







Here's a **simple reference list of common hardware connections (ports) used on laptops, desktops, and tablets**, including **what they are used for and their typical symbols/icons**. I grouped them by category so it's easier to study or use as a reference.

Common Computer Connections (Ports), Uses & Symbols

Connection	Typical Symbol/Icon	Main Use	Common On
USB Type-A	USB trident ( -like symbol)	Connects peripherals such as keyboards, mice, flash drives, printers	Laptop, Desktop
USB Type-C	USB trident or  symbol	Data transfer, charging, video output, docking stations	Laptop, Tablet, Desktop
Thunderbolt (3/4/5)	 lightning bolt	Very high-speed data, external GPUs, monitors, docking	Laptop, Desktop
HDMI	"HDMI" text label	Sends video and audio to monitors, TVs, projectors	Laptop, Desktop
DisplayPort / Mini DisplayPort	DP logo (P-shaped symbol)	Digital video connection for monitors	Laptop, Desktop
Ethernet (RJ-45)	Network icon (three connected squares or LAN icon)	Wired internet/network connection	Desktop, Laptop
3.5 mm Audio Jack	 headphone icon or mic icon	Connects headphones, speakers, microphones	Laptop, Desktop, Tablet
SD Card Slot	"SD" label	Reads SD memory cards (camera storage)	Laptop
MicroSD Slot	"microSD" label	Reads microSD storage cards	Tablet, Laptop
Power Connector (DC-in)	 or battery icon	Charges the device or supplies power	Laptop, Tablet
USB-C Charging	 or battery icon	Charging and power delivery via USB-C	Laptop, Tablet
VGA (older)	Monitor icon	Older analog video output	Older desktops/laptops
DVI (older)	"DVI" label	Older digital video connection	Older desktops
Kensington Lock Slot	Padlock with "K"	Physical security cable lock	Laptop, Desktop

Quick Device Comparison

Laptop

Common ports:

- USB-A

- USB-C / Thunderbolt
- HDMI or DisplayPort
- 3.5 mm audio jack
- SD card reader
- Power connector
- Sometimes Ethernet

Desktop

Common ports:

- Multiple USB-A ports
- USB-C
- HDMI / DisplayPort / sometimes VGA or DVI
- Ethernet (almost always)
- Audio jacks (mic, line-in, line-out)
- Sometimes SD card reader

