

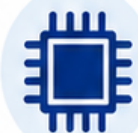


Home Computer Buying Guide

Simple advice to help you choose the right computer



Buying a new computer can be confusing. This guide explains the main things to look for and what the technical terms really mean.



1 Processor (CPU)

The CPU is the brain of the computer. It controls how fast and smoothly the computer works. For most home users, an Intel Core i3 or i5, newer Intel Core 3 or Core 5, or AMD Ryzen 3 or 5 is ideal.



2 Memory (RAM)

RAM is the computer's short-term working memory. More RAM helps when you have several things open at once. 8GB is the minimum to look for. 16GB is the better choice for a smoother experience.



3 Storage (SSD)

Storage is where your files, photos and programs are kept. An SSD (Solid State Drive) makes a computer much faster than an old-style hard drive. 256GB is fine for lighter use. 512GB is a better all-round choice.



4 Laptop size

14-inch and 15.6-inch laptops suit most people. 13-inch models are lighter and easier to carry. Larger models are less portable but may give a bigger screen for viewing and typing.



Types of computer



Laptop

Best for flexibility and everyday home use.



Desktop

Good if you prefer a permanent setup with a full-size screen and keyboard.



All-in-One

A tidy option with fewer cables.



Chromebook

Fine for web browsing and email, but more limited than a Windows PC for traditional software.



Typical prices

£350–£500

Basic laptop for web, email and Office

£500–£700

Best choice for most people

£700+

Premium models or more demanding users



Final checks

- ✓ Make sure you're buying Windows, not ChromeOS
- ✓ Choose an SSD
- ✓ 16GB RAM is the best choice for most people
- ✓ Don't feel pressured into buying extras.



Need a hand choosing?

I offer a complete buying and setup service for **£90**. I can go with you to Currys, help you choose the right computer, then set it up in your home and transfer your files and photos.