

3 – Input devices

(Unit 5, task 2)

1 – The keyboard

This device is used to enter information into the computer. As well as having normal typewriter keys for characters and a numeric keypad, it may also have function keys and editing keys for special purposes.

2 – The mouse

This is a device for controlling the cursor and selecting items on the screen. The ball underneath is rolled in any direction across the surface of a desk to move the cursor on the screen. It may have an optical sensor instead of a ball. It usually features two buttons and a wheel. By clicking a button, the user can activate icons or select items and text. A wireless version works without cables.

3 – Light pen

In shape, this input device is similar to an ordinary pen. It works by detecting light from the computer screen and is used by pointing it directly at the screen display. It allows the user to answer multiple-choice questions and to draw diagrams or graphics.