USB PORTS

Q: What's the function of USB ports?

A: Since the first generation of personal computers nearly 20 years ago, parallel and serial ports have been standard equipment for attaching peripherals, such as printers and modems.

But there's a new type of connector, called the USB port.

The USB has two advantages over the old parallel ports, speed and simplicity. Connecting a device to the port is straightforward.

The ports work with a variety of peripherals, including keyboards, mice, modems, printers, scanners, digital cameras and joysticks.

Another advantage is the ability to add these devices-and-more at the same time. More than 100 devices can be daisy-chained to one or more USB hubs, which are boxes with multiple USB ports.

Still another advantage over older connectors: devices can be attached and unplugged while the computer is running. No more shutting down and restarting to add peripherals.

Older computers have a 1.2 USB port. The newer 2.0 USB are faster.

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