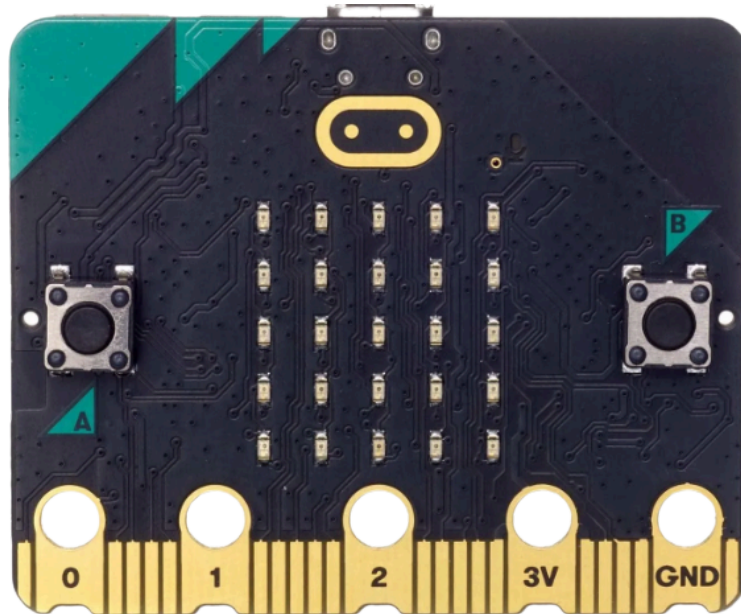


Hello!

INTRODUCTION TO THE BBC MICROBIT

My name is Andy and I'm going to give you an introduction to the BBC Microbit



The BBC Microbit is a piece of hardware - a tiny pocket-sized computer if you like.

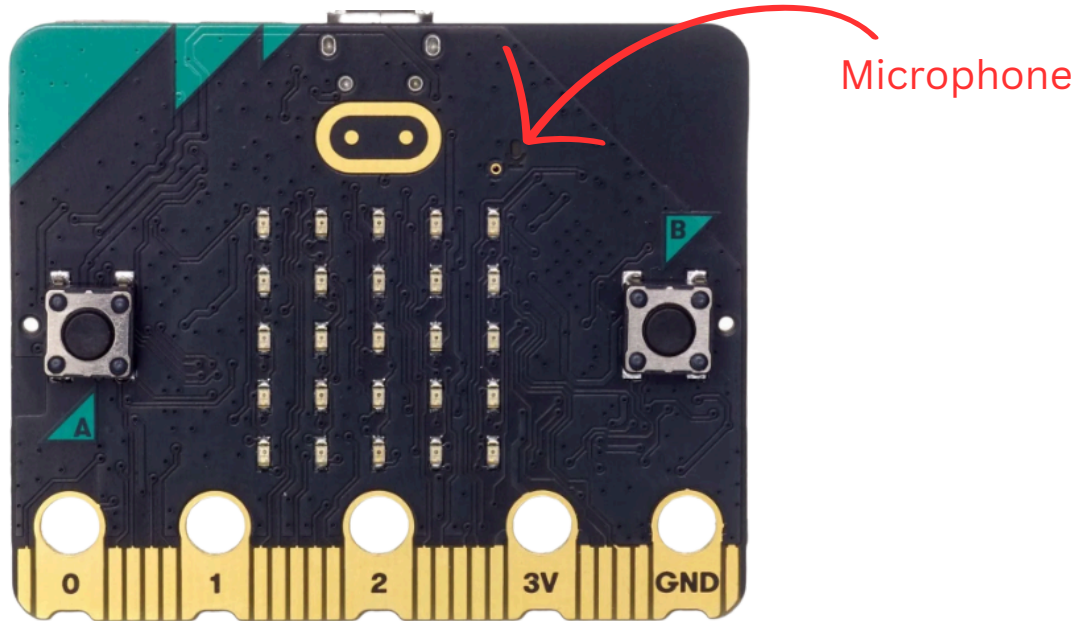
All you need to get started is a Microbit, a USB connecting wire and a computer or tablet with a USB port.

They have bluetooth which allows the Microbit to communicate with other devices and radio channels so you can send messages to other Microbits.

To start coding you need to go to makecode.microbit.org - or just search bbc microbit makecode in your favourite search browser and you'll get there just as successfully.

Makecode uses what is known as block coding. This means that each block already stores a little bit of code so all we have to do is click, hold and drag the blocks to create an endless possibility of code.