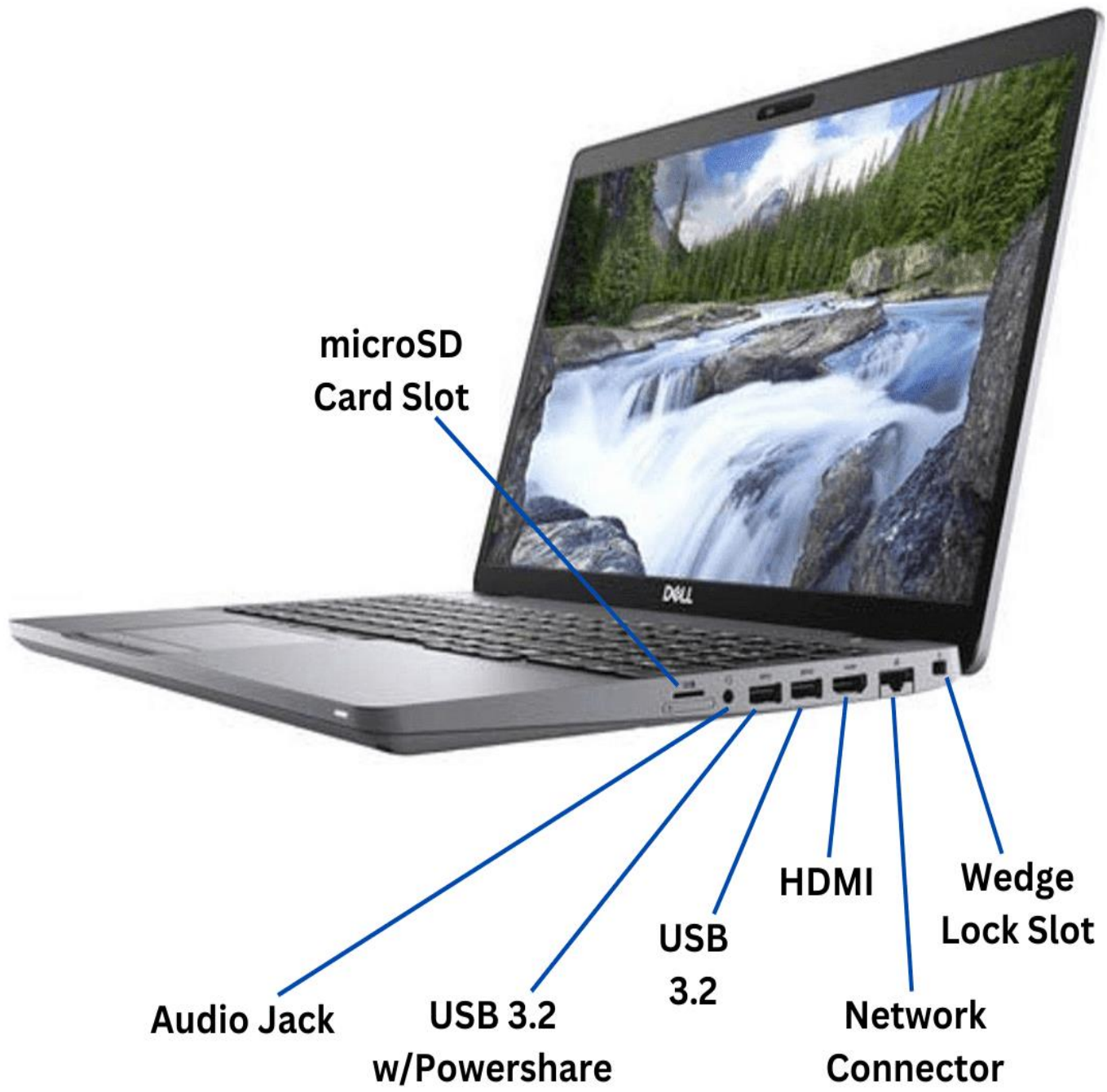
Tablet

Common ports:

- USB-C or Lightning (depending on manufacturer)
- 3.5 mm headphone jack (sometimes removed)
- MicroSD slot (on some models)
- Magnetic charging connectors (some devices)

Here is a **labelled visual reference** showing common ports on laptops, desktops, and tablets so you can recognise them easily.

1. Laptop Ports (Labelled Example)



**microSD
Card Slot**

Audio Jack

**USB 3.2
w/Powershare**

**USB
3.2**

HDMI

**Network
Connector**

**Wedge
Lock Slot**

Network Extension
USB-C
Thunderbolt 3
USB-C (power)
USB 3.2
HDMI
Headphone/Mic Combo
Micro SD Slot



Smart Card Reader
USB 3.2



Typical Laptop Ports

Port	What it does
USB-A	Connects peripherals like keyboards, mice, flash drives
USB-C / Thunderbolt	Data transfer, charging, monitors, docking stations
HDMI	Connects laptop to an external monitor or TV
Ethernet (RJ-45)	Wired internet connection
Audio Jack (3.5 mm)	Headphones or microphone
SD / MicroSD Slot	Reads memory cards
Security Lock Slot	Attach a laptop security cable

