑɪn 'sɒftweə/ *noun* software that provides features that make it easier for a user to create webpages

COMMENT: The design software is similar to desktop publishing software and allows you to drag text and images onto a page, create tables and change the style of text from menu options, without having to edit complex HTML commands.

**web portal** /'web ,pɔ:t(ə)l/ *noun* a website that provides a wide range of information and resources that include everything a particular user might want from the Internet, on one site

COMMENT: The biggest web portals include AOL, MSN, Yahoo! and Excite, which offer a wide range of general services including news, sports, email, weather, shopping and a search engine.

**web ring** /'web rɪŋ/ *noun* a series of linked websites that are designed to be visited one after the other until the visitor reaches the first website again

**web server** /'web ,sɜːvə/ *noun* a computer that stores the collection of webpages that make up a website

**website** /'websaɪt/ *noun* a collection of webpages that are linked and related and can be accessed by a user with a web browser ○ *The Bloomsbury website, http://www.bloomsbury.com, contains information about all the books Bloomsbury publish.*

**WebTV** /,web ti: 'viː/ a trade name for a television that also lets a user view webpages

COMMENT: Some TVs include a computer and modem, other systems use an external box that links to the TV and a telephone socket. Some interactive television and cable television installations do not use a telephone socket but instead download and display webpages via the television cable.

**webzine** /'webziːn/ *noun* same as **e-zine**

**weigh** /weɪ/ *verb* to have a certain weight ○ *The packet weighs twenty-five grams.*

**weighted average** /,weɪtɪd 'æv(ə)rɪdʒ/ *noun* an average which is calculated taking several factors into account, giving some more value than others

**weighting** /'weɪtɪŋ/ *noun* the sorting of users, programs or data by their importance or priority

**wetware** /'wetweə/ *noun* US the human brain, intelligence which writes software to be used with hardware (*informal*)

**What-You-See-Is-All-You-Get** /,wɒt ju: si: ɪz ,ɔːl ju: 'get/ *noun* full form of **WY-SIAYG**

**What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get** /,wɒt ju: si: ɪz ,wɒt ju: 'get/ *noun* full form of **WYSIWYG**

**white** /waɪt/ *adjective, noun* the colour of snow

COMMENT: With a white writer, the black areas are printed evenly but edges and borders are not so sharp.

**White Book** /'waɪt bʊk/ *noun* a formal video-CD standard published by Philips and JVC that defines how digital video can be stored on a CD-ROM

**white pages** /,waɪt 'peɪdʒz/ *plural noun* a database of users and their email address stored on the Internet to help other users find an email address

**white writer** /'waɪt ,raɪtə/ *noun* a laser printer which directs its laser beam on the points that are not printed. Opposite **black writer**

COMMENT: With a white writer, the black areas are printed evenly but edges and borders are not so sharp.

**whois** /'hu: ɪz/ *noun* an Internet utility that displays information about the owner of a particular domain name

**wholesale** /'həʊlseɪl/ *noun, adverb* buying goods from manufacturers and selling in large quantities to traders who then sell in smaller quantities to the general public (NOTE: no plural) □ **he buys wholesale and sells retail** he buys goods in bulk at a wholesale discount and then sells in small quantities to the public

**wholesale dealer** /'həʊlseɪl ,diːlə/ *noun* a person who buys in bulk from manufacturers and sells to retailers

**wholesaler** /'həʊlseɪlə/ *noun* a person who buys goods in bulk from manufacturers and sells them to retailers

**wide area network** /,waɪd ,eəriə 'netwɜːk/ *noun* full form of **WAN**

**wideband** /'waɪdbænd/ *noun* same as **broadband**

**widescreen** /'waɪdskriːn/ *adjective* pictures presented with a larger aspect ratio than 1.4:1

**widescreen display** /,waɪdskriːn dɪ 'spleɪ/ *noun* a film, video or TV display with an aspect ratio greater than 1.37, or the same as the full size of a 35 mm film image

**widow** /'wɪdəʊ/ *noun* the first line of a paragraph which is printed by itself at the bottom of a column. Compare **orphan**

**width** /wɪðθ/ *noun* the size of something from side to side

**wild card** /'waɪldkɑːd/ *noun* a symbol used when searching for files or data that represents all files ○ *A wild card can be used to find all files names beginning DIC.*

**wild track** /'waɪld træk/ *noun* sound recorded without a synchronised picture

**WIMP** /wɪmp/ *noun* a program display which uses graphics or icons to control the software and make it easier to use. Full form **window, icon, mouse, pointer**. ◇ **environment, GUI**. Compare **command line interface**

COMMENT: WIMPs normally use a combination of windows, icons and a mouse to control the operating system. In many GUIs, such as Microsoft Windows, Apple Mac System 7 and DR-GEM, you can control all the functions of the operating system just using the mouse. Icons represent programs and files; instead of entering the file name, you select it by moving a pointer with a mouse.

