

IS 628: Computer-based Information Systems  
Reading Preparation Assignment  
Chapter 8 Part I  
Basic Systems Concepts and Tools

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Read the first section of Chapter 8, *The Systems View*, of the text, pp. 329 – 336.

Be prepared for class discussion based on the following questions:

1. Define the term system. Give an example of a business system and use a context diagram to show its boundary, environment, inputs, and outputs.
2. What are the seven key elements of a system, and what role does each element play in describing a system?
3. What happens at the point where two systems interact?
4. Explain the first two principles of systems analysis and design
5. Explain and give an example that supports the following statement: Each time we change characteristics of one or more of the components of the organization (organization structure, people, business processes, and information technology), we must consider compensating changes in the other components.
6. Why do informal systems arise?