Let's take a closer look at the Microbit itself.

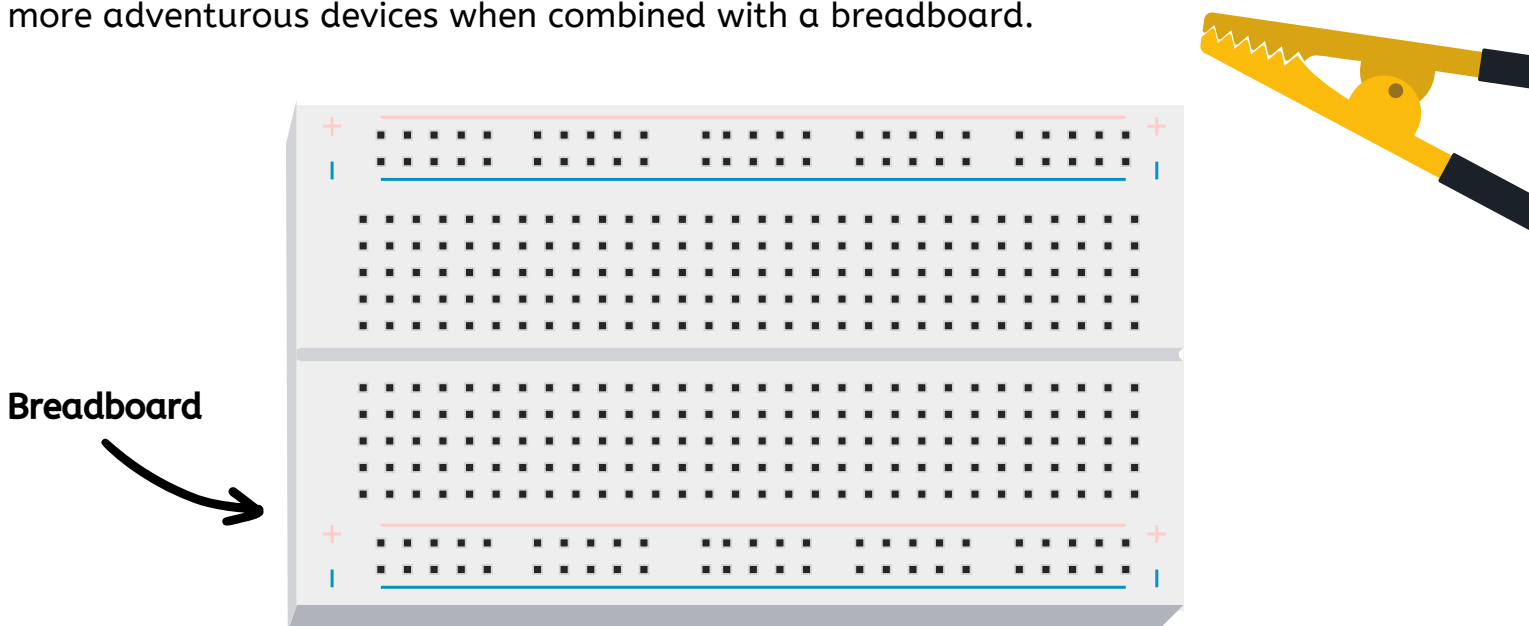


On this side you can see the Microbit has 25 LED lights in the centre. These LED lights can only be the colour red- but if you were wanting something more colourful you can buy extras for the Microbit and one of those extras is a light ring with all the colours you can imagine.

There are also 2 buttons. Button A and Button B.

