



Computer Parts and What They Do

KS2 COMPUTING

Ages 11-14 ⌚ 3 min read

What Are the Main Parts of a Computer?

A computer is made up of many different parts, and each one has a special job to do. Just like a body needs a brain, heart, and lungs to work properly, a computer needs different **components** working together. Let's explore the most important ones.

The CPU: The Brain of the Computer

The **CPU (Central Processing Unit)** is the most important part of any computer. It does all the thinking and makes decisions about what the computer should do next. The CPU reads instructions very quickly and tells other parts what to do.

Think of it like your brain. Your brain receives information from your eyes and ears, makes decisions, and tells your body what to do. The CPU does exactly the same thing for a computer.

Memory: Storing Information

Computers have two main types of memory. **RAM (Random Access Memory)** is like a desk where the computer puts information it's using right now. It's very fast but forgets everything when you turn the computer off. Your **hard drive** or **SSD (Solid State Drive)** is like a filing cabinet that keeps information even when the computer is switched off. This is called **storage**.

Think of it like your schoolbag and your bedroom. Your schoolbag holds things you need today (like RAM), but your bedroom stores things you want to keep forever (like a hard drive).

The Motherboard and Power Supply

The **motherboard** is like the nervous system of a computer. It connects all the different parts together and lets them talk to each other. The **power supply** gives electricity to every part, just like your heart pumps blood around your body.

Input and Output Devices

Input devices let you send information to the computer, like a keyboard or mouse.

Output devices show you information back, like a screen or speakers. Graphics cards create images on your screen, making games and videos look amazing.

Think of it like a conversation. Your mouth and ears are input and output devices—your mouth sends words out, and your ears receive them back.

Why Do We Need All These Parts?

Every part has a job, and they all need to work together. If one part breaks, the whole computer might stop working properly. Understanding these parts helps you see how clever computers really are!