

Unit 10

Can you overclock my computer?

- Making requests
- Talking about ability
- Overclocking a computer

FIRST MOVE

1. Which of the things below can you do? Which ones do you find difficult? Discuss your answers with another student.
 - a) use Excel spreadsheets
 - b) assemble a computer
 - c) read computer manuals
 - d) speak English
 - e) make PowerPoint slides
 - f) upgrade a computer
 - g) write e-mails in English

2. Pair-work: Think of some people who can do these activities well.



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READING

1. Read the text below. What are the advantages of overclocking a computer?

What does overclocking do?

When we overclock a computer's processor or memory we change their original speed. For example, we can overclock a processor rated at 2.4 GHz to 2.6 GHz. And we can overclock memory rated at 200 MHz to 220 MHz. As a result, the processor and/or the memory do more work and the computing performance of the PC improves.

Can overclocking damage computer hardware?

Yes, but it's not probable. If you overclock your computer hardware beyond its limits, maybe it will lock up or crash, but the processor or memory will not be permanently damaged. But remember: extreme voltages can damage your computer because the motherboard doesn't support extreme high voltages

What's the purpose of overclocking?

The most obvious reason to overclock a computer system is to improve the performance of your computer at little or no cost. Overclocking the processor and system memory can significantly boost game performance, benchmark scores and even simple desktop tasks. Since almost every modern processor and memory module can be overclocked to at least a slight degree, there are few reasons not to attempt it.

DIALOGUE

Can you overclock my computer?

1. Derek is consulting a technician about overclocking his computer. Listen to their conversation.

Derek: Can you overclock my computer to make it faster?
Technician: Maybe. What's the CPU clock rate?
Derek: It's 450 MHZ.
Technician: Well, I can overclock it, but I don't think that's going to help much.
Derek: So, what do you suggest?
Technician: Well, we can replace the motherboard and put in a new processor.
Derek: Excellent. Can you do it over the weekend?
Technician: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm going to be out of town this weekend. But you can have it back on Tuesday.
Derek: Tuesday is fine. How much would that be, please?
Technician: R\$ 75.
Derek: Can I pay by credit card?
Technician: Of course.

2. Discuss the following sentences with a partner. Are they true or false?
 - a) The CPU clock rate is 400 MHZ.
 - b) The technician suggests replacing the motherboard.
 - c) The technician is going to work this weekend.
 - d) Derek's computer is going to be ready only on Tuesday.

GRAMMAR (Part A)

1. Study the sentences in the box below.

Questions	Answers
Can you overclock my computer?	Yes, I can.
Can you do it over the weekend?	Sorry, but I can't.
Can you speak English?	Yes, I can.
Can you use <i>Windows Movie Maker</i> ?	No, I can't.

2. Fill in the gaps with the right word. Use *can* or *can't*.

- a) **A:** What kind of music do you like?
B: I really like reggae.
A: Really? you sing it too?
B: No, I can't.
- b) **A:** Excuse-me. How I get to the Metropolitan Museum, please?
B: Go up this street for ten blocks. Then turn right.
A: Ten blocks? That's too far. I go by bus?
B: No, you . There are no buses going that way.
- c) **A:** What's the matter, Paul?
B: I understand this Math problem. It's too difficult.
A: I help you with it?
B: Well, it's a calculus equation. you do it?
A: Of course I . Math is my favorite subject.
- d) **A:** you speak French, Mario?
B: Yes, I . Why?
A: A French Professor is visiting our campus today.
 you stay with him?
B: Sure, no problem.

3. Put the conversations in the right order. Then practice them.

Conversation 1

Well, she can run 10 km in an hour.
 Really? Can she run fast?
 What's Cindy doing in the park?
 Gee. That's not really fast enough, is it?
 She is training for the São Silvestre marathon.

Conversation 2

Can't you borrow your dad's car?
 Why can't you drive us to the beach, Clarice?

No way! The bus trip takes 5 hours.
 No, I can't. He is using it this weekend.
 My car is at the mechanic's.
 Why don't we go by bus, then?

Conversation 3

Where was he born?
 Who's your favorite poet?
 Can you read poems in English?
 Edgar Allan Poe.
 Yes. I can.
 He was born in Baltimore.

4. Look at the pictures. Discuss what each person can do. Use the verbs: *cook, play, paint and dance*.

Paul	Lisa	Randy
		
Janine	Alex	Michael
		

CONVERSATION

Pair work: Take turns asking about sports. Follow the model:

STUDENT A

Which sport can you play really well?
How often do you play?
Who do you play with?

STUDENT B

I can play .
Once / twice a / Every .
I play with .

GRAMMAR (Part B)

1. Study the sentences in the box below.

Questions	Answers
Can I pay by credit card?	Yes, you can.
Can I use your dictionary?	Sure. Go ahead.
Can I talk to you for a minute?	Oh, I'm sorry. I'm busy right now.
Can you open the window please?	Of course.
Can I call you at 11 pm?	I'd rather you didn't. I'll be in bed.

2. Complete the conversations with the right word. Then practice it with another student. Write the answers in your notebook.

