

# COMPUTER - PORTS

---

[http://www.tutorialspoint.com/computer\\_fundamentals/computer\\_ports.htm](http://www.tutorialspoint.com/computer_fundamentals/computer_ports.htm)

Copyright © tutorialspoint.com

## What is a Port?

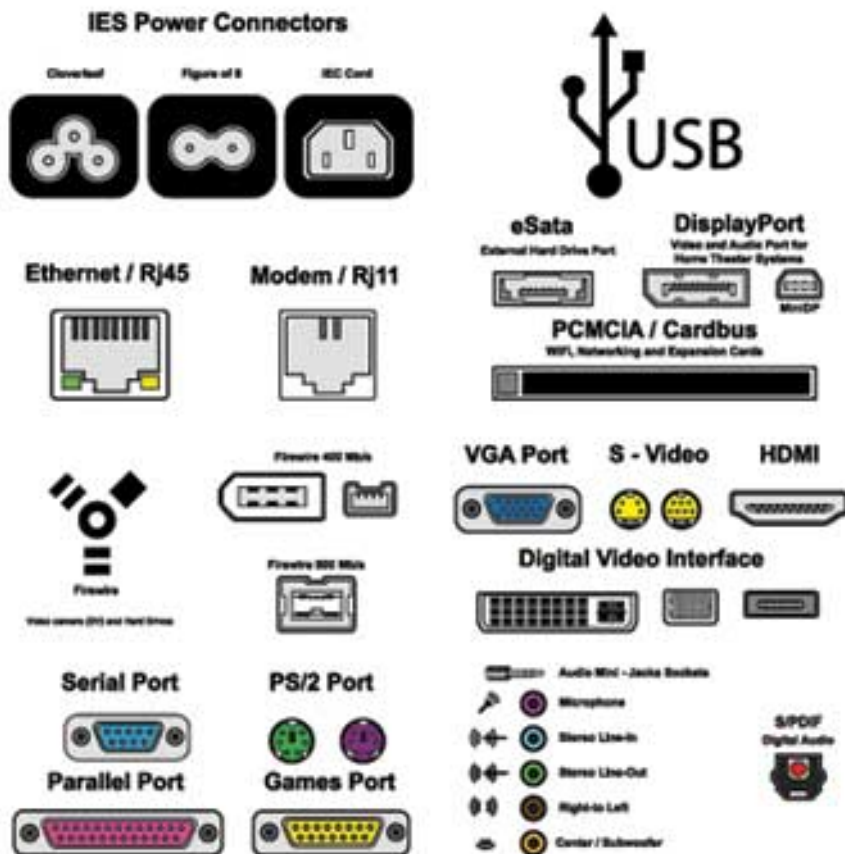
A port:

- is a physical docking point using which an external device can be connected to the computer.
- can also be programmatic docking point through which information flows from a program to computer or over the internet.

## Characteristics

A port has the following characteristics:

- External devices are connected to a computer using cables and ports.
- Ports are slots on the motherboard into which a cable of external device is plugged in.
- Examples of external devices attached via ports are mouse, keyboard, monitor, microphone, speakers etc.



Following are few important types of ports:

## Serial Port

- Used for external modems and older computer mouse
- Two versions : 9 pin, 25 pin model
- Data travels at 115 kilobits per second

## Parallel Port

- Used for scanners and printers
- Also called printer port
- 25 pin model
- Also known as IEEE 1284-compliant Centronics port

## PS/2 Port

- Used for old computer keyboard and mouse
- Also called mouse port
- Most of the old computers provide two PS/2 port, each for mouse and keyboard

- Also known as IEEE 1284-compliant Centronics port

## **Universal Serial Bus (or USB) Port**

- It can connect all kinds of external USB devices such as external hard disk, printer, scanner, mouse, keyboard etc.
- It was introduced in 1997.
- Most of the computers provide two USB ports as minimum.
- Data travels at 12 megabits per seconds
- USB compliant devices can get power from a USB port

## **VGA Port**

- Connects monitor to a computer's video card.
- Has 15 holes.
- Similar to serial port connector but serial port connector has pins, it has holes.

## **Power Connector**

- Three-pronged plug
- Connects to the computer's power cable that plugs into a power bar or wall socket

## **Firewire Port**

- Transfers large amount of data at very fast speed.
- Connects camcorders and video equipments to the computer
- Data travels at 400 to 800 megabits per seconds
- Invented by Apple
- Three variants : 4-Pin FireWire 400 connector, 6-Pin FireWire 400 connector and 9-Pin FireWire 800 connector

## **Modem Port**

- Connects a PC's modem to the telephone network

## **Ethernet Port**

- Connects to a network and high speed Internet.
- Connect network cable to a computer.
- This port resides on an Ethernet Card.
- Data travels at 10 megabits to 1000 megabits per seconds depending upon the network bandwidth.

## **Game Port**

- Connect a joystick to a PC
- Now replaced by USB.

## **Digital Video Interface, DVI port**

- Connects Flat panel LCD monitor to the computer's high end video graphic cards.
- Very popular among video card manufacturers.

## **Sockets**

- Connect microphone, speakers to sound card of the computer