

How to Open Windows Task Manager

The Windows Task Manager allows you to view and monitor various activities that occur on your computer. Examples of information available in Task Manager are running applications, CPU and RAM usage, startup apps (Windows 8 and 10 only),...

Method 1 of 8:

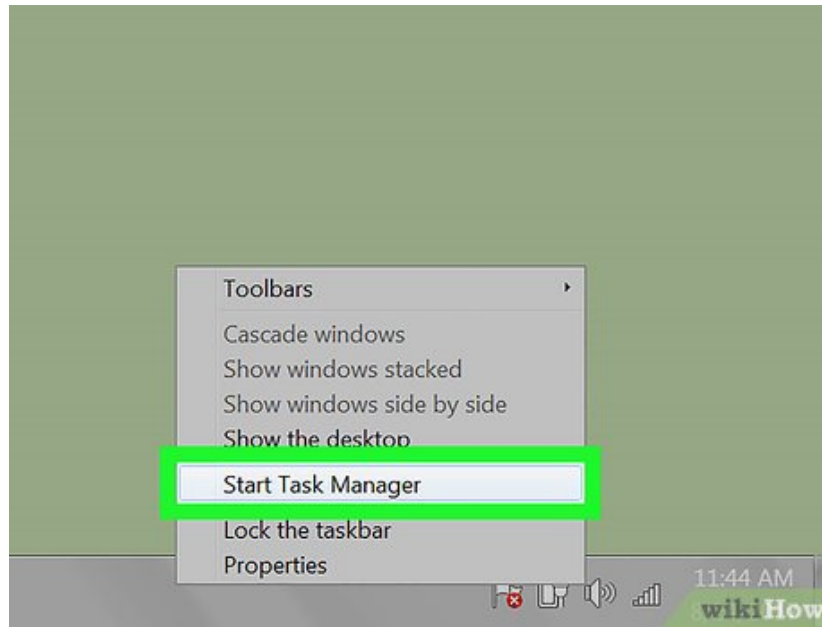
Using the Taskbar Context Menu

1.



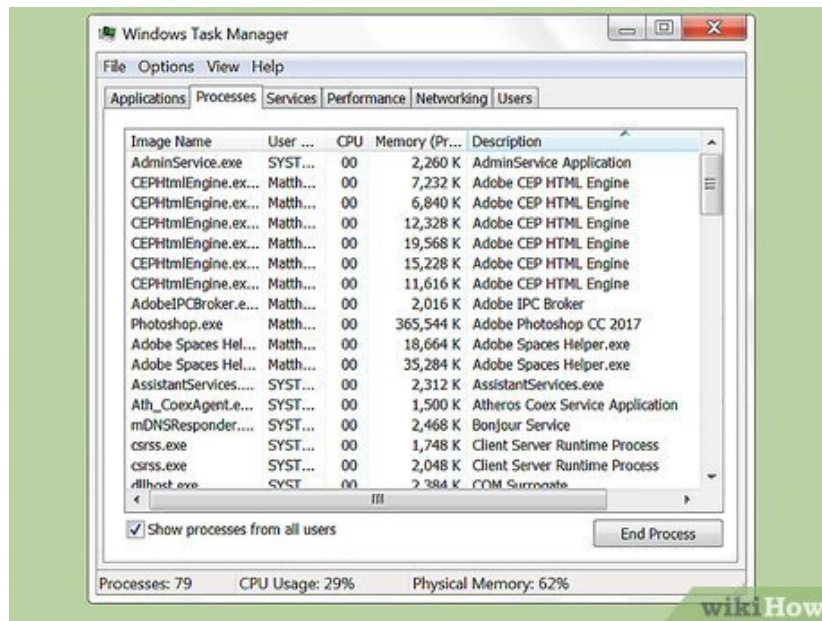
Right-click an empty space on the taskbar. Doing so will prompt a context menu.

2.



Choose **Task Manager** or **Start Task Manager**. It's towards the bottom of the context menu.

3.

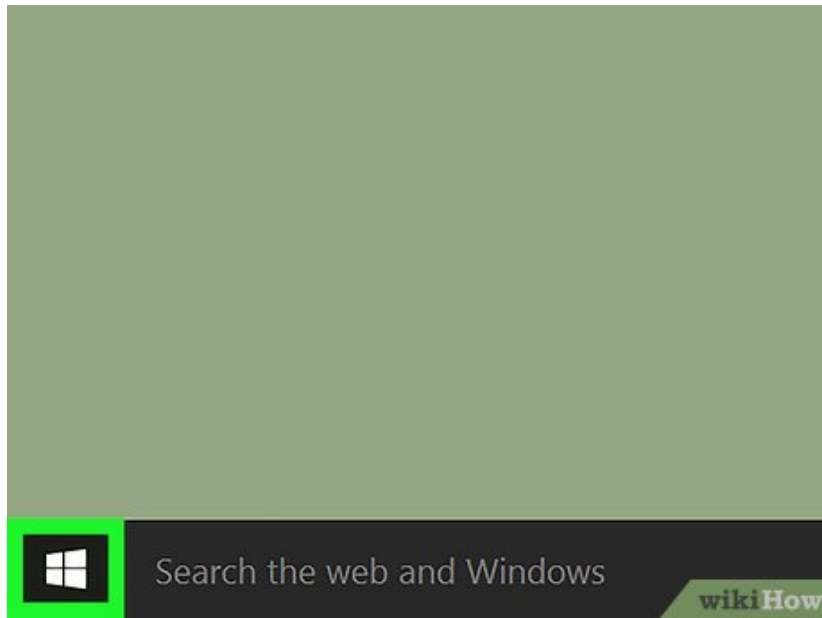


Finished.

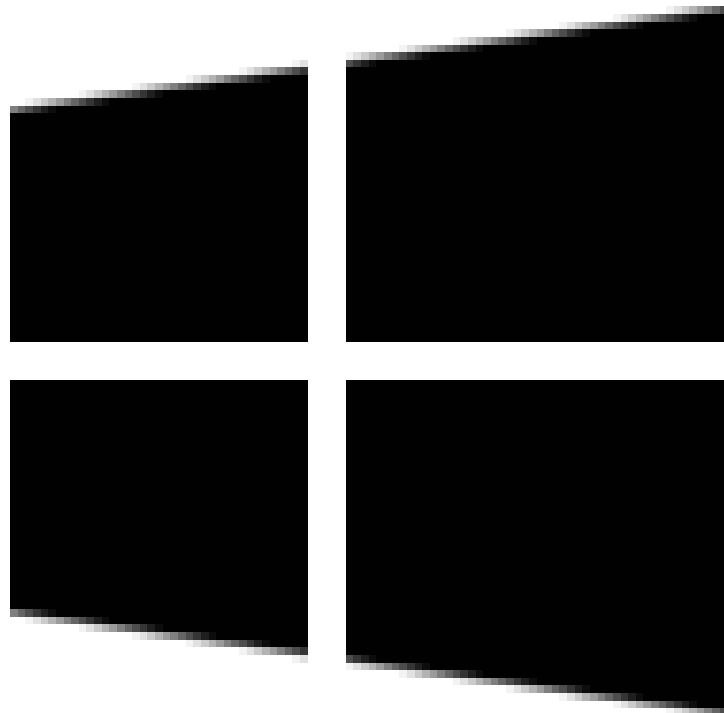
Method 2 of 8:

