

Computer Insides-Out Hunt by Cindy O'Hora

To make an informed computer purchase you need some vocabulary and a basic understanding of what the major parts of a computer do. This hunt will get you started. [Paper-based Output device version](#)

Directions: Use the [links](#) provided to find the answers to the questions. In the majority of questions you will research the answer within the site. Use a bookmark of this hunt to speed your return to this hunt page.

1. List some [input devices](#) you already know.

2. [Write 4 more from this extensive list:](#)

3. The salesperson is trying to sell your dad a [digitizer tablet](#). Your dad is buying the computer for work. He is an accountant. What is your advice?

4. Write the [mandatory parts](#) of a computer?

Computing changes rapidly. Write one of the "mandatory parts" that is no longer mandatory. _____

What does the [hard drive](#) do? Follow this terrific tutorial. I love the insides photos.

How does a hard disk work?

Of course, a [computers NEED a hard drive](#). Or do they?

What is the alternative? _____

5. Your mom's recipe database, on her computer, is running pretty slow. The repair shop suggests a new hard drive as a first step to speeding it up. [Is this good advice?](#)

When is hard drive speed important?

6. Memory - your computer has several different kinds of memory. Each one is important. But in some computer uses or applications, one is more critical than another.

[RAM](#) is an acronym that stands for _____.

What does RAM do?

7. Increasing VRAM ([video memory](#)) will improve performance in which computer uses?

8. The salesperson offers you a one time special. 10mb of virtual memory for \$100. [Are you buying?](#)

Explain.

9. How is a [motherboard](#) an essential part of a computer? [Another resource](#) / [photo](#)

10. You may have ridden a bus to school or even taken a bus trip to visit family members. Did you know the computer has a bus? What is a computer bus? Look it up using your online search skills.

11. It is curious really. Many computer terms seem to be based on food. [What is a chip?](#)

TAI - A computer chip is: animal, vegetable or mineral?

12. **True or False.** Your sister decides to major in computer architecture in college. That means she will be learning how to draw plans for buildings using a computer. [Computer Architecture](#)

13. [The Altair 8800](#) was one of the first personal computers. Compare or contrast this early computer's appearance with the computer you are using to view the web page.

14. What is the [role of the microprocessor or CPU](#)?

15. If you have a "[need for speed](#)" you'll want to carefully consider your options. Explain

16. Your sister insists that her computer must let her effectively use Dragon Software. List the hardware that will be necessary for her to use it. Use your online research skills to arrive at an answer.

How much RAM will her computer need?

Challenges:

Your family is house shopping. Your dad asks the realtor about the Internet service available in the community. He responds that they have four dialup companies. Your dad asks you, "Is that what we need?"

The Principal proudly reports to the PTO that the school's computers have ethernet cards and are WiFi capable. How is that important? Use your online research skills to arrive at an answer.

"[Moore's Law](#) is dead," says [Gordon Moore](#) (Well he ought to know!)

Done already?

[Visible Storage Online Exhibit](#) - Computer History Museum.

[ENIAC Museum](#)

How much is that [obsolete computer worth](#) if recycled today?

[Innovators in Computer activity](#)

Increase your techKnow - [Webopedia Term of the Day](#)

[Colossus](#)

[Computer Webquest](#)

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