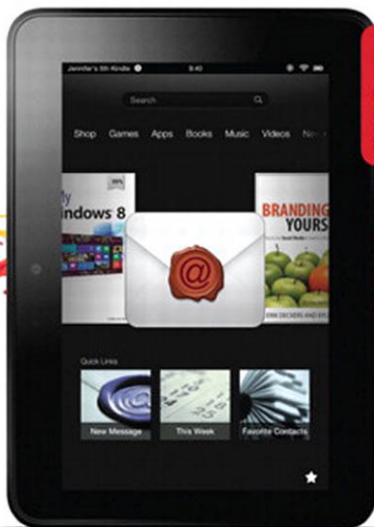


My Kindle Fire HD



COVERS

Kindle Fire HD and
2nd-Generation
Kindle Fire

QUE

Jim Cheshire and Jennifer Kettell

FREE SAMPLE CHAPTER



SHARE WITH OTHERS

My Kindle Fire HD

Jim Cheshire
Jennifer Kettell



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800 East 96th Street,
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240 USA

My Kindle Fire HD

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About the Author

Jim Cheshire has been writing about the Kindle since the very first Kindle device was released. Jim is an expert on technical devices such as Amazon's Kindle, Windows Phone, and Windows 8, as well as Web design and programming. Jim has written a dozen books on these topics and also shares his passion and knowledge with readers via online columns and articles. Jim helps developers make the most of Microsoft technologies. When he's not working, Jim spends time enjoying his family and especially loves spending time outdoors.

Jennifer Kettell has written and contributed to dozens of books about software applications, web design, and digital photography. She also writes fiction. When Jenn isn't writing, she can usually be found with her Kindle, reading almost a book a day. Jenn has lived all over the United States but currently calls upstate New York home. Visit her website at www.jenniferkettell.com.

Dedication

To my extended “family” at Adirondack TKD for their love and support. My life is so much richer for having all of you in it.

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Introduction

You might have purchased your Kindle Fire primarily to read books, but the device you hold in your hands can do so much more. After you connect to the Internet and register the Kindle Fire with your Amazon.com account, you'll quickly fill it with books, music, videos, apps, and games. You'll use it to browse the Web. You'll even add your own photos and personal documents, making your Kindle Fire uniquely yours.

That's not to say that the Kindle Fire isn't good for reading. You'll have access to millions of books on Amazon.com and other websites, many of them free or less than \$1.99. You can borrow books from your local library. When reading is inconvenient, such as when you're driving, you can even have your Kindle Fire read to you, either with an audiobook or using text-to-speech. You're also not limited to books; you can read magazines and newspapers as well.

The Kindle Fire is primarily intended for consuming content—that is, for reading, listening, or watching. Much of that content is stored in the *cloud*, on Amazon's servers, and you access it over a Wi-Fi or 4G connection. Even if you download content to your device, at which point it becomes device content, a copy stays in the cloud so that it remains accessible from other devices—or if you need to download a new copy. If that all that sounds a bit confusing right now, don't worry! Everything will become clear after you read this book.

An Overview of the Various Kindle Fire Models

Other Kindle devices are dedicated e-readers, but the Kindle Fire is also a multimedia entertainment device and a tablet computer. Four models of the Kindle Fire exist. All four have the same user interface and access to more than 22 million books, movies, songs, magazines, audiobooks, TV shows, games, and apps. Each model also offers free, unlimited cloud storage for your Amazon content. The processor, display, and storage vary for each model, however, as noted here:



- **Kindle Fire:** This is the second generation of the base Kindle Fire model. The new model is 40 percent faster than its predecessor, with twice the memory and longer battery life. It has a 7-inch LCD display with a resolution of 1024×600 pixels. (That's not quite HD.) The device offers 8GB of memory with a 1.2GHz dual-core processor. Unlike the other three models of the Kindle Fire, this device does not have a forward-facing camera. This base model also offers Wi-Fi connectivity but lacks the dual-band, dual-antenna of the higher-end models. The Kindle Fire's battery can handle up to 8.5 hours of continuous use. The Kindle Fire costs \$159.
- **Kindle Fire HD:** Although it has the same 7-inch screen size as the base model, the Kindle Fire HD packs more power into its small space. It comes with an HD LCD display with 1280×800 resolution and up to 720p HD. It offers the same 1.2GHz dual-core processor, but it comes with either 16GB or 32GB of storage. The stereo speakers are better on the HD models, with Dolby Digital Plus audio, which automatically optimizes the audio based on whether you're listening to music or watching a movie. The Kindle Fire HD connects with dual-band, dual-antenna Wi-Fi for a faster and more reliable connection. The battery lasts for up to 11 hours of continuous use. The Kindle Fire HD costs \$199 for the 16GB version and \$249 for the 32GB model.
- **Kindle Fire HD 8.9-inch:** Want a larger display? As its name implies, this model comes with an 8.9-inch HD LCD display with 1920×1200 resolution and up to 1,080p HD. The other major difference is that the HD 8.9-inch model has a 1.5GHz processor. The Kindle Fire HD 8.9-inch costs \$299 for the 16GB version and \$369 for the 32GB version.
- **Kindle Fire HD 8.9-inch 4G:** As its name implies, this top-of-the-line model offers 4G LTE connectivity in addition to Wi-Fi. Amazon offers annual data plans through AT&T for \$49.99 per year for 250MB of data per month (plans offering 3GB or 5GB data usage are also available). The Kindle Fire HD 8.9-inch 4G has the same 1.5GHz processor as the other 8.9-inch model, but it comes with either 32GB or 64GB of storage on the device and offers additional cloud storage for your personal documents and photos. The 32GB version of the Kindle Fire HD 8.9-inch 4G costs \$499, and the 64GB model costs \$599.

