



ESL Podcast 20 -Buying a New Computer

Tags: Shopping

My computer has been **acting up** on me. It's a pretty old **model**, and I need to replace it. So I decided **to call up** my friend Kevin to ask for his **two cents**. Kevin is a computer **whiz**. He knows PC really well since he worked on them for years, but in his **heart of hearts**, he is a big Mac fan. So, I thought he would be good person to ask.

I have always used a PC. I do mostly **word processing** so I don't need anything fancy. But, I see people I know doing cool things with photos and video, so I'd like **to take a crack at** some new programs in the future.

Well, I called up Kevin to tell him what I needed. He immediately started **throwing out specs**, he said: "You need at least a 2 Gigahertz processor and 1 Gig of memory, and make sure it has a **writable DVD drive**." "Whoa," I said. "All of that is way **over my head**. Let's back up for a minute." Then he laughed and said he had gotten **carried away**. "Okay," he said. "Let's start at the beginning. Now, the processor determines how easily and how fast you can use the programs on your computer. **Got that?**" I said that I did. Then he continued, "How much RAM memory you have is very important, too. Your computer will go faster the more you have. So, I recommend getting at least 1 Gigabyte of RAM memory." "I think **I'm following you** so far," I said. "Great," he said. Another thing you want is a drive that handles both DVDs and CDs. Some drives can just read DVDs and some can record onto **blank** ones. If you want to **burn** your own videos, you'll want a writable DVD drive. Remember though, that's just the computer itself. Don't forget that you'll need a monitor, a keyboard, a mouse, and speakers."

"OK," I said. "I think I've got all that. Now, here's the **burning question**: Mac or PC?"

He said: "Now that's a **whole different thing**. Do you have a couple of hours?"

Script by Dr. Lucy Tse