

04 Parts of a Computer

The basic parts of a desktop computer are the **computer case monitor, keyboard, mouse, and power cord**. Each part plays an **important role** whenever you use a computer.

Play the video by clicking the link below: (CTRL + click)

[Parts of a Computer](#)

Scroll down the webpage until you see the video.
Click the **Play icon** on the web page to play the video.

After you watch the video, **read** the rest of the section on the following pages and **answer the quiz questions**.





Computer Case

The **computer case** is the metal and plastic box that **contains the main components** of the computer, such as the motherboard, central processing unit (CPU), power supply, and more. The front of the case usually has an **On/Off button** and one or more **optical drives**.

Computer cases come in different shapes and sizes. A **desktop case** lies flat on a desk, and the monitor usually sits on top of it. A **tower case** is tall and sits next to the monitor or on the floor.



All-in-one iMac

Computers like Apple's iMac come with the **internal components built into the monitor**, which eliminates the need for a separate computer case.



Monitor

The **monitor** works with a **video card**, located inside the computer case, to display images and text on the screen. Most monitors have **control buttons** that allow you to change your monitor's display settings, and some monitors also have built-in speakers.

Newer monitors usually have **LCD** (liquid crystal display) or **LED** (light-emitting diode) displays. These can be made very thin, and they are often called **flat-panel displays**. Older monitors use **CRT** (cathode ray tube) displays. CRT monitors are much larger and heavier, and they take up more desk space.

Keyboard

The **keyboard** is one of the main ways to communicate with a computer. There are many different types of keyboards, but most are **very similar** and allow you to accomplish the same basic tasks.



Mouse

The **mouse** is another important tool for communicating with computers. Commonly known as a **pointing device**, it lets you **point** to objects on the screen, **click** on them, and **move** them.

There are two main types of mice: optical and mechanical. The **optical** mouse uses an electronic eye to detect movement and is easier to clean. The **mechanical mouse** uses a rolling ball to detect movement, though it requires regular cleaning to work properly.

Mouse Alternatives

There are other devices that can do the same thing as a mouse. Many people find them easier to use, and they also require less desk space than a traditional mouse. The most common mouse alternatives include:



Trackball: A trackball has a ball that can rotate freely. Instead of moving the device like a mouse, you can roll the ball with your thumb to move the pointer.

Touchpad: A touchpad—also called a **trackpad**—is a touch-sensitive pad that lets you control the pointer by making a drawing motion with your finger. Touchpads are common on laptop computers.

