

Definitions for Physical Parts of a Computer



This list of computer terms for children covers the hardware, or physical parts, of computers.

- **computer** - electronic machine that can store and process data; it has hardware, which is the machine itself, and software, which is a set of instructions
- **desktop** - a full-size computer, with a central processing unit (CPU) connected to a monitor
- **external hard drive** - a device that acts like a computer hard drive without being installed in the computer; plugs into a computer via a port and you can copy files to it
- **keyboard** - where all the letters, numbers and other buttons are located; when you type on it, the symbols appear on the monitor
- **laptop** - small portable computer
- **microphone** - allows you to talk to others through your computer, assuming you are connected to them via a communication app
- **modem** - a device that allows a computer to connect to the intranet
- **monitor** - screen that shows you what you are doing; a viewer that displays what the computer sends to it
- **mouse** - a little device you move with your hand, which then moves the cursor on the screen
- **peripheral** - an accessory that you use with your computer; not part of the computer itself, but it connects to the computer via a cable or wireless access; for example: printers and scanners
- **printer** - device that prints out data sent from the computer onto paper
- **router** - networking that allows computers to send and receive data via networks
- **scanner** - device that scans something that is flat and sends the image to the computer
- **speakers** - devices that the sounds come out of; they are sometimes built into the monitor
- **touchpad** - an area on a laptop that substitutes for a mouse; you move your finger around on it to move the cursor
- **trackpad** - another term for touchpad; part of a laptop that functions as a mouse would function; you control the cursor on the screen by moving your finger on the device