

So you want an iPad

Apple's **iPad** has become a widely popular device since its launch in 2010. Before you purchase an iPad, however, you should familiarize yourself with the **different options** you have to choose from. This includes choosing between the **Wi-Fi** and **cellular model** and where you're going to **purchase your iPad**—either online, from Apple, or from another retailer.

Understanding your options

There are several iPad models to choose from, depending on your budget and individual needs:

- **iPad Air 2:** This version has a 9.7-inch Retina display, which offers a very high resolution. There are several versions of the iPad Air 2, ranging from 16GB to 128GB of storage. All versions can connect to the Internet when they are near a Wi-Fi hotspot, but some versions also include cellular (4G/LTE) connectivity if you need an Internet connection wherever you go. A 4G/LTE connection also requires you to buy a monthly data plan, just like with an iPhone.
- **iPad Mini 4:** This version has a smaller 7.9-inch Retina display. It offers the same features as the iPad Air 2 in a smaller, lighter device, although it's also a bit less powerful. The storage and Internet options are the same as the iPad Air 2, although the iPad Mini 4 is cheaper.
- **iPad Pro:** This new, larger size was introduced in 2015. It has a 12.9-inch Retina display, and it's primarily designed for people who use a tablet in the workplace. It also supports new attachments, like a keyboard and a stylus, which makes it a suitable replacement for a laptop computer. However, it's also heavier and more expensive than other iPad models.
- **Older versions:** If you don't need all of the latest features, you can still buy older versions of the iPad Air and iPad Mini 2. These are cheaper than the newest versions, and they have many of the same features. They have slower processors, but this may not be noticeable for many tasks. However, keep in mind that the older devices will become out of

date more quickly, so they may become more sluggish after a year or two

Visit Apple.com to **Compare iPad Models** and see different models side by side.

Which model is right for you?

If you're still not sure which model you want, take some time to think about the features that are most important to you and how they fit into your budget. Things to consider before you buy include **Internet access** (do you want a cellular data plan or just Wi-Fi?) and **data storage** (do you need a lot or just a little?).

Internet access

All iPad models have two connectivity options: the standard **Wi-Fi** model, and the **Wi-Fi + Cellular** model:

- **Wi-Fi** models are cheaper, but you'll only be able to access the Internet when connected to a Wi-Fi network, like at home, at work, or at a local coffee shop.
- **Wi-Fi + Cellular** models give you Internet access almost anywhere, but you'll also be required to purchase a **mobile data plan** from a wireless provider (such as **AT&T**, **Sprint**, or **Verizon Wireless**), which usually costs at least \$20 per month.

Data storage

There are several ways to approach **storing data** on your iPad. Here are some things to think about before you make a decision:

- At **16GB** (16 gigabytes of space), the smallest model has enough data storage for most users. However, if you anticipate storing a lot of music, movies, and TV shows on your device, you may want to purchase the **64GB** or **128GB** model instead.
- If you truly need **a lot of storage**, look into Apple's **iCloud** service before you purchase one of the more expensive models. iCloud gives

you free, unlimited **cloud storage** for media you've purchased from the **iTunes Store**, including music, movies, and TV shows. **iTunes Match** also allows you to store music you've purchased elsewhere on iCloud for \$24.99 per year. We'll take a closer look at iCloud in our lesson on **Syncing Your iPad**.

For more help making a decision, you can always ask an associate at your local **Apple Store** for advice. Alternatively, you can call **1-800-MY-APPLE** for more information.

When you're ready to buy

You can purchase an iPad a few different ways:

- Directly from **Apple online** or at an **Apple Retail Store**
- From a **third-party retailer** like **Target**, **Walmart**, or **Best Buy**

While the price may vary slightly among retailers, you won't find a new iPad for much less than you'd pay at the Apple Store. Beware of any sales, promotions, or contest giveaways that sound too good to be true. Because the iPad is in high demand, there will always be scammers and other disreputable sellers—especially online—who will try to take advantage of unsuspecting buyers. When in doubt, purchase your device from a **well-known retailer**.