

What is a computer?



Hi, I'm Tim.

Mike is looking for a job and wants to learn how to use a computer so he can apply for jobs online.

Since he is new to using a computer, he will need an introduction to the parts of a computer and how to use them.

Let's follow along with Mike as he learns about computers.



First we will go over the basics of a computer and its parts.

A computer is an electronic device that processes information.

With a computer you can create documents like resumes, look up information on the Internet, watch movies, play games, and much more.

The computer in this picture is called a desktop.

A desktop computer is meant to be used in one set location and not be moved around very much.



This computer is a laptop.

Whereas the desktop is meant to stay in one place, this kind of computer is easy to set up and use in different locations.



Tablets are another type of computer.

They sometimes can't do everything that a desktop or laptop could do but they are very easy to use and are the easiest to transport.



Many computers out there are known as a PC, which stands for Personal Computer. The computer on the right is a PC, and is made by companies like Dell, HP, etc.

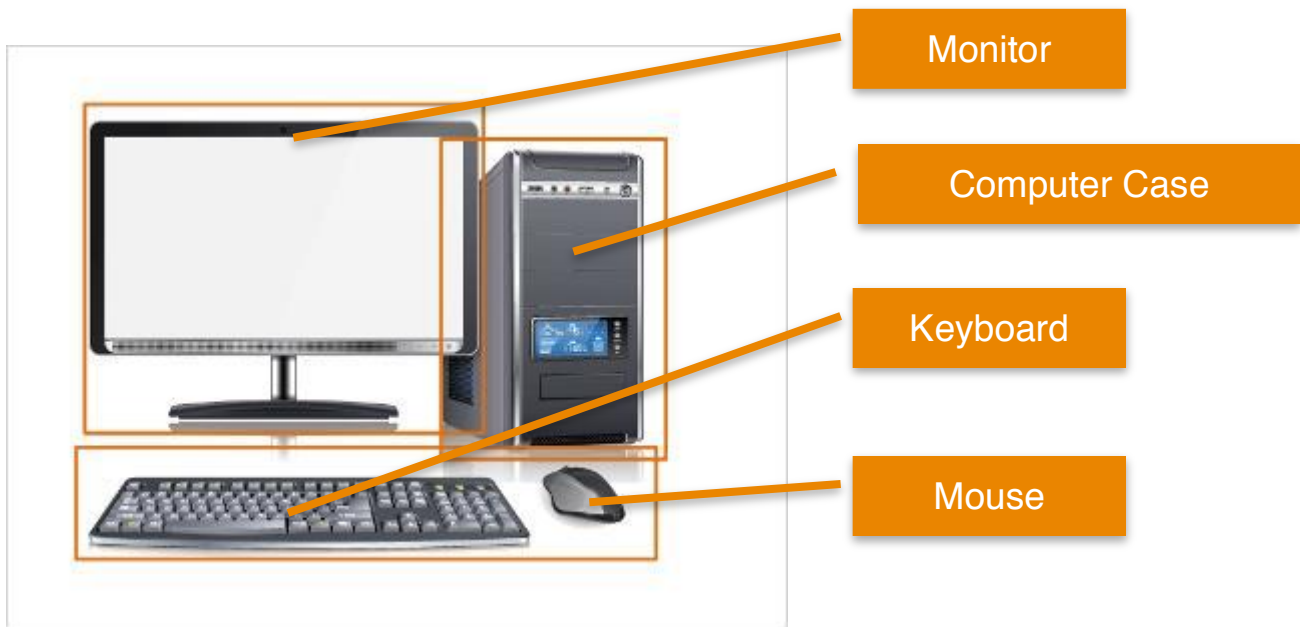
Another type of computer is a Mac, which stands for Macintosh and are made by apple.

The Mac is the computer on the left.

These two types of computers work a bit differently.

For some of the other classes on this site, you will choose between the Mac and PC for the lessons, but for this topic, they are very similar.

A desktop computer has different parts.



The computer case is what holds the main parts of the computer that make it work and process information.

The monitor is the part of the computer that shows the visual information such as the text and images.

The keyboard and mouse are the ways that you can communicate with the computer and tell it what to do, similar to how a remote is how you tell your tv what to do. You can learn more about these parts of the computer in the following lessons in this class.