

# Activity . . . . . ➔ 72

## Gaining confidence with IT for academic study

### STUDENT HANDOUT

Consider the following real-life statements made by students who are new to using information technology (IT) for academic study. Discuss each statement with your group members and identify solutions to the stated problems, worries or concerns.

1. It might sound odd but I'm quite scared of using computers. I think I'm going to break them and get stuck and never be able to sort out the problems.
2. Those computer suites are really daunting. There are loads of youngsters all typing really fast, knowing what they're doing and probably thinking what's that idiot doing in here.
3. It all just moves too quickly. One minute you've learnt it and then it all changes and you've got to learn it all again. Sometimes it seems a bit pointless trying to keep up with it all.
4. My problem is I just switch off if I see loads of figures. I just don't understand them and don't know what they mean.
5. These days everyone knows everything about tablets and phones and stuff. Kids are brought up with it. I feel left behind and don't know what to do about it.
6. I know I should know how IT can help with my university course but if I'm honest I don't really know. Obviously, I can word-process my assignments and obviously there's the internet for research, but what else is there? What else should I know about and how do I find out?

Once you have discussed each of these statements and found solutions, work with your group members to develop an action plan that you can use to help you get the most out of IT as your studies progress.

**Learning outcome:** By the end of this activity you will feel more confident with the use of IT during your academic studies and will have developed an action plan that you can implement to help you get the most out of IT as your course progresses.