PRINTER

A device that prints images (numbers, alphabets, graphs, etc.) on paper is known as printer. After creating a document on the computer, you can send it to the printer for printing its hard-copy which is generally called a printout. The speed of a printer is rated either by pages per minute (ppm) or by characters per second (cps). You can take printout in full colours or in black colour only. Printers which can print in full colours are expensive. Different types of printers are as follows:

- **Dot Matrix Printer**: this type of printer makes use of pins. The pins strike an ink ribbon. As each pin hits the ink ribbon, a dot appears on the paper, and combinations of dots form characters and illustrations. A dot matrix printer can print 1 to 18 pages in one minute. Use of dot-matrix printer is now limited to printing invoices and bills.
- **Line Printer**: this type of printer contains a chain of characters or pins that print an entire line at one time. Line printers are very fast, but produce low-quality prints. The line printer is now used for mass printing and publishing.
- **Inkjet Printer**: this type of printer sprays ink on a sheet of paper. Inkjet printer produces high quality text and graphics. An inkjet printer can print 4 to 6 pages in one minute. Due to its low price and affordability, the inkjet printer is popular in homes.
- **Laser Printer**: this type of printer uses tint powder ink called *toner*. Laser printers use the same technology as photocopy machines. They produce high quality text and graphics print. The laser printer is quite popular in corporate world and printing houses.

Some other printers, which are gaining popularity, are the LED (Light Emitting Diode) printer and the multifunctional printer. LED printers are similar to laser printers. A multifunctional printer, as the name suggest, can perform more than one task. It can also work as a fax machine, a photocopier and a scanner.