***Know the vocabulary below and be able to point out the major components of a motherboard and you will ace your computer components test.***

**INTEL**

**Input**
The data that is entered into a computer. The act of entering data into a computer

**Storage**
In computing, any device in which (or on which) information is stored.

**Output**
The computer-generated information that is displayed to the user in some discernible form such as a screen display, printed page, or sound.

**Hardware**
The physical parts of the computer system that you can touch and feel such as the keyboard, monitor, and computer case
**software**
The programs and data that make computer hardware function

**Microprocessor**

The "brains" of the machine carrying out instructions, performing calculations, and interacting with the components used to operate the computer. It handles the fetch, decode, and execute steps of the computer.

**RAM (random access memory)**
The memory that is available on a computer for storing data and programs currently being processed. It is automatically erased when the power is turned off

**ROM (read only memory)**
A system's permanent, stored instructions, which are never changed; it holds its contents even when the power is turned off. Data is placed here only once, and stays there permanently.

**Semiconductor**
A material that when combined with some other material can be turned into an insulator or a conductor

**Transistor**
A type of switch that contains no moving parts and uses electricity to turn itself on and off.

It controls the amount of [current](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/c/current.htm) or [voltage](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/v/volt.htm) used for amplification/modulation or switching of an electronic signal.

**Binary code**
A coding system that relies on the use of bits—0s and 1s—to encode information

**Bit**
A binary digit, a 0 or a 1

**Pixel**
Short for picture element. This is the smallest logical unit of visual information that can be used to build an image

A microprocessor follows instructions using the same 3 steps. What are they?

1. **Fetch**—Microprocessor gets a software instruction from memory telling it what to do with the data.
2. **Decode**—Microprocessor determines what the instruction means.
3. **Execute**—Microprocessor performs the instruction

**­Cool Facts**

 From start to finish, a microprocessor takes about 2 months to produce. Fabrication begins with a very thin slice of silicon

A hair is more than 2000 times wider than a transistor on a microprocessor. Wires between transistors are even thinner. They're more than 4000 times thinner than a hair. A microprocessor transistor then is 0.0000045 centimeters wide. (Want that in inches? It's 0.00000177 of an inch.)

**COMPUTER COMPONENTS**

1. What are the classifications of hardware? Input devices, processing unit, output devices, storage devices
2. What do PCI slots do? Used to add additional peripherals to your computer like USB ports and graphic cards.
3. List 3 examples of input devices –Keyboard, mouse, scanner
4. Heat Sink – Conducts heat so as to relieve the temperature surrounding the cpu.
5. Capacitor – A small tower that stores energy charges. When they blow out n, the computer will not boot and these must be replaced.