Using the Power User Menu (Windows 10 and 8)

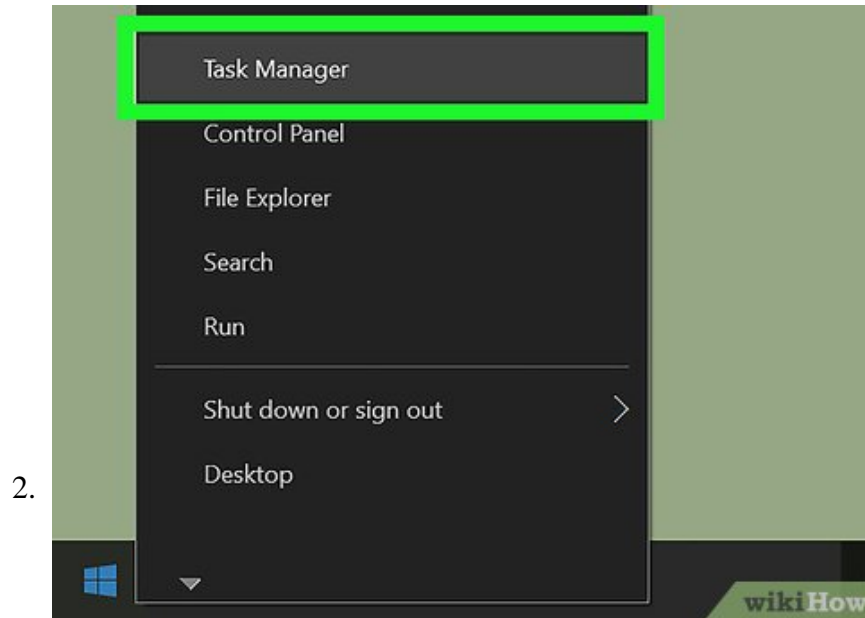
1.



Right-click on the Start

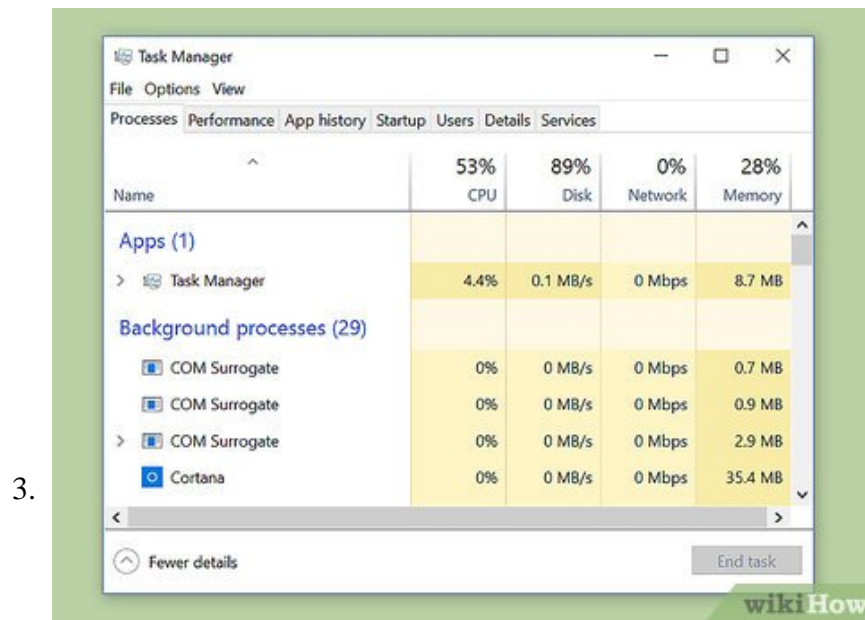


button. It's located at the lower-left corner of your screen.



Choose **Task Manager** from the list of options.

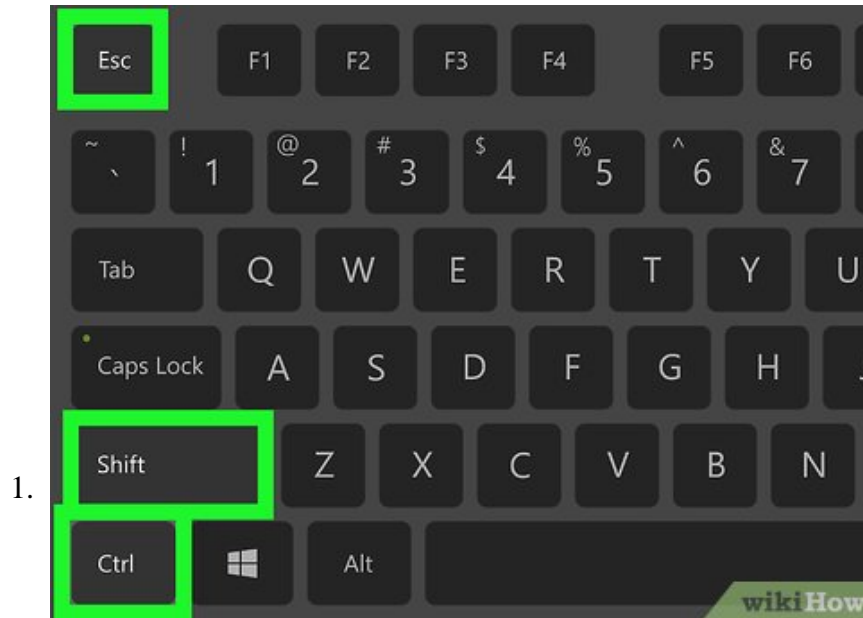
1. Alternatively, press the **T** keyboard key.



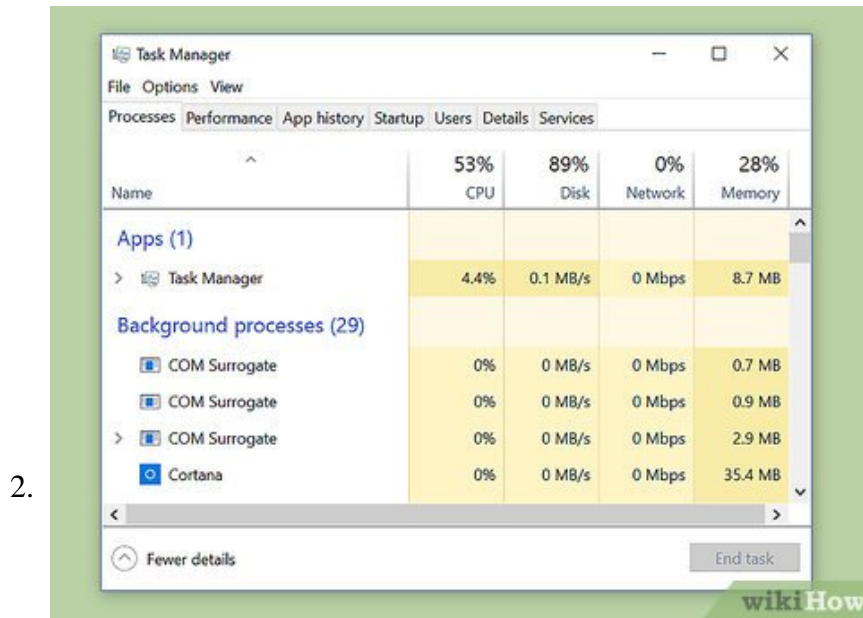
Finished.

