

COMPUTER BASICS - UNDERSTANDING APPLICATIONS

COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION > 2.1 INTERACTING THROUGH DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

TARGET GROUP	AGE GROUP	PROFICIENCY LEVEL	FORMAT	COPYRIGHT	LANGUAGE
Facilitators	N/A	Level 1	Background information, Video clip	Protected by United States and international copyright and trademark laws	English, French

This resource provides a basic introduction to applications, including some examples.

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Preparation time for facilitator	less than 1 hour
Competence area	2 - Communication & collaboration
Name of author	GCFGlobal.org
Resource originally created in	English



WORKSHOP DIRECTIONS



What is an application?

You may have heard people talking about using a **program**, an **application**, or an **app**. But what exactly does that mean? Simply put, an **app** is a type of software that allows you to **perform specific tasks**. Applications for desktop or laptop computers are sometimes called **desktop applications**, while those for mobile devices are called **mobile apps**.

When you open an application, it runs inside the **operating system** until you close it. Most of the time, you will have more than one application open at the same time, which is known as **multi-tasking**.

App is a common term for an **application**, especially for **simple applications** that can be downloaded **inexpensively** or even **for free**. Many apps are also available for **mobile devices** and even some **TVs**.

Watch the video below to learn more about applications.

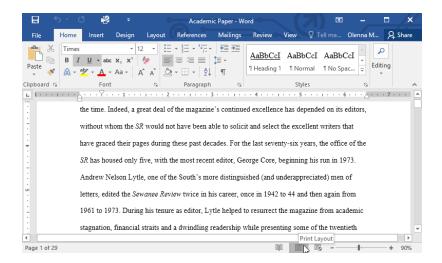
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Desktop applications

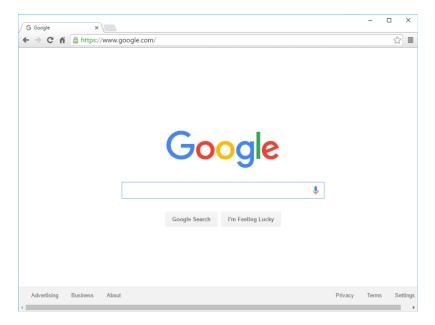
There are countless desktop applications, and they fall into several categories. Some are more **full featured** (like **Microsoft Word**), while others may only do **one or two things** (like a **clock** or **calendar** app). Below are just a few types of applications you might use.

• **Word processors:** A word processor allows you to write a letter, design a flyer, and create many other types of documents. The most well-known word processor is **Microsoft Word**.





• Web browsers: A web browser is the tool you use to access the Internet. Most computers come with a web browser pre-installed, but you can also download a different one if you prefer. Examples of browsers include Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, and Safari



Media players: If you want to listen to MP3s or watch movies you've downloaded, you'll need to
use a media player. Windows Media Player and iTunes are popular media players.





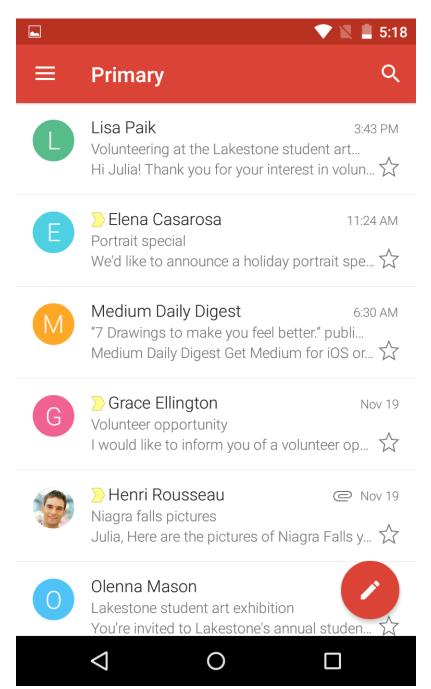
 Games: There are many types of games you can play on your computer. They range from card games like Solitaire to action games like Halo. Many action games require a lot of computing power, so they may not work unless you have a newer computer.

Mobile apps

Desktop and laptop computers aren't the only devices that can run applications. You can also download apps for mobile devices like **smartphones** and **tablets**. Here are a few examples of mobile apps.

Gmail: You can use the Gmail app to easily view and send emails from your mobile device.
 It's available for Android and iOS devices.





- **Instagram**: You can use Instagram to quickly share photos with your friends and family. It's available for Android and iOS.
- **Duolingo**: With a combination of quizzes, games, and other activities, this app can help you learn new languages. It's available for Android and iOS.





Installing new applications

Every computer and mobile device will come with some applications already built in, such as a web browser and media player. However, you can also purchase and install new apps to add more functionality.