

Hardware Vocabulary **KEY**

Hard Drive	A device that stores all your computer's data, like documents, pictures, and software. It uses spinning disks to read and write data.
Heat Sink	A component that helps cool down your computer by transferring heat away from the CPU or other parts.
Input Device	Any device you use to give information to your computer, like a keyboard, mouse, or microphone.
Computer Memory / Storage devices	Devices that store data for your computer. Examples include hard drives, SSDs, USB flash drives, and memory cards.
Motherboard	The main circuit board in your computer that connects all the different parts, like the CPU, memory, and storage.
Output Device	Any device that shows you the results of your computer's work, like a monitor, printer, or speakers.
Hardware Ports	Connectors on your computer where you plug in external devices, like USB ports for flash drives or HDMI ports for monitors.
RAM	(Random Access Memory): Temporary memory that your computer uses to store data it needs right now. It gets cleared when the computer is turned off.
ROM	(Read-Only Memory): Permanent memory that holds important instructions for your computer. It doesn't get erased when the computer is turned off.
Transistor	A tiny electronic component that can amplify signals or act as a switch. It's a building block of all modern electronics.
Video Card	A component that creates the images you see on your monitor. It's also called a graphics card.
Chip	A small piece of material that contains an integrated circuit. Chips are found in all electronic devices.
CPU	The "brain" of your computer that performs calculations and runs programs.