

# Understanding Computer Systems and Components

Chapter 1: Computer Systems and Components · Topic 1

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## Key Concept

Hardware includes physical components like the monitor, keyboard, CPU, and hard disk — things you can touch. Software includes the operating system (like Windows) and applications (like a browser or word processor) — the instructions that tell hardware what to do.

Hardware and software depend on each other: hardware needs software to know what to do, and software needs hardware to run on.

## Quick Revision Notes

- Hardware is physical parts of a computer.
- Software is programs and instructions run by the computer.
- The operating system is a key piece of software (e.g., Windows).
- Hardware and software depend on each other to work.

## Practice Questions

- 1 List three examples of hardware and three examples of software.
- 2 Explain why hardware and software depend on each other.
- 3 Name the operating system used on a computer you know.
- 4 Draw a diagram showing hardware and software working together.