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Question

Differentiate between input and output devices. List 10 examples of each.

Answer

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **BASIS OF COMPARISON** | **INPUT DEVICE** | **OUTPUT DEVICE** |
| **Description** | An input device is any hardware device which enables the user to enter data and instructions into a computer. | An output device is any hardware component that use received data from a computer to perform a task. |
| **Functionality** | An input device can send data to another device but it cannot receive data from another device. | An output device can receive data from another device and generate output with that data, but it cannot send data to another device. |
| **Necessity** | Input devices are necessary for a computer to receive commands from its users and data to process. | Output devices are necessary for a computer to share its results and prompt users for more information and commands. |
| **Control** | Input devices are controlled by the user. | Output devices are controlled by the computer. |
| **Nature** | Input devices are relatively complicated as they have complex coding that ensures that the user can interact with the computer correctly. | Output devices are simpler for the user since they only see the results and do not have to learn the processes. |
| **Example** | keyboard and mouse, microphone, webcam, image scanner, Microphone, pointing device, touch screens, graphics table, Optical character reader (OCR), joystick etc. | Printer, monitor, speakers, projector LCD projection panels, computer output microfilm, plotters etc. |

Examples of output devices

* Monitor (LED, LCD, CRT etc)
* Printers (all types)
* Plotters.
* Projector.
* LCD Projection Panels.
* Computer **Output** Microfilm (COM)
* Speaker(s)
* Head Phone.

Examples of input devices

* Mouse. Light Pen.
* Optical/magnetic Scanner. Touch Screen.
* Microphone for voice as **input**. Track Ball.
* Joystick. Camera.
* Web cam (PC video camera)
* Keyboard: A keyboard is the most common **input device**. ...
* Mouse: A mouse is an electro mechanical, hand held device