# Communication

A-Level Computer Science · Vocabulary in context

| Word | Example |
| --- | --- |
| **network** /ˈnetwɜːk/ | A **network** connects computers so they can share data. |
| **server** /ˈsɜːvə/ | The **server** stores the school's files. |
| **internet** /ˈɪntənet/ | The **internet** connects networks all over the world. |
| **local area network** /ˈləʊkl ˈeərɪə ˈnetwɜːk/ | The computers in our school form a **local area network**. |
| **latency** /ˈleɪtənsi/ | High **latency** makes online games lag. |
| **wide area network** /waɪd ˈeərɪə ˈnetwɜːk/ | A bank's offices in many cities share a **wide area network**. |
| **Public Switched Telephone Network** /ˈpʌblɪk swɪtʃt ˈtelɪfəʊn ˈnetwɜːk/ | Old phone lines are part of the **Public Switched Telephone Network**. |
| **switch** /swɪtʃ/ | A **switch** sends data only to the computer it is for. |
| **client** /ˈklaɪənt/ | Your phone is a **client** when it loads a web page. |
| **peer-to-peer** /pɪə tə pɪə/ | In a **peer-to-peer** network, every computer is equal. |
| **thick client** /θɪk ˈklaɪənt/ | A **thick client** does most of the work itself. |
| **thin client** /θɪn ˈklaɪənt/ | A **thin client** needs the server to do most of the work. |
| **topology** /təˈpɒlədʒi/ | The **topology** is the layout of the network. |



exercises.lol exercises.com.cn

| Word | Example |
|---|---|
| **bus** /bʌs/ | In a **bus** network, all computers share one cable. |
| **bandwidth** /ˈbændwɪdθ/ | A fast connection has a high **bandwidth**. |
| **star** /stɑː/ | In a **star** network, every computer connects to a central switch. |
| **mesh** /meʃ/ | In a **mesh** network, computers connect to many others. |
| **fault-tolerant** /fɒlt ˈtɒlərənt/ | A mesh network is **fault-tolerant**: it still works if one link breaks. |
| **hub** /hʌb/ | A **hub** sends data to every computer. |
| **packet** /ˈpækɪt/ | Data is split into small parts; each part is a **packet**. |
| **collision** /kəˈlɪʒn/ | A **collision** happens when two computers send at the same time. |
| **CSMA/CD** /ˌsiː es em ˈeɪ ˌsiː ˈdiː/ | **CSMA/CD** waits for a quiet cable before sending. |
| **router** /ˈruːtə/ | A **router** sends packets between networks. |
| **cloud computing** /klaʊd kəmˈpjuːtɪŋ/ | With **cloud computing**, you store files on servers far away. |
| **scalability** /ˌskeɪləˈbɪlɪti/ | **Scalability** means the system can grow when more users join. |
| **public cloud** /ˈpʌblɪk klaʊd/ | A **public cloud** is shared by many companies. |
| **private cloud** /ˈpraɪvət klaʊd/ | A **private cloud** is used by one company only. |



exercises.lol exercises.com.cn

| Word | Example |
| --- | --- |
| **ethernet** /ˈiːθənet/ | Most wired networks use **ethernet**. |
| **twisted-pair** /ˈtwɪstɪd peə/ | A **twisted-pair** cable has wires twisted together. |
| **fibre-optic** /ˈfaɪbə ˈɒptɪk/ | **Fibre-optic** cables send data as light. |
| **repeater** /rɪˈpiːtə/ | A **repeater** makes a weak signal strong again. |
| **network interface card** /ˈnetwɜːk ˈɪntəfeɪs kɑːd/ | A **network interface card** connects a computer to the network. |
| **MAC address** /mæk əˈdres/ | Every network card has its own **MAC address**. |
| **wireless network interface card** /ˈwaɪələs ˈnetwɜːk ˈɪntəfeɪs kɑːd/ | A laptop uses a **wireless network interface card** for Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi |
| **wireless access point** /ˈwaɪələs ˈækses pɔɪnt/ | A **wireless access point** lets phones join the network. |
| **bridge** /brɪdʒ/ | A **bridge** joins two parts of a network. |
| **protocol** /ˈprəʊtəkɒl/ | A **protocol** is a set of rules for sending data. |
| **IP address** /ˌaɪ ˈpiː əˈdres/ | Every device on the internet has an **IP address**. |
| **routing table** /ˈraʊtɪŋ ˈteɪbl/ | The router looks in its **routing table** to choose a path. |
| **network address translation** /ˈnetwɜːk əˈdres trænˈsleɪʃn/ | **Network address translation** lets many devices share one public IP address. |
| **DHCP** /ˌdiː eɪtʃ siː ˈpiː/ | **DHCP** gives each new device an IP address. |



exercises.lol exercises.com.cn

| Word | Example |
| --- | --- |
| **firewall** /ˈfaɪəwɔːl/ | A **firewall** blocks unsafe data. |
| **packet switching** /ˈpækɪt ˈswɪtʃɪŋ/ | In **packet switching**, packets can take different routes. |
| **URL** /ˌjuː ɑː ˈel/ | Type the **URL** of the website into the browser. |
| **modem** /ˈməʊdem/ | A **modem** connects your home to the internet. |
| **full-duplex** /fʊl ˈdjuːpleks/ | A **full-duplex** link sends and receives at the same time. |
| **bit streaming** /bɪt ˈstriːmɪŋ/ | Watching a video online uses **bit streaming**. |
| **buffer** /ˈbʌfə/ | The printer keeps the pages in a **buffer** until it is ready to print them. |
| **compression** /kəmˈpreʃn/ | **Compression** makes the file smaller. |
| **lossy** /ˈlɒsi/ | **Lossy** compression removes some detail to save space. |
| **bit rate** /bɪt reɪt/ | A higher **bit rate** gives better video quality. |
| **World Wide Web** /wɜːld waɪd web/ | The **World Wide Web** is all the web pages on the internet. |
| **dedicated line** /ˈdedɪkeɪtɪd laɪn/ | A **dedicated line** is used by one company only. |
| **ISP** /ˌaɪ es ˈpiː/ | An **ISP** sells you an internet connection. |
| **cell phone network** /sel fəʊn ˈnetwɜːk/ | Your phone uses the **cell phone network** when there is no Wi-Fi.<br>Wi-Fi |
| **subnets** /ˈsʌbnets/ | A big network is split into smaller **subnets**. |



exercises.lol exercises.com.cn

| Word | Example |
| --- | --- |
| **subnet mask** /'sʌbnet mæsk/ | The **subnet mask** shows which part of the IP address is the network. |
| **domain name** /də'meɪn neɪm/ | google.com is a **domain name**.<br>google.com |
| **Domain Name System** /də'meɪn neɪm 'sɪstəm/ | The **Domain Name System** turns a website name into an IP address. |



exercises.lol exercises.com.cn