

## [Computer Buyer Checklist provided by PCBuyer.Com](#)

"Where Smart People Buy Their Computers"

Before purchasing a computer, use this checklist to compare models side by side. Ensure the machine you're considering meets your hardware and software requirements. The checklist below provides an easy way to assess and document key features for each model.

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Model #1</b>	<b>Model #2</b>	<b>Model #3</b>
Brand Name			
Processor (CPU)			
- Name			
- Speed (GHz)			
- Number of Cores			
Operating System			
- Preinstalled?			
RAM (Memory)			
- Size (GB)			
- Type			
- Speed (MHz)			
Storage			
- Capacity (GB/TB)			
- Type (HDD/SSD)			
- RPM (if HDD)			
Graphics (GPU)			
- Name			
- Integrated/Dedicated?			
- Memory (GB)			
Additional Drives			
- CD			
- CD/RW			
- DVD			
- DVD+RW			
Media Card Reader			
Wireless Connectivity			
- WiFi			
- Bluetooth			
- Networking Card			
USB Ports			
- USB 2.0			
- USB 3.0			
Monitor Included?			
Warranty			
Price			

## Additional Accessories to Consider

- Storage Cases: Protect your device during travel or storage.
- Extra Cabling: For connecting additional devices or peripherals.
- Furniture: Adjustable desk and ergonomic chair for comfort.
- Surge Protector: Safeguard your computer from power surges.
- Anti-Glare Screen: Reduce strain during extended use.

## Instructional Guide: Understanding Each Component

To make informed decisions, it's important to understand what each component does and what to look for:

### Processor (CPU)

- **What it does:** Acts as the "brain" of the computer, handling calculations and processes.
- **Positive Traits:** Look for higher GHz (speed) and more cores (e.g., quad-core or octa-core). Intel Core i5/i7 or AMD Ryzen 5/7 are good options.
- **Negative Traits:** Avoid outdated processors or those with very low GHz, as they may slow down multitasking and performance.

### Operating System (OS)

- **What it does:** Provides the interface for running applications (e.g., Windows, macOS, Chrome OS).
- **Positive Traits:** Choose an OS that matches your needs. Windows offers compatibility; macOS is optimized for creative work.
- **Negative Traits:** Avoid systems without a preinstalled OS or those running outdated versions.

### RAM (Memory)

- **What it does:** Temporarily stores active data, helping with multitasking and performance.
- **Positive Traits:** Look for at least 8GB (basic use) or 16GB+ (gaming, editing).
- **Negative Traits:** Avoid systems with under 4GB, as they struggle with modern software.

### Storage (HDD/SSD)

- **What it does:** Stores all files, programs, and the operating system.
- **Positive Traits:** SSDs (Solid State Drives) are faster and more reliable. Look for 256GB+ SSD or 1TB HDD for general use.
- **Negative Traits:** Avoid slow mechanical drives (5400 RPM) if speed is important.

### Graphics (GPU)

- **What it does:** Handles visual rendering for games, videos, and graphic design.
- **Positive Traits:** Dedicated GPUs (e.g., NVIDIA GeForce, AMD Radeon) are better for gaming/design.
- **Negative Traits:** Integrated graphics are weaker and may struggle with demanding tasks.

### Additional Drives

- **What it does:** Allows reading/writing CDs, DVDs, or Blu-rays.
- **Positive Traits:** Useful for accessing older media. DVD+RW drives offer versatility.
- **Negative Traits:** May not be necessary if you rely on digital downloads.

### Wireless Connectivity

- **What it does:** Enables connection to WiFi and Bluetooth devices.
- **Positive Traits:** Look for WiFi 6 and Bluetooth 5.0 for faster speeds and reliability.
- **Negative Traits:** Avoid systems without wireless capabilities if you need portability.

### USB Ports

- **What it does:** Connects peripherals like keyboards, mice, and storage devices.
- **Positive Traits:** USB 3.0 offers faster data transfer. Ensure enough ports for your needs.
- **Negative Traits:** Too few ports can limit connectivity options.

### Monitor

- **What it does:** Displays visual output.
- **Positive Traits:** For desktops, ensure the monitor is included or budget for one. Higher resolution (1080p or 4K) is better.
- **Negative Traits:** Avoid low-resolution screens that strain your eyes.

### Warranty

- **What it does:** Protects your purchase in case of defects or issues.
- **Positive Traits:** Look for at least a 1-year warranty for peace of mind.
- **Negative Traits:** Short warranties (e.g., 90 days) may leave you unprotected.

This guide empowers you to make informed decisions when selecting the best computer for your needs. Happy shopping!