**Winchester disk** /draɪv/, **Winchester drive** *noun* a compact high-capacity hard disk which is usually built into a computer system and cannot be removed

**window** /'wɪndəʊ/ *noun* 1. a reserved section of screen used to display special information, which can be selected and looked at at any time and which overwrites information already on the screen ○ *Several remote sta-*

tions are connected to the network and each has its own window onto the hard disk. **2.** a part of a document currently displayed on a screen ○ *The operating system will allow other programs to be displayed on-screen at the same time in different windows.* **3.** an area of memory or access to a storage device ■ *verb* to set up a section of screen by defining the coordinates of its corners, allowing information to be temporarily displayed and overwriting previous information without altering information in the workspace

'...when an output window overlaps another, the interpreter does not save the contents of the obscured window' [*Personal Computer World*]

### window, icon, mouse, pointer

/ˌwɪndəʊ ˌaɪkən ˌmaʊs ˈpɔɪntə/ *noun* full form of **WIMP**

**windowing** /ˈwɪndəʊɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the action of setting up a window to show information on the screen ○ *The network system uses the latest windowing techniques.* **2.** the process of displaying or accessing information via a window

'...windowing facilities make use of virtual screens as well as physical screens' [*Byte*]

'...the network system uses the latest windowing techniques' [*Desktop Publishing*]

'...the functions are integrated via a windowing system with pull-down menus used to select different operations' [*Byte*]

**Windows** /ˈwɪndəʊz/ a trade name for a family of operating systems developed by Microsoft that interacts with users through a Graphical User Interface. Windows is the operating system used by most of the world's PCs. Also called **Microsoft Windows**, **MS-Windows**

**Windows Explorer** /ˌwɪndəʊz ɪk'splɔːrə/ a trade name for a software utility included with Windows that lets a user view the folders and files on the hard disk, floppy disk, CD-ROM and any shared network drives

**Windows Internet Naming Service** /ˌwɪndəʊz ɪntənət ˈneɪmɪŋ ˌsɜːvɪs/ full form of **WINS**

**Windows NT** /ˌwɪndəʊz en ˈtiː/ a trade name for a high-performance GUI derived from Windows that does not use DOS as an operating system and features 32-bit code

**Windows XP** /ˌwɪndəʊz ɛks ˈpiː/ a trade name for a version of the Windows operating system designed for home and business users that provides a 32-bit multitasking operating system with the standard Windows graphical user interface together with improved network and Internet connectivity

**windshield** /ˈwɪndʃiːld/ *noun* a device which is attached to a microphone in order to reduce wind noise (*film*)

**WINS** /wɪnz/ *noun* a system that works with a network of computers running Windows and provides a database of the IP addresses of each computer on the network. Full form **Windows Internet Naming Service**

COMMENT: This is more difficult than it sounds, since a computer is usually given a different IP address every time it is switched on. The WINS service provides 'name resolution' for Windows networks, DNS provides a similar service for networks with fixed IP addresses, including the public Internet.

**Winsock** /ˈwɪnsɒk/ *noun* a utility software that is required to control the modem when connecting to the Internet and allows the computer to communicate using the TCP/IP protocol. Also called **socket driver**

**wipe** /waɪp/ *verb* to clean data from a disk ○ *By reformatting you will wipe the disk clean.* (NOTE: **wipes – wiping – wiped**)

**wire** /ˈwaɪə/ *noun* a thin metal conductor ■ *verb* to install wiring in something (NOTE: **wires – wiring – wired**)

**wire frame model** /ˌwaɪə freɪm ˈmɒd(ə)l/ *noun* (*in graphics and CAD*) a method of displaying objects using lines and arcs rather than filled areas. Also called **wire mesh model**, **stick model**

**wireless** /ˈwaɪələs/ *noun* a device that can receive radio broadcasts (*old use*) ■ *adjective* communication system that does not require wires to carry signals

**wireless access point** /ˌwaɪələs ˈæksɛs ˌpɔɪnt/ *noun* full form of **WAP 2**

**Wireless Application Protocol** /ˌwaɪələs ˌæplɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n ˌprəʊtəʊkəl/ *noun* full form of **WAP 1**

**wireless LAN** /ˌwaɪələs ˈlæn/ *noun* same as **wireless network**

**wireless microphone** /ˌwaɪələs ˈmaɪkrəfəʊn/ *noun* an audio microphone with a small transmitter attached allowing the transmission of signals without interconnecting wires

**wireless modem** /ˌwaɪələs ˈmɒdəm/ *noun* a modem that can be used with a wireless mobile telephone system (NOTE: A wireless modem normally includes the telephone hardware and an aerial, so does not need to be plugged into a separate mobile telephone.)

**wireless network** /ˌwaɪələs ˈnetwɜːk/, **wireless LAN** /ˌwaɪələs ˈlæn/ *noun* a network that does not use cable to transmit data between computers, but instead uses radio signals to transmit signals, normally using the 802.11b or 802.11a transmission protocol. Also called **wireless LAN**

**wire tap** /'waɪə tæp/ *noun* an unauthorised connection to a private communications line in order to listen to conversations or obtain private data

**wiring** /'waɪərɪŋ/ *noun* a series of wires ○ *The wiring in the system had to be replaced.*

**WISC** /wɪsk/ *noun* a CPU design that allows a programmer to add extra machine code instructions using microcode, to customise the instruction set. Full form **writable instruction set computer**

**wizard** /'wɪzəd/ *noun* a software utility that helps you create something

**WML** /,dʌb(ə)l ju: em 'el/ *noun* a webpage formatting language that is similar to a very simple version of the standard HTML webpage coding system, but does not include many of the extra features that cannot be displayed on the small screen of a WAP handheld device or navigated with two or three buttons. Full form **WAP markup language**

**WMLScript** /,dʌb(ə)l ju: em 'el ,skrɪpt/ *noun* a scripting language similar to a very simple version of JavaScript that allows WML webpages to include scripting functions. Full form **WAP markup language script**

