

Computer vs. Tablet

The table below compares the main differences between computers/ laptops and tablets. Information in this table is based on a range of products available in the market and is not reflective of any product in particular.

	Computer/ Laptop	Tablet (e.g. iPad, Samsung Note, Microsoft Surface Pro, etc.)
		
Input Method	Keyboard and mouse Touchscreen may now be available on some computers/laptops (limited range)	Touchscreen Can add keyboard Can add mouse for some Android or Windows tablets
Internet Connection	Cable connection (Internet) WiFi	WiFi 3G or 4G
Portability	<i>Computers:</i> are fixed in one location. No internal battery; requires connection to wall power outlet. <i>Laptops:</i> are portable but generally weigh more than 1kg.	Portable Lightweight, generally less than 1kg
Installation of Apps/ Software	Has CD drive; can install using a CD	No CD drive; can purchase external CD drive Download from online stores; Internet connection required.
<i>Note: Apps/ software compatible with a computer/ laptop may not be compatible with tablets and vice versa.</i>		

Connecting to Other Devices	Through USB cables Bluetooth (for laptops) Bluetooth adapter available for computers	Bluetooth USB ports available on some tablets
Screen Size	Large screen size, generally 13" and above	Generally smaller screen size
Battery Life	Varies depending on usage Can last up to 4-6 hours	Varies depending on usage Can last up to a day or more
Storage	Large internal storage Alternative storage methods: external hard drive, USB sticks	Up to 132 GB internal storage (on a limited range) Alternative storage methods: cloud, USB sticks, external hard drive
Performance	Generally provides more advanced features and programming Speed is less affected if multitasking or using programs with high graphic content	Generally low-powered processors Speed might be slowed if multi-tasking or using programs with high graphic content
Printing	Can connect using USB cable, Bluetooth, WiFi Printer driver can be installed using a CD	Can connect using USB cable, Bluetooth, WiFi Printer driver will need to be downloaded May only be compatible with some printers
Backup Options	Can back up to external hard drive	Can back up to computer Can back up to the cloud

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