



## TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS

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### LESSON 1: NOTES

#### SUBTOPICS

1. Definition of a computer.
2. Parts of a computer.

#### LESSON OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, the learner should be able to:

- a) define a computer
  - b) state the different parts of a computer
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#### Notes

##### Definition of a computer

A computer can be defined as an electronic device programmed to save, transmit and process data into information.

##### What is data?

Data simply refers to a collection of numbers, characters which have no much meaning to the user.

**Example:** Monari,26 Mwangi,22 Grace,11 Wanyama,11



## What is information?

Information is a set of numbers and characters which can be interpreted as having meaning.

Information can also be described as processed data.

### Example:

Name	Age
Monari	26
Mwangi	22
Grace	11
Wanyama	11

## What is a computer program?

This is a set of instructions written to perform a specified task with a computer.

### Example:

A C-Program that can add two numbers when run in the computer

```
#include<stdio.h>
int main()
{
    int a, b, c;
    printf("Enter two numbers to add\n");
    scanf("%d%d",&a,&b);
    c = a + b;
    printf("Sum of entered numbers = %d\n",c);
    return 0;
}
```

## What is processing?

This is the act of transforming raw, meaningless facts (data) into meaningful format (information) with the computer.

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## Parts of a computer

A computer has so many parts but these parts are categorized into 4 main parts namely:

1. Chassis also known as system unit
2. Monitor also known as visual display unit or screen
3. The Keyboard
4. The Mouse

### 1. Chassis

The chassis houses parts of a computer those that are responsible for processing directly or indirectly. These parts include:

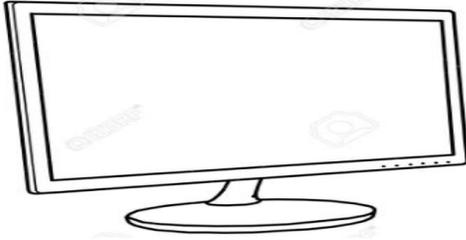


- a) **The memory** – *Random Access Memory* temporarily stores information inside a computer. The Information is lost when computer is turned off.
- b) **The Hard drive** - A hard drive is the primary device that a computer uses to store information
- c) **The motherboard** - The motherboard is the main circuit board of a computer.
- d) **The Power Supply Unit (PSU)** - A power supply changes normal household electricity into electricity that a computer can use.
- e) **Media drive (CD/DVD drive)** - reads information stored in compact discs/DVDs
- f) **Central Processing Unit** – responsible for processing such as performing calculations and issuing of instructions to other parts of the computer



- g) **Heatsink and system fan** – these devices are responsible for cooling down the CPU to avoid overheating while processing.
- h) **Other parts include** – extension slots for cards, USB, Memory card and Firewire sockets

## 2. The monitor



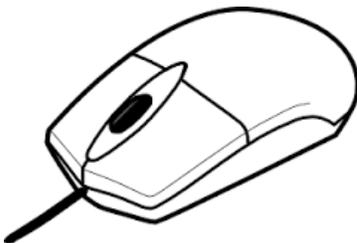
This is a device that shows all the happenings in the chassis and acts as an interaction between the computer user and the computer itself.

## 3. The Keyboard



This device is used to enter/input data into the computer in form of letters, numbers, symbols and instructions.

## 4. The Mouse



This device enters data inform of instructions into the computer.



## More Notes on topic

### Functions of a computer

1. To accept data by way of input
2. To give results by way of output
3. To store data
4. To control operations inside the computer
5. To process data as required by the computer

### Characteristics of a computer

1. Accuracy
2. Speed
3. Automation
4. Endurance
5. Versatility
6. Storage
7. Cost reduction
8. Doing repetitive tasks
9. Don't get tired / diligent
10. Can work in hazardous areas

### Purpose of a computer

The main purpose of a computer is to help the user accomplish a specific computational task i.e. *calculating mathematical and logical expressions, transmitting data signals and saving data for future reference.*



## Introduction to computer assignment

1. State four characteristics which make computers better than human beings. (2011#2)  
(4marks)
2. State any three functions of a computer (1999#1) (3mks)
3. What are the different parts that make up a computer?
4. CPU stands for?
5. Data that has been processed and has meaning is referred to as?
6. Briefly explain the similarities and differences between human beings and computer systems.
7. List **three** stages involved in transforming data into information?