

# How to use a Kindle without WiFi

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Does Amazon realize how many potential customers do not have access to WiFi at home? So long as you already have a computer, having WiFi is neither necessary nor beneficial. In fact, leaving the Kindle in airplane mode will extend battery life, since every milliwatt-hour spent transmitting or amplifying WiFi is one less milliwatt-hour available for the screen.

In 2025 Amazon discontinued its **Download & transfer via USB** option, making WiFi the **only** way to download books. One can still upload backup copies to a hard drive and reorganize the titles, but it is much more difficult now. Also, you need to leave the downloaded folder on the Kindle; it will no longer be automatically constructed when the book is loaded.

Listing books by their cover art is cute, but hard to read. I like to organize titles by author, and sometimes by the series. The Kindle's library will organize books by series, but will not include novelettes etc. in the grouping.

The important thing is to only show downloaded titles so that the screen is not overwhelmed. There is a weird looking icon on the left side of the screen in library mode to select the filter setting. Of course, you also need to remove downloads after reading them.

## How it used to work

Unfortunately, you will have to register your Kindle using WiFi. You just need to find a library or store that provides free WiFi. Google Maps can help. Unless you register, you will not be able to read any books you purchase. Registration will also download a bunch of advertizements as a 'free bonus'.

Next, go the the Amazon web site <http://www.amazon.com/kindletransfer> for instructions on how to download books for your specific device. They will provide a link to **Manage Your Content and Devices** where you can select the books you want, then click on the **Actions** button for each book. This will bring a pop-up menu where you select **Download & transfer via USB**.

If you don't know where your browser stores downloads, you may have to do some hunting. In my case one selects **Computer**→**C:**→**Users**→user name→**Downloads**. Once you do find it, you might want to right click the folder and select **Create New Library**.

When you first attach your Kindle to the USB port, it will appear as a portable storage device. The Kindle will find your books wherever you place them, so feel free to create new folders. Be sure to use the **Safely Remove Hardware and Eject Media** icon from the task bar when you copy files to make sure the FAT and directory are updated.

When you start up your Kindle, you may have to **Restart** to get it to recognize the new books.