Reading Comprehension

Inside a computer

Have you ever looked inside a computer case, or seen pictures of the inside of one? The small parts may look complicated, but the inside of a computer case isn't really all that mysterious

Motherboard

The motherboard is the computer's main circuit board. It's a thin plate that holds the CPU, memory, connectors for the hard drive and optical drives, expansion cards to control the video and audio, and connections to your computer's ports (such as USB ports). The motherboard connects directly or indirectly to every part of the computer.

CPU/processor

The central processing unit (CPU), also called a processor, is located inside the computer case on the motherboard. It is sometimes called the brain of the computer, and its job is to carry out commands. Whenever you press a key, click the mouse, or start an application, you're sending instructions to the CPU.

The CPU is usually a two-inch ceramic square with a silicon chip located inside. The chip is usually about the size of a thumbnail. The CPU fits into the motherboard's CPU socket, which is covered by the heat sink, an object that absorbs heat from the CPU. A processor's speed is measured in megahertz (MHz), or millions of instructions per second; and gigahertz (GHz), or billions of instructions per second. A faster processor can execute instructions more quickly. However, the actual speed of the computer depends on the speed of many different components—not just the processor.

RAM (random access memory)

RAM is your system's short-term memory. Whenever your computer performs calculations, it temporarily stores the data in the RAM until it is needed. This short-term memory disappears when the computer is turned off. If you're working on a document, spreadsheet, or other type of file, you'll need to save it to avoid losing it. When you save a file, the data is written to the hard drive, which acts as long-term storage.

RAM is measured in megabytes (MB) or gigabytes (GB). The more RAM you have, the more things your computer can do at the same time. If you don't have enough RAM, you may notice that your computer is sluggish when you have several programs open. Because of this, many people add extra RAM to their computers to improve performance.

Hard drive

The hard drive is where your software, documents, and other files are stored. The hard drive is long-term storage, which means the data is still saved even if you turn the computer off or unplug it. When you run a program or open a file, the computer copies some of the data from the hard drive onto the RAM. When you save a file, the data is copied back to the hard drive. The faster the hard drive, the faster your computer can start up and load programs.

Power supply unit

The power supply unit in a computer converts the power from <mark>the wall outlet</mark> to the type of power needed by the computer. <mark>It</mark> sends power through cables to the motherboard and other components.

If you decide to open the computer case and take a look, make sure to unplug the computer first. Before touching the inside of the computer, you should touch <mark>a grounded metal object</mark>—or a metal part of the computer casing—to discharge any static buildup. Static electricity can be transmitted through the computer circuits, which can seriously damage your machine

Expansion cards

Most computers have expansion slots on the motherboard that allow you to add various types of expansion cards. <mark>These</mark> are sometimes called PCI (peripheral component interconnect) cards. You may never need to add any PCI cards because most motherboards have built-in video, sound, network, and other capabilities.

However, if you want to <mark>boost the performance</mark> of your computer or update the capabilities of an older computer, you can always add one or more cards.

Source: https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/computerbasics/laptop-computers/1/

1. In a sentence, explain what this text is about.
2. Indicate whether these sentences are TRUE or FALSE. Highlight the lines that justify each answer.
   a. A video card is connected to the motherboard.
   b. The CPU generates heat when it's working.
   c. Having a fast CPU always results in having a fast computer.
   d. When we start writing a text using MS Word, that file is stored in the hard drive.
   e. Data is retrieved from the hard drive every time we open a pdf file that we have downloaded.
   f. Computer circuits need static electricity to work.
   g. Some computers don't have expansion cards.
3. Explain what <mark>the words highlighted in yellow</mark> refer to.
4. Translate these phrases:
   a. a two-inch ceramic square with a silicon chip located inside
   b. the motherboard's CPU socket
   c. an object that absorbs heat from the CPU.
   d. built-in video, sound, network, and other capabilities.
5. Match

Press	The Computer
Click	An Application/ A Program
Start /Run	Instructions
Write/Store/Copy	A File
Send/Execute	Data
Save/Lose/Open	Expansion Cards/Extra RAM
Work On	Your Computer's Capabilities

Unplug	The Mouse
Add	A Spreadsheet/ A Document
Update/Boost	A Key

6. Arrange the expressions highlighted in green in different groups, and label them.

7. What time do these sentences refer to?
    a. The motherboard <u>connects</u> directly or indirectly to every part of the computer.
    b. When you <u>run</u> a program or <u>open</u> a file, the computer <u>copies</u> some of the data from the hard drive onto the RAM

8. Postreading: Imagine you have a lot of money and you want to change/update a component of your computer. Which is it? Why do you want to change it? Answer in three sentences.

In this reading, we worked on:

□ The names of different computer components

□ How reference is made using deictic expressions, to create cohesion

□ How words combine to create collocations

□ The use of the Present Simple tense