7. *Vocabulary*

In COBOL, words fall into two types:

1.   words that have a special meaning - e.g. 'DISPLAY', 'ACCEPT', 'DIVISION' - these are called *Reserved Words* and may only be used for the purposes stated in the COBOL manual (refer to lesson 7a for list);

2.   words that have no special meaning in COBOL but are invented by the programmer as names for items of data, paragraphs, etc - these are called *programmer-defined words*).

Any name the programmer invents for data items, paragraphs, etc:

a)   may be up to 30 characters long;

b)   may contain any of the characters 'A' to 'Z', 'a' to 'z', '0' to '9' and '-' but must not begin or end with a '-' and must not (with some exceptions) consist solely of numbers;

c)   must not contain any spaces.

It is usual to make up names that have a clear meaning:

e.g.   EMPLOYEE-NAME, STUDENT-MATHS-MARK would be clear names for items of data, while CALCULATE-PAY and FIND-AVERAGE-MARK would be clear names for paragraphs (sections of the program).

Exercise

1.   Which of the following are allowed as programmer-defined words ? For each word that is not valid say why not.

1.	TOTAL-PAY	11.	NEW-STAFF-DETAILS
2.	WORK-OUT-TAX	12.	INTEREST
3.	GET-STAFF-DETAILS	13.	2ND-STUDENT-MARK
4.	EMPLOYEE-NAME	14.	TOTAL-COST
5.	STUDENT-TIMETABLE	15.	AVERAGE MARK
6.	DISPLAY	16.	STOP
7.	CALCULATE*INTEREST	17.	PIC
8.	NEW EMPLOYEE NAME	18.	IDENTIFICATION
9.	HOURLY-RATE	19.	DATA
10.	DIVISION	20.	WORKING-STORAGE

2.   Looking at the example programs on lessons 5 and 6:

a)   list all the reserved words;

b)   list all the programmer-defined words.