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.

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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.

Word	Example
ethernet /'iːθənet/	Most wired networks use **ethernet**.
twisted-pair /'twɪstɪd peə/	A **twisted-pair** cable has wires twisted together.
fibre-optic /'faɪbə 'ɒptɪk/	**Fibre-optic** cables send data as light.
repeater /rɪ'piːtə/	A **repeater** makes a weak signal strong again.
network interface card /'netwɜːk 'ɪntəfeɪs kɑːd/	A **network interface card** connects a computer to the network.
MAC address /mæk ə'dres/	Every network card has its own **MAC address**.
wireless network interface card /'waɪələs 'netwɜːk 'ɪntəfeɪs kɑːd/	A laptop uses a **wireless network interface card** for Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi
wireless access point /'waɪələs 'ækses pɔɪnt/	A **wireless access point** lets phones join the network.
bridge /brɪdʒ/	A **bridge** joins two parts of a network.
protocol /'prəʊtəkɒl/	A **protocol** is a set of rules for sending data.
IP address /ˌaɪ 'piː ə'dres/	Every device on the internet has an **IP address**.
routing table /'raʊtɪŋ 'teɪbl/	The router looks in its **routing table** to choose a path.
network address translation /'netwɜːk ə'dres træn'sleɪʃn/	**Network address translation** lets many devices share one public IP address.
DHCP /ˌdiː eɪtʃ siː 'piː/	**DHCP** gives each new device an IP address.

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Word	Example
firewall /'faɪəwɔːl/	A **firewall** blocks unsafe data.
packet switching /'pækɪt 'swɪtʃɪŋ/	In **packet switching**, packets can take different routes.
URL /ˌjuː ɑː 'el/	Type the **URL** of the website into the browser.
modem /'məʊdem/	A **modem** connects your home to the internet.
full-duplex /fʊl 'djuːpleks/	A **full-duplex** link sends and receives at the same time.
bit streaming /bɪt 'striːmɪŋ/	Watching a video online uses **bit streaming**.
buffer /'bʌfə/	The printer keeps the pages in a **buffer** until it is ready to print them.
compression /kəm'preʃn/	**Compression** makes the file smaller.
lossy /'lɒsi/	**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 /'dedɪkeɪtɪd laɪn/	A **dedicated line** is used by one company only.
ISP /ˌaɪ es 'piː/	An **ISP** sells you an internet connection.
cell phone network /sel fəʊn 'netwɜːk/	Your phone uses the **cell phone network** when there is no Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi
subnets /'sʌbnets/	A big network is split into smaller **subnets**.

Word	Example
subnet mask /ˈsʌbnet mæsk/	The **subnet mask** shows which part of the IP address is the network.
domain name /dəˈmeɪn neɪm/	google.com is a **domain name**. google.com
Domain Name System /dəˈmeɪn neɪm ˈsɪstəm/	The **Domain Name System** turns a website name into an IP address.

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