**CONNECTORS EXERCISE**

**Read the following text and underline the connectors that it contains.**

**The computer**

Computers are electronic machines that process information. They are capable of communicating with the user, of doing many kinds of arithmetic operations. However, they are incapable of thinking. They accept data and instructions as input, and after processing the information, they output the results.

When talking about computers, both hardware and software need to be considered. The former refers to the actual machinery, whereas the latter refers to the programs that control and coordinate the activities of the hardware.

The first computer was built in 1930 but since then computer technology has evolved a great deal. There are three different kinds of computers in use today: the mainframe, the minicomputer and the microcomputer. However, the dividing line between these has become rather blurred; a modern micro is often as powerful as a mainframe was ten years ago. All three have one thing in common – they operate quickly and accurately in solving problems.

**List the connectors you underlined in the previous text and classify them in the corresponding category.**

Connectors Category

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**According to the reading answer the following questions:**

1. What do you need to consider when talking about computers?

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2. What does software refer to?

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3. What does hardware refer to?

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4. What are the three kinds of computers?

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**A. Read the following text and underline the connectors that it contains.**

**What is a computer?**

A computer is a machine with an intricate network of electronic circuits that operates switches or magnetize tiny metal cores. The switches, like the cores, are capable of being in one of two possible states, that is, on or off; magnetized or demagnetized. The machine is capable of storing and manipulating numbers, letters, and characters. The basic idea of a computer is that we can make the machine do what we want by inputting signals that turn certain switches on and turn others off, or that magnetize or do not magnetize the cores.

(…) Computers are thought to have many remarkable powers. However, most computers, whether large or small have three basic capabilities. First, computers have circuits for performing arithmetic operations, such as: addition, subtraction, division, multiplication and exponentiation. Second, computers have a means of communication with the user. After all, if we couldn´t feed information in and get results back, these machines wouldn´t be of much use. However, certain computers (commonly minicomputers and microcomputers) are used to control directly things such as robots, aircraft navigation systems, medical instruments, etc.

(…) Third, computers have circuits which can make decisions. The kind of decisions which computer circuits can make are not of the type: “Who would win a war between two countries?” or “Who is the richest person in the world?” Unfortunately, the computer can only decide three things, namely: Is one number less than another? Are two numbers equal? And, is one number greater than another?

**B. List the connectors you underlined in the previous text and classify them in the corresponding category.**

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**C. Answer the following questions:**

1. How can we make computers do what we want?

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2. What are the three basic capabilities of computers?

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