

CHARACTERISTICS OF A COMPUTER:

1. Speed - The computer can work very fast. It takes only few seconds for calculations that we take hours to complete. You will be surprised to know that computer can perform several millions of instructions and even more per second.
⇒ We determine the speed of computers in terms of microseconds (10^{-6} part of a second) or in terms of nanoseconds (10^{-9} part a second).

2. Accuracy:-

If someone calculates faster but commits a lot of errors in computing, then such a result is useless. If someone divides 15 by 7 and may go up to 9 decimal places and say the result is 2.142857143.

But a computer can give up to 100 decimal places within a fraction of a second and that too accurately. Hence in addition to speed, computer provides very high level of accuracy in computing.

3. Diligence:

- ⇒ A computer is free from tiredness, lack of concentration, fatigue etc.
- ⇒ It can work for hours or days together without getting tired.
- ⇒ If millions of calculations are to be performed, a computer will perform every calculation with the same accuracy.
- ⇒ Due to this capability it is better than human beings in routine and repetitive types of work.

4. Versatility:

It means the capacity to perform completely different types of works. You may use your computer to prepare payroll slips. Next moment you may use it for inventory management or to prepare bills.

Therefore, computer is highly versatile.

5. Multi-Tasking:

A human being cannot do more than one task simultaneously without losing his concentration or full efficiency. But for a computer, it is normal thing to do multiple tasks simultaneously without losing its efficiency. This is known as Multi-tasking.

6. Power of Memory or Storage:

Computer has the power of storing huge amount of data, information can be stored or accessed as long as it is required. It will not fade away like human memory as years pass.

→ The computer has an in-built memory where it can store data.

→ We can also store data in secondary storage devices like CDs, floppies etc.

7. No IQ:

Computer is a dumb machine and it can not do any work without any instructions.

→ It is considered as a 'faithful idiot'.

→ Computer has to be guided as to what anyone wants to do and in what sequence.

→ So, A computer can't take its own decision.