COMPUTER BASICS - MOBILE DEVICES

OPERATION OF DEVICES > 0.2 OPERATING TABLETS

TARGET GROUP	AGE GROUP	PROFICIENCY LEVEL	FORMAT	COPYRIGHT	LANGUAGE
Facilitators	N/A	Level 1	Background information	Protected by United States and international copyright and trademark laws	English, French

This resource provides an overview of different types of mobile devices.

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General Objective	Knowledge acquisition
Preparation time for facilitator	less than 1 hour
Competence area	0 - Operation of devices
Name of author	GCFGlobal.org
Resource originally created in	English

WORKSHOP DIRECTIONS

1 What is a mobile device?

A mobile device is a general term for any type of **handheld computer**. These devices are designed to be extremely portable, and they can often fit in your hand. Some mobile devices—like **tablets**, **e-readers**, and **smartphones**—are powerful enough to do many of the same things you can do with a desktop or laptop computer.

2 Tablet computers

Like laptops, **tablet computers** are designed to be portable. However, they provide a different computing experience. The most obvious difference is that tablet computers don't have keyboards or touchpads. Instead, the entire screen is touch-sensitive, allowing you to type on a **virtual keyboard** and use your finger as a mouse pointer.

image of iPad

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Tablet computers can't necessarily do everything traditional computers can do. For many people, a traditional computer like a **desktop** or **laptop** is still needed in order to use some programs. However, the convenience of a tablet computer means it may be ideal as a **second computer**.

3 E-readers

E-book readers—also called **e-readers**—are similar to tablet computers, except they are mainly designed for reading **e-books** (digital, downloadable books). Notable examples include the **Amazon Kindle**, **Barnes & Noble Nook**, and **Kobo**. Most e-readers use an **e-ink** display, which is easier to read than a traditional computer display. You can even read in bright sunlight, just like if you were reading a

regular book.

a Kindle e-reader

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You don’t need an e-reader to read e-books. They can also be read on **tablets**, **smartphones**, **laptops**, and **desktops**.

4 Smartphones

A smartphone is a more powerful version of a traditional cell phone. In addition to the same basic features—phone calls, voicemail, text messaging—smartphones can **connect to the Internet** over Wi-Fi or a cellular network (which requires purchasing a monthly **data plan**). This means you can use a smartphone for the same things you would normally do on a computer, such as checking your email, browsing the Web, or shopping online.

Image of Android phone

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Most smartphones use a **touch-sensitive screen**, meaning there isn’t a physical keyboard on the device. Instead, you’ll type on a virtual keyboard and use your fingers to interact with the display. Other standard features include a high-quality digital camera and the ability to play digital music and video files. For many people, a smartphone can actually replace electronics like an old laptop, digital music player, and digital camera in the same device.