**woofer** /'wʊfə/ *noun* a large loudspeaker used to produce low frequency sounds (*informal*)

**word** /wɜ:ɪd/ *noun* **1.** a separate item of language, which is used with others to form speech or writing which can be understood **2.** a separate item of data on a computer, formed of a group of bits, stored in a single location in a memory

**word count** /'wɜ:ɪd kaʊnt/ *noun* the number of words in a file or text

**WordPad** /'wɜ:ɪd pæd/ a software utility included with versions of Microsoft Windows later than Windows 95 that provides the basic functions of Microsoft Word 6

**word-process** /,wɜ:ɪd 'prəʊses/ *verb* to edit, store and manipulate text using a computer ○ *It is quite easy to read word-processed files.*

**word-processing** /,wɜ:ɪd 'prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* the process of using a computer to keyboard, edit and output text, in forms such as letters, labels and address lists ○ *Load the word-processing program before you start keyboarding.* Abbr **WP**

**word-processor** /,wɜ:ɪd 'prəʊsesə/ *noun* **1.** a small computer used for word-processing text and documents **2.** a word-processing package or program for a computer which allows the editing and manipulation and output of text, in forms such as letters, labels and address lists

**word wrap** /'wɜ:ɪd ræp/ *noun* a system in word-processing in which the operator does not have to indicate the line endings, but can keyboard continuously, leaving the program to insert word breaks and to continue the text on the next line. Also called **wraparound**

**work file** /'wɜ:ɪk faɪl/ *noun* a temporary work area which is being used for current work. Also called **scratch file**

**workflow** /'wɜ:ɪkfləʊ/ *noun* software designed to improve the flow of electronic documents around an office network, from user to user

**workgroup** /'wɜ:ɪkgru:p/ *noun* a small group of users who are working on a project or connected with a local area network

**workgroup software** /'wɜ:ɪkgru:p ,sɒftweə/ *noun* an application designed to be used by many users in a group to improve productivity, e.g. a diary or scheduler

**working** /'wɜ:ɪkɪŋ/ *adjective* operating correctly

**workload** /'wɜ:ɪk,ləʊd/ *noun* the amount of work which a person or computer has to do ○ *He has difficulty in dealing with his heavy workload.*

**workplace** /'wɜ:ɪkpleɪs/ *noun* a place where you work

**work print** /'wɜ:ɪk prɪnt/ *noun* a positive print of a film scene which has been selected by the editor (*film*)

**work-sharing** /'wɜ:ɪk ,ʃeərɪŋ/ *noun* a system where two part-timers share one job

**worksheet** /'wɜ:ɪk ,ʃi:t/ *noun* (*in a spreadsheet program*) a two-dimensional matrix of rows and columns that contains cells which can, themselves, contain equations

**workspace** /'wɜ:ɪkspeɪs/ *noun* a space on memory which is available for use or is being used currently by an operator

**workstation** /'wɜ:ɪk,steɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a place where a computer user works, with equipment such as a terminal, VDU, printer and modem ○ *The system includes five workstations linked together in a ring topology network.*

'...an image processing workstation must provide three basic facilities: the means to digitize, display and manipulate the image data' [Byte]

**world** /wɜ:ɪld/ *noun* a three-dimensional scene that is displayed on a website and allows a user to move around the scene exploring the objects visible. ◊ **VRML**

**World Wide Web** /,wɜ:ɪld ,waɪd 'web/ *noun* a collection of the millions of websites and webpages that together form the part of the Internet that is most often seen by users. Abbr **www**, **W3**. Also called **web**

COMMENT: Each website is a collection of webpages containing text, graphics and

links to other websites. Each page is created using the HTML language and is viewed by a user with a web browser. Navigating between webpages and websites is called surfing; this requires a computer with a link to the Internet and a web browser to view the webpages stored on the remote web servers. The Internet itself includes email, Usenet and newsgroups as well as websites and webpages.

**World Wide Web Consortium** /ˌwɜːld waɪd 'web kən,sɔːrtiəm/ *noun* full form of **W3C**

**WORM** /wɜːm/ *noun* an optical disk storage system that allows the user to write data to the disk once, but the user can then read the data from the disk many times. Full form **write once, read many times memory**

**wow** /waʊ/ *noun* the fluctuation of the frequency of a recorded signal at playback (usually caused by uneven tape movement)

**WP** *abbr* word-processing

**wraparound** /'ræpə,raʊnd/ *noun* same as **word wrap**

**writable instruction set computer** /,raɪtəb(ə)l ɪn'strʌkʃən set kəʊ'pju:tə/ *noun* full form of **WISC**

**write** /raɪt/ *verb* **1.** to put words or figures onto paper ○ *She wrote a letter of complaint to the manager.* **2.** to put text or data onto a disk ○ *Access time is the time taken to read from or write to a location in memory.* (NOTE: **writes – writing – wrote – written.** You write data **to** a file.)

**write black printer** /,raɪt 'blæk ,prɪntə/ *noun* a printer in which toner sticks to the points hit by the laser beam when the image drum is scanned. Compare **white writer**

COMMENT: A write black printer produces sharp edges and graphics, but large areas of black are muddy.

