

# UNIT 3

## Basic Parts of a Desktop Computer

### Introduction



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.

Watch the video to learn about the basic parts of a desktop computer.

### Computer Case



A computer case

The **computer case** is the metal and plastic box that **contains the main components** of the computer. It houses the motherboard, central processing unit (CPU), the power supply, and more.

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. The front of the case usually has an **on/off switch** and **one or more optical drives**.

Most of the personal computers you can purchase today include **tower cases**, rather than desktop cases; however, some computers are being made with all of the internal components built into the monitor, which completely eliminates the tower.



An all-in-one iMac



Monitor

## A monitor

The **monitor** works with a **video card**, located inside the computer case, to display images and text on the screen. 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 bigger and heavier, and they take up more desk space.

Most monitors have **control buttons** that allow you to change your monitor's display settings, and some monitors also have built-in speakers.

**LED** displays are actually **LCD** displays that are **backlit** with light-emitting diodes. This allows for **greater contrast** than a traditional LCD display.

## Power Cord



A power cord connected to a surge protector

The power cord is the **link** between the **power outlet** and the **power supply unit** in the computer casing. If the power cord is not plugged in, the computer will not power on. To protect your computer from voltage spikes, you can plug the power cord into a **surge protector**. You can also use an **Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)**, which acts as a surge protector and also provides temporary power if there is a blackout.

## Keyboard

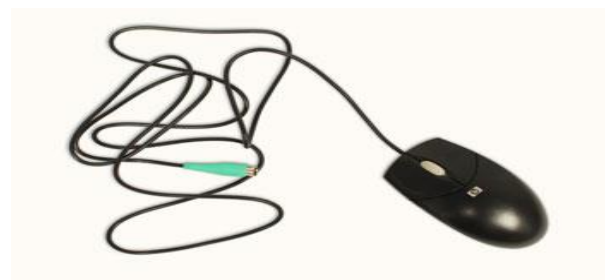
The **keyboard** is one of the primary ways we communicate with the computer and enter data. There are many different types of computer keyboards such as wired, wireless, ergonomic,

multimedia, and more. Although there may be differences in the location of some keys or features, keyboards are **very similar** and allow you to accomplish basically the same tasks.

Click the buttons in the interactive below to learn about the different parts of the keyboard.



## Mouse



A mouse

The **mouse** is a **peripheral** that is 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. Generally, a mechanical mouse is cheaper, although it may require regular cleaning to keep it working properly.

Traditionally, a mouse connects to the computer using a **USB** or **PS/2** connection. However, you can also buy a **wireless** mouse, which can reduce clutter on your desktop.

## Mouse Alternatives

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



A touchpad on a laptop

- **Trackball:** A trackball has a ball on top that can rotate freely. Instead of moving the device like a mouse, you can simply roll the ball with your fingers to move the pointer. Some mobile devices have miniature trackballs that can be controlled with your thumb.
- **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 very common on laptop computers.

### Challenge!

- Think about the **desktop computers** you've seen at work, school, the library, a store, or a friend's house. What did they look like? Were they **all-in-one**, or did they have a separate **tower**?
- Review the **Parts of the Keyboard** interactive on page 3 of this lesson. Are there any keys that you haven't used before?
- If you're using a **mouse**, flip it over to see whether it's **optical** or **mechanical**.
- Is your monitor **LCD**, **LED**, or **CRT**?
- If your monitor has **control buttons**, try adjusting the **brightness** and **contrast**.

## GRAMMAR FOCUS 3

### What is an adjective?

Adjectives are words that describe or modify other words. They can identify or quantify another person or thing in the sentence. Adjectives are usually positioned before the noun or the pronoun that they modify.

In the following examples, the highlighted words are adjectives:

1. They live in a **beautiful** house.
2. Lisa is wearing a **sleeveless** shirt today.

## Forming adjectives

### Typical adjective endings

Some adjectives can be identified by their endings. Typical adjective endings include:

1. **-able/-ible** understandable, capable, readable, incredible
2. **-al** mathematical, functional, influential, chemical
3. **-ful** beautiful, bashful, helpful, harmful
4. **-ic** artistic, manic, rustic, terrific
5. **-ive** submissive, intuitive, inventive, attractive
6. **-less** sleeveless, hopeless, groundless, restless
7. **-ous** gorgeous, dangerous, adventurous, fabulous

Sometimes when adding these endings changes have to be made. Here are some rules for forming adjectives and their exceptions:

Add	Exceptions	Word	Adjective
<b>-al</b>	If ending with an 'e', drop it	Nature	Natural
		Function	Functional
<b>-y</b>	If ending with an 'e', drop it	Ice	Icy
		Oil	Oily
<b>-ful</b>	If ending with a 'y', replace with an 'i'	Beauty	Beautiful
		Peace	Peaceful
<b>-ous/-ious</b>	If ending with a 'y', drop it	Mystery	Mysterious
		Danger	Dangerous
<b>-ic</b>	If ending with a 'y', drop it	History	Historic
		Rust	Rustic

## Denominal adjectives

### What are denominal adjectives?

Denominal adjectives (sometimes called denominal adjectives) are adjectives derived from nouns. For example:

1. A **mathematical** puzzle. (a puzzle based on mathematics)
2. A **biological** experiment. (an experiment in biology)
3. A **wooden** boat. (a boat made of wood)