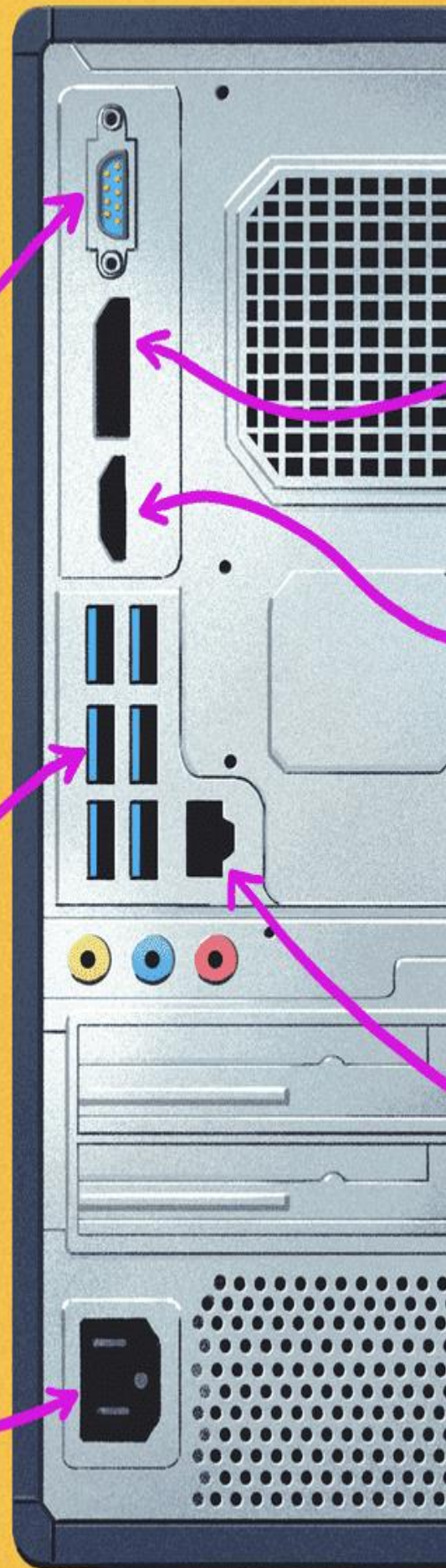
Most laptop ports are located **on the sides of the device** to connect peripherals and displays. ([PCWorld](#))

