

PARTS OF A COMPUTER

A computer is made up of a collection of different components that are interconnected together in order to work as a single entity.

A Computer consists of the following parts/devices: -

- The System Unit.
- Input devices.
- Output devices.
- Storage devices.

System Unit

This is the casing (unit) that houses electronic components such as the 'brain' of the computer called the Central processing Unit (CPU) and storage devices.

The components in the System unit include: -

- Central Processing Unit (CPU), which is also referred to as Processor.
- Motherboard.
- Power supply unit.
- Memory storage devices [RAM AND ROM].
- Disk drives, which are used to store, record and read data.

Types of System units

There are two makes of System units:

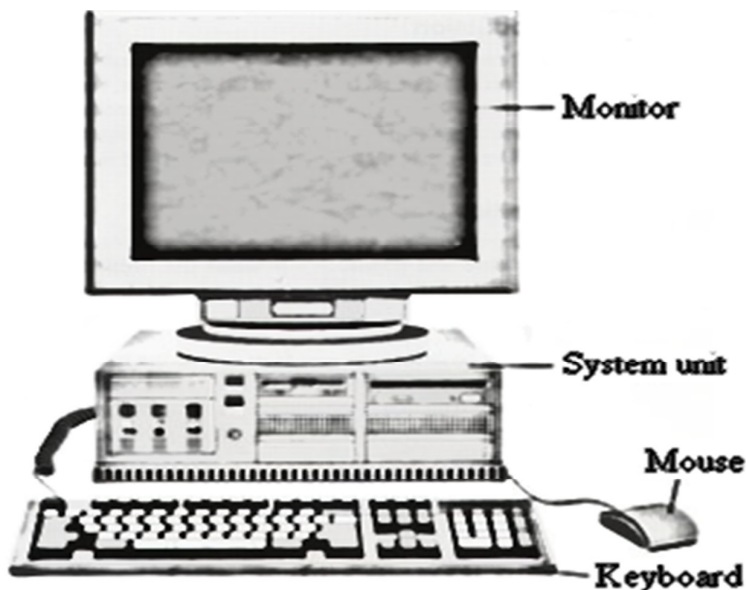
Tower style system unit

This system unit is made to stand alone. They are designed to be placed on the floor.

Tower style units have more space for expansion than the typical desktop units.

Desktop system units

Desktop units lie on the desk with the monitor resting on top of the system unit.



Features of the System unit

1. It houses the CPU.
2. It connects to all peripheral devices using ports.
3. It has the computer's Power switch.

Computer peripherals

A computer is basically made up of a system unit and other devices connected to the system unit called Peripheral devices.

Peripheral devices are the elements (components) connected to the system unit so as to assist the computer satisfies its users.

Peripheral devices are connected to the System unit using special cables called data interface cables that carry data, programs & information to and from the processor. The cables are connected to the system unit using connectors called Ports.

Examples of peripheral devices include;

1. Monitor
2. Keyboard
3. Mouse
4. Printer
5. Modem
6. Speakers
7. Plotter

Review Questions.

1. List down the components that make up a computer.
2. Clearly draw and label the main physical parts of a simple computer system.
3. What are computer peripherals?
4. **(a).** Name and explain the two main divisions of computer storage.
(b). Give two common examples of secondary storage devices.
5. Name two output devices.
6. **(a).** Explain the term System unit.
(b). Name some of the components found in the System unit.
(c). Give three features of a computer's System Unit.
7. Why the screen is also called a Monitor?
8. What is a Mouse in relation to computing?