Proper adjectives are derived from proper nouns. They commonly describe something in terms of nationality, religious affiliation, or culture. Like proper nouns, proper adjectives have their first letter capitalized. For example:

1. I married a **Russian** woman.
2. The **Jewish** community in NY is very large.

## Comparing adjectives

### Forming comparative adjectives

As well as serving as modifying words like beautiful and big, adjectives are also used for indicating the position on a scale of comparison. The lowest point on the scale is known as the **absolute** form, the middle point is known as the **comparative** form, and the highest point is known as the **superlative** form. Here are some examples:

Absolute	Comparative	Superlative
This book is <b>long</b> .	This book is <b>longer</b> than that book.	This is the <b>longest</b> book.
The airport is <b>far</b> .	The airport is <b>farther</b> than the train station.	This is the <b>farthest</b> airport.
My mom is a <b>good</b> cook. My mom is a <b>better</b> cook than your mom. My mom is the <b>best</b> cook.		

## Compound adjectives

### What are compound adjectives?

A compound adjective is formed when two or more adjectives are joined together to modify the same noun. These terms should be hyphenated to avoid confusion or ambiguity. For example:

1. Diana submitted a **6-page** document.
2. She adopted a **two-year-old** cat.

## Order of adjectives

### How to order adjectives in English

In many languages, adjectives denoting attributes usually occur in a specific order. Generally, the adjective order in English is:

1. Quantity or number
2. Quality or opinion
3. Size
4. Age
5. Shape
6. Color
7. Proper adjective (often nationality, other place of origin, or material)
8. Purpose or qualifier

For example:

1. I love that **really big old green antique** car that always parked at the end of the street.
2. My sister adopted a **beautiful big white** bulldog.

When there are two or more adjectives that are from the same group, the word **and** is placed between the two adjectives:

1. The house is green **and** red.
2. The library has old **and** new books.

When there are three or more adjectives from the same adjective group, place a comma between each of the coordinate adjectives:

1. We live in the big **green, white and red** house at the end of the street.
2. My friend lost a **red, black and white** watch.

## Examples of adjectives

### Typical adjective endings

1. They live in a **beautiful** house.
2. Lisa is wearing a **sleeveless** shirt today. This soup is not **edible**.
3. She wore a **beautiful** dress.
4. He writes **meaningless** letters.
5. This shop is much **nicer**.
6. She wore a **beautiful** dress.
7. Ben is an **adorable** baby.
8. Linda's hair is **gorgeous**.
9. This glass is **breakable**.
10. I met a **homeless** person in NY.

**Exercise 1. Rewrite the phrase, changing the italicized words to a proper adjective.**

**Consult a dictionary if necessary.**

the economist *from Germany* the **German** economist

1. a rock group *from Britain*
2. the painting *from America*
3. a program *from Sweden*
4. a novel *from England*
5. a radio *from Japan*
6. the language *from Portugal*
7. the song *from Ireland*
8. ivory statue *from Egypt*
9. the leather *from Morocco*
10. the coat *from Russia*

**Exercise 2. Write in the blank the correct form of the adjective in parentheses.**

Mount Everest is the world's [ **highest** mountain peak. (high)

1. The parrots were \_\_\_\_\_ this morning than yesterday. (loud)
2. That is the \_\_\_\_\_ monkey I've ever seen. (small)
3. The tree in my front yard is the \_\_\_\_\_ in the neighborhood. (tall)
4. The new well has to be \_\_\_\_\_ than the old one. (deep)
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ bell of that kind is in New York City. (large)
6. I think my packages are \_\_\_\_\_ than yours. (heavy)
7. Twyla is taking lessons so that she can be an even \_\_\_\_\_ actress. (good)
8. That is the \_\_\_\_\_ book in the library. (strange)
9. Don't open the door any \_\_\_\_\_. (wide)
10. This ceiling is the \_\_\_\_\_ in the entire building. (low)

**Exercise 3. Write the indicated form of each adjective.**

beautiful *comparative* **more beautiful**

1. likable *comparative* **more likable**
2. careful *superlative*
3. numerous *superlative*
4. familiar *negative comparative*
5. wonderful *comparative*
6. modern *superlative*
7. dramatic *negative superlative*
8. surprised *comparative*
9. profitable *negative superlative*
10. efficient *superlative*

**Exercise 4. Write in the blank the correct form of the adjective in parentheses.**

Zookeeping sounds like the **[most enjoyable]** job a person could have.  
(enjoyable)

1. I want to be the \_\_\_\_\_ zookeeper at the city zoo. (dedicated)
2. What could be \_\_\_\_\_ than taking care of animals? (rewarding)
3. Of course, I will need \_\_\_\_\_ experience with animals than I have had in the past. (reliable)
4. So far, my \_\_\_\_\_ accomplishment has been to hold my dog Pepper long enough to give him a bath. (impressive)
5. I can gain \_\_\_\_\_ experience than I get with Pepper by caring for my neighbors' pets. (useful)
6. When I am older, I hope to become the \_\_\_\_\_ assistant Pepper's veterinarian has ever had. (hard-working)
7. Then I will go to college and become even \_\_\_\_\_. (knowledgeable)
8. Aunt Sara is the \_\_\_\_\_ zookeeper I know. (respected)
9. She says some animals are \_\_\_\_\_ than others. (cooperative)
10. Some are \_\_\_\_\_ than others, too. (playful).