# COMPUTERS

*READING 2*



## TABLET COMPUTER

Without a doubt, the biggest revolution in computing in recent years is the rise of the tablet computer. With the increasing power and decreasing size of computer components, it has been possible to pack a lot of processing power into a small frame. Computers have become smaller, more mobile, and easier to use than traditional desktop or laptop computers. Tablet computers like American company Amazon's Kindle Fire HD 10 are designed to be lightweight and portable **yet** fast enough to complete everyday computing tasks. A powerful processor allows users to easily switch between different tasks, such as watching videos, reading **e-books**, and playing games.

### SKILLS

- Details
- Scanning
- Make inferences
- Vocabulary in context
- Understand negative facts

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### GETTING STARTED

What are 3 advantages of having a tablet?

## Tablet Components

The main component of a tablet computer is the large touch screen, which must be really efficient so that it doesn't **drain** the battery. It achieves this by adjusting the number of times the image displayed on screen is updated. When showing videos or games, the display is refreshed 60 times a second, so the eye sees a consistently moving image. However, when the display is static, the refresh rate is lower, saving valuable energy.

## Kindle Kids Edition

The Kids Edition of the Fire HD 10 tablet comes in a robust case to protect against damage from accidental drops. A modified user interface allows parents to control their child's online activity and limit usage to apps, games, and books that are adequate for them. The tablet also includes educational applications designed to engage children between the ages of 3 and 12. The tablet has 32 GB of storage, improved Wi-Fi, immersive audio, and up to 12 hours of use.

*Taken from How Super Cool Tech Works. DK Publishing.*

## Glossary:

- **E-book:** a book that is displayed on a computer screen or on an electronic device that is held in the hand, instead of being printed on paper.

### FACTS

**TABLETS HAVE AN AVERAGE LIFESPAN OF 4 YEARS:**

A study by IDC shows that people use tablet devices for approximately four years before they buy a new one.

## FACTS

**Tablets are mostly used for entertainment purposes:**

Whereas some experts previously claimed tablets would become the new office laptop, they turned out to be a great device for reading the news, watching videos and playing games.



1. The word **yet** in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to

   a. because
   b. but
   c. also
   d. in order to

2. The word **drain** in paragraph 2 relates to

   a. charging the battery
   b. destroying the battery
   c. increasing the life of the battery
   d. decreasing the power of the battery

3. According to paragraph 2, what activity is more likely to spend less battery energy?

   a. Playing video games
   b. Reading an e-book
   c. Having a video call
   d. Watching a video on YouTube

4. What are 3 characteristics of a tablet like the Kindle Fire?

   a. It's heavy, fast and it works with energy.
   b. It's not heavy, it's fast, but you can't use it to read books.
   c. It has an efficient processor, it's light, and you can take it everywhere.
   d. The battery needs to be charged constantly, it is light, but the processor is slow.

5. **What is NOT true about the Kindle Kids Edition?**

a. Parents can prevent their children from watching inappropriate content.
b. The battery can run continuously for about half a day.
c. You don't have to pay for some educational apps.
d. It may be damaged easily

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**Language Note – Adjectives**

- The tablet comes in a robust case to protect against damage.

**Adjectives in English come before a noun or after a linking verb.**
- A **powerful** processor allows users to easily switch between **different** tasks.
- It has a large touch screen, which must be really **efficient** so that it doesn't drain the battery.

**We use comparative adjectives + than to compare people, things, or places, and say how different they are. We add -er to one-syllable adjectives or two-syllable adjectives ending in -y. With longer adjectives use more + adjective.**
- Computers have become **smaller**, **more mobile**, and **easier** to use than traditional desktop or laptop computers.
- When the display is static, the refresh rate is **lower**, saving valuable energy.

**We use the + superlative adjectives to mention an item that stands out among a group. We add -est to one-syllable adjectives or two-syllable adjectives ending in -y. With longer adjectives use the most + adjective.**

- **The biggest** revolution in computing in recent years is the rise of the tablet computer.
- Daniel is **the youngest** student in our class.
- **The most important** characteristic of this tablet is its weight.

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## What do you think?

Should kids have access to tablets or cellphones from an early age?