

E-Ink & Navigation

Screen doesn't flicker, making it easier on the eyes than a computer. Not back-lit, only uses power when you turn the page

Option to enlarge text for large print

Easy-to-use buttons to navigate to "next page" "previous page" scrolling, etc.

Built-in table of contents, can jump straight to chapter or footnote

Can add bookmarks, notes, highlights

Always jumps to the last page you were on when you return to a title

Audio

"Read-to-me feature," is disabled by some publishers due to audio book copyright issues

Can put podcasts, audio books and music on Kindle and listen while you read something else.

Built-in speakers so you can listen without headphones, or you can plug headphones into the jack

Wireless

Uses a cellular connection to connect to the internet, with no monthly wi-fi subscription fees

Can browse web, one-touch browsing for Wikipedia, New Oxford American Dictionary and Google

Can hover over words you don't know in the text, and a dictionary definition shows up at the bottom.

Web navigation is nice but extremely awkward – no "point and click", pages can load slowly & display poorly

Battery Life

Up for a week at a time without having to recharge; turn off the cellular connection for longer battery charge. E-ink technology uses very little power, and only when turning the page.

Accessories

Booklights, covers, etc. not included. Covers available starting at \$25, most are \$40, some designer versions cost even more. Cover not necessary, but desirable.

Shopping

Can browse:

- Books
- Newspapers (45 titles, including international)
- Magazines (35 titles)
- Blogs

Must pay subscription fee to access periodicals (including blogs!), most have 14-day free trial

Recommendations carry over from your amazon.com profile

Instant delivery to your kindle via wireless

Not all titles are available ~ check out the selection before you decide to buy one

Shopping (Continued)

If a title is not available for Kindle, you can recommend that it be converted to Kindle format via the amazon.com

Many text books are available in kindle format at much lower cost, which means my kindle has already paid for itself! If you're a student, check to see if your textbooks are available for Kindle before you decide to buy one.

Price point: \$15 bestsellers, \$10 most other titles, \$20-\$40 for textbooks, many free "public domain" titles

PDF Conversion

I LOVE this about the Kindle – can put .doc, .txt and .pdf on Kindle

Have to convert files to .azw format so Kindle can read them. This is kind of awkward – have to e-mail the .pdf to Amazon, and they charge you a nominal fee (15 cents?) to deliver it straight to your Kindle. Can use the free option, where you manually put the .pdf on your kindle after Amazon has converted it and emailed it back to your email address.

Formatting can be iffy for .pdfs, especially if it is trying to recognize photocopies of text instead of actual text. It tries to use OCR technology to interpret the image, but the text often ends up jumbled. This will get better.

Native .pdf reader on the new Kindle DX, but the screen is much bigger (9" instead of 6"), which means it won't fit easily into a purse, and the device is much more pricey than Kindle 2.0

File Format

.azw vs. .mobi – .azw files are the EXACT SAME THING as .mobi files, but with DRM code written in to prevent copying and sharing. The Kindle can read .mobi files without converting them to .azw.

A single Kindle book can be shared on up to 6 separate kindles, as long as they are on the same user account – could work for sharing with friends or family as long as one member is willing to be the account holder.