**Computer Hardware vs Software – What’s the Difference?**

A **computer** has **two main parts**: **Hardware and Software**. Both work together to make a computer function.

**What is Hardware?**

**Hardware** is the **physical parts** of a computer that you can **see and touch**.

**Examples of Hardware:**

✔ **Monitor** – Displays images and text.  
✔ **Keyboard** – Used for typing.  
✔ **Mouse** – Helps to click and move things.  
✔ **CPU (Central Processing Unit)** – The **brain of the computer**, which processes data.  
✔ **RAM (Random Access Memory)** – Helps the computer run fast by temporarily storing data.  
✔ **Hard Drive or SSD** – Stores files and programs permanently.  
✔ **Printer, Speakers, Webcam** – Additional devices for output.

**Example:** If a computer is like a human, hardware is like the **body (hands, eyes, brain, etc.)**.

**What is Software?**

**Software** is the **set of instructions** that tell the computer **what to do**. It is **not physical** and cannot be touched.

**Types of Software:**

✔ **Operating System (OS)** – Manages the computer (e.g., **Windows, macOS, Linux, Android**).  
✔ **Applications (Apps)** – Programs used for tasks (e.g., **MS Word, Google Chrome, WhatsApp**).  
✔ **System Software** – Helps the hardware run smoothly.  
✔ **Games & Multimedia Software** – For entertainment and creativity.

**Example:** If a computer is like a human, software is like the **mind (thoughts, ideas, and instructions).**

**Key Differences Between Hardware and Software:**

| **Feature** | **Hardware** | **Software** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **What is it?** | Physical parts of a computer | Programs and instructions |
| **Can you touch it?** | Yes | No |
| **Examples** | CPU, RAM, Monitor, Keyboard | Windows OS, MS Word, Google Chrome |
| **Function** | Helps in running and processing data | Tells hardware what to do |
| **Failure Effect** | Can be repaired or replaced | Can be reinstalled or updated |

**How Hardware and Software Work Together**

Both **hardware and software** need each other. A computer **cannot work without both**.

✔ **Hardware needs software** to function.  
✔ **Software needs hardware** to run.

* **You Give Input**:
  + You use **hardware** (like a keyboard or mouse) to give instructions to the computer.
  + Example: You type a letter using the keyboard.
* **Software Processes It**:
  + The **software** (like a word processor) takes the input and processes it.
  + Example: The word processor saves the letter you typed.
* **Hardware Shows Output**:
  + The **hardware** (like the monitor or printer) shows or gives you the result.
  + Example: You see the letter on the screen or print it on paper.

**Why is This Important?**

* **Hardware is the Body**:
  + Without hardware, the computer wouldn’t exist. It’s like the **body** of the computer.
* **Software is the Mind**:
  + Without software, the hardware wouldn’t know what to do. It’s like the **brain** of the computer.
* **They Need Each Other**:
  + Hardware and software must work together for the computer to function.
  + Example: A monitor (hardware) needs software to display images, and software needs a monitor to show results.

**Conclusion**

**Hardware** is the **body of the computer**, and **software** is the **mind**. Both must work **together** to make a computer useful!