

**read-write memory:** Memory whose contents can be both read and changed (or *written to*). The information contained in read-write memory is erased when the computer's power is turned off and is permanently lost unless it has been saved on a disk or other storage device. Compare **random-access memory**, **read-only memory**.

**real number:** In computer usage, a number that may include a fractional part; represented inside the computer in **floating-point** form. Because a real number is of infinite precision, this representation is usually approximate. Compare **integer**.

**register:** A location in a processor or other chip where an item of information is held and modified under program control.

**relational operator:** An operator, such as >, that operates on numeric values to produce a logical result. Compare **arithmetic operator**, **logical operator**.

**reserved word:** A word or sequence of characters reserved by a programming language for some special use and therefore unavailable as a variable name in a program.

**resident:** See **memory-resident**, **disk-resident**.

**return address:** The point in a program to which control returns on completion of a subroutine or function.

**RF modulator:** See **radio-frequency modulator**.

**RGB monitor:** A type of color monitor that receives separate signals for each color (red, green, and blue). See **composite video**.

**ROM:** See **read-only memory**.

**routine:** A part of a program that accomplishes some task subordinate to the overall task of the program.

**row:** A horizontal arrangement of character cells or graphics **pixels** on the screen.

**RS-232 cable:** Any cable that is wired in accordance with the RS-232 standard, which is the common serial data communication interface standard.

**run:** (1) To execute a program. When a program *runs*, the computer performs the instructions. (2) To load a program into main memory from a peripheral storage medium, such as a disk, and execute it.

**save:** To store information by transferring the information from main memory to a disk. Work not saved disappears when you turn off the computer or when the power is interrupted.

**screen:** See **display screen**.

**scroll:** To move all the text on the screen upward or downward, and, in some cases, sideways. See **viewport**, **window**.

**serial interface:** An interface in which information is transmitted sequentially, a bit at a time, over a single wire or channel. Compare **parallel interface**.

**setup time:** The amount of time a signal must be valid in advance of some event. Compare **hold time**.

**silicon (Si):** A solid, crystalline chemical element from which integrated circuits are made. Silicon is a *semiconductor*; that is, it conducts electricity better than insulators, but not as well as metallic conductors. Silicon should not be confused with silica—that is, silicon dioxide, such as quartz, opal, or sand—or with silicone, any of a group of organic compounds containing silicon.

**simple variable:** A variable that is not an element of an array.

**6502:** The microprocessor used in the Apple II, in the Apple II Plus, and in early models of the Apple IIe.

**65C02:** The microprocessor used in the enhanced Apple IIe, the extended keyboard IIe, and the Apple IIc.