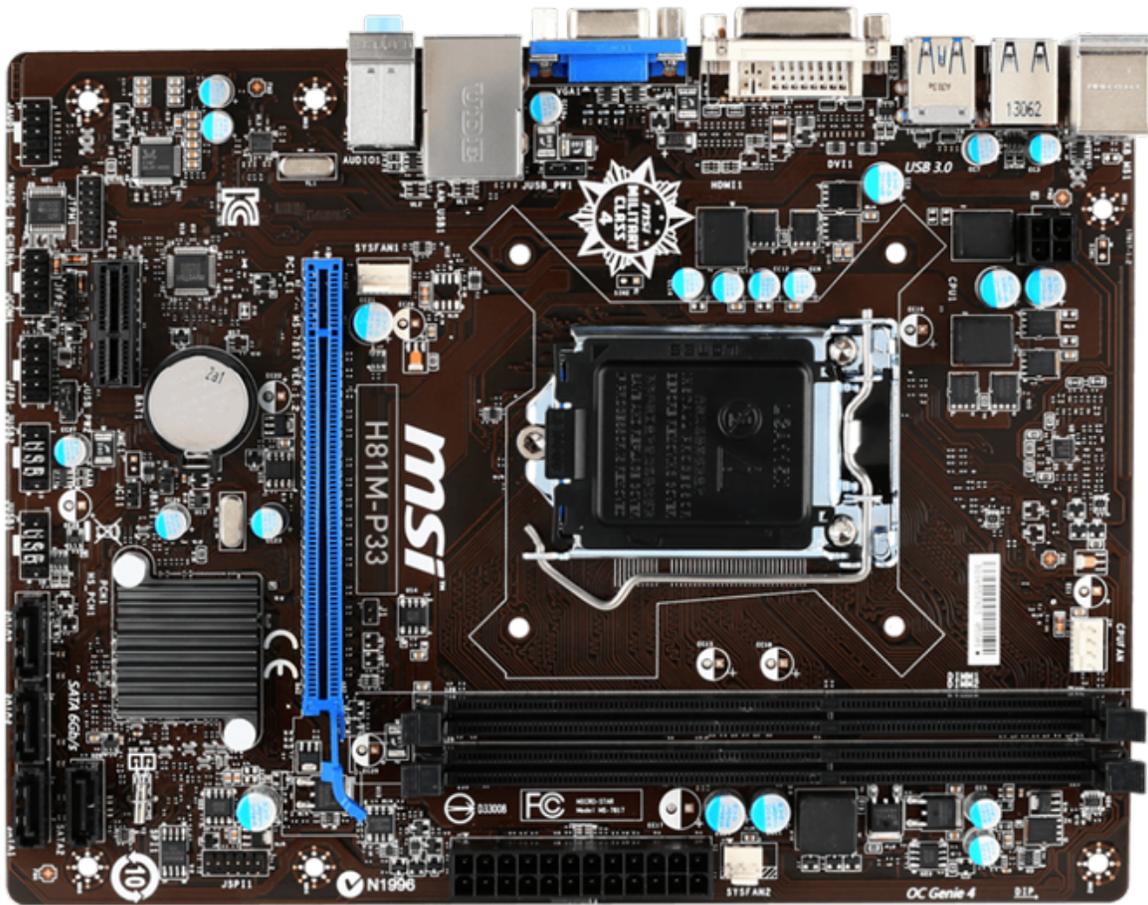




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## What's Inside Your Computer Learning Sheet

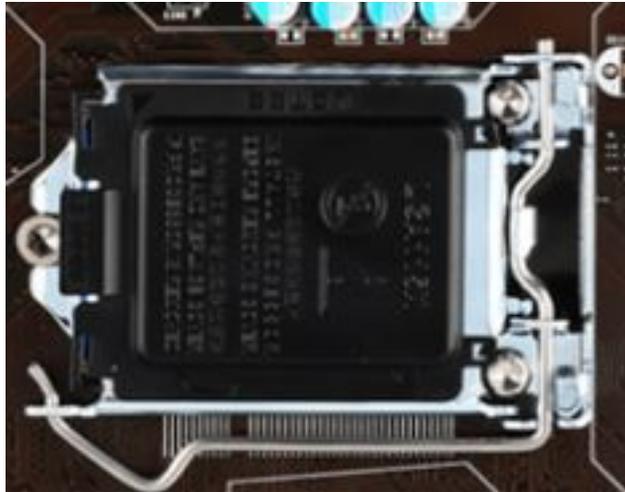


This is like the board inside your computer - you will see slots, sockets, and connections.



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The large one in the middle is your CPU or Central Processing Unit - this is where the computer's brain is.



These slots are where your RAM or Random Access Memory is contained - this is where short term memory is held.





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You may also notice there is a battery like a watch battery on the motherboard - this battery makes sure the computer never forgets what time it is even when the power goes out.



