

The future of reading

Electronic Books



Electronic books, or e-books, provide a new, cool, environmentally-friendly, and inexpensive way to read. Differing from their paper cousins only in the binding, e-books are stored and used as computer files rather than as ink on paper.

One arena that might soon see the leap to e-book use is the classroom. Students would take their handheld e-book readers to the electronic bookstore, load their texts, carry the lot in their bookbag, and not notice the extra weight of a dozen full-length texts.

E-books can be purchased directly on the Internet from hundreds of publishers or retail e-bookstores. In either case, pay with your credit or debit card, then download it directly as with a free book, or wait for it to arrive as an e-mail attachment, a disk or a CD.

E-books can be viewed on a computer screen or using a book reader. About the size of a large trade paperback, these handheld e-book readers have high-resolution, easy-to-read screens, and a computer or telephone connector to obtain files. Better yet, they have enough memory to store many book files at once.

Few conventional bookstores carry e-books yet, but it's a simple matter for a savvy person to find them. The best bet is an Internet search engine, directory, or specialty information centre. There, locate e-books by author, subject, genre, ISBN, or title. The online versions of some giant bookstore chains also have searchable e-book sections. E-publishers and many of their authors have web pages. These have further information, plot summaries, reviews, pictures, and other good stuff. They usually provide several chapters to read free so you can try-before-you-buy, just as in a paper bookstore. If you read a book and like it, you could always write a review and send it to the author. Maybe it'll get published on the net with your name and web site attached.

A few big-name authors such as Stephen King, Anne Rice, Frederic Forsyth, Diana Gableton, and Colleen McCullough, as well as some large paper houses like Simon and Schuster have already put a toe in the e-book waters, and the field gets more crowded all the time.

If you love paper books to death and just can't imagine reading any other way, don't panic. So far, e-books are an alternative to the traditional ones. They haven't replaced them ... yet. However, you don't have to be much of a prophet to note that since distributing books electronically is easier, faster, cheaper, and offers greater variety, we should soon see a lot more of them.

Some promise to make the experience better than paper with multimedia readers. Others produce audio versions where the author reads it to you.

Ah, indulgence.

Keep in mind, you take the same chances buying an electronic book as a paper one. Maybe you won't like it after all. But the majority of electronic publishers screen their books carefully, insist on professional editing, and publish only the best. If you read an excerpt first and buy only from reputable publishers, you won't often be disappointed.

THE FUTURE OF READING
Electronic Books
by Rick Sutcliffe

A) Say who or what the underlined words in the text refer to.

1. their _____
2. they _____
3. you _____
4. it _____
5. them _____
6. them _____
7. their _____

B) Match the antonyms.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. inexpensive | a) minority |
| 2. retail | b) upload |
| 3. many | c) wholesale |
| 4. download | d) expensive |
| 5. big-name | e) few |
| 6. majority | f) nobody |

C) Answer the questions about the text.

1. What's the difference between traditional books and e-books?

2. Where can we buy e-books?

3. What are the advantages of e-books comparatively to printed books?

4. Explain the meaning of the expression "put a toe in the e-book waters".

5. Is it possible to read some chapters of an e-book before you buy it? Quote from the text.

➤ Grammar

The future

Choose the correct option.

A.

- 1) tomorrow, so we can go out somewhere.
A. I'm not working B. I don't work C. I won't work
- 2) That bag looks heavy. you with it.
A. I'm helping B. I help C. I'll help
- 3) I think the weather be nice later.
A. will B. shall C. is going to
- 4) „Ann is in the hospital.“ „Yes, I know. her tomorrow.
A. I visit B. I'm going to visit C. I'll visit
- 5) We are late. The film by the time we get to the cinema.
A. will already start B. will be already started C. will already have started
- 6) Don't worrylate tonight.
A. if I am B. when I am C. when I'll be D. if I'll be

Complete with the correct future form.

B.

- 1) My brother (be) 45 in October.
- 2) „The phone is ringing and I'm in the shower!“
„Don't worry Mark, I (answer) for you.“
- 3) James Jones (probably / become) the next President.
- 4) Mum is unemployed but she (not / apply) for that job because it isn't well-paid.
- 5) I'm so excited! We (move) to a bigger house next month.
- 6) Next month, my parents (marry) for 25 years.
- 7) My parents (be) very proud, I have passed all the exams.
- 8) I think my sister (pass) the exam, she has studied very hard so far.
- 9) Dave (play) chess next Saturday with me.
- 10) This time next year I (take) the kids to the mountains.

➤ Writing an essay

Write your essay in 140- 190 words.

In your English class you have been talking about different ways in which you can protect the environment. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using **all** the notes and give reasons for your point of view.

*What can people do to help
protect the environment?*

Notes:

1. *Recycle*
2. *Using bicycles and walking*
3. *..... (your own idea)*

Write your **essay**.