Method 3 of 8:

Using the Ctrl + Shift + Esc Keyboard Shortcut (Direct Access)



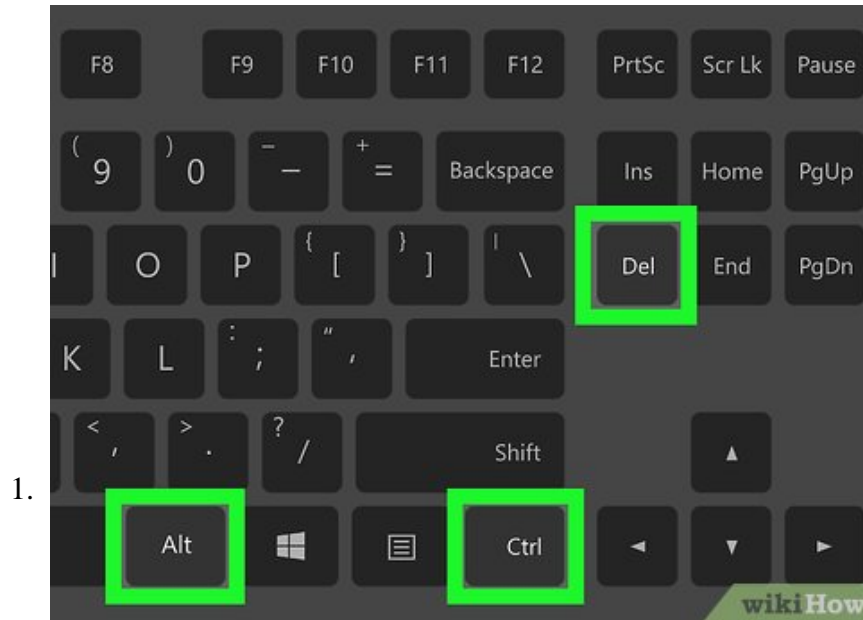
Press the **Ctrl** + **Shift** + **Esc** keys together.



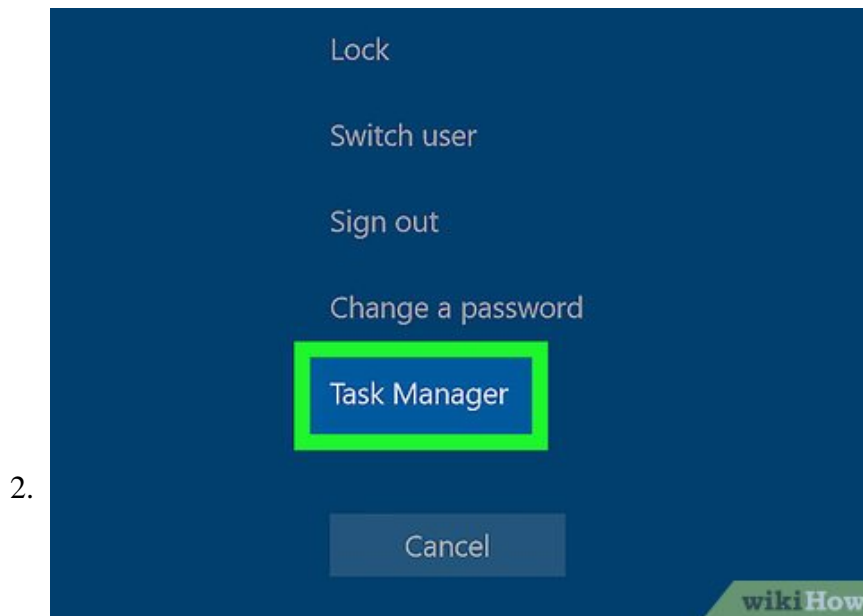
Finished.

Method 4 of 8:

Using the Windows Security (Ctrl + Alt + Del) Screen

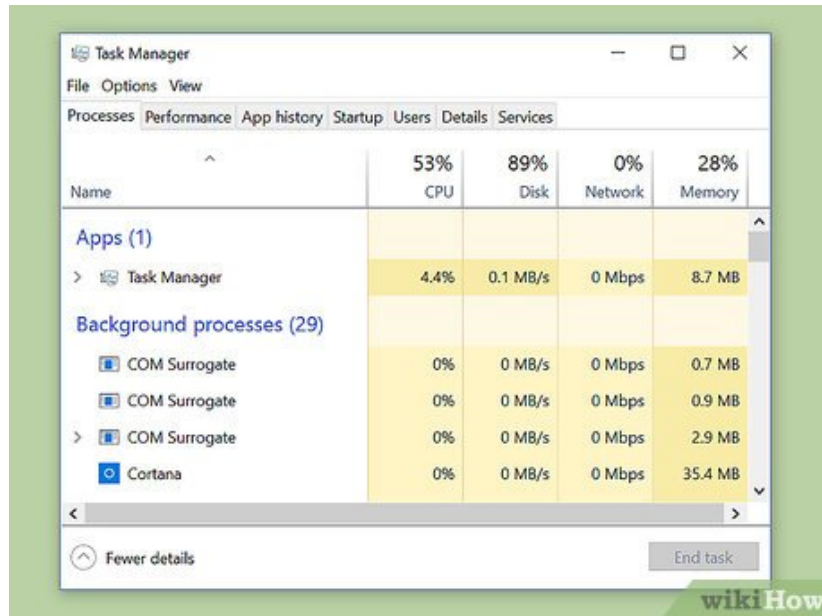


Press the **Ctrl** + **Alt** + **Del** keys together.



Choose "Task Manager" from the bottom of the list of links. If you're running an older Windows version, it might be listed as "Start Task Manager".

3.

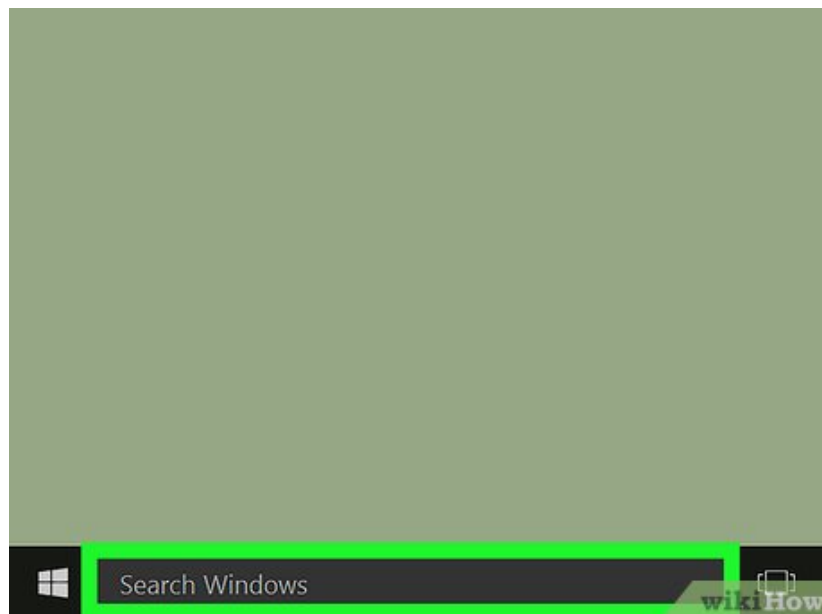


Finished.

