

Buying a Mobile Device

A Mobile Device is a computer device you can hold in one hand.

Tablet	Smartphone	e-Reader
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Size – height 5.8 to 10.8”• – width 3.3 to 7.5”• Very versatile and portable• Uses wireless & sometimes data plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Size – height 5 to 6.3”• – width 2.2 to 3”• Versatile & portable but limited by small screen• Uses data plan and sometimes wireless	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Size – often the same as a small tablet• Less versatile, just as portable• Uses wireless, usually not data plan

FYI: a **Phablet** is a smartphone as big as a tablet

- **What do you plan to do with it:**

- Is this going to be your main cell phone? Then obviously smartphone.
- If you just want to read ebooks, any tablet or ereader will do. Many people like the Kindle’s ereader controls for turning pages, making text bigger, etc.
- If you want to use the Web, make sure it has a web browser. Most do.
- To play games, view videos or listen to radio or podcasts, you want a device that can add Apps – and a screen big enough for what you want. Tablet.
- To create documents or edit spreadsheets, most people really want a laptop, though some of this can be done on a tablet.

- **Price:** currently about \$30-\$3,000+ but you get what you pay for, usually

Notes on Smartphone purchase:

You must pick from literally 1000s of choices for your cellular provider/plan.

Even within vendors, you will have choices – Some split out

- voice calls
- texts
- “data” usage: web, email, apps especially video, live streaming radio and face-to-face talking.

- **Size:** Consider screen size, controls, and size and weight of the device

- **Battery life:** measured in days for eBook readers, 9-10 hours for iPad

- **Storage capacity:** 8 GB to 256+ GB – how much can you afford

- **Camera Quality:** usually more megapixels is better, but some special software can make a camera work better. Also: does it have a flash? Video or 360°?

- **Personal choices:** color, who can help you with it, what do you have already

Online tools: Consumer Reports Cell Phone & Service Buying Guide
Consumer Reports Tablet Buying Guide

The Big Choice: Operating System

Apple iOS

Android

Windows 10

Kindle (Amazon)

- Which are you most familiar with, or have people around you who know it?
- How much money are you willing and able to spend?
- Do you already have an Amazon account, Google account (gmail family), Microsoft account (includes outlook.com, msn.com, & Hotmail.com), or Apple ID?
- Security – Androids are most open, so least secure (but also cheapest)
- Privacy – Some company can see everything: Apple, Google, Microsoft, or Amazon.

Example: Kindles are pretty secure, but every single thing you put on your Kindle, including library books, goes through your Amazon.com account. Amazon's terms of service allow them to share your information and book history with any of their affiliates. Therefore, Amazon and their business partners can market to you based on your selection of library books, purchases, and even web activity.

Apple: iPad, iPhone – costs more, generally can do more; local support through Apple Store

Android: sold independently so unlimited choices of price and hardware: buyer beware

Windows Surface: mostly used by people who have a business account with Microsoft

Kindle: beloved by many because easy to use, no in-person help and ultimately limited



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