



Types of Computers

There are a lot of terms used to describe computers. Most of these words imply the size, expected use or capability of the computer. While the term computer can apply to virtually any device that has a microprocessor in it, most people think of a computer as a device that receives input from the user through a mouse or keyboard, processes it in some fashion and displays the result on a screen.

1. PC



The personal computer (PC) defines a computer designed for general use by a single person. While a Mac is a PC, most people relate the term with systems that run the Windows operating system. PCs were first known as microcomputers because they were a complete computer but built on a smaller scale than the huge systems in use by most businesses.

2. Desktop

A PC that is not designed for portability is a desktop computer. The expectation with desktop systems is that you will set the computer up in a permanent location. Most desktops offer more power, storage and versatility for less cost than their portable brethren.

3. Laptop

Also called notebooks, laptops are portable computers that integrate the display, keyboard, a pointing device or trackball, processor, memory and hard drive all in a battery-operated package slightly larger than an average hardcover book.



4. PDA

Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) are tightly integrated computers that often use flash memory instead of a hard drive for storage. These computers usually do not have keyboards but rely on touch screen technology for user input. PDAs are typically smaller than a paperback novel, very lightweight with a reasonable battery life. A slightly larger and heavier version of the PDA is the handheld computer.



5. Workstation

The fifth type of computer is a workstation. A workstation is simply a



desktop computer that has a more powerful processor, additional memory and enhanced capabilities for performing a special group of



task, such as 3D Graphics or game development.

ACTIVIDADES

1. Subraye 5 cognados, transcríbalos y tradúzcalos.

- 1-
- 2-
- 3-
- 4-
- 5-

2. Look at the text again. What do the words in bold refer to?

- 1- **that** has a microprocessor in it (Line 3) _____
- 2- **that** receives input from the user through a mouse or keyboard (Line 4) _____
- 3- **that** is not designed for portability is a desktop computer (Line 12) _____
- 4- **that** has a more powerful (Line 28) _____

3. Indique si las frases **subrayadas** son frases nominales. Transcríbalas, indique su núcleo y tradúzcalas.

- 1-
- 2-
- 3-
- 4-
- 5-
- 6-

4. Decida cuáles de las siguientes afirmaciones son verdaderas o falsas.

TRU/FALSE

- 1- PCs are designed for general use. ____
- 2- A laptop is not portable. ____
- 3- Laptops are not as powerful as desktop PCs. ____
- 4- A Personal Digital Assistant does not have a hard drive. ____
- 5- Workstation is a more powerful computer. ____



5. Realice un *skimming* del texto. Determine si las siguientes ideas se encuentran contenidos en el mismo o no.

a. Tipos de computadoras	
b. Funciones de las computadoras	
c. Definición de CPU	
d. Diferencias entre PC y laptops	