

BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS WORKSHOP

Computer Keyboard Key Explanations

When talking to tech support or to other people about keyboard commands, web pages, and command line commands, you may hear such things as forward slash, backward slash, and caret. Many times this can be confusing for anyone unfamiliar with each of the symbols on a keyboard. The chart below helps identify each non-alphanumeric keyboard key and a short description of the key or a link to a page with information about the key.

SYMBOL	EXPLANATION
Windows	PC keyboards have a Windows key, which looks like a four-pane window.
Command	Apple Mac computers have a command key.
Esc	Esc (Escape) key
F1 - F12	Information about the F1 through F12 keyboard keys.
Tab	Tab key
Caps lock	Caps lock key
Shift	Shift key
Ctrl	Ctrl (Control) key
Fn	Fn (Function) key
Alt	Alt (Alternate) key (PC Only; Mac users have Option key)
Spacebar	Spacebar key
Arrows	Up, Down, Left, Right Arrow keys
Back Space	Back space (or Backspace) key
Delete	Delete or Del key
Enter	Enter key
Prt Scrn	Print screen key
Scroll lock	Scroll lock key
Pause	Pause key
Break	Break key
Insert	Insert key
Home	Home key



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Page up	Page up or pgup key
Page down	Page down or pgdn key
End	End key
Num Lock	Num Lock key
~	Tilde
`	Acute, Back quote, grave, grave accent, left quote, open quote, or a push
!	Exclamation mark, Exclamation point, or Bang
@	Ampersat, Arobase, Asperand, At, or At symbol
#	Octothorpe, Number, Pound, sharp, or Hash
£	Pounds Sterling or Pound symbol
€	Euro
\$	Dollar sign or generic currency
¢	Cent sign
¥	Chinese Yuan
§	Micro or Section
%	Percent
°	Degree
^	Caret or Circumflex
&	Ampersand, Epershand, or And
*	Asterisk and sometimes referred to as star.
(Open parenthesis
)	Close parenthesis
-	Hyphen, Minus or Dash
_	Underscore
+	Plus
=	Equals
{	Open Brace, squiggly brackets, or curly bracket
}	Close Brace, squiggly brackets, or curly bracket
[Open bracket



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]	Close bracket
	Pipe, Or, or Vertical bar
\	Backslash or Reverse Solidus
/	Forward slash, Solidus, Virgule, or Whack
:	Colon
;	Semicolon
"	Quote, Quotation mark, or Inverted commas
'	Apostrophe or Single Quote
<	Less Than or Angle brackets
>	Greater Than or Angle brackets
,	Comma
.	Period, dot or Full Stop
?	Question Mark



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