

E-books

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do you prefer reading on paper or on a screen?
2. Do you have an e-book reader?
3. Do you think traditional publishers are a dying breed?
4. Why are e-books cheaper than paper books?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| ___ 1. traditional | a) to give to another person |
| ___ 2. a dying breed | b) relating to the way things were done in the past |
| ___ 3. gain | c) to increase |
| ___ 4. travel lightly | d) related to the legal protection of ownership |
| ___ 5. pass on | e) in a way that is against the law |
| ___ 6. illegally | f) to make the same thing again |
| ___ 7. copyrighted | g) a group of people that will not exist much longer |
| ___ 8. personal | h) to take a file from another source and copy it to your own device |
| ___ 9. download | i) from the heart, individual |
| ___ 10. run out | j) to not bring a lot when going on a trip |
| ___ 11. reproduce | k) to no longer have any available |

Reading

E-BOOKS

Can you curl up with an e-reader?

1. Do you have a favorite book? Do you love the smell and feel of it? Does seeing it on your bookshelf make you happy? People who fall in love with **traditional** books may be a **dying breed**. Electronic books, also known as e-books, are **gaining** popularity. They are cheaper than traditional books and easier to store. You can buy e-books online or even borrow them at the library.
2. New e-reader devices are coming out all of the time. E-books allow people to **travel lightly**. Some screens are specially designed to be easy on the eyes. With mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops, you can bring your whole bookshelf everywhere you go.
3. What about sharing? **Passing on** a favorite book to a friend or family member is one of the greatest gifts you can give. Will e-books put an end to this pastime? For some reason, giving an e-book to someone as a gift seems less **personal** than wrapping up a hardcover or paperback. Some people share e-books **illegally**. You can download **copyrighted** music for free, and you can also **download** copyrighted electronic and audio books. Many e-books are free and legal to download. When a copyright **runs out**, anyone can **reproduce** the text for free. It has never been easier to read classic literature. What's on your e-reader?

“Books are no more threatened by Kindle than stairs by elevators.”

—Stephen Fry, comedian

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. How do e-books and traditional books compare in price?
2. Why are e-books handy for travelers?
3. Which types of e-readers are mentioned in the passage?
4. Why does the passage mention copyrighting?
5. How can a reader access classic literature for free?

Vocabulary Review

A. Spot the Errors

Circle the vocabulary error in the sentences below.
Rewrite the corrected sentences in your notebook.

1. I want to travel lately, so I'll bring my tablet instead of my laptop.
2. If you enjoy the book, please pass it in.
3. It is illegally to download copyrighted books.
4. Smartphones are gain popularity these days.
5. I uploaded the music from the Internet and put it on my MP3 player.

B. Word Forms

Look at the bold word in the sentences below. Is it a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb? Write your answer in the second column of the chart. Then look for this word in the main reading. Do the bold words in the reading have the same word form as the ones below? Write your answer in the third column of the chart.

#	Sentence	Word Form in Sentence	Word Form in Reading
1	In my family, it is a tradition to exchange books at Christmastime.		
2	It is illegal to copy text from a book and present it as your own.		
3	Have you downloaded the latest version of the app?		
4	They copyrighted the software in 2015.		
5	I ran out of milk yesterday.		

Discussion

1. You can't curl up with an e-book. Do you agree or disagree?
2. Will traditional paper-based books always be printed?
3. What is the best e-reader on the market.
Why do you think this is the best one?
4. How do you feel about the illegal
downloading of books? What about music?

Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions.
Write their answers in the chart below.

Classmate's name:	Do you have an e-reader?	Which do you prefer, e-books or paper books?	What's the last book you read? Was it an e-book?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

E-BOOKS

Can you curl up with an e-reader?

1. Do you have a favorite book? Do you love the smell and feel of it? Does seeing it on your bookshelf make you happy? People who fall in love with _____ books may be a dying breed. Electronic books, also known as e-books, are _____ popularity. They are cheaper than traditional books and easier to store. You can buy e-books online or even borrow them at the library.
2. New e-reader devices are coming out all of the time. E-books allow people to _____. Some screens are specially designed to be easy on the eyes. With mobile _____ such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops, you can bring your whole bookshelf everywhere you go.
3. What about sharing? _____ a favorite book to a friend or family member is one of the greatest gifts you can give. Will e-books put an end to this pastime? For some reason, giving an e-book to someone as a gift seems less personal than wrapping up a hardcover or paperback. Some people share e-books illegally. You can download copyrighted music for free, and you can also _____ copyrighted electronic and audio books. Many e-books are free and legal to download. When a copyright runs out, anyone can _____ the text for free. It has never been easier to read classic literature. What's on your e-reader?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students read about e-books and discuss the pros and cons of this digital form of reading.

TEACHING TIPS:

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 1–2 hours

TAGS: discussion, technology, e-books, digital, read, reading, books

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. b | 3. c | 5. a | 7. d | 9. h | 11. f |
| 2. g | 4. j | 6. e | 8. i | 10. k | |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

- E-books are cheaper than traditional books.
- E-books are handy for travelers because they can bring lots of books on one device.
- Types of e-reader devices that are mentioned include smartphones, tablets, and laptops.
- The passage mentions copyright because some people illegally download e-books. This is a similar problem in the music industry.
- A reader can access classic literature for free via e-books that are reproduced legally. The copyright has run out on many classic titles.

Vocabulary Review

A. SPOT THE ERRORS

- I want to travel **lightly**, so I'll bring my tablet instead of my laptop.
- If you enjoy the book, please pass it **on**.
- It is **illegal** to download copyrighted books.
- Smartphones are **gaining** popularity these days.
- I **downloaded** the music from the Internet and put it on my MP3 player.

B. WORD FORMS

- noun / adjective
- adjective / adverb
- verb / verb
- verb / adjective
- verb / verb

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Class Opinion

Have students walk around the class and ask their classmates questions. They should record their answers in the chart.

Listening

1. traditional, gaining
2. travel lightly, devices
3. passing on, download, reproduce

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Favorite* and *Travelers*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Favourite* and *Travellers*. Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.