**write once, read many times memory** /,raɪt ,wʌns ri:d 'meni ,taɪmz ,mem(ə)ri/ *noun* full form of **WORM**

**write-on slides** /,raɪt ɒn 'slɑɪdz/ *plural noun* during a film's production, slides with a matte covering are used, on which information is hand drawn to show the final image

**write-permit ring** /,raɪt pə'mɪt rɪŋ/ *noun* a ring on a reel of magnetic tape which allows the tape to be overwritten or erased

**write protect** /,raɪt prə'tekt/ *verb* to make it impossible to write to a floppy disk or tape by moving a special write-protect tab

**writing** /'raɪtɪŋ/ *noun* something which has been written

**WYSIAYG** /'wɪzi:eɪg/ *noun* a program in which the output on screen cannot be printed out in any other form, as it contains no hidden print or formatting commands. Full form **What-You-See-Is-All-You-Get**

**WYSIWYG** /'wɪzi:wɪg/ *noun* a program in which the output on the screen is exactly the same as the output on printout, including graphics and special fonts. Full form **What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get**

# X

## **X<sup>1</sup>** /eks/ *noun* same as **X-Window System**

'X is the underlying technology which allows Unix applications to run under a multi-user, multitasking GUI. It has been adopted as the standard for the Common Open Software Environment, proposed recently by top Unix vendors including Digital, IBM and Sun.' [*Computing*]

## **X<sup>2</sup>** /eks/ *abbr* extension

**X2** *noun* a communications standard developed by US Robotics for its range of high-speed modems that can transfer data at 56,000 bits per second. ♠ **V series**

**X.25** *noun* a CCITT standard that defines the connection between a terminal and a packet-switching network

**X.400** *noun* a CCITT standard that defines an email transfer method

**X.500** *noun* a CCITT standard that defines a method of global naming that allows every user to have a unique identity and allows any user to address an email message to any other user. ♠ **directory services**

## **XA** ♠ **CD-ROM Extended Architecture**

**x-axis** /,eks ,əʊt 'æksɪs/ *noun* the horizontal axis of a graph

**x-coordinate** /,eks kəʊ'ɔ:diɪnət/ *noun* a horizontal axis position coordinate

**x direction** /,eks ,əʊt dɪ'rekʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a movement horizontally

**x distance** /,eks ,əʊt 'dɪstəns/ *noun* the distance along an x-axis from an origin

**xerographic** /,zɪərəʊ'græfɪk/ *adjective* referring to xerography

**xerographic printer** /,zɪərəgræfɪk 'prɪntə/ *noun* a printer such as a photocopier in which charged ink is attracted to areas of a charged picture

**xerography** /zɪə'rɒgrəfi/ *noun* a copying method that relies on ink being attracted to dark regions of a charged picture

**Xerox Network System** /,zɪərəʊks 'netwɜ:k ,sɪstəm/ a network protocol developed by Xerox that has provided the basis for the Novell IPX network protocols. *Abbr* **XNS**

**Xerox PARC** a Xerox development centre that has developed a wide range of important products including the mouse and GUI

**XGA** /,eks dʒi: 'eɪ/ *noun* a standard for colour video graphics adapter for PCs, developed by IBM, which has a resolution of 1,024 x 768 pixels with 256 colours on an inter-

laced display. Full form **extended graphics array**

**XHTML** /,eks eɪtʃ ti: em 'el/ *noun* a combination of the HTML and XML webpage markup languages. Full form **extensible hypertext markup language**

COMMENT: XHTML is actually written using the XML language and provides a simpler way of creating webpages that will be displayed in the same way over a wide range of web browser platforms.

**XML** /,eks em 'el/ *noun* a webpage markup language that is a simplified version of the SGML system and allows a designer to create his or her own customised markup tags to improve flexibility. Full form **extensible markup language**

**XMODEM** /'eks ,məʊdem/ *noun* a standard file transfer and error-detecting protocol used in asynchronous, modem data transmissions

**XMS** /,eks em 'es/ *noun* a set of rules that define how an MS-DOS program should access extended memory fitted in a PC. Full form **extended memory specification**

**XNS** *abbr* Xerox Network System

**XON/XOFF** /,eks ɒn eks 'ɒf/ *noun* an asynchronous transmission protocol in which each end can regulate the data flow by transmitting special codes

**X/OPEN** /,eks 'əʊpən/ *noun* a group of vendors that are responsible for promoting open systems

**XP** *abbr* **1.** Athlon **XP** **2.** Windows **XP**

**X-ray** /'eks ,reɪ/ *noun* **1.** a ray with a very short length, which is invisible, but can go through soft tissue and register as a photograph on a film **2.** a photograph taken using X-rays ○ *The medical text is illustrated with X-ray photographs.* **3.** a lighting unit that hangs above the set (*film*)

**X-ray imaging** /'eks reɪ ,ɪmɪdʒɪŋ/ *noun* the process of showing images of the inside of a body using X-rays

**X-series** /,eks ,əʊt 'sɪəri:z/ *noun* a set of recommendations for data communications over public data networks

**X-sheet** /'eks ʃi:t/ *noun* written orders for the exposure of animation film

**XT** /,eks 'ti:/ *noun* a trade name for a version of the original IBM PC, developed by IBM,

that used an 8088 processor and included a hard disk

**X-Window System** /,ɛks ˌwɪndəʊ 'sɪstəm/, **X-Windows** a graphical interface, usually used on Unix workstation computers, made up of a set of API commands and display handling routines that provide a hardware-independent programming interface for applications

'X is the underlying technology which allows Unix applications to run under a multi-user, multitasking GUI. It has been adopted as the standard

for the Common Open Software Environment, proposed recently by top Unix vendors including Digital, IBM and Sun.' [*Computing*]

COMMENT: Originally developed for UNIX workstations, it can also run on a PC or minicomputer terminals. The Open Software Foundation has a version of X-Windows called Motif; Sun and Hewlett Packard have a version called OpenLook.

