



# Are e-books better than paper books?

## What you need to know

- An e-book is an electronic book that is downloaded and read on a device such as a tablet or an e-reader like a kindle.
- A recent survey has shown that 43% of children in the uk aged between 8-17 have read an e-book.
- Almost 70% of the children interviewed in the survey said they will always want to read paper books.

Since 2011, when the Kindle e-reader was first launched in Spain, many people have taken to reading books on screens. Electronic books are bought online and downloaded onto a computer, laptop, tablet, smartphone or e-reader. There is a wide range of e-books available for all ages, including non-fiction and fiction and – as e-readers can display pictures – even comics.

A recent survey has revealed that the number of young people reading e-books tripled between 2010 and 2014. However lots of people still love traditional paper books and since 2015 the popularity of digital books seems to be falling at

the same time as book sales are increasing again in many countries including Spain. Although it is difficult to find accurate figures, it seems that only 3% of e-books are sold, the rest being traditional paper books.

## Are e-books the future?

It is quick and easy to buy e-books online and they are delivered to your device immediately - perfect if you need information urgently for your homework. You can store thousands of e-books on your device so they don't take up space in your bedroom. The size of the writing can be adjusted on screen, making it easier to read if you have poor eyesight. Some e-books include extras like audio and videos. Research suggests that reading e-books, rather than traditional paper books, improves the reading level of boys, especially those who don't like reading. No trees are destroyed to make e-books either, and because they are not transported to shops like real books, they're are better for the environment and they're usually cheaper.

## Is reading a "real" book better?

Paper books look and feel lovely and can be read anywhere. They don't need power; it doesn't

matter if you don't have Wi-Fi and they never run out of charge just as you reach a good or very exciting bit. Books make wonderful presents but you can't wrap up an e-book – you can't borrow or lend one either. Reading paper books means you get to browse in bookshops and libraries, striking up conversations whilst you discover new books and authors that you might otherwise not know about. You may also remember more about a "real book" - more and more studies suggest that people remember less from reading on a device. And then there is also the problem that a light from any screen half an hour before lights out, can make going to sleep harder and can disrupt your much needed sleep, which of course does not happen with a paper book at bedtime.

## 3 reasons why e-books are better than real books

- You can buy e-books, download them and begin reading them immediately.
- E-books can come with lots of extras, like videos, web links and audio.

- E-books are better for the environment. They are not made from trees and they don't need to be delivered to shops or warehouses.

## 3 reasons why real books are better

- A paper book is special, it is lovely to browse in a bookshop, choose, and hold them, and they also make very special presents to give or receive.
- We already spend too much time looking at screens – it's good for our eyes to have a break from them.
- If your device isn't charged you can't read an e-book – you can always read a real book.

**So now you have read a bit more about it and debated it in class, get paper and pencils, let your creativity loose and take part in our competition, you could win a year's subscription to PN and a further one for your teacher, class or school library! We look forward to receiving entries from all of you who go to schools in the Comunidad de Madrid.**