

DU Learning Guide

Ten hints for Silver Surfers

"Perseverance makes experts of us all."

1. Be **patient** with yourself – everyone has **difficulties** and **frustrations** when learning to use computers.
2. Ask for **help** at anytime, but especially if you:
 - Can't see the screen clearly
 - Can't use the mouse
 - Can't hear the tutor easily
 - Haven't used a keyboard before
3. Computers are there to enhance your life. Think first: **what would I like to do better, do easier, or do more of in my life?** Then ask someone for advice on how the computer can help you achieve that goal.
4. Try to be selective about **who you listen to**. Those who are negative about computers may be scared themselves or maybe it's just not for them. Don't let your enthusiasm be dampened by them.
5. **Go at your own pace** – don't compare yourself with your neighbour. Everyone comes to computers with differing backgrounds and experience and everyone learns to use them at a different pace.
6. Set yourself small, realistic **goals** – if you're not sure what these are discuss with computer mentor, friend, or tutor. Better to find one useful website, or send one short email, than end up with a head full of instructions and no outcome.
7. **Practice makes perfect**: don't be shy of repeating the things you're learning time and time again until you feel you've got it. Don't be scared about making mistakes.
8. If you start **dreaming about mice**, and email, and keyboards, you probably need to take a break...
9. Computers are also for **fun** – find out about playing games: crosswords, cards, chess, suduko, solitaire... Find out about using them to listen to **music**, **radio**, **watch TV** and **films** as well.
10. Don't panic! It really will all make sense in the end! You'll get there...