

Buttons and Ports on a Computer

Take a look at the front and back of your computer case and count the number of **buttons**, **ports**, and **slots** you see. Now look at your monitor and count any you find there. You probably counted at least 10, and maybe a lot more.

Each computer is different, so the buttons, ports, and **sockets** will vary from computer to computer. However, there are certain ones you can expect to find on most desktop computers. Learning how these ports are used will help whenever you need to connect something to your computer, like a new printer, keyboard, or mouse.

Front of a computer case

The back of a computer case has connection ports that are made to fit specific devices. The placement will vary from computer to computer, and many companies have their own special **connectors** for specific devices. Some of the ports may be color coded to help you determine which port is used with a particular device.

Other types of ports

There are many other types of ports, such as **FireWire**, **Thunderbolt**, and **HDMI**. If your computer has ports you don't recognize, you should consult your manual for more information.

Peripherals you can use with your computer

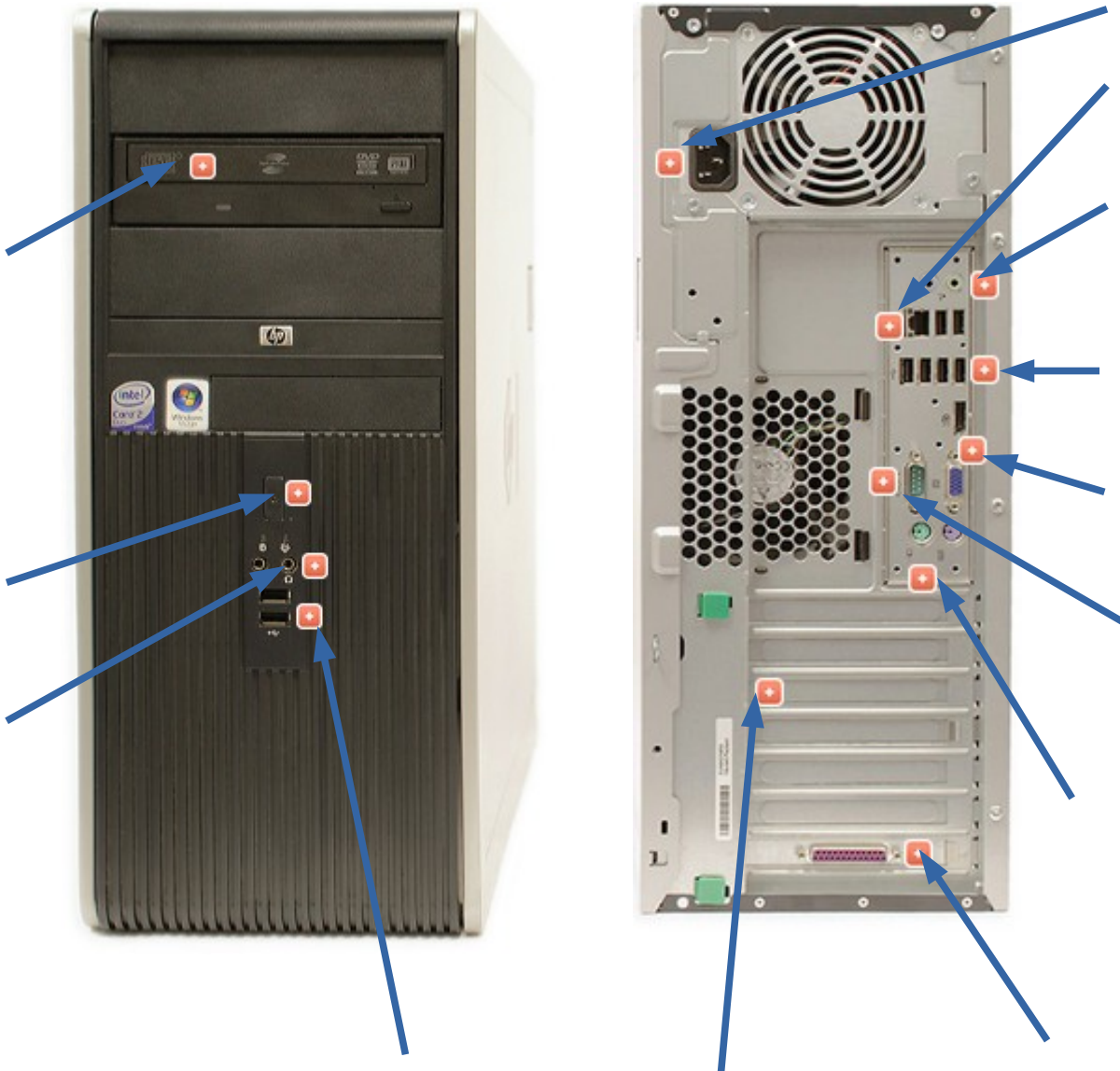
The most basic computer setup usually includes the computer case, monitor, keyboard, and mouse, but you can plug many different types of devices into the extra ports on your computer. These devices are called **peripherals**. Let's take a look at some of the most common ones.

- **Printers**: A printer is used to print documents, photos, and anything else that appears on your screen. There are many types of printers, including **inkjet**, **laser**, and photo printers. There are even all-in-one printers, which can also scan and copy documents.
- **Scanners**: A scanner allows you to copy a physical image or document and save it to your computer as a digital (computer-readable) image. Many scanners are included as part of an all-in-one printer, although you can also buy a separate flatbed or handheld scanner.
- **Speakers/headphones**: Speakers and headphones are output devices, which means they send information from the computer to the user—in this case, they allow you to hear sound and music. Depending on the model, they may connect to the audio port or the **USB** port. Some monitors also have built-in speakers.
- **Microphones**: A microphone is a type of input device, or a device that receives information from a user. You can connect a microphone to record sound or talk with someone else over the Internet. Many laptop computers come with built-in microphones.
- **Web cameras**: A web camera—or webcam—is a type of input device that can record videos and take pictures. It can also transmit video over the Internet in real time, which allows for video chat or video conferencing with someone else. Many webcams also include a microphone for this reason.

a webcam

- **Game controllers** and **joysticks**: A game controller is used to control computer games. There are many other types of controllers you can use, including joysticks, although you can also use your mouse and keyboard to control most games.
- **Digital cameras**: A digital camera lets you capture pictures and videos in a digital format. By connecting the camera to your computer's USB port, you can transfer the images from the camera to the computer.
- **Mobile phones**, **MP3** players, tablet computers, and other devices: Whenever you buy an electronic device, such as a mobile phone or MP3 player, check to see if it comes with a USB cable. If it does, this means you can most likely connect it to your computer.

Can you name this computer buttons & ports?



Can you name the cable & match it to the correct port?