Method 5 of 8:

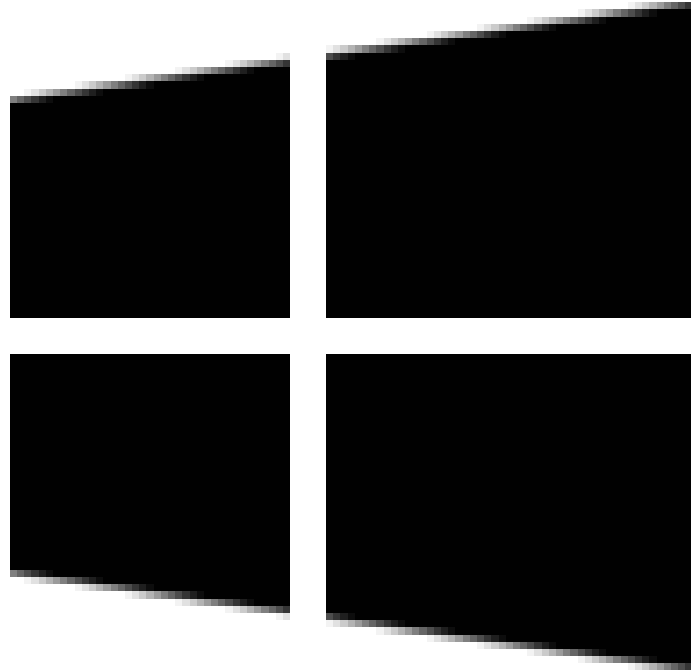
Using Windows Search

1.



Launch the search feature. Follow these steps depending on your Windows version:

1. **Windows 10:** Click the cortana/search bar/icon. If it's hidden, then press the Start

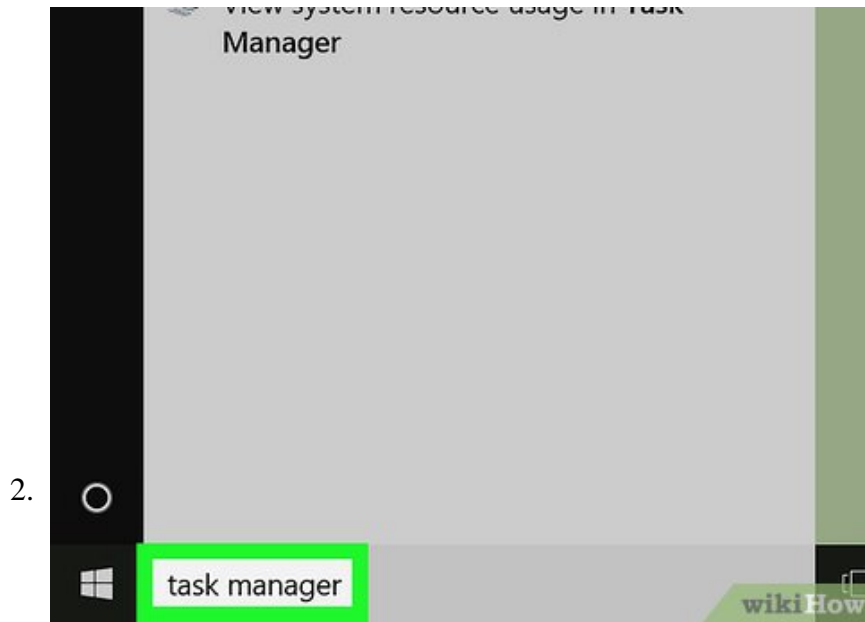


- button.
2. **Windows 8.1:** Press **Win + Q**.^[1]
 3. **Windows 7 and Vista:** Click the Start

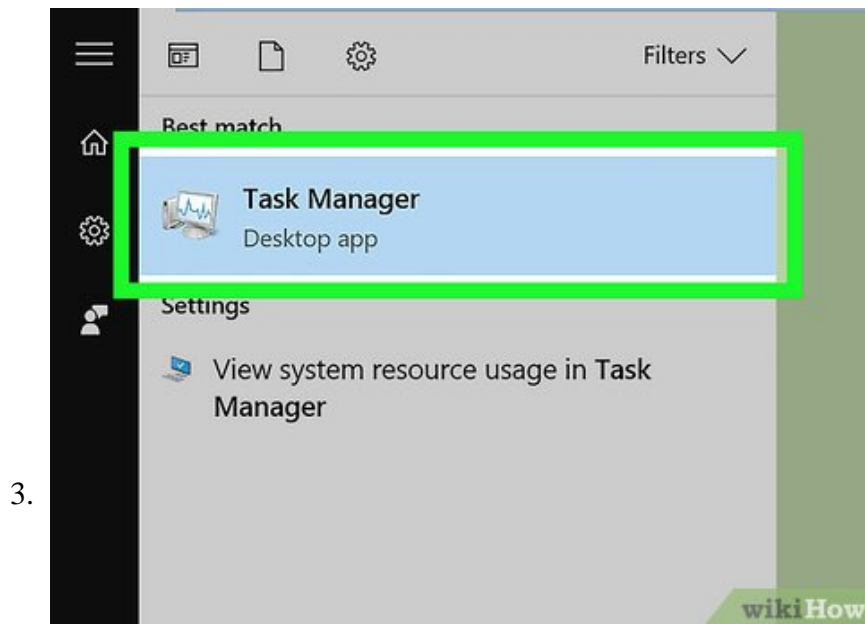


button.

4. **Windows XP:** This method will not work.

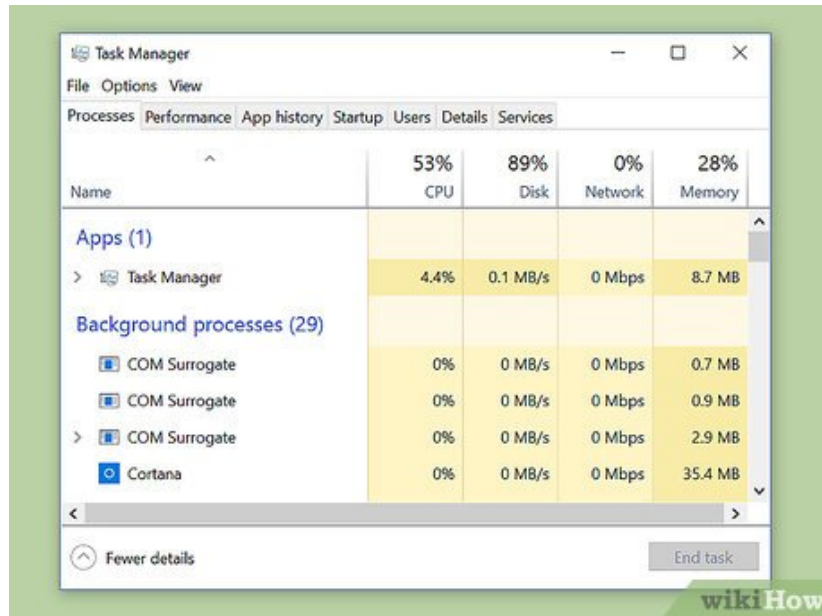


Type **task manager**.



