Section 6. Basic Functions of a Computer

**Directions:** Use the PowerPoint presentation: [Computer](http://www.gcflearnfree.org/computers/computerbasics) Fundamentals from Day 23 through question 9. Use Google or Yahoo for questions 10 – 16.

**The 4 Functions of a Computer**

**A computer is an electronic device that executes the instructions in a program. A computer has four functions:**

**Function 1:**  **INPUT** (8,9)

* This function enables information to be passed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the computer. Everything we tell the computer is **Input.**
* Example of input devices include a:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Function 2:**  **STORAGE** (14-17)

* A computer can store results and keep huge amounts of data.
* There are two types of storage:
  + Temporary Storage which hold information for short periods and only when the computer is on.
    - An example of temporary storage is RAM

(**R**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **A**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **M**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

RAM allows stored data to be accessed in any order. (i.e., at random)

* + Long Term Storage holds information for as long as you want it.
    - Examples of Long-term storage include:
      * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      * \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Function 3: Processing** (10-11)

* Processing is the **thinking** that the computer does - the calculations, comparisons, and decisions.
* The processor is called the CPU, which stands for:

(**C**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **P**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **U**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

* The CPU is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the computer.

**Function 4: Output** (12-13)

* **Outputs** are the results from the processing in the form of words, sounds or pictures.
* Examples of Output devices include:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. (23) The **System Unit** is the main body of a computer, consisting of a plastic or metal enclosure, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, internal disk drives, power supply, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and circuit boards.
2. (23-24) What are some **internal components**?
3. (15) What is **RAM** (Random Access Memory)?
4. (16) What is **ROM** (Read Only Memory)?
5. (12) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ devices convert the results of processing into a form that can be understood by users.
6. (12,13) List some **output devices**. If you do not know what some of these output devices are, be sure to include the definitions.

1. (16) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ store data and programs when they are not being processed.
2. (17) List some **storage devices**. If you do not know what some of these storage devices are, be sure to include the definitions.

**Use Google or Yahoo to research answers to the following questions!**

1. What is a **motherboard**?
2. What does it mean to format a disk?
3. What is a **CD-R**?
4. What is a **CD-RW**?
5. What are **communication** devices?
6. List some **communication devices**. If you do not know what some of these communication devices are, be sure to include the definitions.
7. **Data** is measured in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. A **bit** is the smallest unit of information handled by the computer. Most computers group **8 bits** together to equal a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Measurements include:
   1. **Kilobytes** ( )
   2. **Megabytes** ( )
   3. **Gigabytes** ( )
   4. **Terabytes** ( )