2. Desktop Computer Ports (Rear Panel)

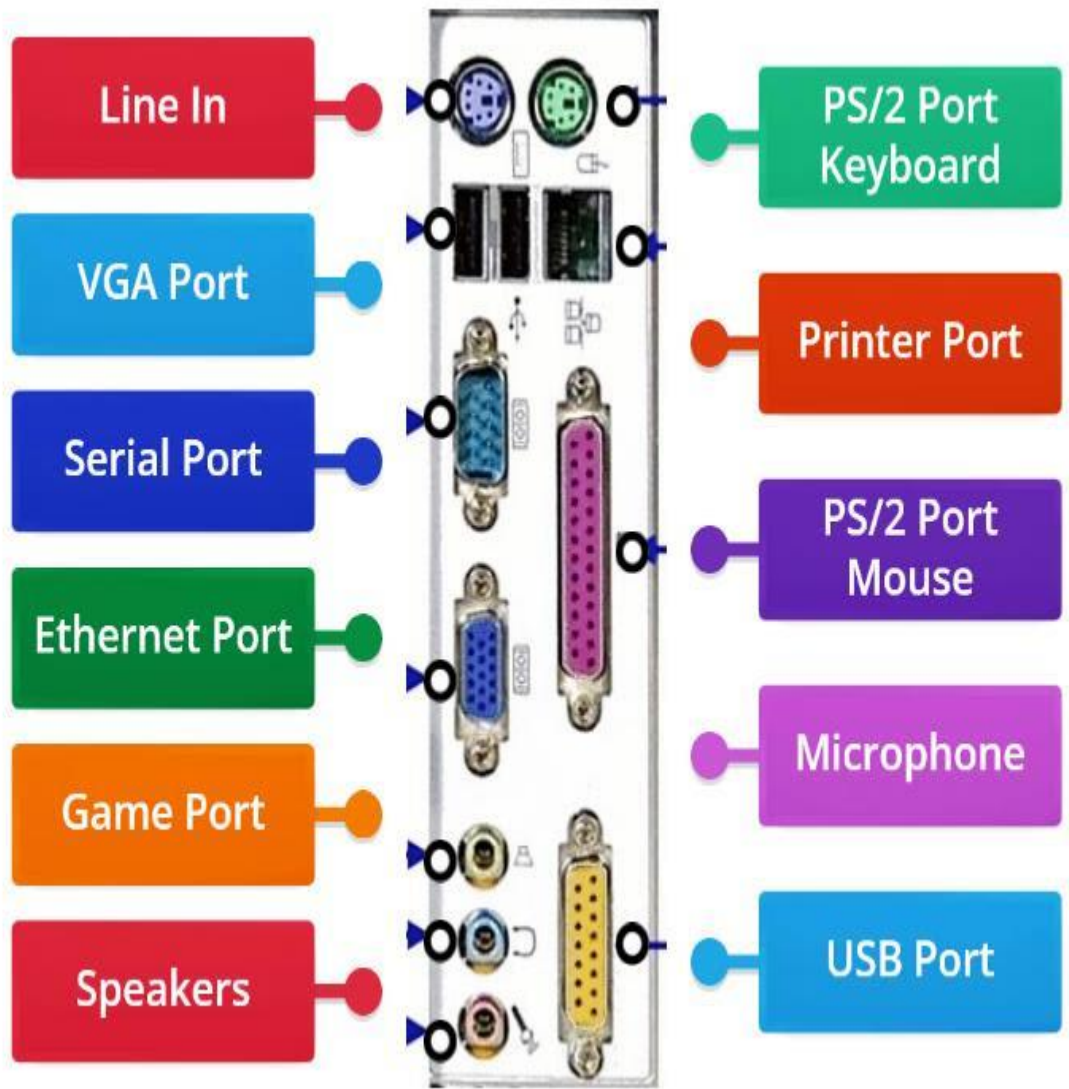
Serial Port

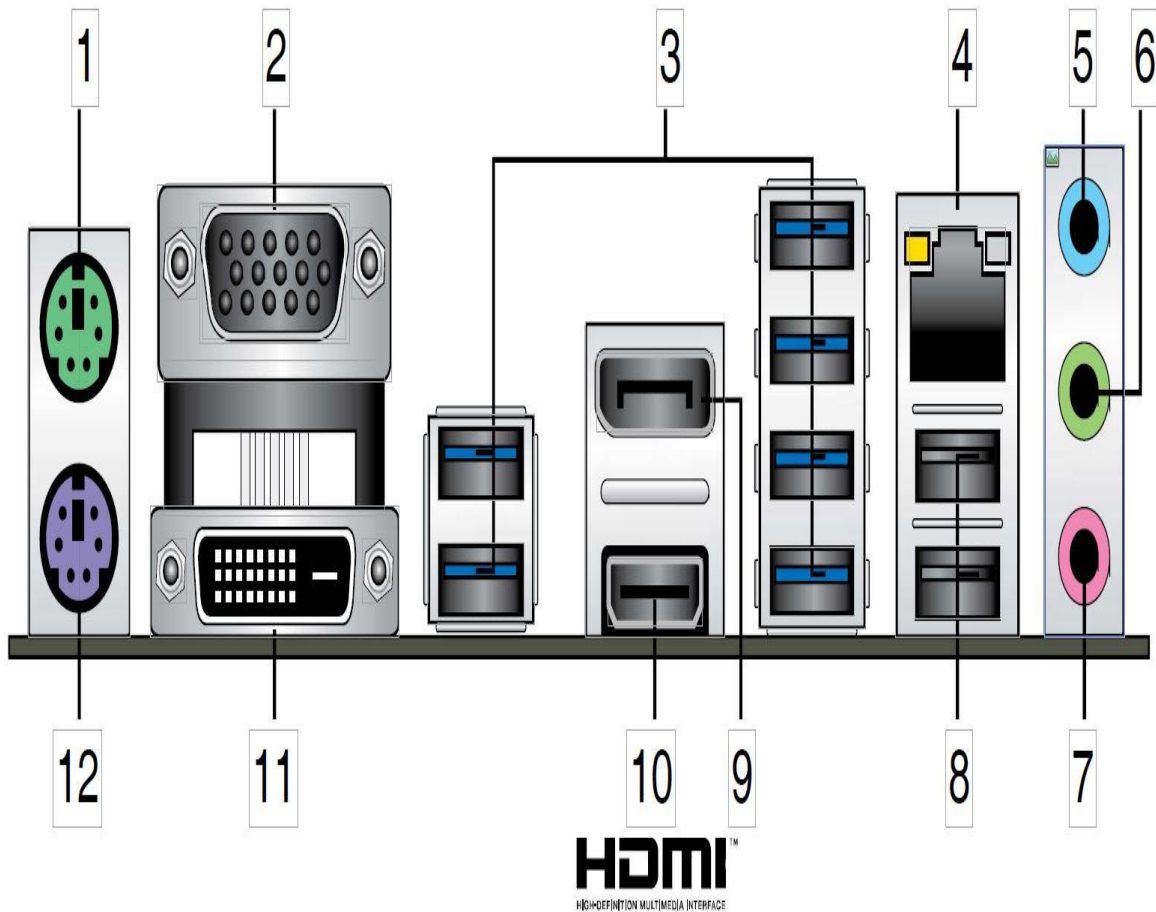
USB Type-A

Power



Lifewire





Typical Desktop Ports

Port	What it does
USB Ports	Connect peripherals such as keyboards, mice, storage devices
DisplayPort / HDMI / VGA	Connect monitors
Ethernet Port	Wired network connection
Audio Ports	Microphone, speakers, line-in
PS/2 Ports (older)	Older keyboard or mouse connectors
Power Connector	Connects the desktop to power supply

Desktop ports are usually **grouped on the back panel of the motherboard** for connecting external devices. (www.slideshare.net)

3. Tablet Ports (Common Layout)

Tablets have **fewer ports**, often just one multifunction port.

Common ones include:


Port	Use
USB-C / Lightning	Charging, data transfer, accessories
3.5 mm Headphone Jack	Audio devices (not on all tablets)
MicroSD Slot	Extra storage (mainly Android tablets)

Port	Use
Magnetic Connector	Keyboard covers or charging docks

Here is a **clean one-page revision sheet** of the most common ports and connections for **laptops, desktops, and tablets**.

Computer Ports & Connections – Quick Revision Sheet


1. USB Type-A

Symbol: USB trident ()
Use:

- Keyboard
- Mouse
- USB flash drive
- Printer
- External hard drive

Common on: Laptop, Desktop

2. USB Type-C

Symbol: USB symbol or  lightning icon

Use:

- Charging devices
- High-speed data transfer
- Connecting monitors
- Docking stations

Common on: Laptop, Tablet, Modern Desktop

3. Thunderbolt

Symbol:  Lightning bolt

Use:

- Very fast data transfer
- External GPU
