

A computer is like a human brain.

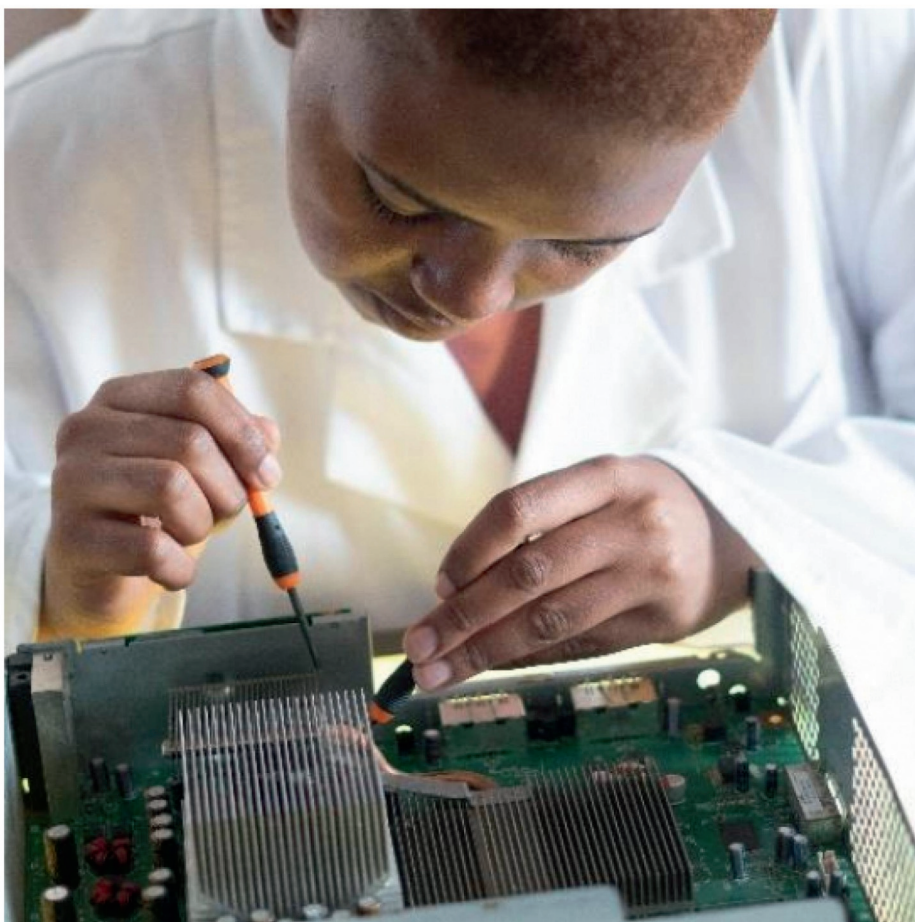
It takes in information, and it works with information.

It keeps information, and it gives back information.



When a computer works with information, we say it processes information.

When a computer keeps information, we say it stores information in its memory.



Even when you switch off a computer, its hard drive stores information in its memory.

A hard drive is usually found inside a computer.



A flash drive or flash stick stores information in the same way as a hard drive.

A flash stick plugs into a computer.



We use software programs to work with information.

Software programs process and store information on a computer.

There are different programs for different tasks.

