To the Teacher

There are two purposes for this lesson: “Two Kinds of Computers: PCs & Macs.” One is to increase students’ knowledge of computers; the other pertains to language learning (listening comprehension, taking notes).

Suggested answers to the nine comprehension questions:
1. Who makes the Macintosh computers? (Apple Co.)
2. Is the operating system a part of the computer hardware or software? (software)
3. What are some parts of the computer that are hardware? (monitor, keyboard, mouse, etc.)
4. How are the Mac and PC desktops different? (The look of the desktop is different. On a PC desktop, you will see icons such as “My Computer” and “My Documents” but on a Mac you will not see these icons; instead, you can move your mouse to the right and bring our (unhide) a side bar with program icons on it. The way to start programs is also different. On a PC, you click on “start” on the lower left of the screen, but on a Mac, you click on the apple sign on the upper left and then choose from a drop-down menu.)
5. How are the Mac and PC desktops the same? (They both have easy ways to access files and programs. They both have icons on the desktop for throwing away unwanted files, thought they are called differently: “Recycle Bin” for PCs and “Trash can” for Macs.)
6. How do you start programs on a PC? (See answer #4 above.)
7. Where are the programs on a Mac? (See answer #4 above.)
8. Why would people want to buy a Mac computer? (Macs specialize in programs graphic and visual artists, people in music and newspaper industries want to use; some people just like the look and the organization of a Mac—personal preference.)
9. Which computer costs more? (Macs.)

Make sure you also watch the video and listen to Marty talk about the differences and similarities of the two kinds of computers. When checking off students, if there is a Mac around, have the student “show and tell” their new-found understanding of the two kinds of computers as well as point out the difference between hardware and software. Have fun!