**Computers**

**The Duke of Gloucester, commenting at a luncheon meeting in London: “A home-accident survey showed that 90 percent of accidents on staircases involved either the top or the bottom stair. This information was fed back into the computer to analyze how accidents could be reduced. The computer’s answer: “Remove the top and bottom stairs.” *(Building, England, as it appeared in Reader’s Digest)***

**One day my computer-science teacher, Mr. Snyder, was having difficulty with his computer, which is supposed to respond to verbal commands. Usually it answers to “Hilda,” but that day the machine wouldn’t start up no matter how many names Mr. Synder tried. Finally a boy in class called out, “Hey, babe!” The computer started up. *(Betsy Huang, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Humph! Anyone who thinks computers are only for the intelligent, never spent any time in a chat room! *(Art & Chip Sansom, in The Born Loser comic strip)***

**Part of the inhumanity of the computer is that once it is competently programmed and working smoothly, it is completely honest. *(Isaac Asimov, in Change!)***

**On two occasions I have been asked, “Pray, Mr. Babbage, if you put into the machine wrong figures, will the right answers come out?” I am not able rightly to apprehend the kind of confusion of ideas that could provoke such a question. *(Charles Babbage, computer pioneer)***

**Boy coming home from school to mother: "What a day! The computer broke down and we had to write!" *(Burbank, in Family Circle)***

**It took a nineteenth-century Danish schoolmaster a lifetime to calculate pi to eight hundred decimal places. It took a modern computer only a few seconds to check his figures and find them correct. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 76)***

**A computer is called smart. But it’s not. Each computer does what it does in a most remarkable manner, but not one knows what it’s doing or even knows that it’s doing what it’s doing. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A $100,000 computer 20 years ago computed about as much as a $10 chip can today. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 240)***

**Woman to marriage counselor: “It was a dating computer that was responsible for our marriage. I'll never understand what the machine saw in him!” *(Lichty, North America Syndicate)***

**A computer does save time at work. I can play solitaire without having to spend all that time shuffling real cards. *(The American Legion magazine)***

**Four out of five of all the words in all the computers worldwide are in English. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Only about half the people who own home computers ever use them, market researchers say. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Computers can now keep a man’s every transgression recorded in a permanent memory bank, duplicating with complex programming and intricate wiring a feat his wife handles quite well without fuss or fanfare. *(Lane Olinghouse)***

**Computers will never take the place of books. You can’t stand on a floppy disk to reach a high shelf. *(Sam Ewing)***

**A bachelor asked the computer to find him the perfect mate: “I want a companion who is small and cute, loves water sports and enjoys group activities.” Back came the answer: “Marry a penguin.” *(Rainbow magazine, Taiwan)***

**One of the first computers, the ENIAC, was built in 1949. It was a marvel of human engineering, taking up the space of an entire city block. Today, a single silicon chip a quarter of an inch square has the same computing capacity as the ENIAC. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits)***

**Boss to employee: "Great news, Haskel! The computer says you can handle twenty percent more work." *(Marty Lowe, King Features)***

**While trying to explain to our five-year-old daughter how much technology had changed, my husband pointed to our brand-new personal computer and told her that when he was in college, a computer with the same amount of power would have been the size of a house. Wide-eyed, our daughter asked, "How big was the mouse?" *(Cyndy Hinds, in Reader's Digest)***

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**Experts estimate that a computer would need to execute about 10 quadrillion calculations a second to approximate the activity of the human brain. Given current trends, the technology could be available for $1,000 in 2020. *(Forbes, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 19, 2005)***

**No machine can replace the human spark: spirit, compassion, love and understanding. *(Louis V. Gerstner, Jr.)***

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**Microsoft's Internet Explorer, to be officially retired in 2022, had 95 percent of the global browser market in 2003. Today, it's down to less than 1 percent. Google's Chrome holds the biggest share (65 percent), followed by Apple's Safari (19 percent). *(TheHustle.co, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 4, 2021)***

**One thing computers have trouble with is language; they can’t understand the meaning of words. One computer, told to translate “The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak” into Russian, came up with “The vodka is good, but the meat is rotten”! *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 150)***

**A computer lets you make more mistakes faster than any invention in human history -- with the possible exceptions of handguns and tequila. *(Mitch Ratcliffe)***

