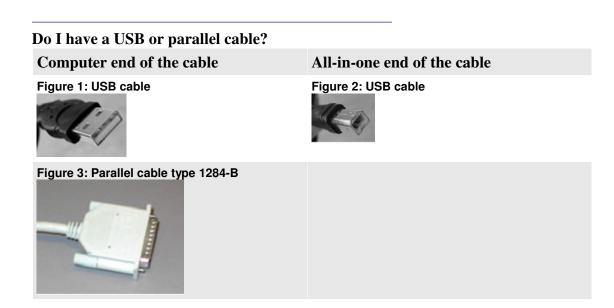# USB Cable Vs Parallel Cable

Both cables can be used to connect devices such as Printers to the computer. Generally the USB (Universal Serial Bus) is better if your computer and printer has both options. One thing to remember is that MOST printers need to have their software installed before plugging it into the computer. The software instructions will tell you when to connect the printer to the computer. Check with your printer's manual.

Do I have a USB or parallel cable?

Computer end of the cable	All-in-one end of the cable
Figure 1: USB cable	**Figure 2: USB cable**
Figure 3: Parallel cable type 1284-B	

If your computer does not have the correct port, you may add the port if your computer has an open expansion slot. The USB 2.0 is faster than the USB 1. Another advantage of the USB is that you can add a USB hub plugged into a USB port of the computer to add additional USB ports for other devices. Parallel port can only connect one device.

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