There are also different slots connected to your board for power and hard drives, these may be labeled as SATA or IDE.

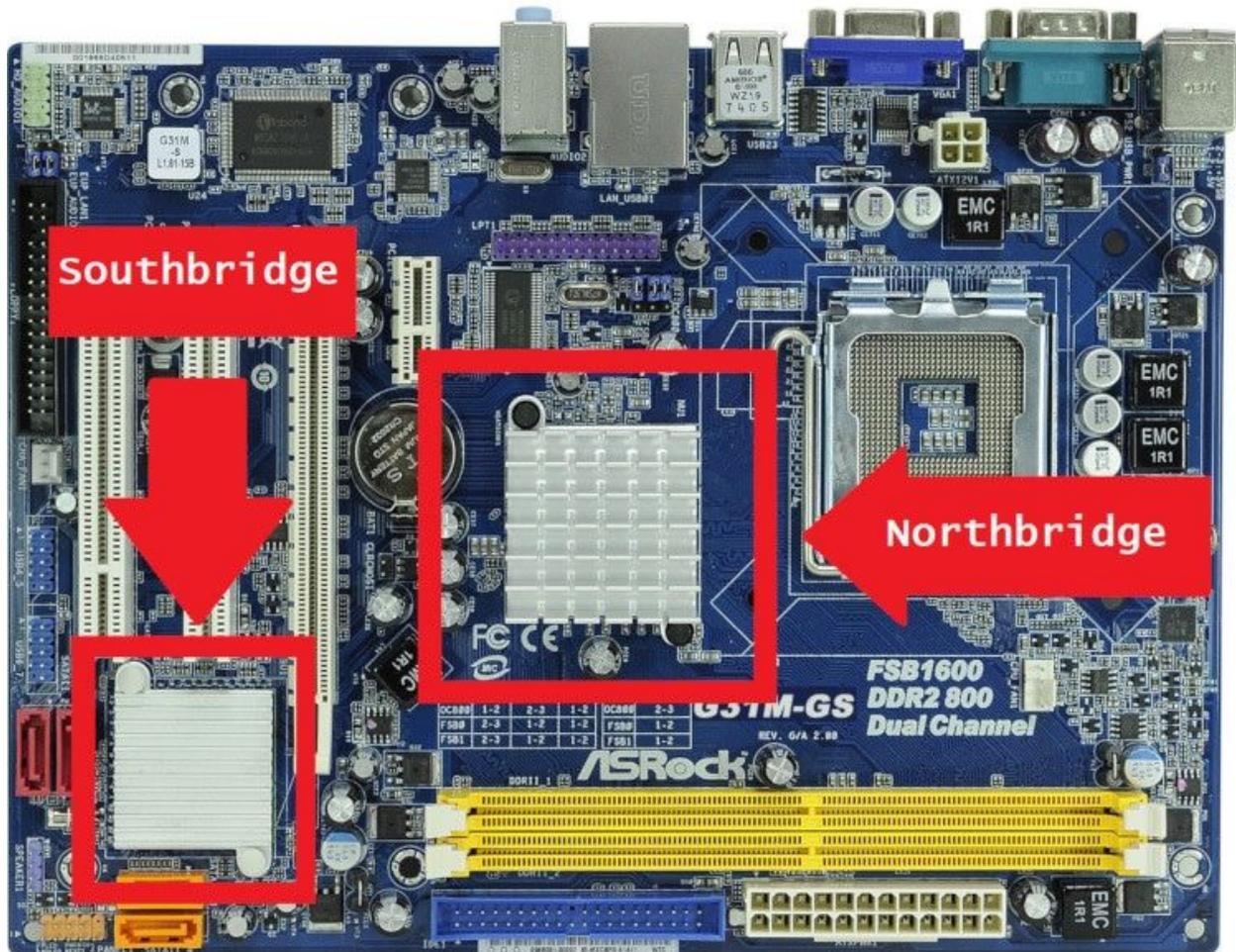
You will also see ports on the side of the board that are there to be connected for the monitor and for other devices like headphones and USB mice or even for your network cables.

Some motherboards have video cards plugged into them with fans on them. All motherboards are different like all computers are different.



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Let's Take A Deeper Dive



On your motherboard there may be two square slots that look like the processor but much smaller. These look like the picture above. These are called the Northbridge and the Southbridge.



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If you have two, the Northbridge should be closer to the CPU, otherwise, the one you find will be the Southbridge.

The Southbridge is a communications hub like a radio tower for airplanes, it directs traffic between the audio, storage and other ports and the CPU.

The little round components you see standing up - pictured below are called capacitors.



These are found in many electrical devices, as they are used to provide power without damaging the device. It's sort of a mini surge protector on the motherboard.

Finally, all the little dots you see on the motherboard, hold parts in place and they make sure that power can flow through the device.