

Inside a Computer

Have you ever wondered what goes on inside a computer? Cut out the labels and stick them in the correct boxes to label the insides of a computer.

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Central Processing Unit (CPU)

The 'brains' of the computer that receives data from input devices or programs and interprets what needs to happen next. The CPU carries out calculations and algorithms while the computer is in use.

Heat Sink and Fan

The inside of a computer can become very hot when all the electrical parts are working. If it gets too hot, it can stop working due to overheating or even set on fire! The heat sink and fan work together to keep the inside of the computer cool.

Drive Bays

These are spaces for things like DVD or CD drives. Can you see any blank spaces on the outside of a computer where an extra drive could go?

Motherboard

The motherboard is a circuit board that holds everything inside the computer in place. It has slots so that other components can be installed. It connects all of the different devices and passes the information between them all.

Expansion Cards

These cards slot into the expansion slots and connect to the motherboard to make your computer do extra things. A common example is a sound card, which sends and receives audio signals. It translates digital code into analogue sounds which can be then outputted through speakers or headphones.

USB Ports

A port is a space for plugging in an external device. A USB connector is found on many devices, from mobile phones to cameras or memory sticks. The USB port enables these devices to be connected to the computer.

Disclaimer: To ensure the safety of the children in your setting, it is your responsibility to assess whether adult supervision or other appropriate safety measures are required when using scissors.

Graphics Processing Unit (GPU)

The GPU is a processor that creates the images and videos shown on a monitor.

Expansion Slots

These are spaces for extra components you might want to add to your computer to make it do more.

Hard Drive

The Hard Disk Drive (HDD) stores data permanently, even when a computer is switched off. It stores things such as digital photos, music and documents.

Some computers have a Solid State Drive (SSD). The SSD is a faster and more powerful type of hard drive.

Power Supply

This converts the mains AC power to DC power, which is needed inside a computer. A power supply for a laptop will do the same but also uses a battery.

Memory

Computers have two types of memory:

Read-Only Memory (ROM)

ROM is a type of memory in a computer that can't be changed. It stores key instructions such as how to start up when a computer is switched on.

Random Access Memory (RAM)

RAM is a computer's short-term temporary memory. This is used for tasks such as being able to cut and paste or download something.

A computer has memory slots so that you can add extra memory if you want to be able to do more things at once.

Inside a Computer

Have you ever wondered what goes on inside a computer? Write what you know about each computer component.

Power Supply

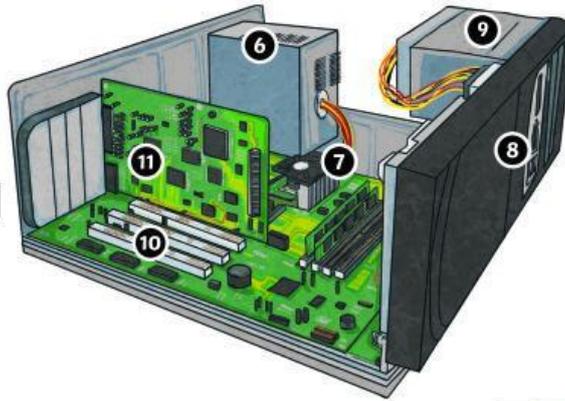
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