Compression

Compression aims to reduce the **file size** of digital files

Compression

Compression is useful:

- to make files more efficient to store - take up less disk space
- to make files quicker to transfer (FTP, e-mail, removable media)
  - avoids e-mail size limits
  - quicker download/upload
- so that files open more quickly
- reduces network congestion

Compression

There are different ways of compressing files

Lossy compression - some data is lost
There is a trade off between file size and the quality of data - e.g. JPG, MP3

Lossless compression - data is not lost, but the file size is reduced - e.g. PNG, GIF

Compression

You need to know about two different types of compression:

1. Run Length Encoding (RLE)
2. Huffman coding

Compression

Compression does **not** make the file smaller

It makes the **file size** smaller/take up less disk space/be quicker to transfer etc…

Examiners dislike “it gets smaller”