**If Only Life Were Like a Computer!**

**\* If you messed up your life, you could press “Ctrl, Alt, Delete” and start all over!**

**\* To get your daily exercise, just click on “run”! If you needed a break from life, click on suspend.**

**\* Hit “any key” to continue life when ready.**

**\* To add/remove someone in your life, click settings in control panel.**

**\* To improve your appearance, just adjust the display settings.**

**\* If life gets too noisy, turn off the speakers. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**A computer expert reveals that it would take a hundred clerks working for a hundred years to make a mistake as monumental as a single computer can make in 1/1000 of a second. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Today, when I throw away a musical birthday card, I am tossing out more computer power than existed in the entire world before 1948. *(Denis Waitley, in Empires of the Mind)***

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**Can you name a four-letter flower that rhymes with “nose”? Elementary, right? But not to a computer. It’s said no computer – yet – can do this. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing. *(Emo Philips, comedian)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The "digital highway" is a street teeming with people who are often hurting, men and women looking for salvation or hope. *(Pope Francis, in a speech)***

**One reason we prefer humans to computers is that you never get better service out of a computer by calling it "Honey" or by saying that you used to know its folks. *(Bill Vaughan, NANA)***

**Computers can figure out all kinds of problems, except the things in the world that just don’t add up. *(James Magary)***

**“I’ve invented a computer that’s almost human,” boasted one scientist to another.” “You mean it can think?” asked his colleague. “No. But when it makes a mistake, it can put the blame on some other computer.” *(The Right Hand)***

**"Just give us a few days," the repair technician said. "When we have the part, our computer will call your home to let you know." "I'm not home during the day," the customer said. "But I do have an answering machine." "Sorry, sir," the technician said. "Our computer won't talk to a machine." *(The Random House Book of Jokes and Anecdotes)***

**Grandpa: “What’s that you’re doing, Nelson?” Nelson: “The computer was running slow so I’ve disabled a bunch of programs in the system configuration utility, defragmented the hard drive and now I’m deleting all the cookies in the temporary piles cache.” Grandpa: “If you can’t explain what you’re doing to someone over sixty then either you don’t understand it very well or else it’s not very important.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**“Sequential scan” is what a computer does to search its memory banks for a bit of information. If a 50-year-old man’s brain worked that way, it would take him 400 years to answer the question: “What is your name?” So say the artificial intelligence experts. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**I took a two-year-old computer in to be repaired, and the guy looked at me as though he was a gun dealer and I’d brought him a musket. In two years, I’d gone from cutting-edge to Amish. *(Jon Stewart)***

**Computerists talk of “hardware,” “software” and “liveware.” What’s “liveware”? People. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**I love how computers do your taxes. Feed in the data and the computer does a print out -- then you read it and do a pass out. *(Orben's Current Comedy)***

**No one has yet programmed a computer to be of two minds about a hard problem or to burst out laughing. *(Lewis Thomas)***

**Those who compete in the National Typing Contest can use a word processor, if they want to. But no word processor has ever won. Fastest speed so far is 177 words per minute. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**While Dennis sits at his computer, he says to his Mom: "You want me to go shopping? You mean . . . in a store?" *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)***

**You probably wouldn’t be logging on to your computer today if it weren’t for a weaving machine invented about 200 years ago. In the early 1800s, a Frenchman, Joseph Marie Jacquard, invented a weaving loom that used holes punched in cards to control the pattern. About 30 years later a mathematician, Ada Byron, wrote the first computer programs. She based them on Jacquard's punch-card idea. Her programs were for the first general-purpose mechanical digital computer, which had just been invented by Charles Babbage. About 60 years later, an American, Herman Hollerith, built on these three people's ideas. He invented a machine that used punch cards to electrically count the information collected in the 1890 census. He was so successful that he started a company, later called IBM. *(Betty Debnam, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**Some planes and boats are always "she," but what sex is a computer? Joe McKie of Glasgow, Scotland, has announced that computers are feminine. "They are admired for their configurations," he explained. "They have the ability of total recall and correct all mistakes. They also predict our future foolishness. And, of course, they are always right?" (*Washington Star News***

**Computing machines, perhaps, can do the work of a dozen ordinary men, but there is no machine that can do the work of one extraordinary man. *(E. B. White)***

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