Select the appropriate result. The listing should have the words "task manager" within the result.

4.

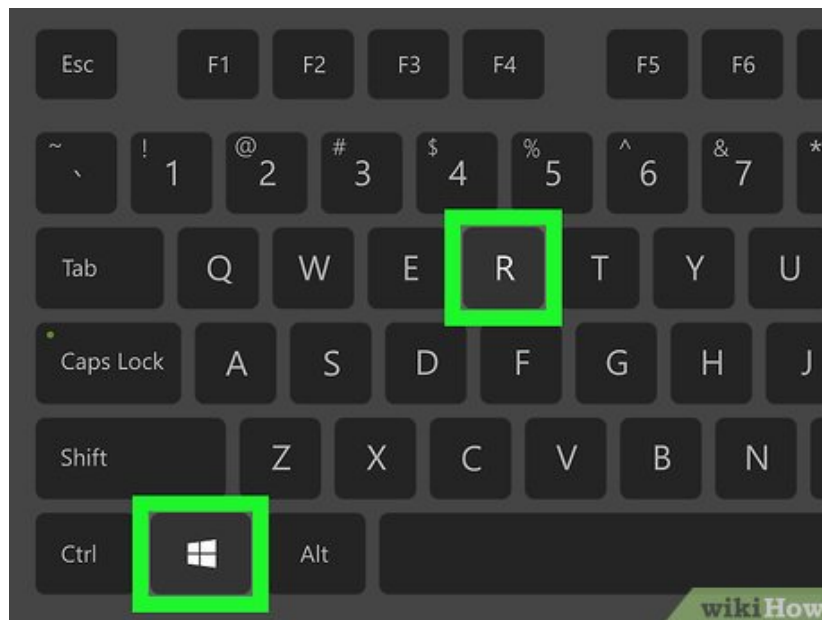


Finished.

Method 6 of 8:

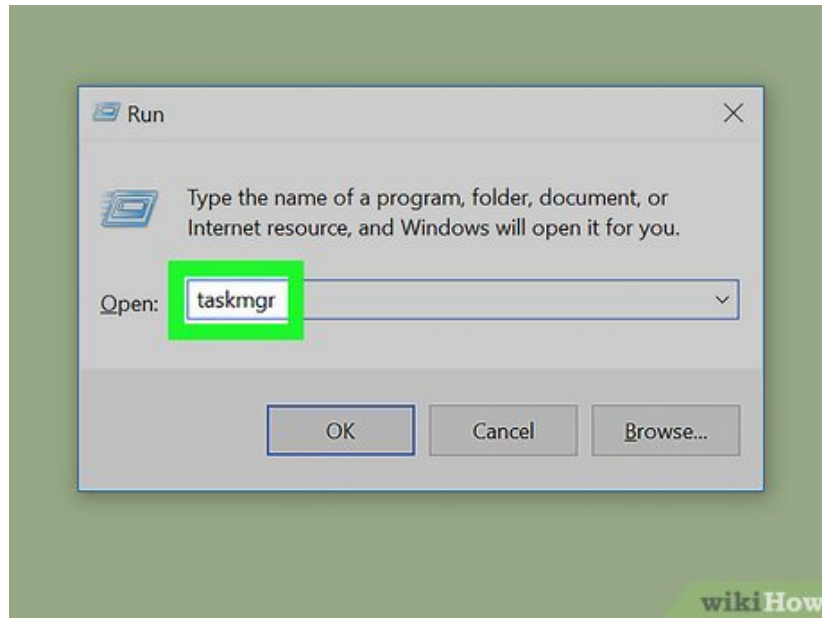
Use the Run Dialog Box

1.



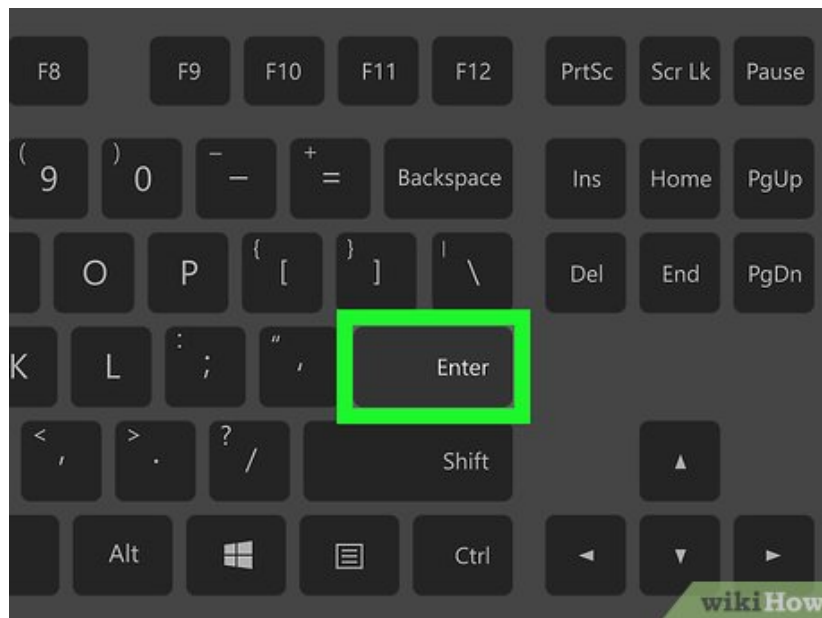
Open the Run dialog box. Press **Win + R** together.

2.



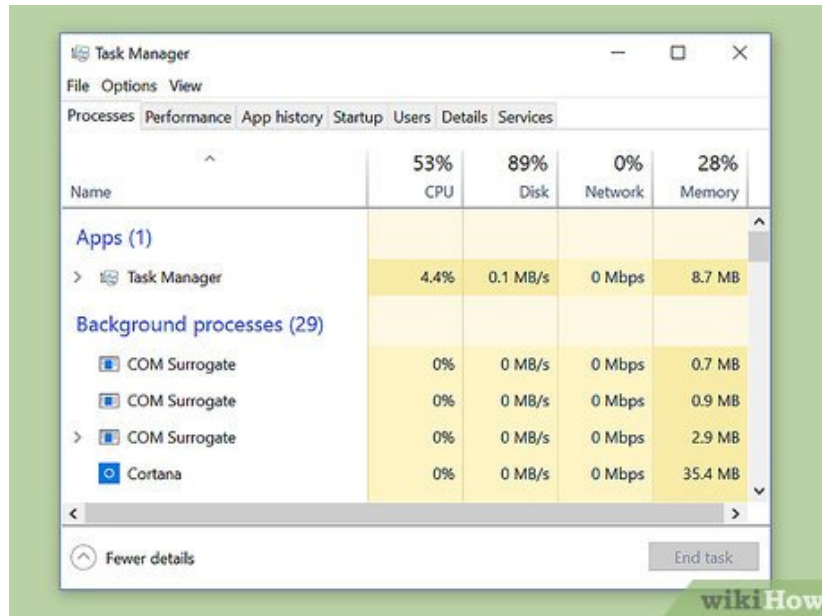
Type `taskmgr`.

