

Printers: Printers are one of the most popular output devices. A printer prints the information on a printable surface. It can be a page, a cloth, a plastic plate etc.

Following is the detailed classification of printers:

1. Impact Printers

A. Line printers

I. Drum Printer

II. Chain Printer

B. Character Printers

I. Daisy-wheel Printer

II. Dot Matrix Printer

2. Non-impact Printers

A. Thermal Printer

B. Inkjet Printer

C. LASER Printer

Impact vs. Non-impact Printers: The printers in which print head physically touches the printable surface, are called Impact Printers. Due to this physical contact between print head and paper, these printers are slow and a bit noisy.

Non-impact printers are those in which there is no any physical contact between the print head and the paper. Instead the print head stays away of the paper and with the help of some sprays or chemical reactions, the printing is done. These printers are fast and mostly silent.

Line vs. Character Printers: Line printers are those that print an entire line by just one single physical contact between print head and the paper. These printers are faster than character printers.

Character printers are those who print just one single character at a time. Thus the one single line gets printed in many individual physical contacts between print head and the paper. These printers are slower than Line Printers.

Exercise:

- 1.** Differentiate between Impact and Non-impact Printers.
- 2.** Differentiate between Line and Character Printers.