

# [Wk] Common 'Boot Keys' by Manufacturer for Intel Windows Hardware

The following list covers Intel based hardware from a number manufacturers i.e. the most common machines that normally run 'Windows' or Linux. See also 'Configuring Windows 8 Hardware'. Starting all brands (unless noted): Start with power off (full shut down). Insert USB stick. Then power on while taping the boot key until the relevant menu appears.

Brand	Model	One Time Boot Key	BIOS Set-up Key
Acer	All	F12 (note some need 'external devices' enabled in the BIOS)	Del, F2
ASUS	EEE-PC Eee PC 1025c, 7021, 900, 1000H,X43T	Esc (*must boot manually)	F9 or F2
ASUS	R503C	F8	Del or F2
Dell	Mini 9	0	2
Dell	<b>Most</b> others, including Alienware	F12	F2
Dell	Venue 11 tablet PCs (note venue 7 and 8 tablets use micro USB and need an adapter)	Hold 'Volume down' then power on.	-
eMachines		F12	Tab, Del
Fujitsu		F12	F2
HP/Compaq	Older models	ESC	F10
HP/Compaq	Newer	F9	
HP	2000, Pavilion, ENVY, dv6 and dv7 PC, dv9700	ESC > F9	ESC > F10
Lenovo	All	F12	F1, F2
Microsoft	Surface (*not yet working on e-Exam System)	Hold 'Volume down' then power on.	Hold Vol up then power on.
NEC		F5	F2
Packard Bell		F8	F1, Del
Samsung		F12	
Samsung	NC10, Series 5 Ultra, Series 7 Chronos	Esc	F2
Sharp		F2	F2
Sony	VAIO	Esc	
Sony	VAIO, PCG, VGN	F11	F1, F2, F3
Sony	VGN	Esc, F10	F2
Sony	VAIO e series	F12	ASSIST (while off)
Toshiba	All	F12	F1, Esc or F2

*Note for Apple machines – insert USB, hold down alt-option, then power on, then keep holding alt until boot menu.*

## Still can't find it?

If your computer is not listed or the key doesn't work, try a web search for the user manual for your computer make and model. Also note:

- In some cases the computer may have the 'boot menu' locked out. You can probably enable the one time boot menu by altering the BIOS (Set up) settings - see the BIOS Set-up Key column.
- If you have a recently purchased laptop with a Windows 8 sticker on it - i.e. Windows 8+ pre-installed, please see the guide W8 'Configuring Intel Windows 8 Hardware' to enable booting by USB.
- Some models with a mix of USB3 and USB2 ports won't boot from USB3 ports (these normally have blue inside the port). Put the e-Exam USB stick into a USB2 port and try again.
- The following won't work with e-Exam v5 USBs:
  - Hardware containing AMD or ARM processors (phones, tablet iOS or Android, Raspberry pie etc)
  - PowerPC based Apple Macs (now quite old)
  - Older Intel hardware (approx. pre 2004) may not boot from USB due to BIOS limitations.
  - Microsoft Surface tablet computers (may boot but are likely to crash).
  - Chromebooks (requires a switch to developer mode to enable USB boot. The switch to developer mode is destructive to existing data).

**Pro Tip!** Make the computer boot from the USB automatically, if it is present.

Use the 'BIOS Set-up key' to access BIOS/UEFI settings and place the USB device first. See guide 'Wa'.