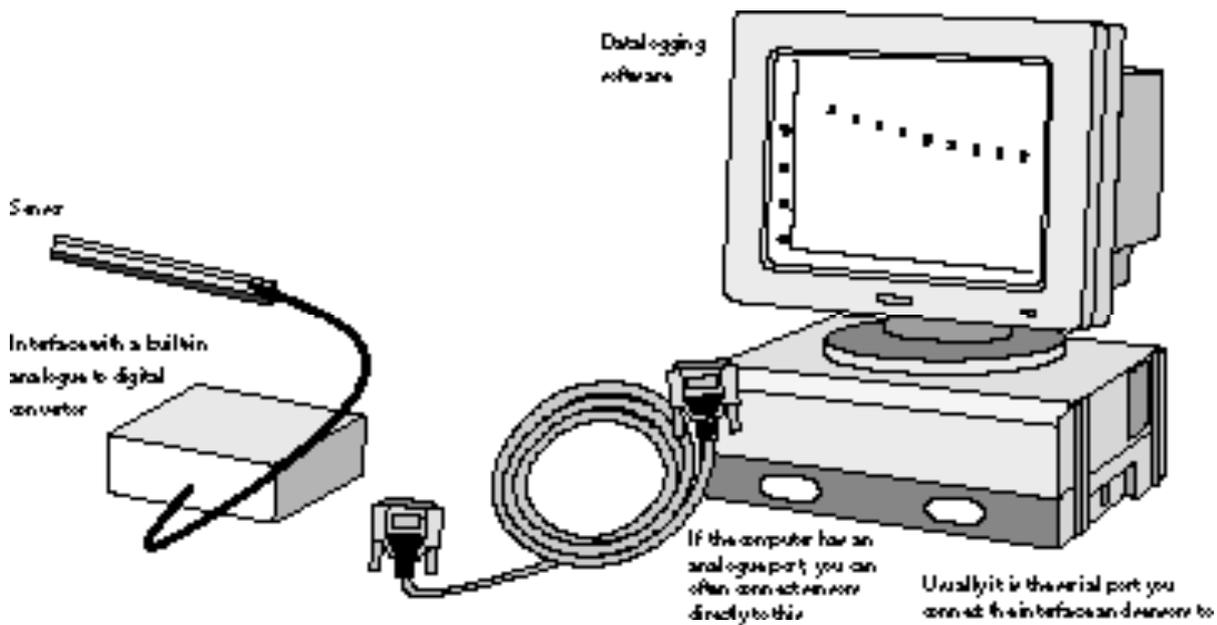


Sensor glossary



Sound sensor - measures the sound level. Use it to study sound proofing or do a noise survey.

Temperature sensor - measures how hot something is. Use it to study cooling, heating, and the weather. Two sensors are almost essential for comparing things cooling.

Humidity sensor - measures the amount of water in the air. Use for monitoring the weather or the moisture in exhaled air.

Pressure sensor - measures the air pressure. Use for monitoring the weather or how pressure changes with depth of water.

Rotation sensor - measures the speed of rotation. Use for monitoring the wind speed, the speed of a motor or gears.

Real-time data logging - when you collect readings from sensors and show the readings at the same time.

Position sensor - measures the angle of movement.

Interface - a box that plugs into a computer. You need one to connect the sensors to the computer.

Data logging - collecting data from sensors. Some devices can do this away from the computer - in the playground, for example, these are called data loggers.

Data logger - a self-contained device to collect readings from sensors away from the computer. You can connect the data logger to the computer to see these readings.

Bar gauge - a way of showing how much a sensor is changing.

Time graph - a way of showing how sensor readings change over time.

Light gate / Light switch - a sensor which responds rapidly to changes in light level. Used for timing events with great accuracy.

Sensor box - a box or 'interface' you connect to the computer to collect readings from sensors.

Digital sensor - a sensor or switch that has two states, on or off. Light gates, switches and pressure pads are digital sensors.

Analogue sensor - temperature and light sensors are analogue sensors. Unlike digital sensors, these have many 'states' and can provide readings over a wide range of change.

Analogue Port - a socket on a computer where you might connect sensors or a sensor box.

Serial Port - a socket on a computer where you connect a sensor box. Your sensors connect to this box.

Analogue to digital converter - inside some sensor boxes is a microchip which converts a reading from an analogue sensor into a digital reading which the computer can understand.

Data logging software - software which records and displays the readings from sensors. Usually supplied with your data logging kit.