

Lesson 5

Active Parts Explore the PC



Explore the Personal Computer

Main Parts of Personal Computer

Learning to use a personal computer is much easier if you know how a typical system is laid out and the function of each major part.

Computer Case

The computer case, also called the system unit or console, holds the electronic chips and devices that make the computer work. The outside of the case has an ON / OFF switch, and the rear of the case is where you plug in the other computer components.



Monitor

The monitor, also called the screen or display, is a TV-like device that the computer uses to display text, images, and other information.

Keyboard

The keyboard is a typewriter-like device that is used to type information and enter instructions for the computer to follow.



Mouse



The mouse is a hand-operated pointing device that is used to select or move items on the screen, as well as to provide instructions for the computer to follow.

Personal Computer Accessories

Aside from keyboard and mouse, most personal computers come with a number of accessories.

Printer

A printer is a device that is used to print documents from the computer. Some printers are all-in-one devices that can fax, copy, and scan documents.



Speakers

The speakers are devices that output the sound effects, music, narration, and other audio that the computer generates. The headphones are commonly used to hear the music of the computer alone.



Uninterruptible Power Supply



An Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) is a device that provides temporary power to your computer when the electricity fails. This device enables you to shut down your computer properly to avoid losing data.

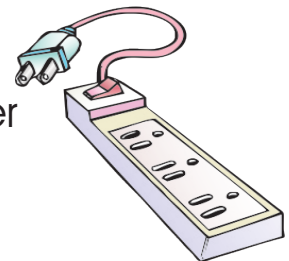


Game Controller

The game controller is a device that is used to control the action of computer games.

Surge Protector

A surge protector is a device that protects the computer from damage by power fluctuations which are often caused by lightning.



Modem

The modem is a device that connects the computer to the Internet, either through telephone lines or TV cable. Some modems, called internal modems, reside inside the computer case.