**x-y** /,ɛks 'aʊt waɪ/ *noun* the set of coordinates for drawing a graph, where x is the horizontal and y the vertical value

# Y

**Y** *noun* the luminance part of a video image

**yaw** /jɔː/ *noun* the rotation of satellite about a vertical axis with the earth

**y-axis** /'waɪ ,æksɪs/ *noun* the vertical axis of a graph

**Y/C** /,waɪ 'siː/ *noun* two parts of a video signal representing the luminance (Y) and the chrominance (C) parts of the image

**Y/C delay** /,waɪ 'siː dɪˌleɪ/ *noun* an error caused by wrong synchronisation between the luma and chroma signals in a video transmission, seen as a colour halo around objects on the screen

**y-coordinate** /'waɪ kəʊˌɔːdɪnət/ *noun* the vertical axis position coordinate

**Y/C video** /,waɪ siː 'vɪdɪəʊ/ *noun* same as **S-Video**

**y-direction** /'waɪ daɪˌrekʃən/ *noun* a vertical movement

**y-distance** /'waɪ ˌdɪstəns/ *noun* the distance along a y-axis from an origin

**Yellow Book** /'jeləʊ bʊk/ *noun* a formal specification for CD-ROM published by Philips, which includes data storage formats and has an extension to cover the CD-ROM XA standard

**yellow-magenta-cyan-black** /,jeləʊ məˌdʒentə 'saɪən blæk/ *noun* full form of **YMCK**

**YMCK** /,waɪ em siː 'keɪ/ *noun* colour definition based on the four colours used in DTP software when creating separate colour film to use for printing. Full form **yellow-magenta-cyan-black**

**YMODEM** /'waɪ ˌmɒdəm/ *noun* a variation of the XMODEM file transfer protocol that uses 1024-byte blocks and can send multiple files

**YUV encoding** /,waɪ juː viː ɪnˈkəʊdɪŋ/ *noun* a video encoding system in which the video luminance (Y) signal is recorded at full bandwidth but the chrominance signals (U&V) are recorded at half their bandwidth

# Z

**Z** *symbol* impedance

**Z80** /'zed 'eɪtɪ/ *noun* an 8-bit processor developed by Zilog, used in many early popular computers

**zap** /zæp/ *verb* to wipe off all data currently in the workspace ○ *He pressed CONTROL Z and zapped all the text.* (NOTE: zapping – zapped)

**z-axis** /'zed ˌæksɪs/ *noun* an axis for depth in a three-dimensional graph or plot

**z buffer** /'zed ˌbʌfə/ *noun* an area of memory used to store the z-axis information for a graphics object displayed on screen

**zero** /'ziərəʊ/ *noun **1.** the digit 0 ○ *The code for international calls is zero one zero (010).* **2.** the equivalent of logical off or false state (NOTE: The plural is **zeros** or **zeroes**.)*

■ *verb* to erase or clear a file or the contents of a programmable device

**zero insertion force socket** /,ziərəʊ ɪn ˌsɜːf(ə)n fɔːs 'sɒkɪt/ *noun* a chip socket that has movable connection terminals, allowing the chip to be inserted without using any force, then a small lever is turned to grip the legs of the chip. Also called **ZIF socket**

**zero slot LAN** /,ziərəʊ slɒt 'læn/ *noun* a local area network that does not use internal expansion adapters, but instead the serial port or, sometimes, an external pocket network adapters connected to the printer port

**zero wait state** /,ziərəʊ 'weɪt ˌsteɪt/ *noun* the state of a device (normally processor or memory chips) that is fast enough to run at the same speed as the other components in a computer, so does not have to be artificially slowed down by inserting wait states

**ZIF socket** /'zɪf ˌsɒkɪt/ *noun* same as **zero insertion force socket**

**zine** /ziːn/ *noun* a paper, Internet magazine or other periodical published by its author, issued at irregular intervals and usually aimed at specialist readers

**ZIP** /zɪp/ *noun* a filename extension given to files that contain compressed data, usually generated by the PKZIP shareware utility program

**zip code** /'zɪp 'kəʊd/ *noun* US letters and numbers used to indicate a town or street in an address on an envelope

**Zip disk** /'zɪp dɪsk/ *noun* a proprietary type of removable storage device, similar to a removable hard disk drive, manufactured by Iomega Corp. to provide a convenient backup and storage medium with 100 Mb or 1Gb disk capacity.

**zip file** /'zɪp faɪl/ *noun* a computer file with the extension .zip containing data that has been compressed for storage or transmission.

**ZMODEM** /'zed ˌmɔːdem/ *noun* an enhanced version of the XMODEM file transfer protocol that includes error detection and the ability to restart a transfer where it left off if the connection is cut

**zone** /zəʊn/ *noun* **1.** a region or part of a screen defined for specialised printing **2.** the division of the area of a television picture raster. Usually, zone 1 is the part held within a circle of 0.8 of picture height, zone 2 is the circle equal to picture width, and zone 3 is the rest of the area outside zone 2.

