The Digital Age

We are now living in what some people call *the digital age,* meaning that computers have become an essential part of our lives. Young people who grow up with PCs and mobile phones are called *the digital generation.* Computers help students to perform mathematical operations and improve their maths skills. They are used to access the Internet, to do research and to communicate with other students around the world. Teachers use projectors and interactive whiteboards. To give presentations and teach sciences, history or language courses. PCs are also used for administrative purposes – schools use word processors to write letters, and databases to keep records of students and teachers. A school website allows teachers to publish exercises for students to complete online. Students can also enroll for courses via the website and parents can download official reports.

Mobiles let you make voice calls, and send texts, email people and download logos, ringtones or games. With a built-in camera you can send pictures and make video calls in face-to-face mode. New smartphones combine a telephone with web access, videos, a games console, and MP3 player, a personal digital assistant (PDA) and a GPS navigation system, all in one.

In banks, computers store information about the money held by each customer and enable staff to access large databases and carry out financial transactions at high speed. They also control the cashpoints, or ATMs (automatic teller machines), which dispense money to customers by the use of a PIN-protected card. People use a Chip and PIN card to pay for goods and services. Instead of using a signature to verify payments, customers are asked to enter a four-digit personal identification number (PIN), the same number used at cashpoints; this system makes transactions more secure. With online banking, clients can easily pay bills and transfer money from the comfort of their homes.

Airline pilots use computers to help them control the plane. For example, monitors display data about fuel consumption and weather conditions. In airport control towers, computers are used to manage radar systems and regulate air traffic. On the ground, airlines are connected to travel agencies by computers. Travel agents use computers to find out about the availability of flights, prices, times, stopovers and many other details.

Q1. What is a digital age?

Q2. What is a digital generation?

Q3. How do computers help teachers?

Q4. How do computers help schools?

Q5. What does a typical school website consist of?

Q6. What do we do with mobile phones?

Q7. What is the meaning of built-in?

(a) outside   (b) at a side   (c) upside down   (d) integrated   (e) all of these

Q8. Write down the long forms of PDA, ATM and PIN.

Q9. What are the extra features given in smartphones?

Q10. How do you think a smart phone is better than a normal mobile phone?

Q11. In banks, what do we use instead of signatures?

Q12. Write some features of online banking.

Q13. How do pilots use computers?

Q14. How do airport control towers use computers?

Q15. How to airlines connect to travel agencies?

Q16. How do travel agents use computers?