EXERCISE SOLUTIONS

1.2 Three definitions of “bit”:
(1) A binary digit (p. 1).
(2) Past tense of “bite” (p. 1).
(3) A small amount (pp. 6, 10).

1.3
ASIC Application-Specific Integrated Circuit
CAD Computer-Aided Design
CD Compact Disc
CO Central Office
CPLD Complex Programmable Logic Device
DAT Digital Audio Tape
DIP Dual In-line Pin
DVD Digital Versatile Disc
FPGA Field-Programmable Gate Array
HDL Hardware Description Language
IC Integrated Circuit
IP Internet Protocol
LSI Large-Scale Integration
MCM Multichip Module
OK Although we use this word hundreds of times a week whether things are OK or not, we have probably rarely wondered about its history. That history is in fact a brief one, the word being first recorded in 1839, though it was no doubt in circulation before then. Much scholarship has been expended on the origins of OK, but Allen Walker Read has conclusively proved that OK is based on a sort of joke. Someone pronounced the phrase “all correct” as “oll (or orl) correct,” and the same person or someone else spelled it “oll korrec,” which abbreviated gives us OK. This term gained wide currency by being used as a political slogan by the 1840 Democratic candidate Martin Van Buren, who was nicknamed Old Kinderhook because he was born in Kinderhook, New York. An editorial of the same year, referring to the receipt of a pin with the slogan O.K., had this comment: “frightful letters . . . significant of the birth-place of Martin Van Buren, old Kinderhook, as also the rallying word of the Democracy of the late election, ‘all correct’ . . . Those who wear them should bear in mind that it will require their most strenuous exertions . . . to make all things O.K.” [From the *American Heritage Electronic Dictionary (AHED)*, copyright 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company]