

# Unit 1

## How was the computer fair?

- Talking about past events
- Reading a banner
- Writing a summary

### FIRST MOVE

1. Do you agree with the statements below? Discuss your answers with another student.
  - a. LCD TVs are better than plasma TVs.
  - b. The Japanese make the best cars.
  - c. Slide projectors are too expensive.
  - d. Spanish is the language of international meetings.
2. What was the last technology event you attended?

### READING

1. Read the banner and the short text that follows it. What kind of event is it?



Each year, key global businesses come to COMPUTEX TAIPEI, the largest computer fair in Asia to launch their new products. This exhibition attracts observers, analysts, and journalists of computer and information industries from all over the world to discover and report the latest technologies, developments, and trends.

2. Fill in the gaps with the words from the box.

business    products    analysts    technologies    trend

- a) A Virtual reality video game is one of the on display at the exhibition.
- b) There are many in Bill Gate's house.
- c) Some predict that in the future most people will work from their homes.
- d) Interactivity is the new on TV.
- e) The construction is growing really fast in Brazil.

### VOCABULARY

1. Study the sentences in the box

A fair about computers is a **computer fair**.  
 An industry that makes computers is a **computer industry**.  
 An industry that deals with information is an **information industry**.  
 A video game which uses virtual reality is a **virtual reality video game**.

2. Fill in the gaps with the right words.

- a) A programmer of computers is a .
- b) A book for appointments is an .
- c) A store that sells hardware is a .
- d) A center for research is a .
- e) Displays of LCD are .
- f) A store that sells hardware is a .
- g) An agency that provides employment is an .
- h) A hall for conferences is a .

### DIALOGUE

Tell me more!

1. Roger is a new computer programmer at the company. He is having a meeting with the board. Listen to their conversation.

**Marilyn:** Take a seat, Roger. How was the computer fair?

**Roger:** It was very interesting. There were people from all over the world there.

**Brian:** Was it in Paris?

**Roger:** No, it was in Boulogne.

**Brian:** Really? Did you like the city?

**Roger:** I loved it. It is smaller than Paris, but the people are certainly friendlier.

**Brian:** Well, were they interested in our products?  
**Roger:** They sure were. They were crazy about the CPS-V2 printer.  
**Marilyn:** Oh, that's good news. How many stands were there?  
**Roger:** 260.

2. Discuss the sentences with a partner. Are they true or false?
- Roger liked the computer fair.
  - The fair was in Paris.
  - Boulogne is bigger than Paris.
  - Only people from Europe and the US attended the fair.
  - The CPSV2 printer was a success.
  - There were 260 stands at the event.

## GRAMMAR

1. Study the questions and answers in the box.

| Questions                             | Answers                  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| How was the computer fair?            | It was very interesting. |
| How many stands were there?           | (There were) 260.        |
| Was it in Paris?                      | No, it was in Boulogne.  |
| Were they interested in our products? | Yes, they were.          |

2. Complete the questions. Use *was* or *were*.

**Conversation 1**

**A:** Hi, Chris. How  your weekend?  
**B:** Oh, it was excellent.  
**A:**  you here in São Paulo?  
**B:** No, I was in Campinas.

**Conversation 2**

**A:**  you at Tina's party yesterday?  
**B:** Yes, I was.  
**A:**  it good?  
**B:** So-so. There were many people I didn't know.

**Conversation 3**

**A:** Who  Mara's first boyfriend?  
**B:** His name was Marcelo.  
**A:** How old  they when they first met?  
**A:** Mara was 15 and Marcelo was 19.  
**A:**  they in high school together?  
**B:** No, they weren't. In fact, she met him at the beach.



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3. Complete the sentences about Michael Jackson. Use *was* or *were*.

- Michael Jackson  born on August 29, 1958.
- He started singing when he  5 years old.
- The Jackson 5  the name of the group he formed with his brothers.
- His brothers  much older than him.
- Michael  the lead singer of the Jackson 5.
- They  famous all over the world.
- In 1972 Michael started his solo career. *Got to be There*  his first album
- In 1982 Michael recorded the album *Thriller*. There  7 top-ten hits in it.  
*Thriller* is the best selling album of all time.

