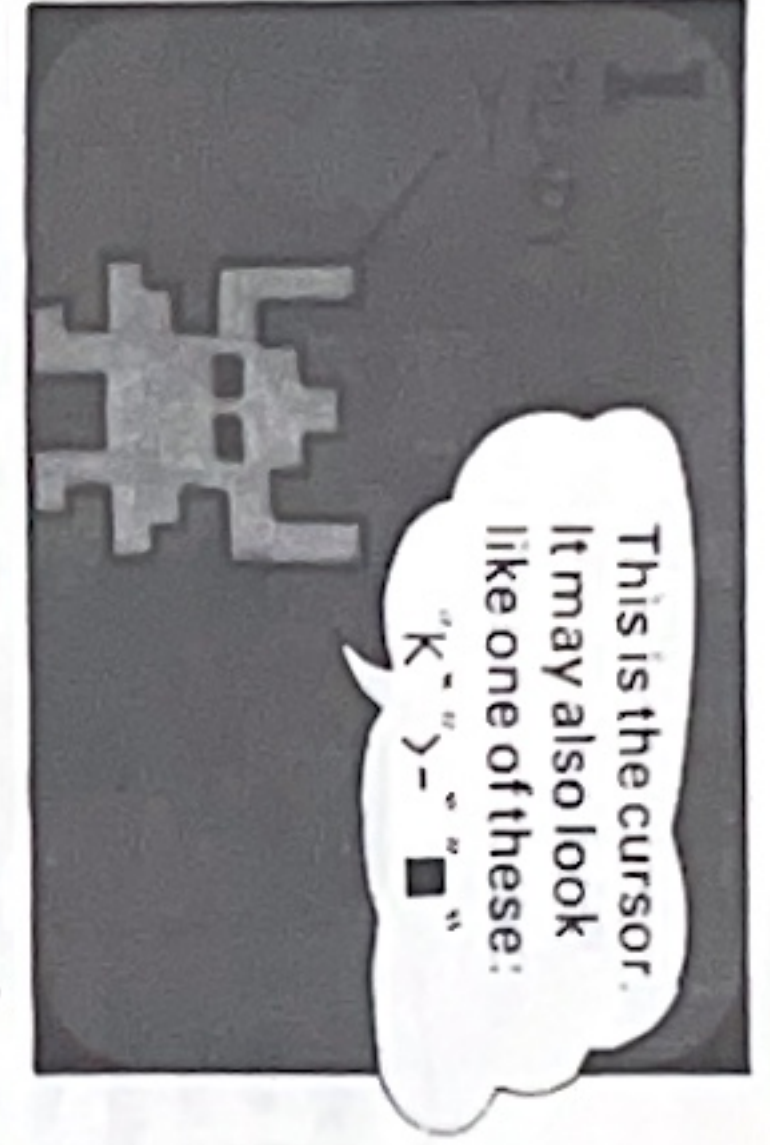


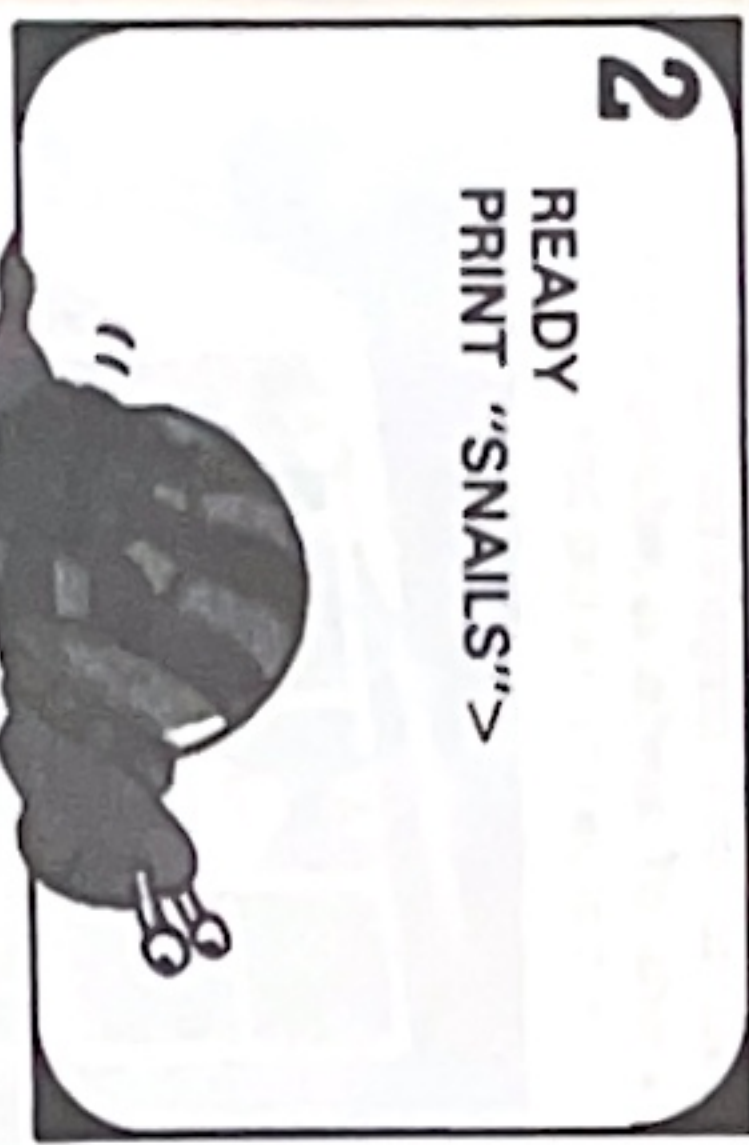
# First words in BASIC

Lots of the words in BASIC are based on English words and it is quite easy to guess what they mean. For instance, PRINT means display on the screen, RUN means "carry out this program" and