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Cloud Computing – Making everyday life easier

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Do you remember those days when you used to have to email your self work documents, letters, CV's etc. in order to print them off at work? Do you remember having to burn songs to a disc in order to let a friend hear them? Do you still try and cram everything you consider important onto a USB stick and carry it around with you, hoping you don't lose it?

Cloud computing can revolutionize all these things if you are ready to trust in the cloud.

I have and it is the best thing I have ever done. By uploading my documents into the cloud I have been able to completely change the way I access my documents and share them with others. I, like a lot of people don't have a home printer, I have owned one in the past but they run out of ink, take up space and generally (in my case anyway) gather dust. I used to have to email documents I had worked on at home to myself in order to print them or access them in the office, thanks to the cloud I no longer have to do this. Cloud computing has simplified this process. By saving everything to the cloud I can access the most recent version at work, at home, on the move.

Music is the same. Rather than have to store everything on an mp3 player, I can now access a certain album or playlist via my phone to keep me entertained on long journeys without is taking up space. I can share music from my sons band with friends by allowing them access to my cloud, the same with photos or home movies. Whether your parents live in the same city or a different continent you can share with them your children's school pictures our holiday snaps with ease.

Cloud computing has revolutionized the way I access and share my files and I couldn't be happier. I can also rest knowing that if something were to happen to my PC it wouldn't matter as everything is stored in the sky.

If after reading this you are left thinking, 'but what is cloud computing?' I suggest you do some research. I think you'll like what you find!

1. True or false – the cloud is an actual cloud   _____

2. How is saving a file in the cloud (like a document) different from saving a file locally on your hard drive?

_____

_____

_____

3. Fill in the blanks by choosing from words in the parentheses.
   Microsoft Word files are saved (locally/in the cloud) _____ *but*
   Google Drive files are saved (locally/in the cloud) _____ .

4. How does saving files in the cloud make life easier for people? Underline examples from the text, then explain them here.

   _____
   _____
   _____

5. One day the Internet is not working at your house. Can you work on your homework in Google Drive? Why or why not?

   _____
   _____

6. How does the image below help you understand cloud computing?

   _____
   _____
   _____

7. What is the joke in the image?

   _____
   _____
   _____