

## Printer

Printers are used to create permanent copies of output on paper.

## 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 satisfy 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;

Monitor, – Keyboard, – Mouse  
– Modem. – Speakers.

## Review Questions.

List down the components that make up a computer.

Clearly draw and label the main physical parts of a simple computer system.

What are computer peripherals?

- (a). Name and explain the two main divisions of computer storage.
- (b). Give two common examples of secondary storage devices.

Name two output devices.

Hardware determines what software will be used in the computer.  
Computer hardware is expensive to acquire.  
Hardware devices can only be made by specialist hardware engineers.  
Not easy to change particular hardware components.

## SOFTWARE.

These are the programs & data used in a computer system that enable it perform a no. of specific functions.

Software is a set of computer programs that guides the computer in each and every activity that happens inside the computer during data processing operations.

Software also includes the associated documentation (descriptions of the programs).

When used in a computer, Software instructs the computer to carry out specific processing tasks, e.g. produce the year end Balance sheet.

## Characteristics of Computer Software.

They are the programs & data used in a computer system.

A Computer Program is usually a set of computer instructions written in any of the computer programming languages, e.g. BASIC, PASCAL, etc.

It is not possible to see a program in memory as it exists in magnetic spots, however, you can see & touch a listing of the program on the computer screen.

Software enable computer hardware to operate effectively. In other words, software is meant to put 'life' into the hardware.

Software is flexible, i.e., the software used in a particular computer is relatively easy to change.

Software is cheaper compared to hardware devices.

Computer software can be written by the user, a Programmer or a Software house.

## LIVEWARE

Disadvantages.

Difficult to handle because they are small.  
Store small volume of data.

## CARDS / BADGES.

These are small rectangular cards made of plastic that incorporate data in both machine-sensible & human-sensible forms, e.g. Credit cards.

Ways of Coding data onto badges: –

Magnetized marks, e.g. a short strip of magnetic tape sealed into the card's surface.  
Optical marks.  
Punched holes.

The cards are read using Badge readers. The data recorder machine records data on these badges automatically, once manually inserted, using magnetized marks, optical marks or punched holes.

For reading, the badge is slotted into the reading unit where the converter machine (the reader) accepts the contents of the badge and conveys them directly to the computer as input for processing.

The badges are used in banks as Credit and Service cards, e.g., in the Automated Teller Machine.

The Badge contents are usually static, though some cards contents can be altered by the reader, e.g., Phone credit cards whose currency value keeps on changing until zero currency value is left.