- Multiple monitors
- Docking stations

Common on: Premium laptops and desktops

4. HDMI

Symbol: HDMI label

Use:

- Connect computer to
 - Monitor
 - TV
 - Projector
- Transfers **video and audio**

Common on: Laptop, Desktop

5. DisplayPort / Mini DisplayPort

Symbol: DP logo (P-shaped symbol)

Use:

- Connect high-resolution monitors
- Multi-monitor setups

Common on: Desktop, some laptops

6. Ethernet (RJ-45)


Symbol: Network/LAN icon

Use:

- Wired internet connection
- Network connection in offices

Common on: Desktop, some laptops

7. 3.5 mm Audio Jack

Symbol:  Headphone or microphone icon

Use:

- Headphones
- Speakers
- Microphones

Common on: Laptop, Desktop, some Tablets

8. SD Card Slot

Symbol: SD label

Use:

- Read camera memory cards
- Transfer photos and videos

Common on: Laptops

9. MicroSD Slot


Symbol: microSD label

Use:

- Expand storage on tablets or laptops

Common on: Tablets, some laptops

10. Power Connector

Symbol:  plug or battery icon

Use:

- Charges device
- Provides power

Common on: Laptop, Tablet

Older Ports (Still Seen on Some Desktops)

VGA

Use: Older analog monitor connection

DVI

Use: Older digital video connection

PS/2

Use: Older keyboard and mouse connection

Device Port Overview

Device

Typical Ports

Laptop USB-A, USB-C, HDMI, audio jack, SD slot, power

Desktop USB-A, USB-C, HDMI/DisplayPort, Ethernet, audio

Tablet USB-C or Lightning, audio jack, microSD

Here is a **visual cheat sheet of common computer ports**. These diagrams help you **recognise ports quickly by their shape**, which is usually how they're identified in real devices.

