

### Text 3: How Computer Networks Work



#### What is a Computer Network?

A computer network is a group of interconnected devices that communicate with each other to share resources and data. Networks are the backbone of modern technology, enabling everything from email exchanges to streaming services. They can range from small, localized networks (LANs) in homes and offices to global networks like the Internet.

#### Types of Networks

- **Local Area Network (LAN):** A LAN connects devices within a small area, such as an office or school. It is often used for sharing files, printers, and other resources.
- **Wide Area Network (WAN):** A WAN spans large geographical areas, connecting multiple LANs. The Internet is the largest WAN in the world.
- **Wireless Networks:** These networks use wireless signals, such as Wi-Fi, to connect devices without physical cables.

#### How Do Networks Function?

Networks rely on key components to function effectively:

- **IP Addresses:** Each device in a network is assigned a unique IP address to identify it.
- **Routers:** These devices connect different networks and direct data to its destination.
- **Switches:** Switches connect multiple devices within a single network and ensure efficient communication.

For example, when you send an email, the data travels from your device to a router, then to the recipient's router, and finally to their device—all guided by the network's protocols.

#### Why Are Networks Important?

Networks are essential for businesses, governments, and individuals. They allow for:

- Quick communication through emails and messaging.
- Access to vast resources on the Internet.
- Collaboration through shared tools and data.
- Without networks, the modern digital world as we know it would not exist.

## Comprehension Questions

### I. Vocabulary

- Find the meanings of the following terms and translate them into French:
- Router
- IP Address
- Protocol
- Collaboration

### II. True or False

- LANs are used to connect devices over large geographical areas.
- Routers are responsible for directing data between networks.
- Wireless networks do not require physical cables to function.

### III. Open-ended Questions

- What is the difference between a LAN and a WAN?
- Describe the role of a router in a computer network.
- Why networks are considered the backbone of modern technology?

### IV. Writing Task

Write a short paragraph (5–7 sentences) about a specific type of computer network (e.g., LAN, WAN, or Wi-Fi). Explain how it works and why it is important in today's world.

*Good luck !*