

Tips for buying a tablet for reading PDF ebooks

For a comfortable PDF ebook reading experience, these specifications are suggested:

Tablet size - 9.7 inches or larger

Tablet weight – about one pound (.45 kg) or less

Battery life – 6 hours is good, 11 hours is excellent

Windows or **ipad** or **Android** – double-check for these before buying

Examples of popular tablets:

- **10-inch Windows tablets**
- **9.7-inch ipad tablets**
- **10-inch Android tablets**
- **10-inch “detachable” tablets**

Having fully detachable keyboards, these are mostly Windows tablets. These may weigh over 1 lb, for example the Asus T100TA is 1.2 lbs (still very light), and some are a little heavier. If only total weight is provided, we can estimate the tablet's weight as about one-half of the total weight.

- **10-inch Amazon Fire HD tablets (kindles)**

These kindles are great tablets, though note they are only quasi-Android devices. The Google Play store is not available to them, but most of the same android apps can be installed via other websites.

Also note, it is *not* necessary to have a kindle to read kindle ebooks! Just install a kindle reading app on your tablet: Kindle for ipad, Kindle for Android, Kindle for PC (Windows).

- **10-inch “2 in 1” or “hybrid” or “convertible” tablets**

These terms sometimes refer to a laptop where the keyboard folds back but does not detach. But sometimes these terms refer to a “detachable”. Check carefully.

- **Larger tablets** are available but may be heavier.

None of these tablets is difficult to use – it is just a matter of a small learning curve. When you have a question, be sure to download your device's User Guide, or google your question, or contact the manufacturer's Support line. You are also welcome to contact the Margaret Oliphant Fiction Collection, via jxoliphant@gmail.com.

If you personalize your Windows Desktop and use Windows heavily, you might be happiest with a Windows tablet. If you personalize your Android phone heavily, you might prefer an Android tablet. If good support is your priority, the Fire HD comes with 24/7 phone support and remote support. The iPad continues to be very popular too.

See also two other guides on the Oliphant Fiction Help page: ***Tablet hand gestures*** and ***How to download and read Oliphant ebooks***. The latter includes practical tips on how to use tablets, and includes recommendations for selecting a PDF reading app.

Wifi-only tablets vs 3G/4G tablets

Wifi-only

Virtually all tablets support wifi. Most inexpensive tablets are **wifi-only**. In other words to access the internet you must connect your tablet to a wireless network in your home or library or Starbucks, etc. Once connected you can download ebooks, browse the internet, handle your email, etc. The most common way to get wifi in your home is from your cable company or phone company.

If you connect to wifi in a public place, it is best to use the tablet just for browsing and downloading books – not for any money transactions (purchases, banking, etc.) because in public your passwords can easily be stolen by a hacker.

3G/4G

Some expensive tablets include **3G/4G** capabilities. On these tablets you can optionally install a Sim card and pay for a monthly tablet plan to stay connected all the time at any location. You will need to do some research to make sure the 3G/4G tablet you are considering is compatible with whatever tablet plan you are considering. Your current cellphone company might offer you a discounted tablet plan if the tablet is compatible.

Fyi, T-Mobile has a free data plan capped at 200MB per month which is a very limited amount of data. But this might work for you if you use wifi at home and only use 3G/4G when away from home. Check all requirements carefully.

Note, this article was last updated in December 2016. Technology changes so fast that this article could become out of date within a short period of time. Be sure to do your own research to get the latest information, including googling "best tablets" or "best Windows tablets" "or "best tablets with keyboards" etc.