**zoom** /zuːm/ *verb* **1.** to enlarge an area of text or graphics to make it easier to work on **2.** to change the focal length of a lens to enlarge the object in the viewfinder

‘...any window can be zoomed to full-screen size by pressing the F-5 function key’ [Byte]

‘...there are many options to allow you to zoom into an area for precision work’ [Electronics & Wireless World]

**zoomed video port** /,zuːmd 'vɪdɪəʊ ˌpɔːt/ *noun* full form of **ZV Port**

**zooming** /'zuːmɪŋ/ *noun* the process of enlarging an area of text or graphics ○ *Variable zooming from 25% to 400% of actual size.*

**zoom lens** /'zuːm lenz/ *noun* a lens whose focal length can be varied to make an object larger in the viewfinder

**zoom microphone** /,zuːm ˌmaɪkrəfəʊn/ *noun* a microphone which can give a zoom effect by moving towards or away from sound

**ZV Port** /,zed 'viː ˌpɔːt/ *noun* an interface port that allows data to be transferred from a PC Card directly to the computer's video controller without passing through the computer's central processor. Full form **zoomed video port** (NOTE: It is used to allow a laptop computer to display live images from a video camera plugged into the computer's PC Card socket.)

## **SUPPLEMENTS**

# HTML codes

The following is a list of the basic HTML codes (or tags) used to format webpages.

## **<a> ... </a>**

creates a hyperlink target or source. For example,

```
<a href="www.bloomsbury.com">link to Bloomsbury</a>
```

will create a hyperlink to the Bloomsbury Publishing Plc webpage.

## **<address> ... </address>**

enclosed text is formatted in smaller typeface as an address

## **<applet> ... </applet>**

defines an applet within the document

## **<area>**

defines the area of a graphic image that will respond to a mouse click using a client-side imagemap

## **<b> ... </b>**

formats enclosed text in a bold typeface

## **<base>**

defines the URL that is added in front of all relative URLs used within the document

## **<basefont>**

defines the point size of the font used to format for the following text

## **<bgsound>**

defines the audio file played as a background sound to the document (used in MS-IE)

## **<big> ... </big>**

formats enclosed text in a bigger typeface

## **<blockquote> ... </blockquote>**

formats the enclosed text as a quotation

## **<body> ... </body>**

defines the start and finish of this document's body text; also used to define a graphic image used as a background, and to set the default colour of the text, hyperlinks and margins for the document

## **<br>**

inserts a line break in the text; the <p> code also inserts a carriage return

## **<caption> ... </caption>**

defines the caption for a table

## **<center> ... </center>**

formats enclosed text to be centered across the line

## **<cite> ... </cite>**

formats enclosed text as a citation

## **<code> ... </code>**

formats enclosed text as program code, normally using the Courier typeface

## **<col>**

defines the properties for a column that has been defined using <colgroup>

## HTML codes *continued*

### **<colgroup>**

defines a column

### **<comment> ... </comment>**

defines the enclosed text to be a comment. Only works in MS IE; with any other browser you should use the <!> comment <> tag format

### **<dd> ... </dd>**

defines one element of a definition list

### **<dfn> ... </dfn>**

formats enclosed text as a definition

### **<dir> ... </dir>**

creates a directory list using the <li> to create entries

### **<div> ... </div>**

divides the text within a document and formats each division

### **<dl> ... </dl>**

creates a definition list using the <dd> and <dt> tags to create entries

### **<dt> ... </dt>**

defines the definition part of an entry within a definition list

### **<em> ... </em>**

formats enclosed text with emphasis (similar to bold typeface)

### **<embed> ... </embed>**

points to an object to embed in a document

### **<font> ... </font>**

defines the size, colour and typeface of the font to use for the enclosed text

### **<form> ... </form>**

defines the following tags to be treated as one form; also defines how to process the form and where to send the encoded information

### **<frame> ... </frame>**

defines a frame, including its border, colour, name and text

### **<frameset> ... </frameset>**

defines a collection of frames

### **<h> ... </h>**

defines a pre-set font size, such as <h1> for a large headings, <h4> for small headings

### **<hr>**

breaks the current line of text and inserts a horizontal rule across the page

### **<html> ... </html>**

defines the start and end of the entire html document

### **<i>... </i>**

formats enclosed text using an italic typeface

### **<iframe> ... </iframe>**

defines a floating frame

## HTML codes *continued*

### **<img>**

includes an image within a document, also defines a border for the image, size, alternative caption text and whether the image is a video clip

### **<input type=checkbox>**

defines a checkbox button within a form

### **<input type=file>**

defines a file-selection list within a form

### **<input type=image>**

defines an image input element within a form

### **<input type=password>**

defines a text input that displays an asterisk when text is entered

### **<input type=radio>**

defines a radio button within a form

### **<input type=reset>**

defines a button to reset the form's contents

### **<input type=submit>**

defines a button to submit the form's contents to the named process

### **<input type=text>**

defines a text input element to allow users to enter a line of text

### **<isindex>**

defines the html document to be searchable by a defined search engine

### **<kbd> ... </kbd>**

formats enclosed text as a keyboard input

### **<li> ... </li>**

defines an item in a list; the list can be ordered using <ol> or unordered using <ul>

### **<link>**

defines a link within a document header

### **<listing> ... </listing>**

an old tag that is the same as the <pre> tag

### **<map> ... </map>**

defines an image map that contains hotspots

### **<marquee> ... </marquee>**

creates an animated scrolling text line, used in MS-IE

### **<menu> ... </menu>**

defines a menu that has items created using the <li> tag

### **<meta>**

allows the programmer to include extra information about the document

### **<multicol> ... </multicol>**

defines multiple columns within the document; only used in Netscape Navigator

## HTML codes *continued*

### **<nextid>**

used by automated html document generators as a reference point within a file

### **<nobr> ... </nobr>**

prevents the browser adding breaks within the enclosed text

### **<noframes> ... </noframes>**

defines content that should be displayed if the browser does not support frames

### **<noscript> ... </noscript>**

defines content that should be used if the browser does not support Java; only used in Netscape Navigator

