

## Before purchasing a tablet, think about what you want to use it for:

- **Reading Books**

If you're using a tablet strictly for reading books, consider an e-reader such as a Kobo or a Kindle instead. Typically, e-readers are smaller and lighter, have longer battery life and glare-free screen, and are often waterproof. But with no additional apps, camera, or colour on the screen, they are suited ideally for one thing: E-Books! (Note: you can't access Canadian library books on Kindles.)

- **Checking Email**

You will need an internet connection to access your email. You will also need a browser app (such as Google Chrome or Safari) or an email app.

- **Video Calling**

In addition to an internet connection, video calling requires a camera that can turn to see you (also known as a "front-facing camera."). You will also need a video calling app (such as FaceTime or Zoom). A higher pixel density will also offer better quality calls.

- **Watching Movies**

Look for a higher screen resolution, a comfortable screen size, and speakers or a place to plug in headphones to watch movies on your tablet. If you will be watching "on the go," you'll also want longer battery life.

### What Does That Mean?

App: Short for "application," these are programs on your computer like Email, Camera, Calendar, or a Game.

Internet Connection: This is how you access the Internet. Typically tablets use a Wi-Fi connection, but some tablets are "Cellular Data Network Enabled" meaning they can access the Internet through a mobile data plan from a company like Rogers or Bell.

Pixels: These are the building blocks that make up the images on the tablet's screen.

Resolution: This is the number of pixels that the tablet's screen can show. The more pixels, the more accurate the display.

Processor: The power behind the tablet, this processor determines the speed at which the tablet works.

Storage Space: Usually expressed in GB (or gigabytes) this is how many apps/photos/ documents can be stored on the tablet.

## Playing Video Games

You will need an up-to-date tablet with more storage space and a faster processor to play video games like Minecraft. Older tablets will struggle to support newer, larger games.

- **Microsoft Word and/or Excel**

Only Windows products give you access to Microsoft apps.

## Apple, Android, Windows – What Does It Mean?

These are the three most common Operating Systems for tablets.

- **Apple:** Apple's tablets are called iPads and come with what's often considered the most "user-friendly" operating system.
- **Android:** Tablets made by companies like Samsung, Lenovo, and Amazon use the Android operating system, created by Google. These tablets will look and feel different depending on the manufacturer and are the most customizable.
- **Windows:** This is the same system used by Windows computers! And while it may have the most limited selection of apps, Windows tablets run Microsoft Word and Excel seamlessly.



## How Much Does A Tablet Cost?

Tablets can be under \$100 or over \$1000, and the cost depends on features: if you want more storage space, better photo quality, or faster processing speeds, you will pay more.

## Picking The Right Tablet For You

Look through reviews and compare makes and models before purchasing a tablet. Here are some recommended resources for finding reputable reviews and product comparisons.

- [Consumer Reports](#): Find detailed comparisons, product reviews, purchase recommendations, and more. This service is available for free with your Library card.
- [Best Buy Website](#): Explore tablets through this Canadian retailer.
- [PC Magazine](#): A website full of technology reviews.
- [Apple's iPad Comparison](#): Apple's website will compare iPad models so that you can select one based on your needs.

This guide was created with funding from the New Horizons for Seniors Program.