

3 Memory and storage – Part 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English	Write it 3 times (English)		
RAM	_____	_____	_____
volatile	_____	_____	_____
ROM	_____	_____	_____
non-volatile	_____	_____	_____
Secondary storage	_____	_____	_____

Recall

A computer needs memory to hold data and programs. There are two main kinds.

New ideas

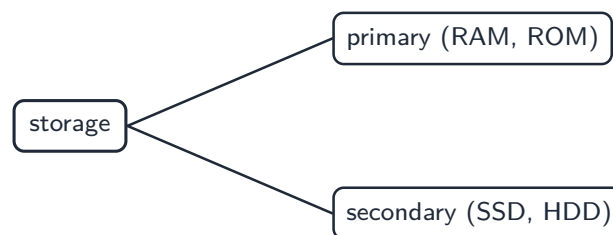
Read these first, then do the Practice.

■ 1 RAM and ROM

RAM	ROM
volatile	non-volatile
can change	cannot change
running programs	startup (BIOS)

- **RAM** is **volatile** – it loses its contents when the power is off;
- **ROM** is **non-volatile** – it keeps its contents.

■ 2 Primary and secondary storage



Secondary storage (like an SSD) keeps files permanently, even when the power is off.

Watch out: **RAM** is *volatile* (loses everything when the power goes off) and holds running programs; **ROM** is *non-volatile* and holds the startup instructions. **Secondary storage** (SSD/HDD) keeps your files permanently.

Practice

Try these in order.

3.6 Which memory loses its contents when the power is off – RAM or ROM? [1]

3.7 What does *volatile* mean? [1]

3.8 What is stored in ROM? [1]

3.9 Give one example of secondary storage. [1]

3.10 Why do we need secondary storage? [1]

3.11 Challenge. When you switch a computer off, the program you were running disappears but your saved file does not. Explain why, using RAM and secondary storage. [2]