Common Computer Ports (Visual Reference)



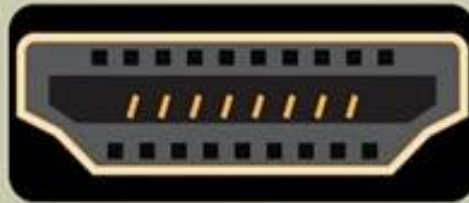
Centronics Parallel



Parallel Port



DVI-I



HDMI



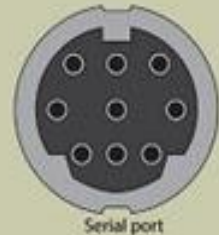
Dual-link DVI



Optical Audio Toslink



USB 2.0



Serial port



Composite audio/video



S-Video



Component Video



3.0 Type B Jack



Ethernet



VGA



Fire Wire 400

Mini-USB



Micro-USB



HDMI



These images show many of the **most common connectors found on laptops and desktops**, including USB, HDMI, Ethernet, VGA, and audio ports.

Key Ports to Recognise

Port	What it Looks Like	Main Use
USB-A	Rectangular slot	Connect keyboard, mouse, flash drive
USB-C	Small oval port	Charging, data transfer, monitors
HDMI	Wide trapezoid shape	Connect monitor or TV
Ethernet (RJ-45)	Large square port with clip slot	Wired internet connection
DisplayPort	Rectangular with one corner cut	High-resolution monitor connection
3.5 mm Audio Jack	Small round hole	Headphones, speakers, microphone
SD Card Slot	Thin rectangular slot	Camera memory cards
VGA (older)	Blue 15-pin connector	Older monitors
DVI (older)	Large white connector with many pins	Digital monitor connection

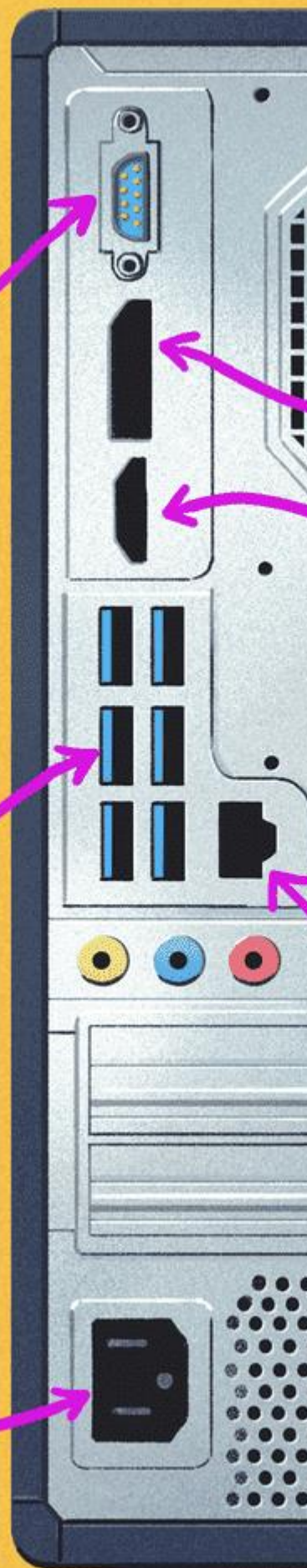
Ports act as **connection points between the computer and external devices such as monitors, networks, storage devices, and audio equipment.**

