

Smart Ideas MAKE SENSE OF COMPUTER ADS

All the unfamiliar words and numbers in the ads and stores can give you digital sticker shock. Don't be discouraged: here are the basic computer terms you'll see— and what you need to know as you shop.

The Sticker



CPU

intel core i7-8700k

RAM

16GB (2 x 8GB)

Hard Drive

4TB, 5400 rpm

CD-ROM

48X

Display

AMD Radeon R7 240 2 GB Graphics, no screen

Speaker

Optional

Router

Up to 1.9Gbps

The Translation

The CPU (central processing unit) is the brain of the computer that controls and sends signals to it, telling it what to do.

RAM (random access memory) is the computer's short-term memory, or how much data it can process at once.

Hard Drives store all of your computer files such as pictures, documents and everything else for you to have in the long term.

CD-ROM (compact disc/read-only memory) drives run the same kind of CDS your home music system plays, but instead of playing just sound, it holds images and text.

Display shows the images, that are made up of hundreds of dots that are called pixels, on to your screen.

Speakers are used for you to hear the audio that's being played on your computer.

Routers are used to access the internet so that you can send and receive emails, look things up, watch videos, etc.