

Kit's Guide to Computer Networks

Learning objective: To explain what a computer network is and identify the key components that help devices communicate.

Use this writing frame to help you explain how computers talk to each other. Think about the devices we use at home and at school. Use the word bank to help you link your ideas together.

A computer network is a group of two or more computers linked together so they can share information and resources.

Word bank: network · connection · server · router · data · shared · wireless · cables · device · because · furthermore · consequently · in addition

1. What is a computer network and why is it useful to have one? Start by saying: A computer network is... (2 marks)

2. How do devices connect to a network? Describe the difference between using wires and wireless connections. Start by saying: Devices can connect to a network using... (2 marks)

3. What is the role of a router in a network? Start by saying: The router acts like a traffic controller because... (2 marks)

4. Can you name three devices you might find on a school network? Start by saying: Some examples of devices found on a network are... (3 marks)

5. What might happen if a network stops working? Explain the impact on sharing information. Start by saying: If a network connection fails, it would be difficult to... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are designing a network for a library. Draw a diagram showing how the computers, a printer, and a router would connect to each other. Label each part clearly.