



SCIENCE IN PLAIN SIGHT

WHY AREN'T KEYBOARDS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER?

The QWERTY keyboard layout was designed in the 1870s by Christopher Latham Sholes for early typewriters. Mechanical type bars in old machines often jammed when nearby letters were typed quickly, so commonly used letter pairs were placed farther apart to reduce collisions. The layout was named after the first six letters on the top row. Later adopted by the Remington No 2, QWERTY became the global standard. Although modern keyboards no longer jam, the layout remains dominant because billions of users are already familiar with it.