Example: Desktop Rear Ports

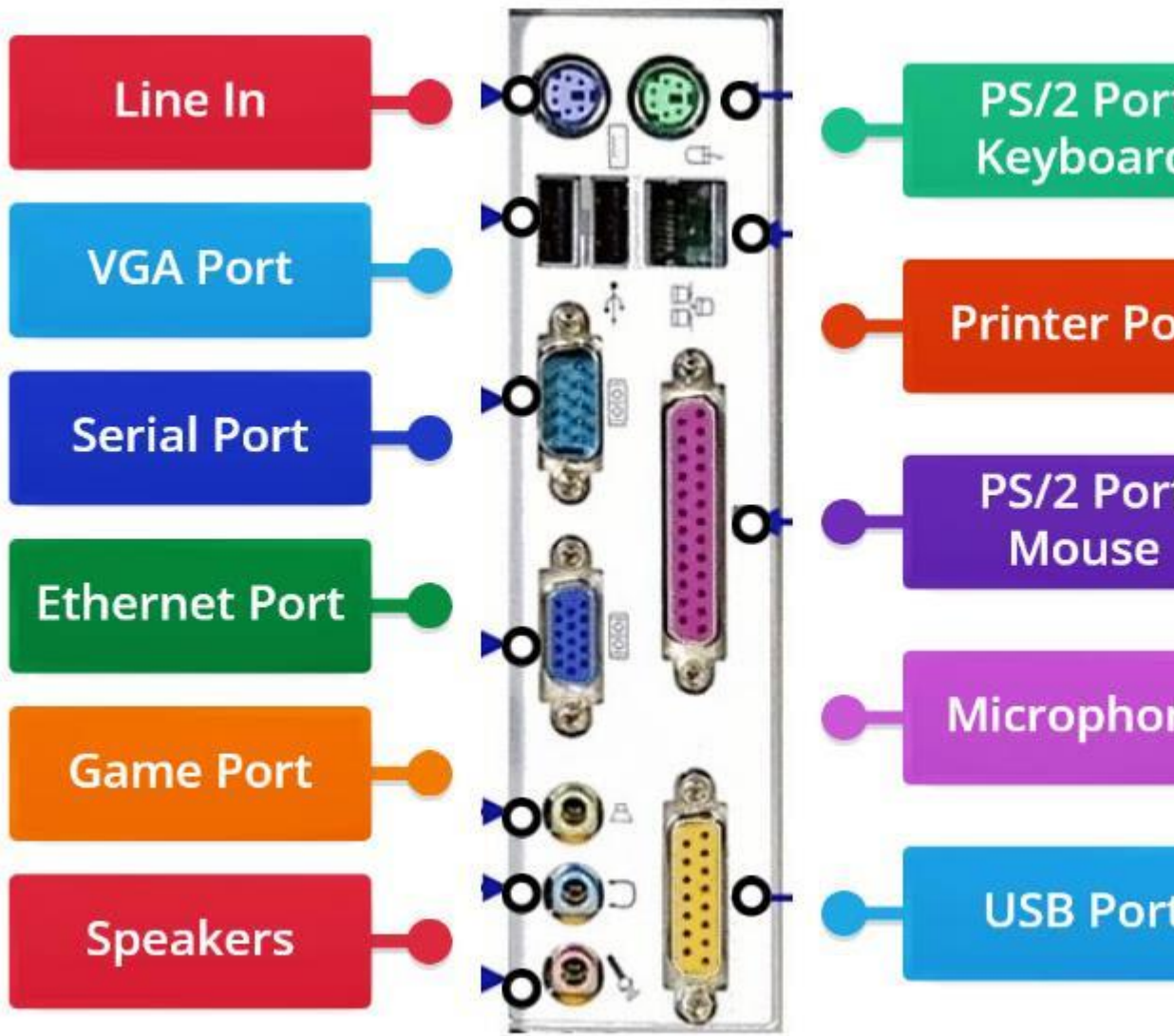
Serial Port

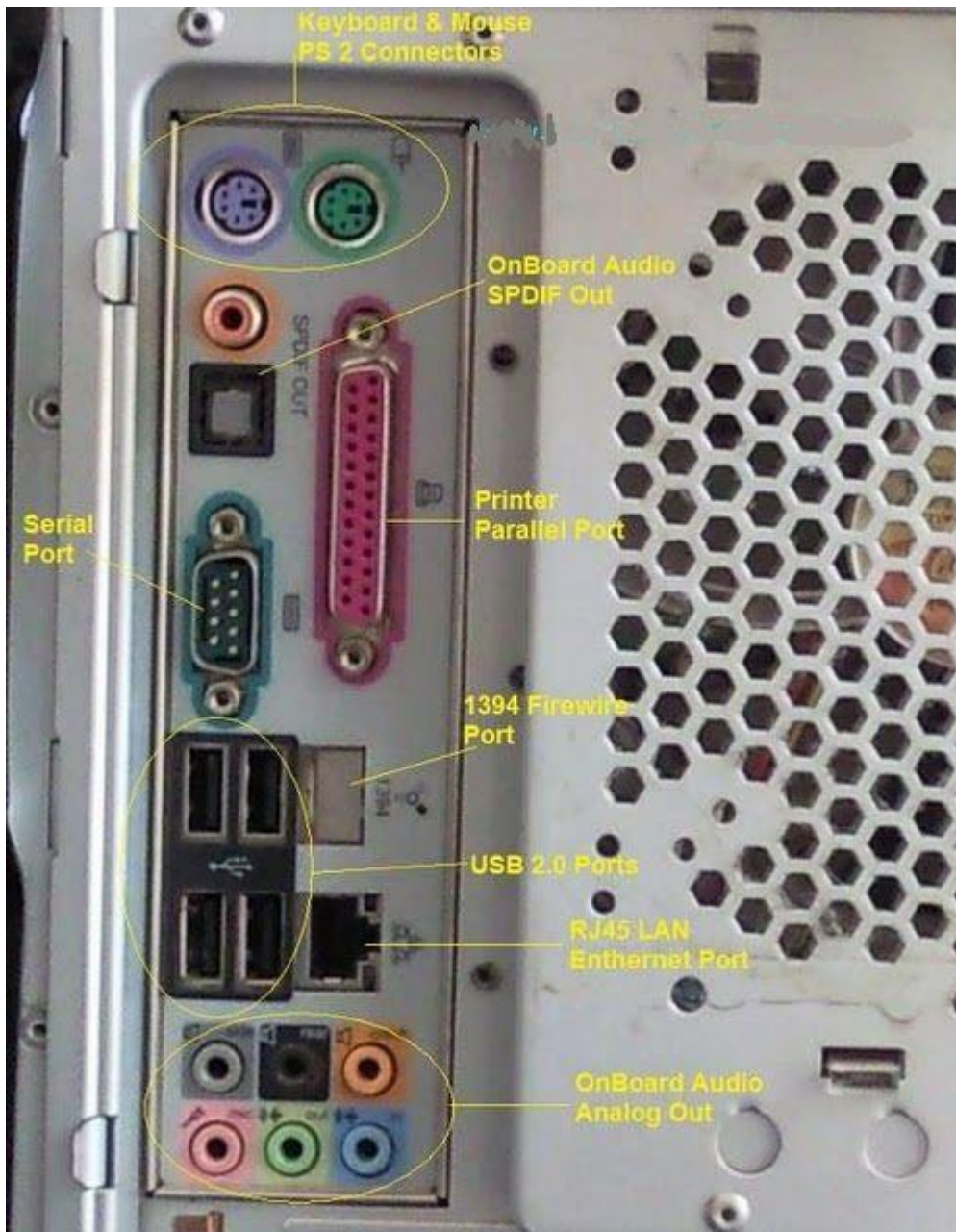
USB Type-A

Power



Lifewire





Typical **desktop rear panel ports** include:

- USB ports
- HDMI / DisplayPort / VGA
- Ethernet (network port)
- Audio ports (speaker, microphone)
- Sometimes older ports like PS/2 or serial

Example: Laptop Side Ports

Common laptop ports include:

- Ethernet
- HDMI
- USB-A
- USB-C
- Audio jack

Modern laptops often **replace many older ports with USB-C** because it can handle **power, data, and video** through a single connector
