

Typewriters vs. Computers

Over half the homes in the United States have a computer. However, most of those homes do not have a typewriter. Typewriters have been replaced by computers.

Typewriters became common around 1874. One reason people liked them was because they saved time. This is why people like computers today. Both are time-saving inventions.

Typewriters and computers have other things in common. Both can be used to write essays, letters, and reports. The typewriter makes a clean, neat copy; the computer does too. Also, the keyboard on a computer is the same as a typewriter keyboard.

However, there are many differences between these two inventions. On a typewriter, only one document can be produced at a time. On a computer, many documents can be created and saved. It's easy to make corrections using a computer, but one mistake on a typewriter can ruin the whole page.

Another difference between the two machines is the way copies are made. On a computer, you can easily print out as many copies as you need! However, carbon paper is used to make a copy on a typewriter. It makes messy smudges on your work, and no more than two copies can be made at a time.

Finally, the typewriter and computer do not look alike. A typewriter is heavy and difficult to move, while many computers are lightweight and portable. I wonder if 200 years from now we will look back on the computer as an out-of-date invention!

From Portable Tape Players to MP3 Players

Many kids listen to music on headphones. You may have a modern invention called the MP3 player. Kids used to listen to tapes and CDs on a portable player, such as a Walkman, but not many people carry them anymore.

The MP3 player is a terrific invention because you can carry all of your favorite tunes with you. Music is recorded digitally and stored on a hard drive inside the player. Some of these players can store as many as 10,000 songs! It's hard to believe all that music fits into a tiny MP3 player. If you had the same number of songs on cassettes or CDs, you would have to carry a couple of suitcases around with you. And a Walkman is bigger than a digital recorder too.

Both a Walkman and an MP3 player are portable. You can carry them anywhere you go. But the way music is recorded is another major difference. A Walkman can't be hooked up to your computer. However, an MP3 player can be hooked up to the computer, and music can be downloaded from the Internet. With a Walkman, only one tape can play at a time. With an MP3 player, all the digitally recorded music is available, and you can skip from track to track and artist to artist.

The main advantage of MP3 players is the large number of songs you can listen to anytime, anywhere. The Walkman was a good invention because it started the idea of portable music, but I'm glad my headphones are connected to an MP3 player!