3.



Hit `Enter` or click `OK`.

4.

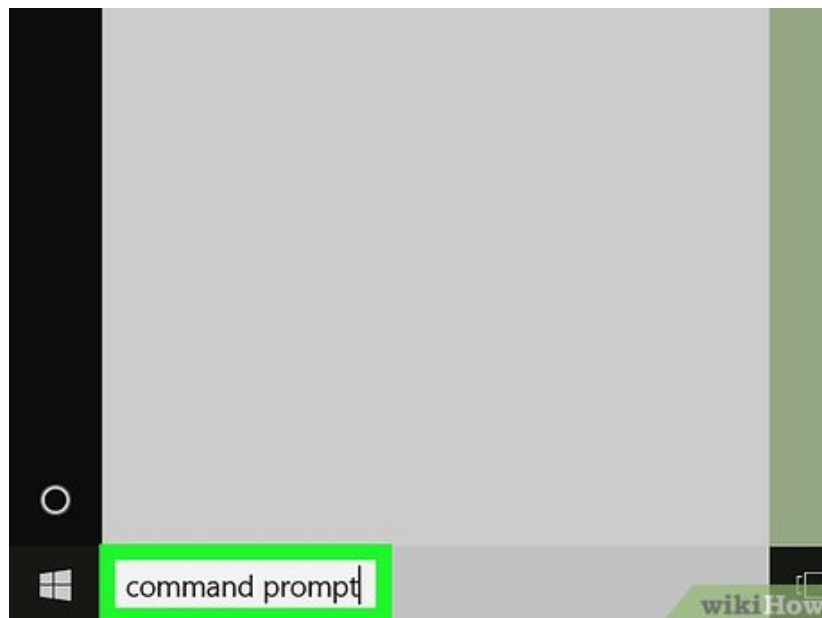


Finished.

Method 7 of 8:

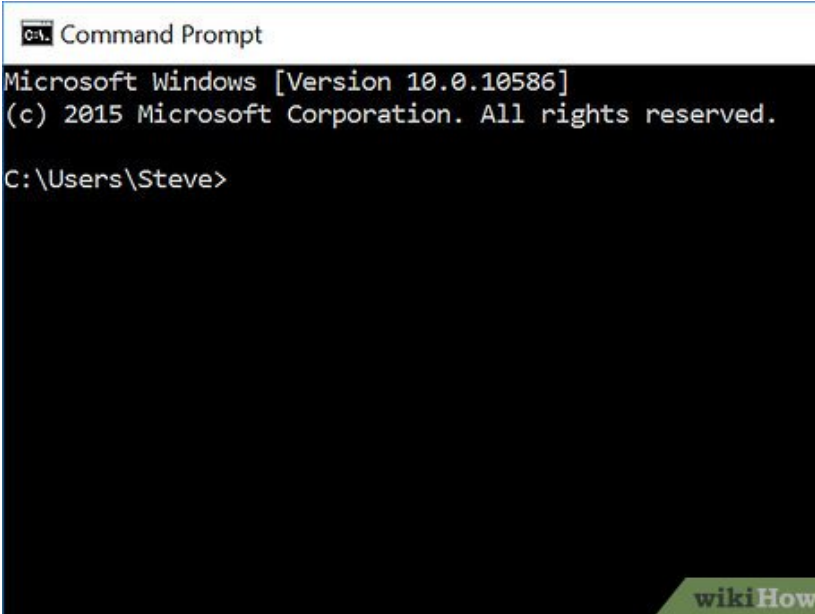
Using the Command Line (Command Prompt and Windows PowerShell)

1.



Open Command Prompt or Windows PowerShell. This can be done by searching for the respective application and selecting it from the results.

2.



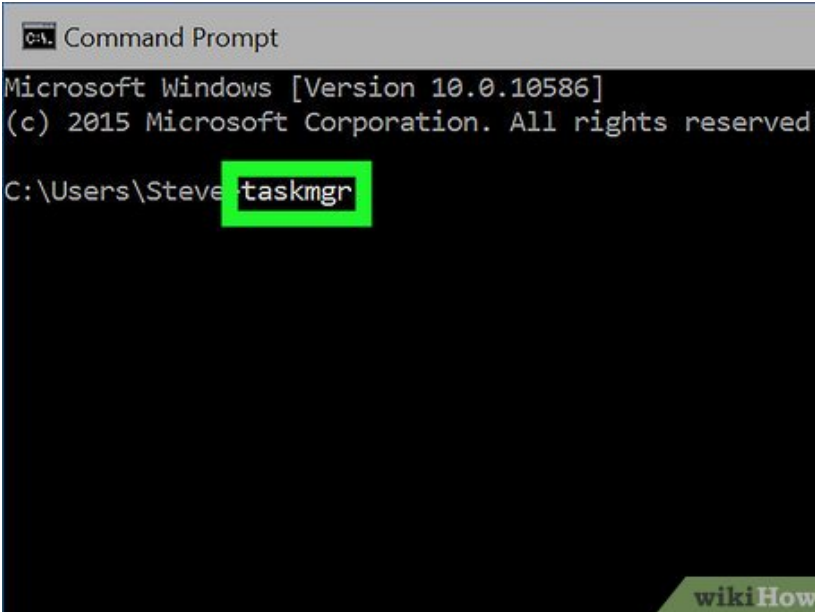
```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.10586]
(c) 2015 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Steve>
```

The screenshot shows a Windows Command Prompt window with a black background and white text. The title bar reads 'Command Prompt'. The text inside the window displays the Microsoft Windows version (10.0.10586) and copyright information (© 2015 Microsoft Corporation). Below this, the current directory path is shown as 'C:\Users\Steve>'. A 'wikiHow' logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the image.

Wait for the app to fully load. You should see copyright text at the top and your user folder path.

3.

