



# 1

## Importance of Computers

### 1.1 / Let's get to know the Computer

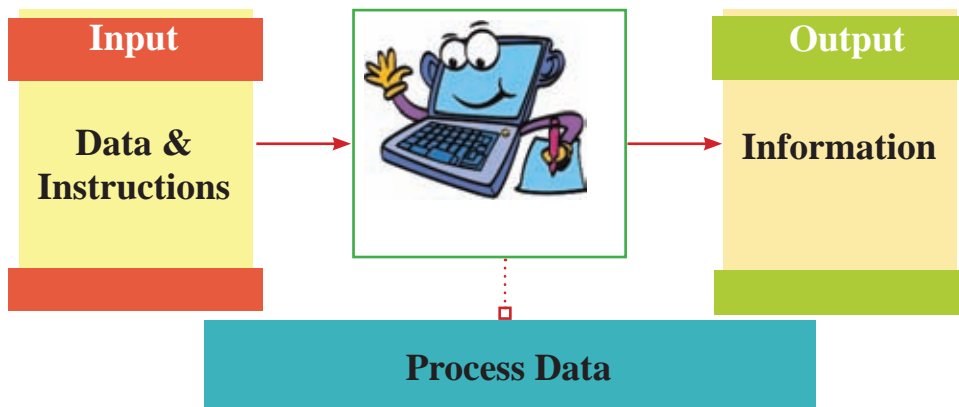


#### 1.1.1 / Functions of a Computer

The basic functions of a computer are entering data, processing them and producing processed data (information).



Figure 1.1 - Basic Functions of a Computer



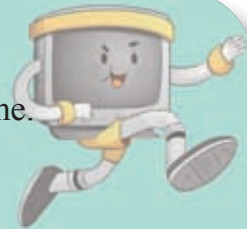
**Activity 1 - See 1.1 in the Workbook.**

## 1.1.2 / Significant Features of a Computer

### Speed and Efficiency



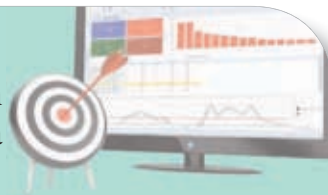
It can finish any given task within a very short time.  
(It can perform billions of tasks in a second.)



### Accuracy



It can provide correct information when correct instructions and data are given.



### Reliability



You can rely on the process and the output.

### Consistency



It produces consistent output when the same input is given.

## Storage Capacity

- It can store a large amount of data. It can obtain them at any given time for any process.

## Cost

- Though the initial cost is high, the maintenance cost is not so.

## Intelligence

- It can act according to the given instructions. But it cannot take decisions on its own like a human being.

### 1.1.3 Devices with Embedded Computers

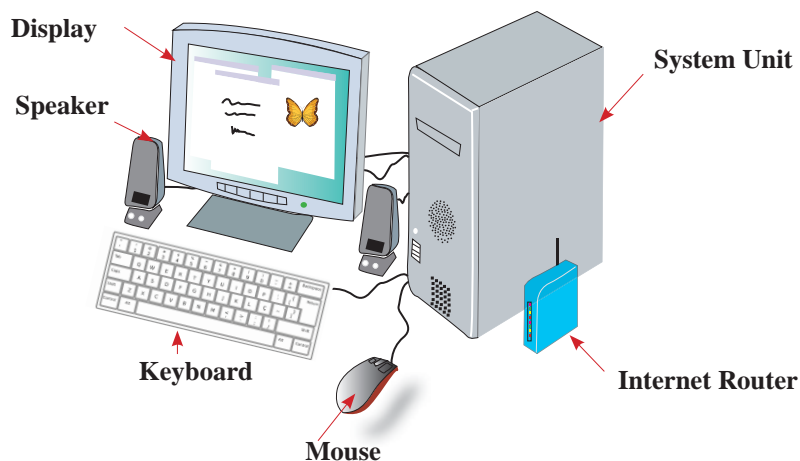


Equipment like washing machines, mobile phones, modern motor vehicles and modern televisions are operated by computer programmes. Computer programmes included in such equipment are known as Embedded Computer Systems.



**Figure 1.2 - Some Devices with Embedded Computers**

## 1.2 / Let's identify the Components of a Computer



**Figure 1.3 - Components of a Computer**

A computer is a unit which consists of many parts. We can categorise those parts into components according to the nature of the functions they do.

- Input Devices
- Output Devices
- Central Processing Unit
- Main Memory
- Storage Devices
- Communication Devices

### • Input Devices

The devices which are used to enter data and instructions to computers are called input devices.



Figure 1.4 - Some Input Devices

### • Output Devices

The devices which are used to retrieve the data and information are called output devices.



Figure 1.5 - Some Output Devices