

## **ORAKPO MIRABEL**

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There are two major types of computer keyboards:

- (a) Basic keyboard
- (b) Extended keyboard

### BASIC KEYBOARD

This keyboard contains 104 keys which are enough to perform all the functions that can be done on a computer. It can be broken into two types namely;

- (i) Original PC keyboard:

Also known as the IBM original PC/XT keyboard of 1983, this keyboard has 83 keys. It introduced the dual-function keypad that switches between numeric entry and cursor movement, which became standard on all the full-size keyboards that followed.

- (ii) AT keyboard:

Alternatively referred to as the Model F keyboard, the PC/AT keyboard is a U.S. standard keyboard introduced in 1984 by IBM. With 84 keys, this keyboard does not include the additional three Microsoft Windows keys now found on many IBM compatible keyboards. An AT keyboard may also be used to describe a keyboard that uses the AT (Din5) port. The Din5 port is rarely used today since most computers use either PS/2 or USB keyboards.

### EXTENDED KEYBOARD

This keyboard may have additional keys and their designs vary among the companies manufacturing them. They are usually customized keyboards that are specific to certain operating systems or applications. Under this is another keyboard;

- (i) Enhanced keyboard:

This is a type of keyboard that is included with almost all PCs sold today. It includes 101 keys in the U.S. version and 102 keys in the European version. Both versions are recappable so the key tops may be changed for applications requiring special keys. Its biggest difference are the 12 function keys running across the top instead of 10 that run down the left side. Other changes include, the addition of extra ctrl keys, alt keys and cursor arrow keys between the letter keys and numeric keypad on the right side. The enhanced keyboard provides additional functionality for many things such as boot processes, altering text commands and controlling sound and video. Prior to the modern enhanced keyboard and even today, many functional commands have been performed with "bulky" keys which shift a bit sequence in order to input a variety of additional commands. "Function" keys like the command, alt and delete keys have also been instrumental in expanding the scope of what a user can do with

a computer keyboard beyond just entering in text and numbers.

Other designs of the enhanced keyboard include:

1. Flexible Keyboard
2. Ergonomic Keyboard
3. Gaming Keyboard
4. Wireless Keyboard
5. Multimedia/Internet Keyboard
6. Membrane Keyboard
7. Mechanical Keyboard
8. Virtual Keyboard
9. Laptop Keyboard
10. Projection Keyboard

**NOTE THAT:** The original PC keyboard, the AT keyboard and the enhanced keyboard differ somewhat in the placement of the function keys, control keys, return key and shift key. In addition to these keys, PC keyboards usually contain the following keys: page up, page down, home, end, insert, pause, num lock, scroll lock, break, caps lock and print screen.

#### **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BASIC AND EXTENDED KEYBOARDS**

BASIC KEYBOARD	EXTENDED KEYBOARD
Has 104 keys	Has more than 104 keys
Do not have specific functions	Usually have specific functions/designs
Has only F1 - F10 keys	Has F11 & F12 keys
Has a few keyboard types as by-products	Has various keyboard types as by-products
Was created by IBM in the 80s	Latest version was released in 2014