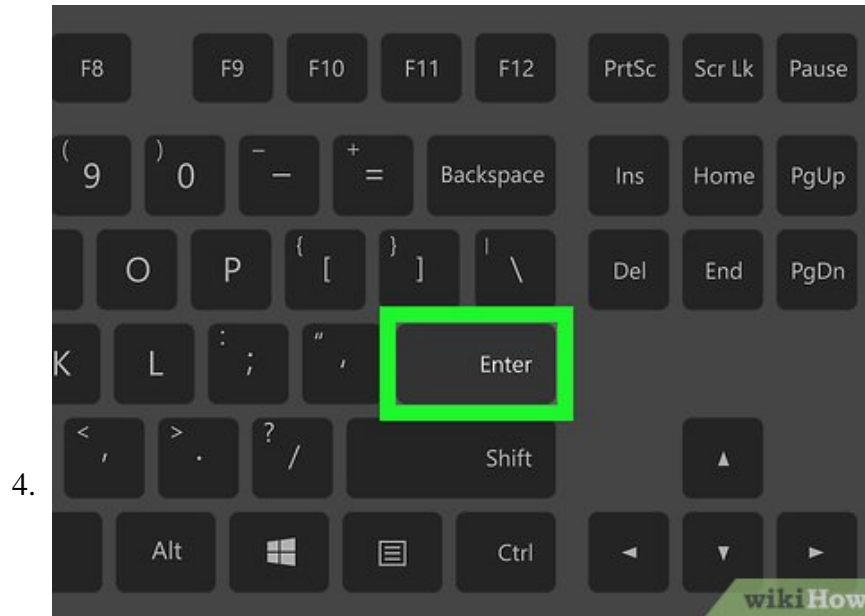


```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.10586]
(c) 2015 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

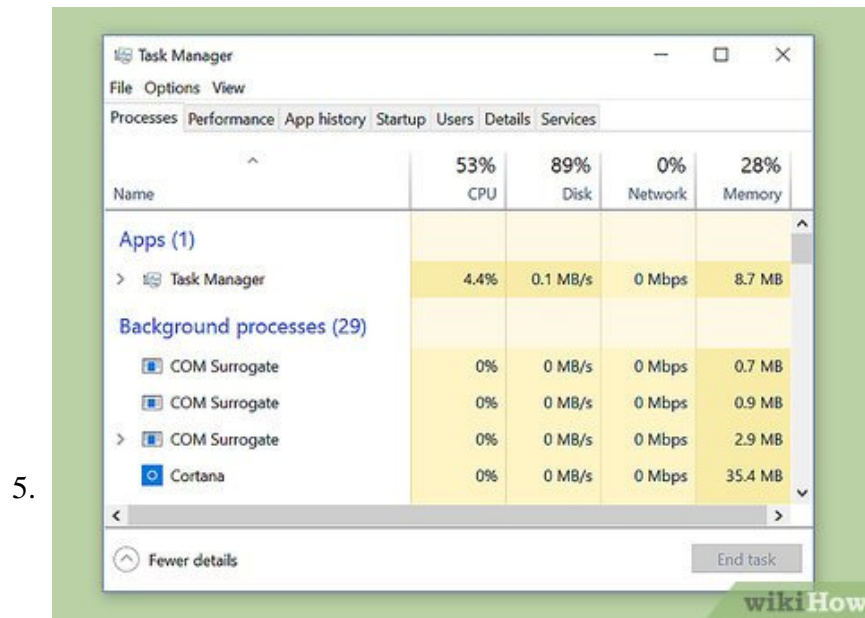
C:\Users\Steve> taskmgr
```

The screenshot shows the same Windows Command Prompt window as in step 2. The text 'taskmgr' has been typed into the command line after the prompt 'C:\Users\Steve>'. The text 'taskmgr' is highlighted with a red rectangular box. A 'wikiHow' logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the image.

Type `taskmgr`.



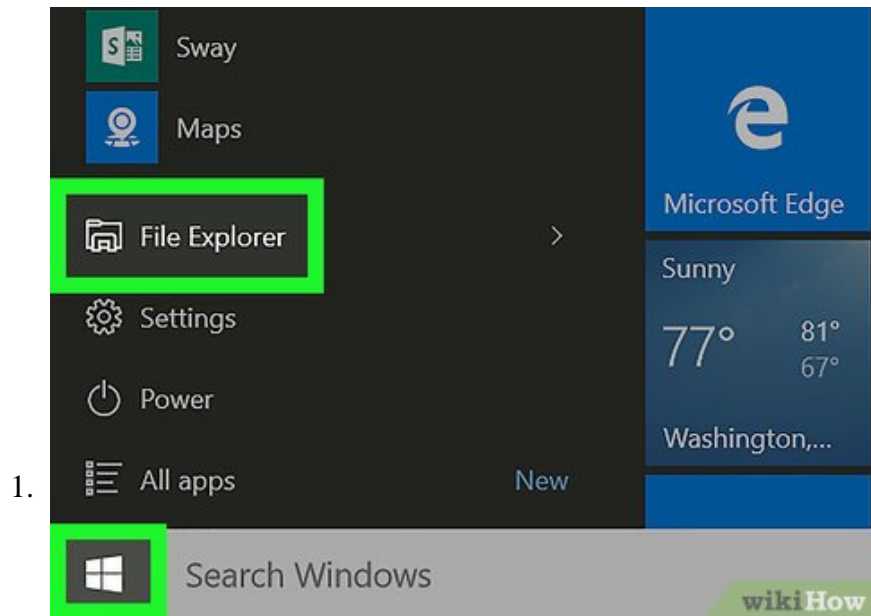
Submit the command. Hit the Enter key.



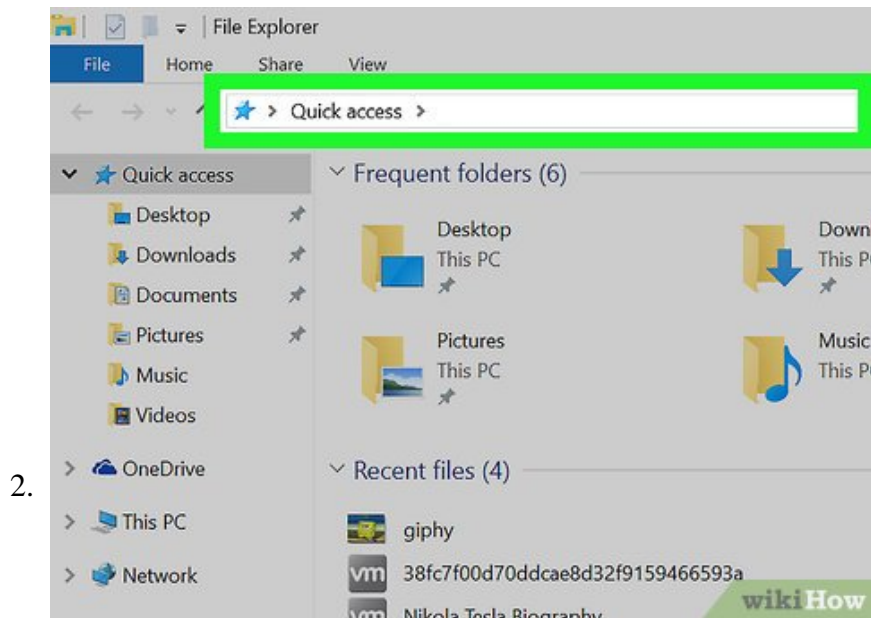
Finished.

