



Teaching parents how to use a computer

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Our parents have mastered using cell phones – it's time to familiarise them with the final boss: the computer. For parents who are new to technology, the learning curve is steep. Progress is slow, and you'll need to take this one step at a time

LEVEL ONE - THE POWER BUTTON

The hunt for the power button is the first hurdle. Bear in mind that things that come to us easily might not be half as easy for people who are two and a half decades older than us. "How does it turn on?" is a question I've heard too often to keep count on.

The solution was simple. Tape a piece of paper with "Power" written on it followed by an arrow directed at the power button. They won't need to look for the button anymore.

LEVEL TWO - CRACK THE KEYBOARD

The concept of a keyboard is simple. You press the buttons and the computer responds.

There's a catch, however. The buttons are all over the place. Parents will need to scan through all the jumbled-up letters to find the one that they are looking for. This step plays like a broken record until the sentence is complete.

This can be really frustrating. Cheer them on, don't let them give up. Encourage them to type with more than one finger at a time. Dictate sentences so they can practice typing.

Special buttons need labels. The texts on the keys are small. Help your parents out by writing the names of the keys in block letters and sticking them on the keyboard. They will never forget which one is the spacebar. I assure you.

LEVEL THREE - DETOUR

The "Start" menu is a rabbit-hole that's best avoided. Chances are your parent's activities on the computer will be limited to a few applications at most, so this is unnecessary.

Pin shortcuts to the taskbar. Pin shortcuts to the desktops. Ensure the icons are large enough to be spotted from the other side of the living room.

Need Zoom? Taskbar. Can't find Chrome? Taskbar. Looking for important documents? It's right there on the desktop space.

Follow these pointers and you'll be able to avoid the "Where is it?" route.

LEVEL FOUR - ELIXIR OF RECOLLECTION

The human brain has a nasty habit of forgetting things. There were times where my mother would forget the things I showed her the very next day.

Write an instruction manual using diagrams. For example, I drew diagrams of the minimise, maximise, and close icons on a window and wrote down what they do.

Ditch jargon, and explain things as simple as possible, so they won't need to ask twice. Quiz them. Ask, "What do you think you should do next?" This will help them recall information better.

LEVEL FIVE - THE FINAL BOSS

For our parents, learning how to use the computer isn't as easy as riding a bike. It's a process that's going to take weeks or even months. Be patient. Be there for them. Tweak their curriculum to fit their needs.

In relationships, chemistry isn't always compatibility

ROSHNI SHAMIM

For today's generation, finding people to date has never been easier. After all, with so many apps where you can decide instantly from a photo or bio if a candidate has any potential or not, your dating pool shouldn't have a lack of options.

However, the reality is far from being this idealistic.

Perhaps the trouble begins from the confusion where people tend to put "chemistry" and "compatibility" in the same spectrum. Does this mean chemistry is *not* the equivalent of what we believe compatibility to be?

Well, most people will be surprised to know the wide differences between the terms. The simple route is to acknowledge that chemistry may feel great and giddy – but is usually short lived – while compatibility between two people can persevere the relationship for a lifetime.

Let's say you decide to go to a party at the insistence of your extroverted friend. There, you bump into a stranger reaching for the same bowl of chips, which of course leads to friendly banter or subtle sparks. After you come home, your mind willingly chooses to trail back to that interaction, leaving you with a conflicted urge to have another conversation with the stranger, convincing you this is the connection you didn't know you were missing. Without you even knowing it fully, your interest in this individual has already started peaking.

For young adults, this is such a great feeling, especially in the early days of the relationship, given the interactions

give way to one. Yet, of course, life gets real at some point and these relationships decide to start losing the spark, as well as its longevity. So, what exactly causes things to go wrong?

What makes these relationships often fail is people's denial in accepting that what they feel for their "person" actually lacks emotional depth and the understanding one needs to make a relationship last.

In short, if your surface-level preferences match yet your fundamental perspectives stand at opposite poles, it becomes next to impossible to row the boat in a mutual direction.

This is why the growth of online dating has, in many ways, hindered the process further of finding a significant other; one that actually connects on a deep level. What we are left with instead are judgement calls on how great their photos are, if they like *Friends*, and how popular they seem on their socials.

Is it any surprise that many of us are seen treading through relationships feeling lost and dejected? Breakups leave a long trail of doubt and insecurities on yourself, leaving you failing to understand what you are really looking for is mutual thought, common philosophy of life, and the urge to talk through issues where both partners actually solve problems.

All of this requires time and effort and, in fact, stems nowhere close from the naive world of only having "chemistry". Growth in general is great, but maybe some definitions should be cherished on a deeper level in its old-school box, to be felt and understood in its core essence.