Conversation 1

A: What's the matter, Susan?
B: Oh, I'm just exhausted. And I still have to cook dinner.
A: you need any help?
B: Oh, yes, please. you cut up the vegetables?
A: Sure. Where the vegetables?
B: the fridge.
A: Where exactly?
B: the bottom drawers. you see them?
A: Oh, yes. There they are.

Conversation 2.

A: How I help you, sir?
B: I'm looking for car polish please.
A: Here you are. This is the best kind we have.
B: How is it, please?
A: It's U\$ 12.
B: I use it in the sun?
A: No, you can't, sir. You should only use it in the shade.

3. Rephrase the sentences below. Use *Can...*?

- a) OK if I use your computer?
- b) Turn on the light please.
- c) Please repeat that word.
- d) OK if Marie goes with us?
- e) I need to use your eraser please.

CONVERSATION

1. Use the prompts below to make a conversation.

STUDENT A	STUDENT B
Excuse-me. Can you ? open the window lend me \$ 15 turn off the light call the teacher buy me a soft drink	Sure. No problem. I'm sorry, but I can't.
Excuse-me. Can I ? use your cell phone call you at midnight turn off the TV buy you a coffee later borrow your car	No, you can't. I'm sorry. Sure. Go ahead. Oh, I'd rather you didn't Of course. Sure, no problem.

WRITING

1. Rafael is a Brazilian tourist visiting the US for the first time. He is spending some days in California. Read the email he wrote to his American friend Johnny, who is now in Brazil.

Hello, Johnny

I'm writing to you from sunny California. The beaches here are spectacular! My English is helping a lot. I've improved a lot. I can speak faster and clearer and everybody can understand me. I can also ask for information and order food at restaurants. Listen, there are a couple of favors I need to ask you:

Can you water the plants? You can get the keys at the reception with Geraldo. Also, can you check if there is any bill under the door? And if so, do you think you can pay them for me? I'll write you a check as soon as I get back to Brazil. Thanks a zillion.

Best,
Rafa

2. Now write your own e-mail to a friend. Imagine you are travelling to an English-speaking country for the first time. Tell your friend about how your English has improved and ask him / her to do you a favor. Follow the model:

Hello, 

How is everything with you? I'm writing to you from sunny  The  here are spectacular! My English is helping a lot. It's so much better. I can speak faster and clearer and everybody can understand me. I can also  and  at . Listen, there are a couple of favors I need to ask you: Can you ? You can get  at the . Also, can you ? Thanks a zillion.



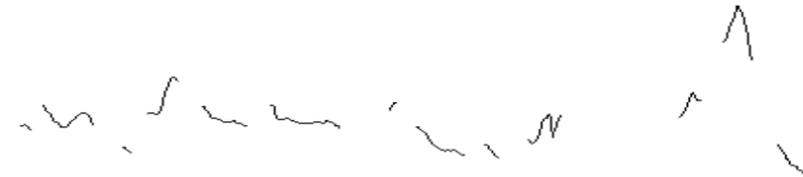
LISTENING AND PRONOUNCING

Words beginning with s & aspirated t

When *s* occurs at the beginning of a word it is never followed by another consonant in Brazilian Portuguese. In English, however, *s* can be followed by another consonant, as in *school*. Be careful not to insert a vowel such as [i] at the beginning of words beginning with *s*.

- Listen to the words and repeat them after your teacher. Make sure not to insert a vowel before [s].
 - school
 - swim
 - snake
 - stay
 - space
 - smoke
 - student
- Complete the sentences with the words from exercise 1. Then take turns reading them.
 - The  ate the rat.
 - Are you going to  in a hotel?
 - People can't  in elevators.
 - Most of the  in class live with their parents.
 - Marlon studies at a very traditional .
 - Benny and Kate like to  together in the pool.
 - Laika is the name of the dog the Russian sent to  in 1957.

3. Listen to the sentence produced by Jon "Maddog" Hall (Roda Viva n. 1390). As you listen to it, follow the intonation contour that corresponds to the rising and falling of the voice. How does the pronunciation of *t* differ in the words *exactly*, *operating* and *telephone*? In which word is *t* pronounced with a little air escape (a burst)?



I can have exactly the same operating system on my telephone.

VOCABULARY EXPANSION

Verbs related to computing

1. Look at the following verbs and repeat them after your teacher.

- burn
- download
- compress
- install
- digitize
- rearrange
- pre-install
- unplug
- reboot
- update
- transfer
- upload

2. Now read the definitions below and match them with the verbs above.

Use your notebook.

- put a software on the hard drive. 
- arrange again in a different way. 
- put (data) into digital form so that it can be directly processed by a computer. 
- receive information from another computer on the internet. 
- save a digital song or other information to a blank CD-R. 
- shrink digital information so it takes up less space. 
- remove a plug from the power source. 
- move something from one place to another. 
- put a software on a computer before it is sold. 
- start up the computer again. 
- get new information to replace or add to older information. 
- send information to another computer on the internet. 

3. Pair-work: Use the verbs in exercise 1 to ask about your friend's computer skills.

Student A: Can you...?

Student B: Yes, I can / Of course! / No, I can't