ENG 101
Lesson - 6
History of Computers:

EXERCISES:

1.Main Idea

Which statement best expresses the main idea of the text? Why did you eliminate the other choices?

1.Computers, as we know them today, have gone through many changes.

2.Today's computer probably won't be around for long.

3.Computers have had a very short history.

2.Understanding the Passage:

Decide whether the following statements are true or false (T/F) by referring to the information in the text. Then make the necessary changes so that the false statements become true.

T   F

The abacus and the fingers are two calculating devices still in use today.

The slide rule was invented hundreds of years ago.

During the early 1880s, many people worked on inventing a. mechanical calculating machine.

Charles Babbage, an Englishman, could well be called the father of computers.

The first computer was invented and built in the USA.

Instructions used by computers have always been kept inside the computer's memory.

Using transistors instead of vacuum tubes did nothing to increase the speed at which calculations were done.

As computers evolved, their size decreased and their dependability increased.

Today's computers have more circuits than previous computers.

10.Computer technology has developed to a point from which new developments in the field will take a long time to come.

3.Locating Information:

Find the passages in the text where the following ideas are expressed. Give the line references.

……..1.   During the same period of history, logarithm tables and calculus were developed.

……..2.   It wasn't until the 19th century that a calculating machine was invented which   tried to reduce manpower.

……..3.   Integrated circuitry has further changed computers.

……..4.   People used their fingers to count..

……..5.   The computers of the future may be quite
different from those in use today.
……..6.   Today's computer circuits can be put on a chip.
……..7.   Then an instrument with beads was invented for counting before a
mechanical   way for multiplying and dividing was devised.

……..8.   Transistors replaced vacuum tubes.

4.Understanding Words

Refer back to the text and find synonyms (i.e. words with a similar meaning) for the
following words.
1.   machine   (*l*. 2)   ………………………
2.   designed   (*l*. 9)   ………………………
3.   a lot   (*l*. 16) ………………………
4.   errors   (*l*. 17) ………………………
5.   solve   (*l*. 30) ………………………
Now refer back to the text and find antonyms (i.e.words with an opposite meaning) for
the following words.
6.   old   (p 2)   …………………
7.   a few   (*p-3*) ………………………
8.   to include   (*p-3*) ………………………
9.   contemporaries   (*p-5*) ………………………
10.   Still in use   (*p-6*) ………………………

5a Content Review:

Match the following words in column A with the statements in column B. The first one is
done for you.   **A**   **B**
☐ 1. abacus   a. instrument used for doing
☐ 2. calculus   multiplication and division
☐ 3. analog computer   b. used in the first digital
                                    computers
☐ 4. digital computer   c. an instrument used for
                                    counting
☐ 5. vacuum tubes   d. used in mathematics
☐ 6. transistors   e. circuitry of fourth-
                                    generation computers
☐ 7. chip   f.   Invented by Americans in
                                    1944
☐ 8. microminiaturization   g. made computers
                                    smaller and faster
☐ 9. Slide rule   h. used to help aim guns
☐ 10. Logarithm tables   i. the reduction of circuitry
                                    onto a chip
                                         j. a branch of mathematics

- 5b Content Review
- Use the information in the text on 'History of Computers' to complete the following
    table.
    TIME   EVENT
    Primitive
    times

                          Abacus invented

TIME	EVENT
17th and 18th centuries	Henry Briggs Produced Logarithm tables
1930	Charles Babbage designed
1947	First use of in
	Second-generation computers using
New	
Future	

6 Focus Review:

Focus A   Contextual reference

New look back at the text 'History of Computers' and find out what the words in bold typeface refer to.

1. **that** we know today
2. and **it** is still being used
3. **which** all mathematicians use today
4. **which** saves a great deal of time
5. **that** was called 'The analytical Engine'
6. **that** could figure out long lists
7. **They** named their new invention
8. **which** could perform
9. And **these** could perform
10. **that** are being developed