INPUT means "give the computer information". On these two pages you can find out how to use the word PRINT.

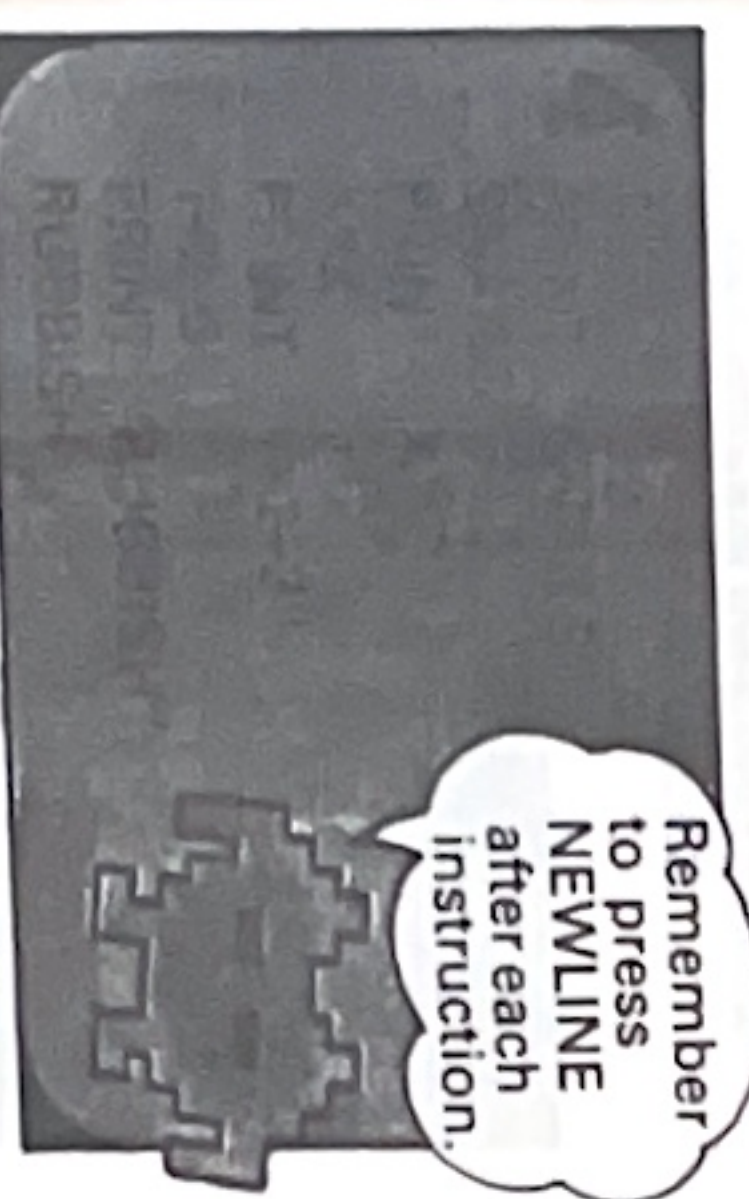
Most home computers have a BASIC language interpreter inside them already and when you switch them on they are ready to be programmed in BASIC.\*



