

Chromebook - Basics

A Chromebook is a type of computer that runs Chrome OS, a browser-based operating system. To say in a different way, a Chromebook is a laptop computer running Google's proprietary operating system, Chrome OS. While Chrome OS is a complete operating system, its main feature is the Chrome browser. If you are familiar with using a Chrome browser, you will be able to quickly begin using a Chromebook. Chromebooks allow users to access web applications in the cloud as well as offline files and apps. The speed, simplicity, and security of the Chromebook make it an ideal computer for education, business, and personal use.

Acer, HP, Dell, Asus, Samsung and Google all make Chromebooks plus others make Chromebooks..

Hardware:

- Chromebook uses less power which means more battery life.
- Memory is high speed, short-term Storage
- I have an Acer Chromebook 13; CB5-311, SD card reader, two USB ports, one HDMI, 2 GB Memory, \$229.99, 16 GB Solid State Drive, > 8 hr. Battery
- Webcam and microphone usually included
- No Optical drive – no DVD/CD

Software:

- Almost everything you do on your Chromebook happens in the Chrome web browser. This is because all the applications you will use are on the Internet.
- You find applications through the Chrome Web Store and add them to your App Launcher, which, in many cases, means nothing more than creating a bookmark for quick access through your Google Chrome web browser.

“**Key Advantages** of a Chromebook: (Source: Are Chromebooks Good? Pros and Cons”

<https://turbofuture.com/computers/Are-Chromebooks-Good-Enough-to-Replace-My-PC>)

1. **Price:** The majority of Chromebooks cost significantly less than your average laptop. They can be had for as little as \$200 with mid-range models in the \$300-400 range.
2. **Also:** Speed to power on, Battery, Security, Parental Controls, Updates – automatically, Weight, Android Apps.
3. **Cloud Storage:** You get 100GB of Google Drive storage free for two years with all new Chromebooks.”
4. **On Internet** gets Google Docs/drive/slides etc.
5. **Multiple User profiles** – each has its own Google Account and password

“Disadvantages:

1. **Microsoft Office** products not available, nor Photoshop or Video Editing.”
2. No Optical drive –no DVD/CD

Summary: It all depends on what you want to use the computer for. It's great for Elementary schools, Grandkids, and if you are satisfied with programs on the internet. If you spend most of your time online and using a web browser, then a Chromebook works fine.

Source: *Chromebook for Dummies*, Mark LaFay