The Raspberry Pi

The text is about the new Raspberry Pi Computer. Some phrases about computers are highlighted in bold.

The words Raspberry and Pie are normally found together on a restaurant's dessert menu but not anymore. The Raspberry Pi has nothing to do with raspberries or pies but it is proving to be far more popular than either. In fact, it looks set to **revolutionise** the computer industry and **strike a serious blow to** the current big name computer manufacturers like Apple and HP.

The Raspberry Pi is a computer, a basic one but a computer nonetheless. It may not look like the kind of desktop or laptop you would find in a computer store but it's not meant to either. Its creators offer the **core components** of a computer at a **rock bottom price** which is why it doesn't even have a **case**. In essence, it's a tiny single **circuit board** which includes a 700 **MHz** processor, 256 **MB** of **RAM**, and a powerful **GPU** capable of running high quality games and 3D **applications**.

Connectivity is a key word when talking about the Raspberry Pi because it's aimed at **getting young kids into programming** and **IT**. This is why the computer comes with an **Ethernet** port for internet connection, an **SD** memory card slot for storage, 2 **USB** sockets for a keyboard and a mouse and an **HDMI** output for hooking it up to a screen. The result is a lot of freedom for the user as they can just add more USB sockets and thus more devices and hardware like external storage.

You won't find Microsoft Windows 7 or even Apple's Lion **OS** on this computer. Instead, the Raspberry Pi comes with the latest free Linux OS which is **Open Source**. The company also plans to develop its own App store for mini programmers to share their programmes. Due to programmes like Open Office any Raspberry Pi owner will be able to download and use word processors and spreadsheet packages as good as Microsoft Office but for no cost.

So, how much do you think this computer is worth? Well, it was selling at $35 but now the improved model has gone down to just $25. Sadly, the website crashed within 2 minutes of it going on sale and because of manufacturing issues, you may have to wait a while **to get your hands on one.**

Computer phrases

To revolutionise sthg	To change it radically
To strike a serious blow	To have a large impact
Core components	The important parts of a computer
Rock bottom price	Extremely cheap
Case	The plastic/metal box the computer is in
Circuit board	A flat electronic board with connected components
MHz	Megahertz or a measurement for microprocessor speed
MB	Megabyte or a large unit of information
RAM	Random Access Memory or data than can be Accessed in any order
GPU	Graphics Processing Unit or a chip to manage graphics
Applications	Small programs
Getting young kids into programming	Making them interested in making computer applications
IT	Information technology or computing
Ethernet	To do with connecting a computer to a network
SD	Secure Digital
USB	Universal Serial Bus or a connector for attaching various devices
HDMI	High-Definition Multimedia Interface
OS	Operating System
Open Source	Free for everyone to download, use and develop
To get your hands on one	To own one

Quiz

Do you want a Raspberry Pi?

☐ Yes, it will revolutionise the computer industry.

☐ No, it isn't powerful enough to do anything.

Discussion questions

1. Which kinds of people will buy the Raspberry Pi?

2. Is this the future of the computer industry?

3. Will it create a new generation of computer programmers?

A video:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BbufUp_HNs

Here's a full debate/discussion lesson on the Raspberry Pi for English teachers:

http://debatediscussion.blogspot.com/2012/03/cheap-computers.html