



## Systems thinking and practice

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/digital-computing/systems-thinking-and-practice/content-section-0>

### Course summary

What is systems thinking and practice? The essence of systems thinking and practice is in 'seeing' the world in a particular way, because how you 'see' things affects the way you approach situations or undertake specific tasks. This free course will help you to learn about the problems of defining a system and meet some of the key concepts used in systems theory: boundary, environment, positive and negative feedback, etc.

### Learning outcomes

By completing this course, the learner should be able to:

- display confidence in using systems concepts and language
- describe accurately the set of key systems concepts
- understand what is distinctive about systems thinking as opposed to other forms of thinking
- understand how systems thinking is useful in analysing and improving situations
- understand the notion of a system as a creation of the observer, i.e. as an intellectual construct, as opposed to using the term system in other ways, i.e. as entities that exist 'out there'.

### Completed study

The learner has completed the following:

#### Section 1

How to use this course

#### Section 2

What is this systems thing about?

#### Section 3

Ways of thinking

#### Section 4

Systems thinking

#### Section 5

Types of systems