### **<object> ... </object>**

defines an object, applet or OLE object to be inserted into the document

### **<ol> ... </ol>**

defines the start and end of a numbered list; items are inserted using the <li> tag

### **<option> ... </option>**

defines one option within a <select> tag

### **<p> ... </p>**

defines the start and end of a paragraph

### **<param> ... </param>**

defines the parameters to be passed to an applet or object

### **<plaintext>**

formats the rest of the document as plain text with spaces and breaks

### **<pre> ... </pre>**

formats the enclosed text as plaintext with spaces and breaks

### **<s> ... </s>**

formats enclosed text with a strikethrough (horizontal line)

### **<samp> ... </samp>**

defines enclosed text as an example (sample)

### **<script> ... </script>**

defines the start and end of a script written in a language such as JavaScript or VBScript

### **<select> ... </select>**

defines a list of options within a form, each created using the <option> tag

### **<small> ... </small>**

formats enclosed text in a small type size

### **<spacer>**

inserts a character space within a line of text; only used in Netscape Navigator

### **<span> ... </span>**

define a style sheet that formats text over several tags

### **<strike> ... </strike>**

formats enclosed text with a strikethrough (horizontal line)

## HTML codes *continued*

**<strong> ... </strong>**

formats enclosed text with emphasis, similar to bold typeface

**<style> ... </style>**

defines a collection of text formatting commands that can be referred to with this style command

**<sub> ... </sub>**

formats enclosed text as subscript

**<sup> ... </sup>**

formats enclosed text as superscript

**<table> ... </table>**

defines a table including border, colour, size and width; columns are added with <td> and rows with <tr>

**<tbody>**

a group of rows within a table

**<td> ... </td>**

defines a cell within a table, effectively adds a column to the table

**<textarea> ... </textarea>**

defines a multiple line text input element for a form

**<tfoot>**

defines rows within a table that are formatted as a footer to the table

**<th> ... </th>**

defines the header to each column in a table

**<thead>**

defines rows within a table that are formatted as a header to the table

**<title> ... </title>**

defines the title of an html document

**<tr> ... </tr>**

defines a row of cells within a table

**<tt> ... </tt>**

formats enclosed text in a monospaced typewriter-style font

**<ul> ... </ul>**

defines the start and end of a bulleted list of elements; each element is added using <li>

**<var> ... </var>**

enclosed text is the name of a variable

**<wbr>**

defines a possible point for a word break within a <nobr> line

**<xmp> ... </xmp>**

an old tag that formats enclosed text, similar to <pre>

## Prefixes

T	tera-	$10^{12}$
G	giga-	$10^9$
M	mega-	$10^6$
k	kilo-	$10^3$
d	deci-	$10^{-1}$
c	centi-	$10^{-2}$
m	milli-	$10^{-3}$
$\mu$	micro-	$10^{-6}$
n	nano-	$10^{-9}$
p	pico-	$10^{-12}$
f	femto-	$10^{-15}$
a	atto-	$10^{-18}$

## Symbols

%	per cent
=	equals
$\approx$	approximately equal to
$\neq$	is not equal to
<	is less than
>	is more than
+	plus
-	minus
$\div$	divided by
x	multiplied by
$\therefore$	therefore
&	and

## Decimal Conversion Table

	Decimal	BCD	Binary	Octal	Hexadecimal
<i>base</i>	10	2	2	8	16
	00	0000 0000	0000	00	0
	01	0000 0001	0001	01	1
	02	0000 0010	0010	02	2
	03	0000 0011	0011	03	3
	04	0000 0100	0100	04	4
	05	0000 0101	0101	05	5
	06	0000 0110	0110	06	6
	07	0000 0111	0111	07	7
	08	0000 1000	1000	10	8
	09	0000 1001	1001	11	9
	10	0001 0000	1010	12	A
	11	0001 0001	1011	13	B
	12	0001 0010	1100	14	C
	13	0001 0011	1101	15	D
	14	0001 0100	1110	16	E
	15	0001 0101	1111	17	F