4. Cecilia had a really bad week. Look at the notes she made in her calendar and complete the e-mail she wrote to her friend Bianca.

| Monday                 | Tuesday                           | Wednesday                              | Thursday              | Friday                        | Saturday                           | Sunday |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| Bus:<br>1 hour<br>late |                                   |  | Computer:<br>too slow |                               | Club: too<br>crowded<br>(no run)   |        |
|                        | rainy;<br>swimming<br>pool closed | Math teacher<br>sick test<br>cancelled |                       |                               |                                    |        |
|                        |                                   |  |                       | Party at<br>Lee's:<br>BORING! | cell phone:<br>dead for 2<br>hours |        |

Hi, Bianca  
 How are you? Better than me for sure. My week was so bad that I feel like crying now. On Monday my school bus one hour late. Tuesday so rainy that the swimming pool closed. Would you believe that? Well, on Wednesday the Math teacher sick and the test cancelled. I can't believe I studied so hard for nothing! Well next morning I couldn't go online because my computer too slow. Then on Friday I went to Lee's party. My, it so boring! I didn't know anyone there. Then on Saturday I went to the club for my usual run, but it so crowded that I gave up. But wait! It was not over yet. My cell phone dead for 2 hours straight and my parents didn't let me go out.  
 Let's get together sometime next week, please. I really need a shoulder to cry on.  
 Love,  
 Cecilia

5. Pair work: Make notes about your week. Then, tell your partner about it.

### CONVERSATION

1. Read the information about two computing events.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>8<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL NETWORK CONFERENCE</b><br/>                 6 to 8 July 2010<br/>                 Heidelberg, Germany</p>  <p><b>Topics:</b><br/>                 e-Learning, e-Commerce, Virtual communities, Social legal and ethical issues, Human interaction issues, Social networks.</p> | <p><b>1<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEW TECHNOLOGIES</b><br/>                 1 to 3 July 2010<br/>                 Redwood City, CA, USA</p>  <p><b>Topics:</b><br/>                 Mobile and wireless networking: 3G and 4G technologies, Mobile wireless Internet, Mobile commerce, Wireless sensor or satellite networks, broadband wireless access.</p> |
|--|---|

The deadline for submission of papers is the 31st January 2010. Please use the conferences submission system at <http://www.conference-papers.org/inc2014>

2. Talk about the events in exercise 1 with a partner. Use the model.

| Student A               | Student B  |
|-------------------------|--|
| How was the conference? | It was...<br>(great / interesting / awesome / boring / OK) |
| Where was it?           | It was in...   |
| Did you like the city?  | Yes, I did. / No I didn't.                                 |
| What was it about?      | It was about   |
| Were there many people? | Yes, there were / No, there weren't.                       |

### WRITING

1. Mark Williams is a computer programmer. His boss asked him to write a short summary of a recent conference he attended. Read his summary:

The 8<sup>th</sup> International network conference is the name of the event I attended. It took place in Heidelberg, Germany, from July 6 to 8, 2010. About 256 people participated. The main topics were e-Learning, e-Commerce, virtual communities, social legal and ethical issues, human interaction issues, and social networks.



2. Write your own summary. Use the information about the 1st International Conference on New Technologies discussed earlier or write about a real event you attended. Follow the model:

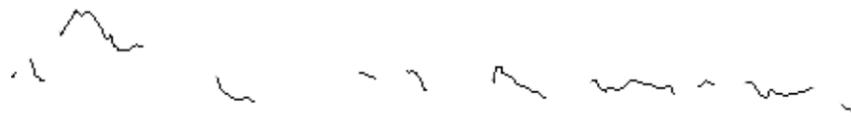
is the name of the event I attended. It took place in , from to , . About people participated. The main topics were , , , and .

## LISTENING AND PRONOUNCING

### The flap t

In American English the pronunciation of *t* between vowels and in an unstressed syllable is not the same as in other positions.

- Listen to the following sentences produced by Jon “Maddog” Hall (Roda Viva n. 1390). As you listen, follow the intonation contour, which corresponds to the rising and falling of the voice. Pay particular attention to the pronunciation of the words *computer*, *market*, *last*, *forty* and *political*. How is the *t* sound pronounced in these words?



The **computer** **market** **place** has been changing over the **last** **forty** years.



There's the **economic** **model** versus the **political** **model**.

- Listen to the words and repeat them after your teacher. Pay particular attention to the sound of *t* corresponding to the letters in **red**. In four of these words *t* is pronounced as a flap. Which words?

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| to <b>t</b> al     | st <b>e</b> am    |
| mat <b>t</b> er    | bet <b>t</b> er   |
| stud <b>e</b> nt   | fas <b>t</b>      |
| lat <b>e</b> r     | st <b>e</b> p     |
| tal <b>k</b> ing   | comple <b>t</b> e |
| tele <b>ph</b> one | teach <b>e</b> r  |

## VOCABULARY EXPANSION

### Technology events

- Listen to your teacher and repeat the events below.



A fair



An international convention



A workshop



A meeting

- Use phrases from the previous exercise to complete the sentences below. Use your notebook.

- is an encounter of manufacturers to promote business.
- is an event when people come together.
- is a huge formal international assembly of people.
- is an educational seminar or series of encounters to promote interaction and exchange of information.

- Which event do you find the most interesting? What about the most boring?