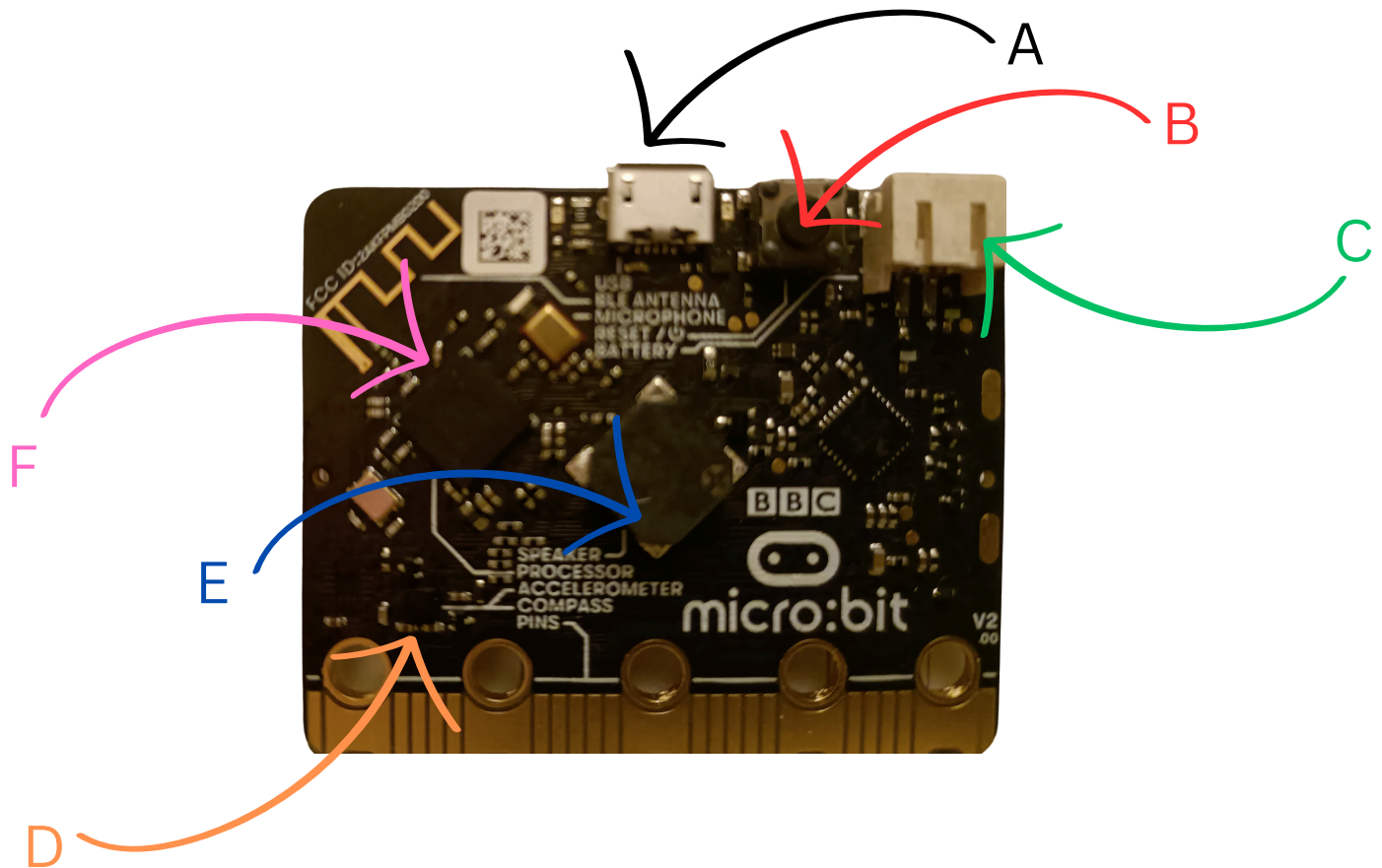
These buttons are the main inputs for the Microbit. You can code your Microbit to do something when button A is pressed or when button B is pressed or - if you're feeling particularly adventurous- you can even press them both at the same time.

There are 5 pins at the bottom which you can attach crocodile clips to to make even more adventurous devices when combined with a breadboard.



This is an image of the back of a BBC Microbit V2. The version 2 has some updated features- including a microphone and a speaker. If possible I'd always recommend getting a V2. Microbit which is all you can buy now anyway.

So on the back we have a few interesting bits to explore.



A- This is the part that you plug the USB wire into which allows you to download code onto your Microbit.

B- The restart button. This will start the code on the Microbit from the beginning again. If you hold it down, you can put the Microbit into power saving mode to save battery life.

C- Battery socket. Without a battery pack the Microbit needs to be plugged in via the USB. A battery pack makes the Microbit portable. (note: you still need the USB lead to download code)

D- Compass and Accelerometer. The compass allows you to find magnetic North and the accelerometer lets your Microbit know which way up it is. Tablets and phones contain accelerometers as well, they're the bits that make it so the tablet knows when to rotate the screen depending on which way up the tablet is held.

E- Speaker. Not the best sound quality, but sound nevertheless.

F- Processor. The Microbit's brain. This is the bit that reads and puts your instructions into action. It doubles as a sort of thermometer as well so you can get readings of how hot or cold something is.