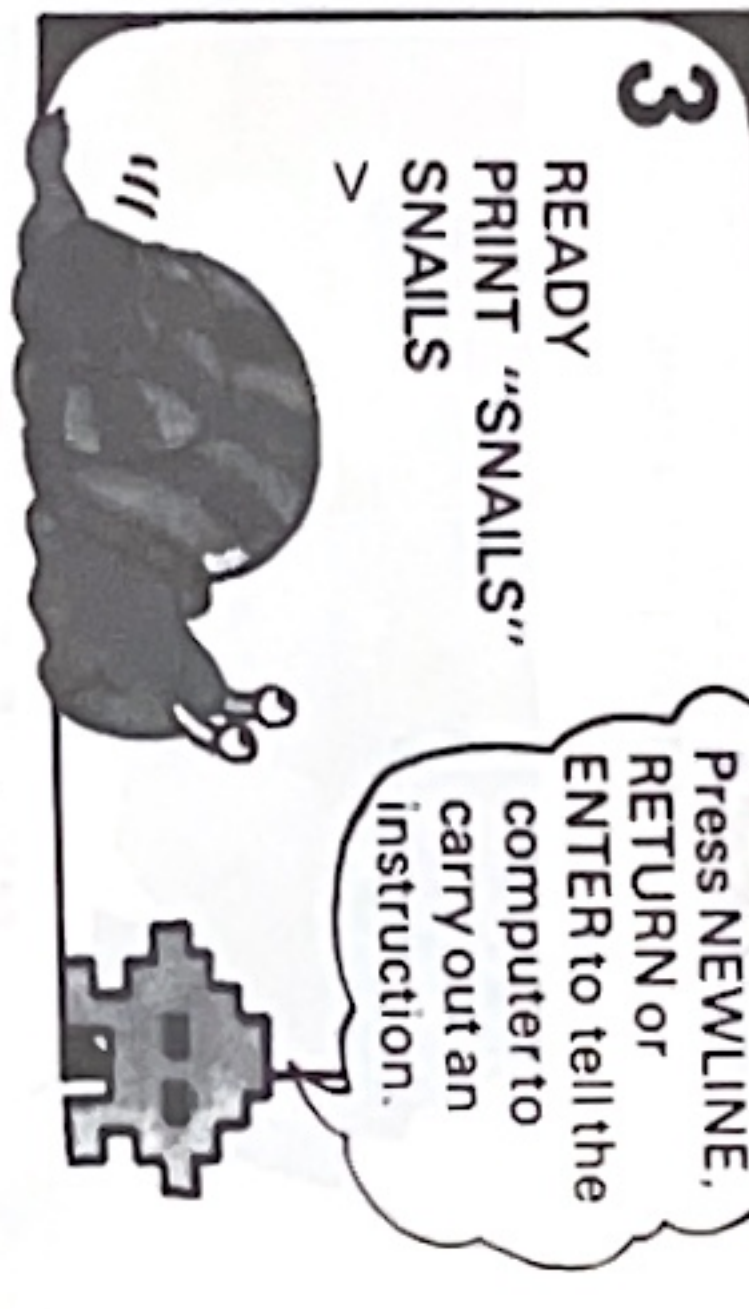
When you switch on a micro some words are usually displayed on the screen automatically, along with a small symbol called the cursor. The cursor shows where the next letter you type will appear.



To tell the computer to display words on the screen you use PRINT with the words you want in quotation marks. For instance, PRINT "SNAILS" tells it to display the word SNAILS on the screen.



The computer will display on the screen whatever you type between the quotation marks. It can be letters, numbers, words or symbols. Note that it does not display the quotation marks themselves.



The computer will not carry out your instruction, though, until you press NEWLINE (or RETURN or ENTER - it varies on different computers) to tell it the instruction is complete.



To display numbers by themselves, you do not need to use quotation marks. Now, to clear the screen you type CLS on most micros. (Check this in your manual if you have a computer.)

## A program in BASIC

In a program, each line of instructions starts with a number. This tells the computer to store the instructions in its memory and not to carry them out until you give the go-ahead. On the opposite page, the instructions to the computer did not have numbers, so the computer carried them out straight away. Here is a short program which makes the computer display symbols in the shape of a face on the screen.

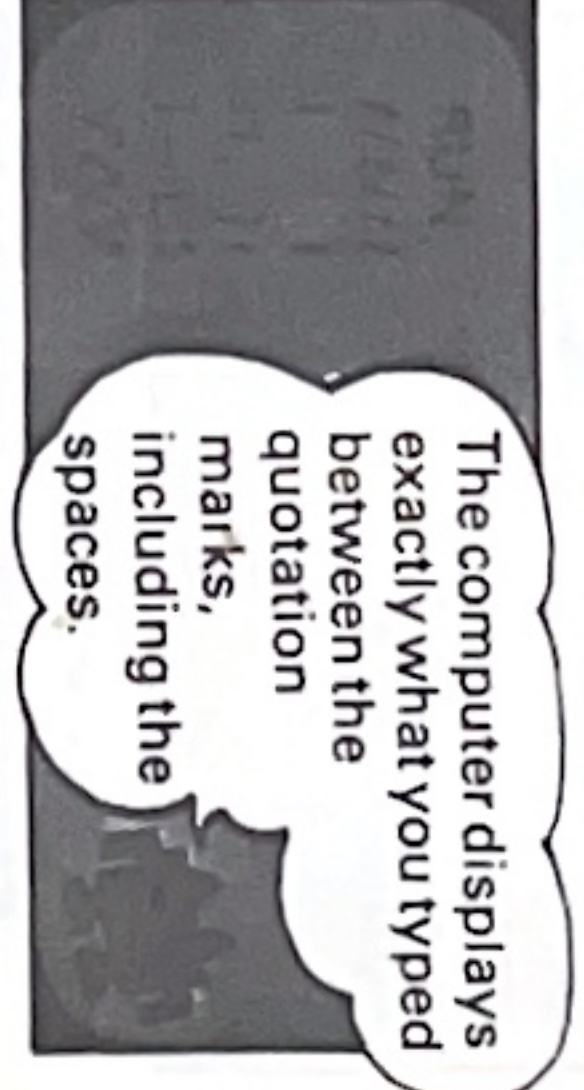
On some computers the figure 0 has a line through it, like this.