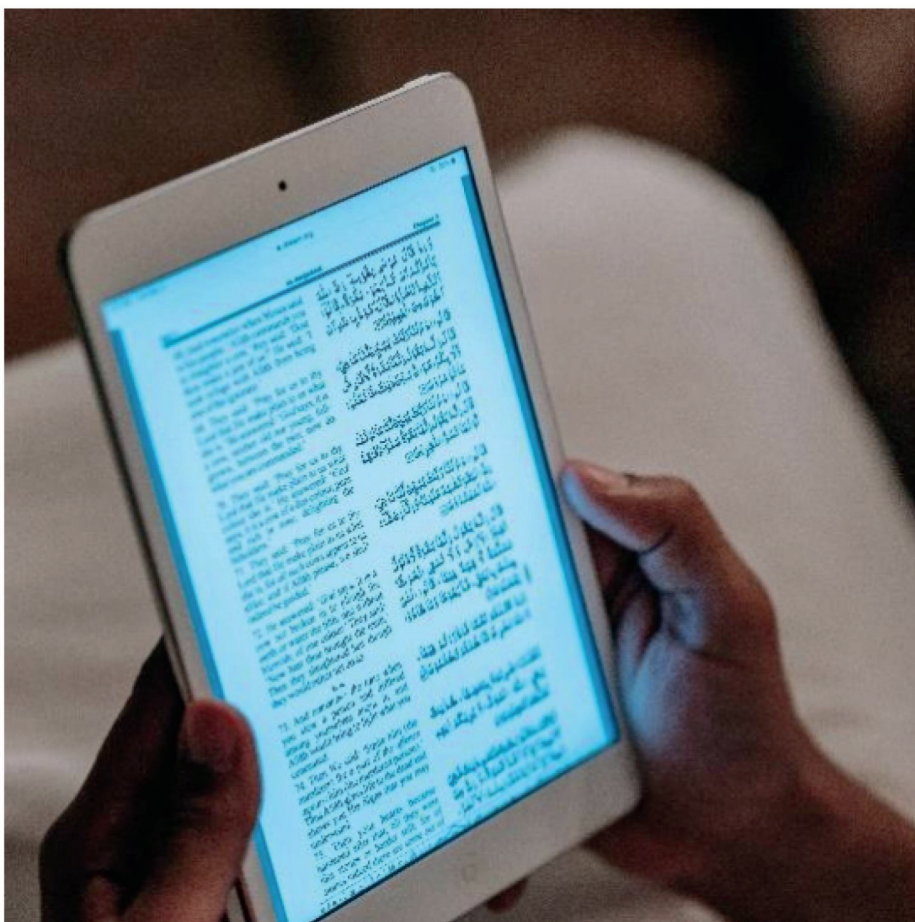


The applications on a smartphone are also software.

The short name for application is 'app'.

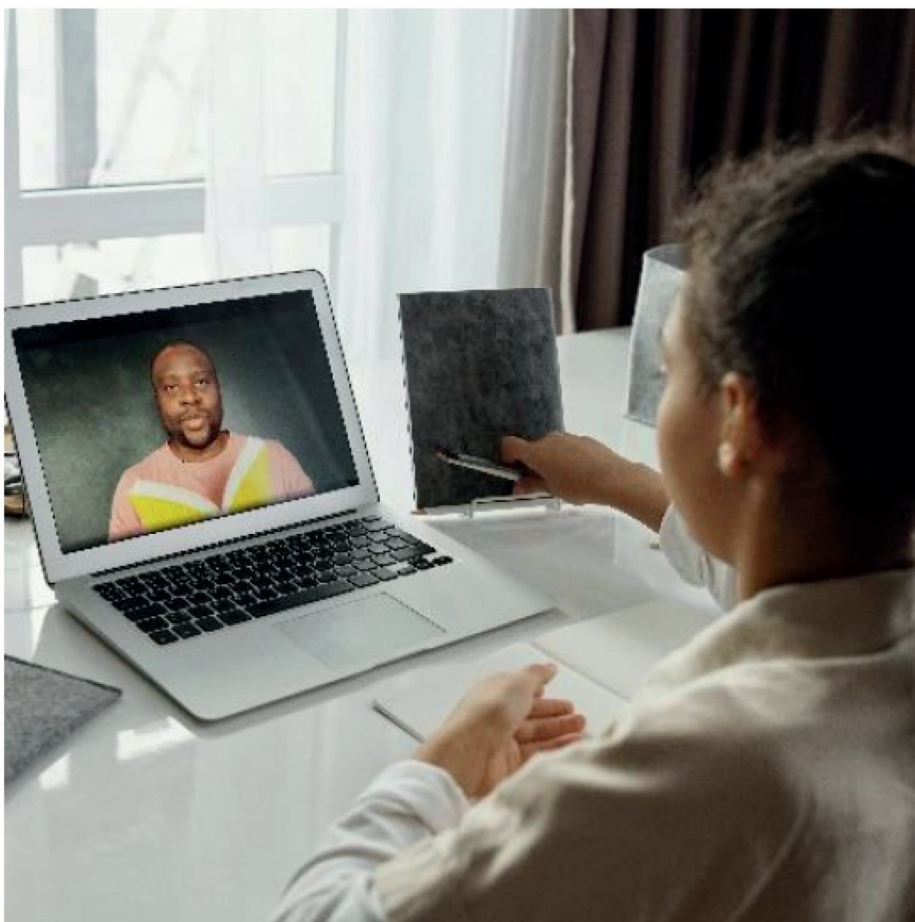


There are apps for playing games and other fun activities.



You can store many books on a computer.

You turn the pages of a book by pressing a button or swiping the screen.



A computer and an internet connection are very useful for studying.

You can use the internet to go online and watch teachers teaching lessons.



The internet can also be a dangerous place.

Ask someone you trust to help you with using the internet and visiting new websites.



—Questions

1. What is a computer doing when it processes information?
2. Where does a computer store information?
3. Give an example of an application (app).
4. How do software programs help us?
5. How can we use the internet for learning?



This is book one in a series of four books introducing topics in computer technology.

The storybook was created for the Zenex Ulwazi Lwethu reading materials project in 2021.