

# WHAT ARE CODING SYSTEMS?

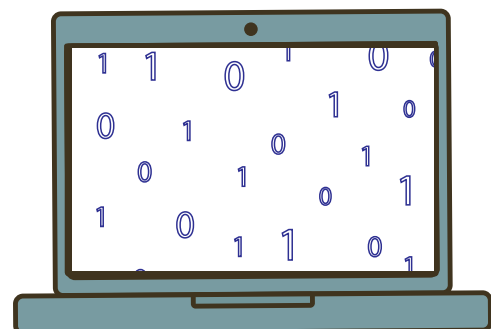
A coding system is a way of writing or communicating a word, sentence or instruction for someone or something else, like a computer, to understand and follow. They can only be understood by those who comprehend the coding language that it is written in, or those who can understand and use a translation key. Coding systems can be a variety of things but essentially, they are a way of getting a message across from A to B. Coding systems are used to make all technological and electronic devices work including computers, laptops and smart devices.

Computers and other electronic devices are basically just unintelligent pieces of plastic and metal that require instructions to work. You could stand in front of the screen and yell at it to turn on, play music or open a word document, but you would be yelling for a very long time. Computers don't understand instructions the same way that we do and require them to be given in a language that they understand. Sometimes this language is called binary code, or programming language. Just like trying to give instructions to a foreign visitor, it helps to know the language that they speak in order to give a command or an instruction and have it followed.

Coding systems allow people to create instructions for the computer to follow. For example, if you click on the music icon, it will open and play you music, or if you click on the start button, an instruction is sent to tell the computer system to turn on. Computers can only follow instructions that they can receive and identify, so you can't press the on switch on a CD player that you have sat next to your computer and expect it to also switch the computer on. However, if you connect your CD player to your computer, you could click on an instruction that would send your music through to the speakers of the CD player.

If computers were a text, they would be a procedure. Computers thrive on lists and order. They require instructions or programs to work and be used for different things. Coding systems work behind the scenes to send thousands of messages to input keystrokes, close and open programs, play things in the background, change font sizes and show you anything that you want to see on the computer, or from a connected peripheral device (like a USB).

Codes are not just sent from a person to a computer, they are also very common when speaking through digital devices to other people. Common coding systems allow people to transmit messages and instructions using our common English language, other foreign languages and one of the newest languages that has emerged in the digital age – text speak or netslang, which is the language of texting.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# What Are Coding Systems? - Questions

## 1. Purpose

a) The purpose of this text is to: (circle the correct answer)

- entertain
- inform
- persuade.

b) Explain why you chose this purpose.

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## 2. Activating Prior Knowledge

a) What did you already know about computers and coding systems?

- Everything- I didn't learn anything new from this text.
- A lot about computers- but the coding systems that make them work was new information.
- Not a lot - all of this was new information for me.
- Own answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Making Connections

a) Fill in the table below with a text-to-text, text-to-self and text-to-world connection that you can make to the text.

Connection	Words or idea from the text	What am I connecting it to?
Text-to-Text		
Text-to-Self		
Text-to-World		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Predicting**

a) If this text was to continue for one more paragraph, what do you predict it would be about?

- how coding systems work
- the language of texting
- how technological devices move data

**5. Ask Questions**

a) When reading the text, I get a picture in my mind of... (what do I see, hear, smell, taste, touch, feel?)

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**6. Visualising**

a) A gap in the text means something that isn't mentioned by the author. One of the gaps in this text is no mention of what power source is required for coding systems to work. Can you think of another gap that exists in the text?

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**7. Drawing Inferences**

a) What do you think the author meant when they wrote, 'If computers were a text, they would be a procedure'?

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