

## **DATA AND INFORMATION**

Data is a general term for numbers, characters and symbols which are accepted and processed by a computer system.

But, what is the difference between data and information?

1 8 3 8 0 B L B R M 0

This is a meaningless collection of characters until two additional pieces of information is given:

1. **STRUCTURE**  
How is the data broken down into separate components.
2. **CONTEXT**  
The topic of theme that the data refers to.

INFORMATION = **MEANINGFUL** DATA

INFORMATION (FOR PEOPLE) = DATA (FOR COMPUTERS) WITH STRUCTURE
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