**Text 2**

***I. Read the text and write out key words and word combinations revealing the contents of the text.***

***II. Divide the text into logical parts. Entitle each part.***

A computer virus is a computer program that can copy itself and infect a computer without permission or knowledge of the user. Computer viruses are called viruses because they share some of the traits of [biological viruses](http://health.howstuffworks.com/virus-human.htm). A computer virus passes from computer to computer like a biological virus passes from person to person. However, the term "virus" is commonly used to refer to many different types of malware programs. The original virus may modify the copies, or the copies may modify themselves. A virus can only spread from one computer to another when its host is taken to the uninfected computer, for instance by a user sending it over a network or the Internet, or by carrying it on a removable medium such as a floppy disk, CD, or USB drive. Additionally, viruses can spread to other computers by infecting files on a network file system or a file system that is accessed by another computer. Some viruses are programmed to damage the computer by damaging programs, deleting files, or reformatting the hard disk. Others are not designed to do any damage, but simply replicate themselves and perhaps make their presence known by presenting text, video, or audio messages. Even these benign viruses can create problems for the computer user. They typically take up computer memory used by legitimate programs. As a result, they often cause erratic behavior and can result in system crashes.

Traditional computer viruses were first widely seen in the late 1980s, and they came about because of several factors. The first factor was the spread of [personal computers](http://computer.howstuffworks.com/pc.htm) (**PCs**). Prior to the [1980s](http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/80s-tech.htm), home computers were nearly non-existent or they were toys. Real computers were rare, and they were locked away for use by "experts." The second factor was the use of computer **bulletin boards**. People could dial up a [bulletin board](http://computer.howstuffworks.com/instant-messaging1.htm) with a [modem](http://computer.howstuffworks.com/modem.htm) and download programs of all types. Games were extremely popular, and so were simple word processors, spreadsheets and other productivity software. Bulletin boards led to the precursor of the virus known as the **Trojan horse**. Trojan horses only hit a small number of people because they are quickly discovered, the infected programs are removed. The third factor that led to the creation of viruses was the **floppy disk**. In the 1980s, programs were small, and you could fit the entire [operating system](http://computer.howstuffworks.com/operating-system.htm), a few programs and some documents onto a [floppy disk](http://computer.howstuffworks.com/floppy-disk-drive.htm) or two. Many computers did not have hard disks, so when you turned on your machine it would load the operating system and everything else from the floppy disk. Virus authors took advantage of this to create the first self-replicating programs. Early viruses were pieces of code attached to a common program like a popular game or a popular word processor. A person might download an infected game from a bulletin board and run it. A virus like this is a small piece of code embedded in a larger, legitimate program. When the user runs the legitimate program, the virus loads itself into [memory](http://computer.howstuffworks.com/computer-memory.htm) and looks around to see if it can find any other programs on the disk. If it can find one, it modifies the program to add the virus's code into the program. Then the virus launches the "real program." The user really has no way to know that the virus ever ran. Unfortunately, the virus has now reproduced itself, so two programs are infected. The next time the user launches either of those programs, they infect other programs, and the cycle continues. If one of the infected programs is given to another person on a floppy disk, or if it is uploaded to a bulletin board, then other programs get infected. This is how the virus spreads.

***III. Find the sentences containing:***

a) the main idea of the text;

b) the nature of viruses;

c) the ways of spreading computer viruses;

d) the ways to escape viruses.

***IV. Correct the outline of the text presented below.***

1. Appearance of viruses

2. Spreading of viruses

3. Functions of viruses

4. Types of viruses

***V. Make a questionnaire to the text and interview your partner on the problems raised in the text.***

***VI. Say which facts presented in the text you’ve already learnt.***