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The touchpad is _____. It lets you control the mouse pointer using a _____. Laptops offer the best of both worlds when it comes _____ You can use them on the go, thanks to the _____. Or, you can connect a separate monitor, keyboard, and mouse, effectively _____. So those are the basic parts of any computer setup. As you can see, each part plays an important role, which you'll come to understand as you spend more and more time with your computer.

You may already know that there are many important parts _____, but what exactly do they do? Let's take a look inside and _____ that make a computer work. Whether it's a desktop computer or a laptop, every computer has a _____. This contains some of the most important parts of the computer, such as the CPU, also known as the _____ Unit, or processor. The CPU can be considered t_____, because it processes information and _____ Since it tends to get hot, it's covered by a piece of metal called a heatsink, which draws heat away from the processor.

The motherboard also contains the _____ Random Access Memory. This is the _____ _____ that the computer uses whenever it's performing calculations. However, _____ there, because the RAM is _____. The _____ provides long-term storage, keeping all of the computer's data even when it's turned off. Many hard drives use a magnetic platter to store data, but many newer computers have solid-state drives, which are faster and more durable, but also more expensive.

On many desktop computers, the motherboard has _____ by adding expansion cards. You can _____ to get better graphics performance, or you can add a wireless card to connect to your wireless home network. Most laptops, however, don't have expansion slots. Of course, the computer's components need electricity to run. The _____ is designed to take _____ outlet and _____ that need power. Laptops also contain a built-in battery that lets you use them anywhere.

A computer is a pretty _____, but now that you've _____ it should be a little less mysterious. If you're thinking of buying a computer, you may have wondered, is a laptop right for me? Depending on how you plan to use it, the answer may be yes.

Let's look at some of the ways that _____ to help you decide. The biggest difference _____. Laptops have to be _____ so that you can _____

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you. Since all of the _____, setting up a laptop is as easy as opening it. The downside is that the _____ than a desktop monitor, so you'll have less screen space. Another important difference is that _____. The battery can _____ when you're on the go, and it will _____ in. An added benefit of having a battery is if the power goes out, the battery can work as a backup power source.

Instead of a mouse, laptops usually have _____, also known _____ You can control the _____ by using a drawing motion with your finger. If you haven't used a touchpad before, the experience is a _____, and it may take a while to get used to.

If you're buying a desktop computer, you can _____ almost any monitor, keyboard, and mouse that you want. With a laptop, you _____ since everything is built-in. However, if you want to have the best of both worlds, you can _____ to connect a _____ keyboard, and _____ And of course, whenever you want to, you can simply disconnect everything and take your laptop with you.

As you can see, there are some _____, so depending on your preferences, you can decide which one best suits your needs.

Did you know that you and your computer _____ doesn't speak Spanish, or Swedish, or Chinese. It _____. You can't communicate directly with your computer, but that's where _____ comes in. The operating system, or OS, is _____ with your computer. Together, the _____ and computer hardware _____ that determines what your computer can do.

There are _____. Two of the most common ones are _____ and _____. Windows comes _____, while _____.

Operating systems aren't just for desktop and laptop computers. _____ run mobile operating systems, like _____ which are designed for interactions _____.

Before downloading a new program or application, _____ system. _____ while others only work on certain ones. So get to know your operating system to see how it works and what it can do.

If you woke up this morning thanks to the _____, or if you like watching videos or playing games on your tablet, _____, also known as **apps**. An app is _____ that lets you do things, for lack of a better word. You'll find apps _____, including smartphones, tablets, and computers. Some apps _____, while others are just for fun.

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Here are some examples of ways you can use apps. or tablet. They can make many . For instance, if you're looking for a place to buy coffee, an app like can determine your current nearby coffee shops. Apps s, though. The n your computer can also be considered apps. If you've ever used Microsoft Word to create a document, or a web browser to visit a website or check your email, guess what? You've used an app. Some apps , but you can . Apps are about and more. With so many possibilities, you're sure to find for the things you do.

Are you having trouble putting your computer together? Are you feeling overwhelmed? Don't worry. Take a deep breath. We're going to show you, step by step, .

First, , and remove any plastic covering or protective tape. Think about where you and how you want to arrange the different components before you start plugging things in.

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