



What to look for in the computer:

- CPU
- Memory
- Hard drive

What type of computer is needed:

Laptop::



Desktop:



Tablet:

Research a business or store selling the computer system: BBB

<https://www.dummies.com/business/check-business-better-business-bureau/>

Look up, product reviews

CNET

<https://www.cnet.com/reviews/>

and

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/>

Pc Mag

<https://www.pcmag.com/>

Three Basic types of computer systems:

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Name brand: Dell, HP, Compaq, Acer, Lenovo, Alien-ware

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Proprietary: Apple

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Generic: meaning any computer system bought from a independent computer vendor or store.

### Brand Name:

If you buy one of the manufactured name brand ones such as -

Dell, HP, Compaq, Acer, Lenovo, etc

These are good solid computers (pending your own preference, research and experience), and if you want to do any hardware/software upgrades, they all have enough off the shelf hardware parts and compatible software to make upgrades manageable and relatively inexpensive for several years.

Also take note, that these systems are usually sold with the operating system (the main/master software that controls the other software on the computer) Microsoft windows.

**Proprietary:**

If you decide to buy a Apple computer, note that they are good stable machines, but they are proprietary (meaning, you can only buy apple productions such as hardware and software for Apple computers, with a few exceptions of course).

**Generic:**

There is nothing wrong with buying a computer from a independent store, but you will need to consider the following::

- what is their history, have they been in business long, if they close down, who will honor your warranty if it is still active.
- Do they have a good track record, a quick Better Business Bureau search online and such should tell you that.
- How many stores do they have, if you move to a different city or town, do they have branches state-wide, nation-wide?

**Special Note to consider when buying a computer::** When buying or considering buying a computer, take note of the following concerns –

- computers can be sold as a bundle that might include extra hardware/software, be sure and ask what warranty if any is covered with the bundle if it's not evident.
- Question how the warranty works, and who will honor it, the place where you bought the system won't always be where you send it, if it needs to be fixed.
- Get the specifics of the warranty, who is responsible for what, some of the software may not be covered in the computer, while others may be under a different warranty (Microsoft Windows, will sometimes be covered not by the people who sold you the computer, but directly from Microsoft, so make sure, and ask questions).
- In addition to buying your computer, ALWAYS, ALWAYS buy an additional backup hard drive, this is VERY IMPORTANT, most places that sell you a computer will NOT be responsible for your data unless you pay extra for backups to be included, so again, ask questions.
- And finally, always back up your data on a regular basis, and before sending your computer out for repair, viruses, malware (bad software), system crashes, and software re-installs, may cause you to loose your data, and most places WILL NOT back up your data for you, unless you pay them, and you need to backup you data BEFORE you have a computer problem, not during or after, so remember to backup your data.

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