

Reading.

Read the text and answer the questions.

The words that appear in *italics* are translated in the glossary below, but try to do the exercise *before* you use it.

The First Computer Programmer

Ada Lovelace was the daughter of the poet Lord Byron. She was taught by Mary Somerville, a well-known *researcher* and scientific author, who introduced her to Charles Babbage in June 1833. Babbage was an English mathematician, who first had the idea for a programmable computer.

In 1842 and 1843, Ada translated the work of an Italian mathematician, Luigi Menabrea, on Babbage's Analytical Engine. Though mechanical, this machine was an important step in the history of computers; it was the design of a mechanical *general-purpose* computer. Babbage worked on it for many years until his death in 1871. However, because of financial, political, and legal issues, the engine was never built. The design of the machine was very modern; it anticipated the first completed general-purpose computers by about 100 years.

When Ada translated the article, she added a set of notes which specified in complete detail a method for calculating certain numbers with the Analytical Engine, which have since been recognized by historians as the world's first computer program. She also saw possibilities in it that Babbage hadn't: she realised that the machine could compose pieces of music. The computer programming language 'Ada', used in some aviation and military programs, is named after her.

Questions

Q1 - Ada Lovelace's teacher introduced her to Charles Babbage.

☐ True ☐ False

Q2 - Babbage programmed the first computer.

☐ True ☐ False

Q3 - Ada translated the article in 1842.

☐ True ☐ False

Q4 - The Analytical Engine was electronic.

☐ True ☐ False

Q5 - Luigi Menabrea designed the first computer.

☐ True ☐ False

Q6 - Babbage finished the machine before he died.

☐ True ☐ False

Q7 - Babbage's design was ahead of its time.

☐ True ☐ False

Q8 - Ada's work was instantly recognised as being the first computer program.

☐ True ☐ False

Q9 - Babbage saw that his machine could write music.

☐ True ☐ False

Q10 - Ada wrote military and aviation computer programs.

☐ True ☐ False

Glossary

Researcher: investigador
General-purpose: multi-usos

