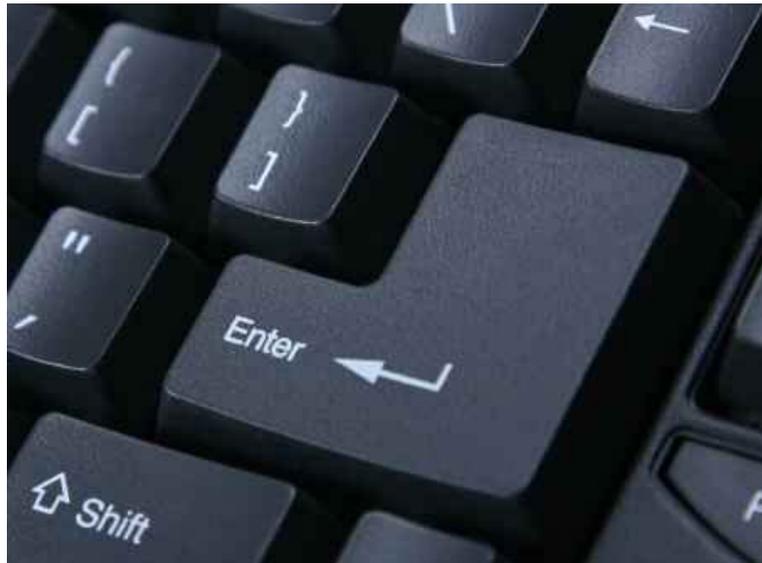


Enter vs. Return

On your computer keyboard there is a key called "Enter." It has a little arrow that goes down and back. What's up with that?



Enter Key

Not too long ago that key was called "Return" on many machines.



Return Key

Maybe you have seen keyboards that have a key with both "Enter" and "Return" marked on them.



Enter/Return Key

The term "Return" is short for "Carriage Return." You might be wondering, "What the heck is a carriage return?"

OK, so here's my recollection: As a kid in high school I took a typing class. The teacher was an old prune IMO, but she could wail on the typewriter. She was like a rock star on the typewriter - so fast and with no mistakes! She didn't even look at the keys! Pretty impressive.

So anyhow, then it was our turn. We would put in a piece of paper and crank it up so it lined up with the first line we wanted to type. Then we would go as fast as we could typing words from a sample text. To let you know you were nearing the end of the line a bell would ring. This meant you had better get to the beginning of the next line to continue. The part of the typewriter that held the paper was called the "carriage." At the end of a line you would push the lever to move the carriage over so you were at the left side of the page again, and at the same time it would rotate the roller one notch so the paper was at the beginning of a new line. Hence the term "carriage return, line feed."

How I loved it! Well, actually I hated it, and I think I probably flunked the typing class! I thought, "Who needs this! I'm not a girl!" So today my two-finger technique has to get me by.

So, that's where the term Carriage Return/Line Feed comes from.

And that little arrow that goes down and back? That's the carriage returning to the left margin and the paper being fed up a line.