Method 8 of 8:

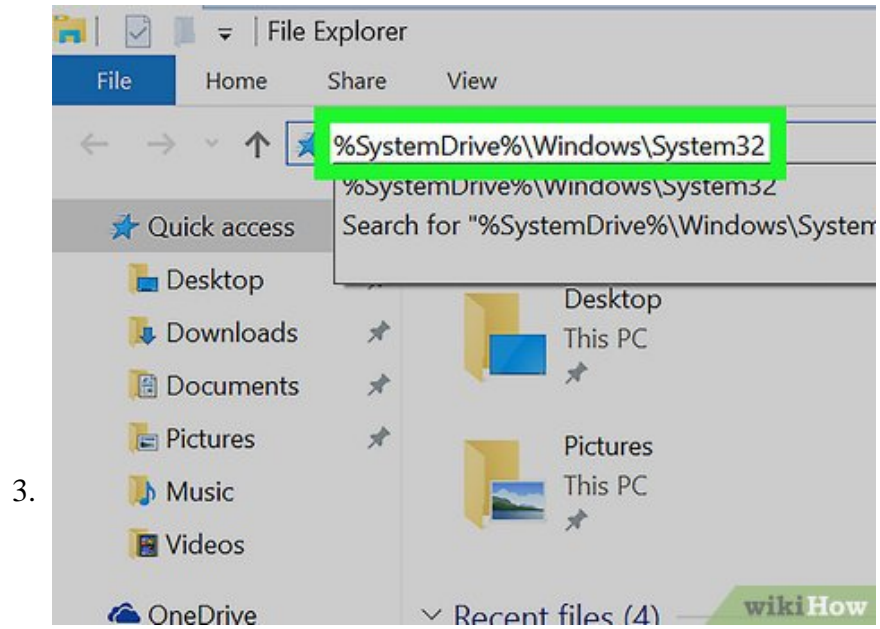
Using File Explorer



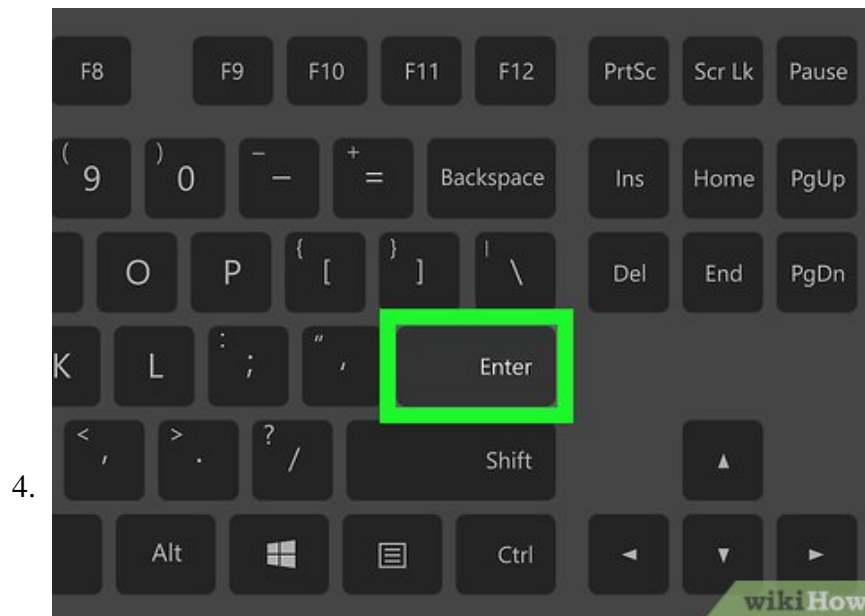
Open File Explorer.



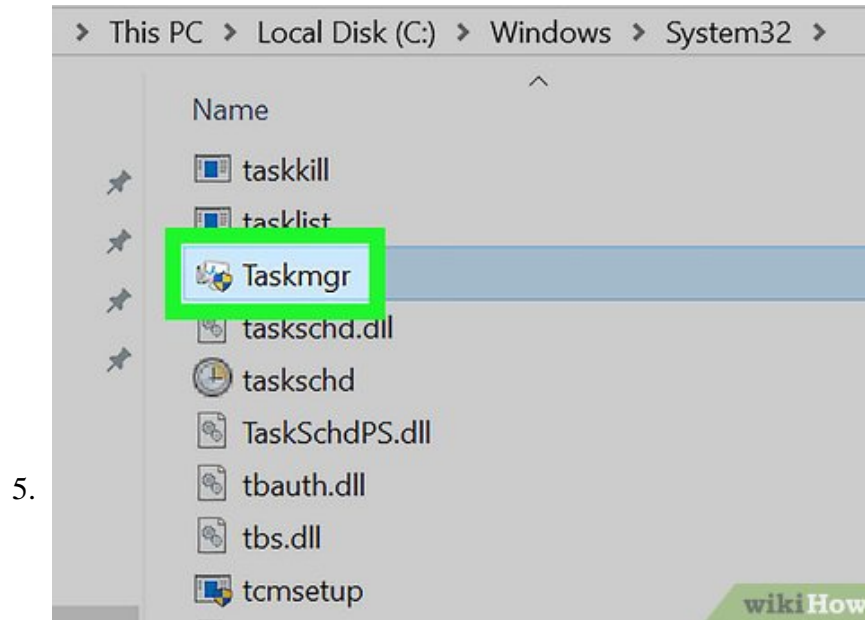
Click the address bar.



Type `%SystemDrive%\Windows\System32`.

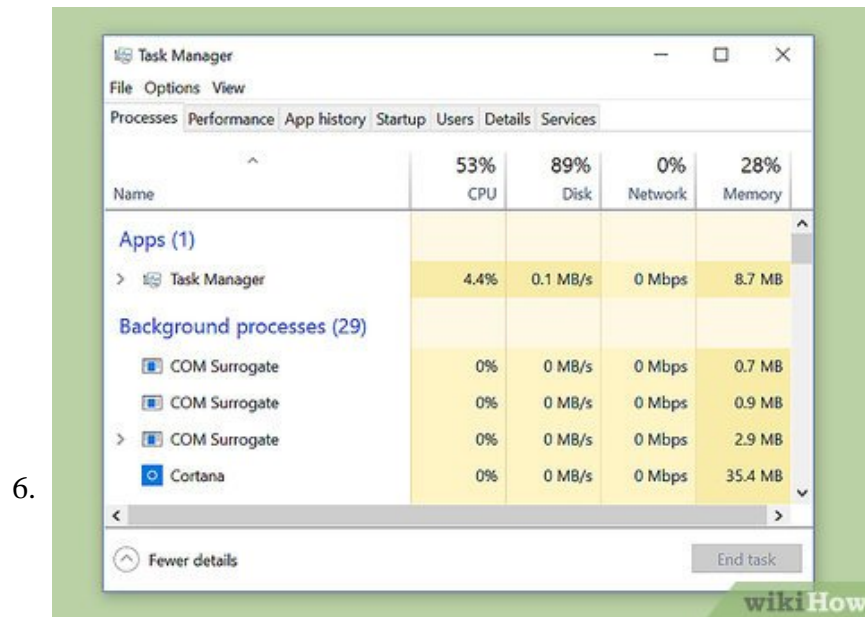


Hit `Enter` or click  to the far right of the address bar.



Find "Taskmgr" and open it. It might have ".exe" at the end of the name depending on your file viewing settings.

1. You'll need to scroll down past the folders, which are always placed at the top.



Finished.

You finished reading the article "**How to Open Windows Task Manager**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.