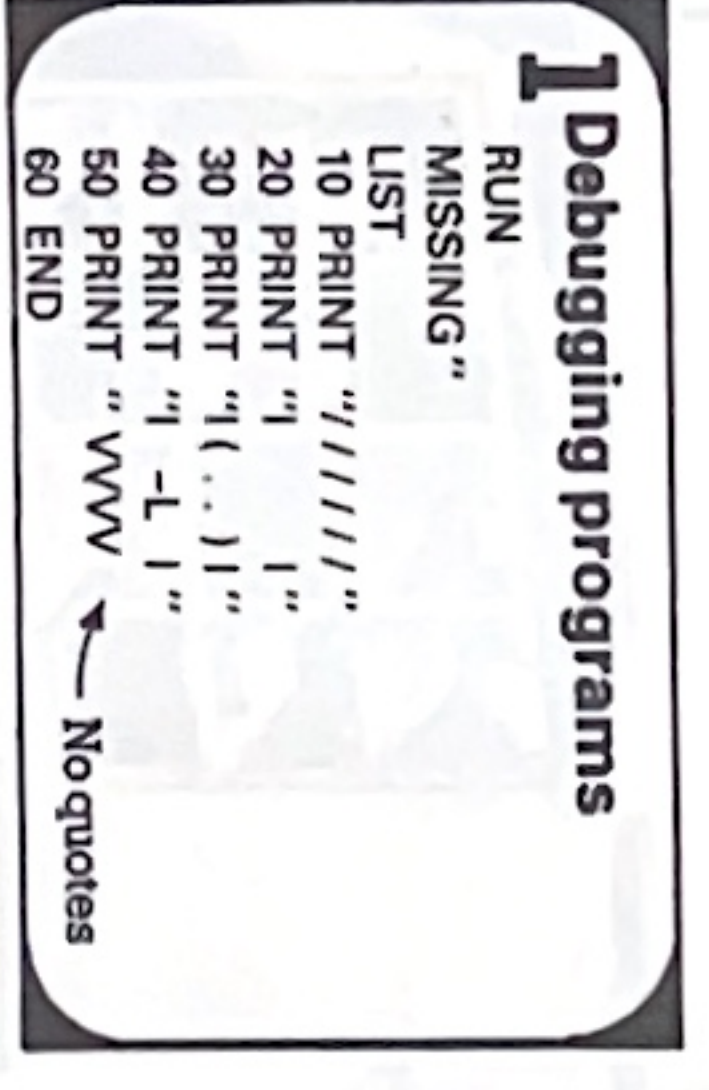
```
10 PRINT "////////"
20 PRINT "I I"
30 PRINT "I(.)I"
40 PRINT "I-L I"
50 PRINT "VVVV"
60 END
```



When you type in a program you have to press NEWLINE (or the computer's word) at the end of each line. The lines are displayed on the screen but the computer does not carry out the instructions until



When you have typed in all the lines, check them carefully to make sure there are no mistakes. Then, to tell the computer to carry out the program, you type RUN, followed by NEWLINE.



## Debugging programs

The computer will give you an error message for most bugs. The error messages are explained in the computer's manual. The easiest way to correct a mistake is to type the whole line again. The computer will replace the old line with the new one. To get rid of a line from

you tell it to by typing RUN. Be careful not to mix up the letter O and the figure 0 as this will cause a bug. Most computers have a RUBOUT or DELETE key for correcting typing mistakes.



If the program does not work, or the picture does not look right, you need to display the program again to find the bug. To do this you type LIST. The computer may give you an error message telling you what the bug is.



the program altogether, just type the line number, followed by NEWLINE. Each computer also has its own way for correcting or altering parts of lines, using words such as EDIT or COPY. This is explained in the computer's manual.

\* Some computers have to have a special program loaded from cassette tape before they understand BASIC.

★ Program puzzle - Try changing the program to give the face different features.