GUIDED NOTES

# The Parts of a Computer System

Name: _____ Date: _____

*Fill in the blanks as we go. Each day has its own word bank, and every answer is in it.*

## Day 1 — Four Jobs Every Computer Does

*Today you will learn the four jobs every computer does: input, processing, output and storage.*

**Word bank** computer system · Hardware · Input · Output · Processing · Software · Storage

### A computer system

*A computer is more than the box on the desk.*

A _____ is hardware and software working together.

_____ is the parts you can touch, like the keyboard, the screen and the chips inside.

_____ is the programs that tell the hardware what to do, like a web browser or a game.

### Four jobs

*Every computer does the same four jobs.*

_____ is information going into the computer, like a key you press or a photo you take.

_____ is the computer working with that information, like adding up a score.

_____ is information coming out of the computer, like words on a screen or sound from a speaker.

_____ keeps information saved, even when the power is off.

### The four jobs together

*The jobs work together.*

Input goes in, the computer processes it and output comes out.

When you save, the information goes to storage for later.

Phones, game consoles and smart TVs do the four jobs, so they're computers too.

**REMEMBER**

Every computer takes input, processes it, gives output and stores what you save.

# Day 2 — Inside the Case

*Today you will learn the main parts inside a computer and the job each one does.*

**Word bank** CPU · Memory · motherboard · port · power supply · storage drive

## The main parts

*Inside the case, each part has one main job.*

The _____ is the main circuit board. Every part plugs into it, and it carries information between them.

The _____, or central processing unit, follows a program's instructions. It does the processing.

_____, also called RAM, holds what the computer is using right now.

A _____ keeps programs and files saved, even when the power is off.

The _____ changes power from the wall into the power the other parts need.

## Connecting devices

*Some devices stay outside the case.*

A _____ is a socket where you plug in a cable, like a USB or HDMI port.

The keyboard, the mouse and the monitor plug into ports, so information can go in and out.

## Our startup model

*In our model, a computer starts one step at a time.*

First, the power supply sends power to the motherboard. Then the CPU starts, and it uses memory to work.

Then the computer loads its programs from the storage drive. In our model, if a part is missing, the computer stops at that step.

Real computers check their parts in their own ways. The model shows how the parts depend on each other.

**REMEMBER**

Each part has one job: the CPU processes, memory holds what's in use, storage saves and the power supply powers the rest.

# Day 3 — Follow the Path

*Today you will learn how to trace data from an input device or storage, through the CPU and memory, to output or storage.*

**Word bank** Data · input device · output device · program

## Programs and data

*Software tells the hardware what to do.*

A _____ is a set of instructions that tells a computer what to do.

_____ is information a computer works with, like the letters you type or a photo.

The CPU follows a program's instructions to work with data.

## Following the path

*Data moves between the parts as the computer works.*

An _____, like a keyboard, sends data into the computer through a port. Data can also start in storage, like a saved photo you open.

The motherboard carries the data to the CPU, and the CPU uses memory while it works.

The result goes out to an _____, like the monitor, or to the storage drive when you save.

**REMEMBER**

Data can come from an input device or from storage. The CPU works on it with memory, and the result goes to an output device or to storage.