

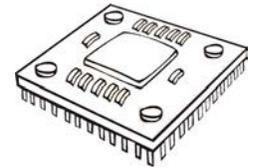
Computer Basics

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All computers have a few basic components. These include the central processing unit (CPU), memory, input, and output.

Central Processing Unit:

The central processing unit is often abbreviated and referred to as the CPU. The CPU is the “brain” of a computer. The CPU gets program instructions from the computer memory. The instructions are the program or software that tell the CPU what to do. All CPUs no matter how small, large, simple, or complex perform the following basic operations:



1. get or fetch program instructions from memory
2. execute program instruction
3. read information from input devices
4. send information to output devices

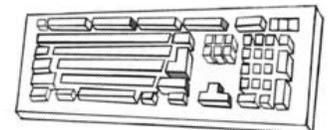
Memory:

All computers have memory that is used to hold the program instructions that the CPU executes. The CPU can also write to and store information in the memory.



Input:

Most computers need some way to input information into them. Devices such as a keyboard or mouse are examples of input devices. When you press a key on your keyboard, an input signal is sent to the CPU. The CPU then reads the keyboard input data to determine what key was pressed.



Output:

Computers need some way of sending information that can be read by people that use them. Examples of an output device are a monitor and printer. A computer sends information to be displayed on a printer or monitor by reading the data from memory and then sending it to the output device where it is displayed.



Computer Basics

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From reading the information on the previous page, answer the following questions.

1. Name the four basic components of a computer system:

2. What component of a computer is considered the “brain” of a computer?

- output
- CPU
- input
- memory

3. Select an item that would be used as output device on a computer system.

- monitor
- mouse
- joystick
- keyboard

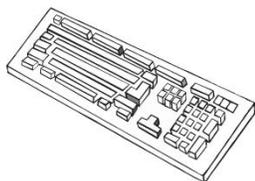
4. Select an item that would be used as an input device on a computer system.

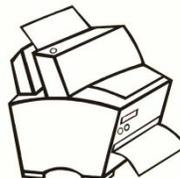
- monitor
- speakers
- printer
- keyboard

Label the computer parts.









Computer Basics

(Answer Key)

From reading the information on the previous page, answer the following questions.

1. Name the four basic components of a computer system:

CPU

memory

input

output

2. What component of a computer is considered the “brain” of a computer?

output

input

CPU

memory

3. Select an item that would be used as output device on a computer system.

monitor

joystick

mouse

keyboard

4. Select an item that would be used as an input device on a computer system.

monitor

printer

speakers

keyboard

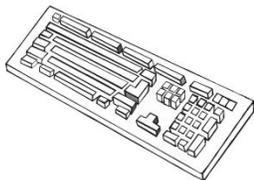
Label the computer parts.



mouse



monitor



keyboard



printer