# Unicode Characters 0 – 207 in Decimal and Hexadecimal

dec	hex	char									
0	0	NUL	52	34	4	104	68	h	156	9C	ST
1	1	SOH	53	35	5	105	69	i	157	9D	OSC
2	2	STX	54	36	6	106	6A	j	158	9E	PM
3	3	ETX	55	37	7	107	6B	k	159	9F	APC
4	4	EOT	56	38	8	108	6C	l	160	A0	NBSP
5	5	ENQ	57	39	9	109	6D	m	161	A1	ı
6	6	ACK	58	3A	:	110	6E	n	162	A2	ç
7	7	BEL	59	3B	;	111	6F	o	163	A3	£
8	8	BS	60	3C	<	112	70	p	164	A4	□
9	9	HT	61	3D	=	113	71	q	165	A5	¥
10	0A	LF	62	3E	>	114	72	r	166	A6	ı
11	0B	VT	63	3F	?	115	73	s	167	A7	§
12	0C	FF	64	40	@	116	74	t	168	A8	™
13	0D	CR	65	41	A	117	75	u	169	A9	©
14	0E	SO	66	42	B	118	76	v	170	AA	®
15	0F	SI	67	43	C	119	77	w	171	AB	«
16	10	DLE	68	44	D	120	78	x	172	AC	¬
17	11	DC1	69	45	E	121	79	y	173	AD	SHY
18	12	DC2	70	46	F	122	7A	z	174	AE	®
19	13	DC3	71	47	G	123	7B	{	175	AF	-
20	14	DC4	72	48	H	124	7C		176	B0	°
21	15	NAK	73	49	I	125	7D	}	177	B1	±
22	16	SYN	74	4A	J	126	7E	~	178	B2	²
23	17	ETB	75	4B	K	127	7F	DEL	179	B3	³
24	18	CAN	76	4C	L	128	80	xxx	180	B4	´
25	19	EM	77	4D	M	129	81	xxx	181	B5	μ
26	1A	SUB	78	4E	N	130	82	BPH	182	B6	¶
27	1B	ESC	79	4F	O	131	83	NBH	183	B7	·
28	1C	FS	80	50	P	132	84	IND	184	B8	˙
29	1D	GS	81	51	Q	133	85	NEL	185	B9	ı
30	1E	RS	82	52	R	134	86	SSA	186	BA	º
31	1F	US	83	53	S	135	87	ESA	187	BB	»
32	20	SP	84	54	T	136	88	HTS	188	BC	¼
33	21	!	85	55	U	137	89	HTJ	189	BD	½
34	22	“	86	56	V	138	8A	VTS	190	BE	¾
35	23	#	87	57	W	139	8B	PLD	191	BF	¿
36	24	\$	88	58	X	140	8C	PLU	192	C0	À
37	25	%	89	59	Y	141	8D	RI	193	C1	Á
38	26	&	90	5A	Z	142	8E	SS2	194	C2	Â
39	27	’	91	5B	[	143	8F	SS3	195	C3	Ã
40	28	(	92	5C	\	144	90	DCS	196	C4	Ä
41	29	)	93	5D	]	145	91	PU1	197	C5	Å
42	2A	*	94	5E	^	146	92	PU2	198	C6	Æ
43	2B	+	95	5F	-	147	93	STS	199	C7	Ç
44	2C	,	96	60		148	94	CCH	200	C8	È
45	2D	-	97	61	a	149	95	MW	201	C9	É
46	2E	.	98	62	b	150	96	SPA	202	CA	Ê
47	2F	/	99	63	c	151	97	EPA	203	CB	Ë
48	30	0	100	64	d	152	98	SOS	204	CC	Ì
49	31	1	101	65	e	153	99	xxx	205	CD	Í
50	32	2	102	66	f	154	9A	SCI	206	CE	Î
51	33	3	103	67	g	155	9B	CSI	207	CF	Ï

## Unicode Characters 208 – 255 in Decimal and Hexadecimal

dec	hex	char									
208	D0	Ð	220	DC	Û	232	E8	è	244	F4	ô
209	D1	Ñ	221	DD	Ý	233	E9	é	245	F5	õ
210	D2	Ò	222	DE	Þ	234	EA	ê	246	F6	ö
211	D3	Ó	223	DF	ß	235	EB	ë	247	F7	÷
212	D4	Ô	224	E0	à	236	EC	ì	248	F8	ø
213	D5	Õ	225	E1	á	237	ED	í	249	F9	ù
214	D6	Ö	226	E2	â	238	EE	î	250	FA	ú
215	D7	×	227	E3	ã	239	EF	ï	251	FB	û
216	D8	Ø	228	E4	ä	240	F0	ð	252	FC	ü
217	D9	Ù	229	E5	å	241	F1	ñ	253	FD	ý
218	DA	Ú	230	E6	æ	242	F2	ò	254	FE	þ
219	DB	Û	231	E7	ç	243	F3	ó	255	FF	ÿ

Notes:

1. Characters 0 – 127 form the ASCII character set.
2. Characters 32 – 127 and 160 – 255 are the same in the ANSI character set.

## Unicode CO and CI controls

NUL	null	EM	end of medium	RI	reverse line feed
SOH	start of heading	SUB	substitute	SS2	single shift two
SOT	start of text	ESC	escape	SS3	single shift three
ETX	end of text	FS	file separator	DCS	device control string
EOT	end of transmission	GS	group separator	PU1	private use one
ENQ	enquiry	RS	record separator	PU2	private use two
ACK	acknowledge	US	unit separator	STS	set transmit state
BEL	bell	SP	space	CCH	cancel character
BS	backspace	DEL	delete	MW	message waiting
HT	horizontal tab	BPH	break permitted here	SPA	start of guarded area
LF	line feed	NBH	no break here	EPA	end of guarded area
VT	vertical tab	IND	indent	SOS	start of string
FF	form feed	NEL	next line	SCI	single character introducer
CR	carriage return	SSA	start of selected area	CSI	control sequence introducer
SO	shift out	OSC	operating system command	ST	string terminator
SI	shift in	ESA	end of selected area	PM	privacy message
DLE	data link escape	HTS	character tabulation set	APC	application program command
DC	device control	HTJ	character tabulation with justification	NBSP	no-break space
NAK	negative ack.	VTS	line tabulation set	SHY	soft hyphen
SYN	synchronous idle	PLD	partial line forward		
ETB	end of transmission block	PLU	partial line backward		
CAN	cancel				

## Logic Function Tables

Written as	Drawn as	logic table															
A		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>A</th> <th>A</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	A	A	0	0	1	1									
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0	1	0															
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