

Portable computers

A **portable computer** is a computer that has been designed to be transportable. It contains a battery to facilitate usage away from a main power supply, and usually has a carrying case to protect it. Portable computers are generally referred to as notebook or laptop computers. Other types of portable computers are hand-held, palmtop and personal digital assistants.

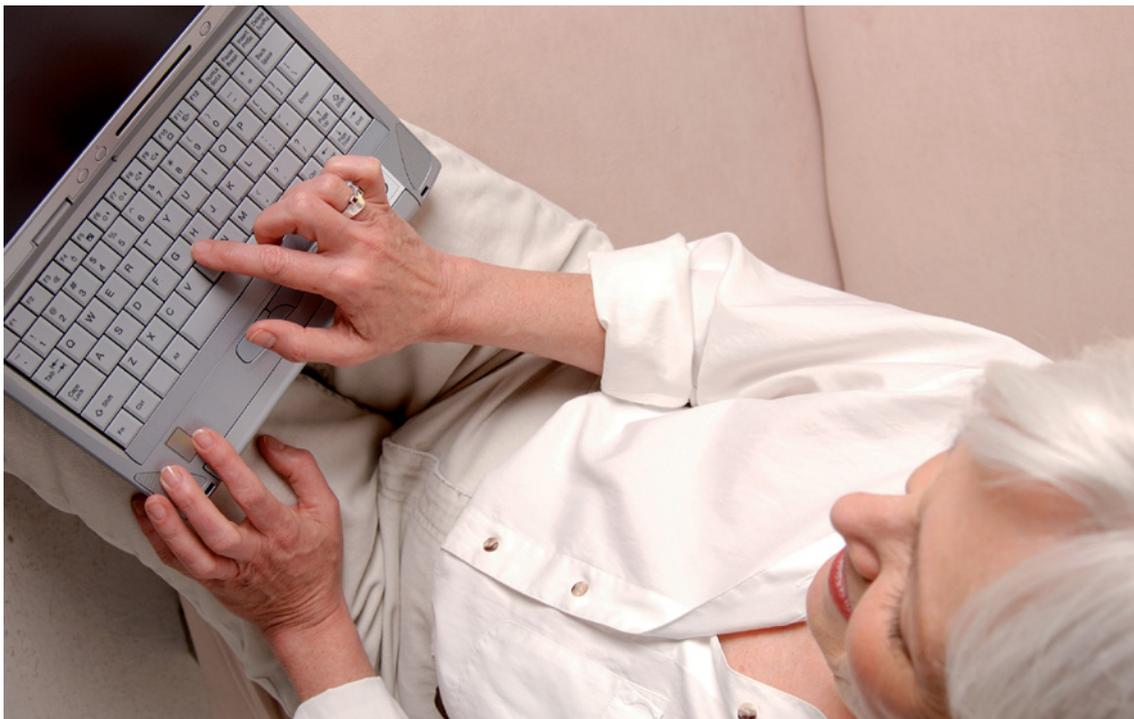
Notebook computers have a clamshell design with a hinged lid that opens to reveal the screen and keyboard. A notebook generally weighs 3 Kg and it runs on **internal rechargeable batteries**, or via a main adapter which also acts as a recharger.

Portable computers are getting smaller and smaller. But, despite their diminutive size, they can have twice the storage capability of some normal PCs.

Notebook computers have an internal disk for storing the operating system and applications as well as providing space for the owner's documents. They run the same operating systems and standard software as their desktop counterparts.

The major drawback with laptops until some years ago was that they had screens which were illegible in bad light. But, nowadays, technology has replaced the old liquid crystal display with a high resolution plasma display, and the most sophisticated models use an easy-to-read orange plasma display that is as crisp as the monitor of an ordinary PC.

Laptops are the perfect machine for the novice. You simply open it up, turn it on, and away you go.



ACTIVITIES

- 1 Answer the following questions.
 - 1 What is a portable computer?
 - 2 What are the main types of portable computers?
 - 3 What are the main features of a laptop?
 - 4 Why are laptops becoming more and more popular?
 - 5 Are they difficult to use?
- 2 As you have just read there are different types of portable computers. Gather some information about them and write a short report describing their specifications.
- 3 And now write an ad for a laptop. Add some pictures too.