

Print vs digital

Sophie, New York City

Eleven years after first reading it, I still have the same copy of my favorite book on my bookshelf. The corners are creased, there's a coffee stain on the front cover, and some of the pages are wrinkled from the time I dropped it in the bath. It's a battered old copy, but every time I see it on my bookshelf, I remember exactly when and where I read it.

Sabrina, Hong Kong

I wasn't a big reader until I got my Kindle. It's **opened up** a whole new world of literature to me. I often have several books on the go at once. If I'm reading a great classic and I want to **read up on** the history of the period in which it's set, I just switch to a history book. I get so much more out of reading now.

Nikul, Oxford

Browsing in a bookstore is one of my favorite pastimes. I love scanning the shelves to see what jumps out – which covers, which titles, which authors. We have a 24-hour bookshop in my city and I sometimes go in late at night to browse for an hour. It's really relaxing and peaceful. You don't get the same experience just by switching on your e-reader!

Amy, Tokyo

Studying Medicine, I read a lot of big medical textbooks. It just isn't practical to cart them backwards and forward to the library. With my e-reader, I can carry around as many as I need and it's easy to **look up** specific information.

Rachael, London

I commute to work on the Tube. It takes about 40 minutes to get into central London, so I usually read on the way. I always see lots of other commuters reading, too. Some people say that reading is a very solitary activity, but it doesn't feel like that when you see who else is reading the latest crime or sci-fi book. You really feel part of a community of readers.

Diego, Barcelona

Whenever I go on holiday, I download a load of fiction onto my e-reader. It's much better than carrying heavy books that **take up** loads of space in my suitcase.

Lucas, San Francisco

Digital book sales are falling and I can't say I'm surprised. We spend so much time staring at screens that I can't understand why anyone would want to add another to the list. It's bad for our eyes and bad for our memories. Research has shown that, overall, people who read on paper remember the details of a story far better than those who read on screen. I'm pleased to see that printed book sales are **on the up**.

1 Read the text. Which of the statements do you most identify with? Why? Talk to a partner.

2 Complete the sentences with the words in bold from the text.

- a Studying English has _____ the opportunity to live and work overseas.
- b I shouldn't have bought this wardrobe – I knew it would _____ too much space in my bedroom!
- c We're seeing more and more independent stores opening in our town. Business is really _____.
- d I'm not sure how long it'll take to get to the restaurant, so I'll _____ the best route.
- e I think you get more out of a holiday destination if you _____ it before you go.

3 Which of these predictions do you think is more likely to come true? Why? Talk to a partner.

- a More and more, we will be living in a truly multi-format world where print and digital exist successfully side by side.
- b Print is on the up and digital is dropping. It's the beginning of the end for e-books.