What's New on the Kindle Fire

No matter which Kindle Fire model you choose, you will find plenty to do with it. If you're upgrading from the first-generation Kindle Fire, you will be happy to discover many new features. In addition to the upgrades in display, processor, and other hardware enhancements, the new Kindle Fire offers many other improvements.

- Upgraded operating system. If you're of a technical bent, the Kindle Fire uses a proprietary version of Android 4.0 (Ice Cream Sandwich). For the rest of us, it's enough to know that the operating system is faster and smoother.
- Improved battery life in the base Kindle Fire model.
- Physical volume-control buttons on the device, to save you from having to navigate to the volume controls on the screen.
- A front-facing camera that enables video chat over Skype and other apps (not available on the base Kindle Fire).
- Integration with Facebook and Twitter.
- Kindle FreeTime, which provides parental control over what kids can do on the Kindle Fire and the hours during which they can do it.
- A micro-HDMI port to connect the Kindle Fire with an external display (not available on the base Kindle Fire).

All Kindle Fire models also come with a free month of Amazon Prime, if you don't already have an account. Amazon Prime offers unlimited streaming of more than 25,000 movies and TV shows, making it easy to watch a show wherever you have Wi-Fi (or 4G) access. Prime also lets you borrow one free title a month from the Kindle Owners' Lending Library. And if you shop on Amazon.com, you can get free two-day shipping on most items as part of your Prime membership.

What You'll Find in This Book

The Kindle Fire is a tablet computer for people who aren't necessarily computer geeks and who just want to be entertained, read a good book, or have fun—and might have the occasional need to get some work done. *My Kindle Fire* was written with that same mindset. I show you how to get the most

fun out of your Kindle Fire, and teach you how to access your personal documents when you need to work. Of course, if you are a computer geek, this book can help you as well.

This book covers all the capabilities of your Kindle Fire. I cover each feature using a step-by-step approach, complete with figures that correspond to each step. You never have to wonder what or where to tap. Each task shows you how to interact with your Kindle Fire using simple symbols that illustrate what you should do.



This icon means that you tap and hold an object on the screen.



This icon means that you drag an item on the screen.



This icon indicates that you pinch on the screen.



This icon means that you spread your thumb and finger on the screen.



This icon indicates that you swipe on the screen.

Along the way, I add plenty of tips that help you better understand a feature or task. If you want to dig deeper, you'll appreciate the Go Further sidebars that provide a more in-depth look at certain features. I also warn you of problems and pitfalls with particular tasks with It's Not All Good sidebars.

How to Navigate This Book

There is a lot to discover about your Kindle Fire. The major functions might be visible to the naked eye, but a lot more hides beneath the surface. As you read this book, you might be surprised to find that your Kindle Fire does more than you ever imagined.

Here are the topics we'll cover in this book.

- Chapter 1, "Getting Started with the Kindle Fire," explains how to set up your device and access the most common settings. You also learn how to operate your Kindle Fire and use the onscreen keyboard. Finally, you learn how to set up external devices such as a Bluetooth keyboard and share your screen with an external display.
- Chapter 2, "Loading Your Kindle Fire," covers Amazon's cloud services and other ways to transfer content onto your Kindle Fire.
- Chapter 3, "Using Amazon's Manage Your Kindle Page," shows you how to access the Manage Your Kindle page on the Internet, where you can review your Kindle library, rename your Kindle Fire, manage all your Kindle devices and Kindle apps, and much more.
- Chapter 4, "Reading on the Kindle Fire," describes how to find reading material and take advantage of the Kindle Fire's powerful features for reading books, newspapers, magazines, and more.
- Chapter 5, "Managing Content with Calibre," introduces you to Calibre, a free application that helps you manage your eBook library, including books you get from sources other than directly through Amazon. It even helps you convert them to the proper format and transfer them onto your Kindle Fire.
- Chapter 6, "Accessing and Listening to Music," shows you how to use your Kindle Fire to play music in your music library (both on your device and in the cloud) and use Amazon's MP3 Store to add to your music collection. You also learn about using playlists and other, more advanced features.
- Chapter 7, "Watching Video on Your Kindle," covers using your Kindle Fire to stream and download videos from Amazon's video store. You also learn how to convert your own videos to play them on your Kindle Fire.
- Chapter 8, "Installing and Using Apps," introduces you to the world of apps that dramatically increase the functionality of your Kindle Fire. You learn how to find and install apps, as well as how to deal with misbehaving apps. You also discover some apps that you should definitely install on your Kindle Fire.

- Chapter 9, “Using Social Media and Chat,” shows you how to access Facebook and Twitter to stay connected with your friends and how to video chat with them using the Skype app. You also learn how to connect to Game Circle to challenge your friends and compare scores.
- Chapter 10, “Reading and Sending E-mail,” shows you how to use your Kindle Fire to read and send e-mail. You also learn how to handle attachments in e-mail.
- Chapter 11, “Managing Your Personal Documents and Data,” covers loading, viewing, and editing your personal documents and photos on the Kindle Fire. You also learn how to add and manage contacts.
- Chapter 12, “Browsing the Web with Silk,” walks you through using Silk, the web browser that comes with your Kindle Fire. You learn how to access websites, use bookmarks and tabs, and control Silk’s behavior.
- Chapter 13, “Giving Your Kids a Kindle Fire,” describes how to set up Kindle FreeTime to establish time limits and restrict the content your children can access from their Kindle Fire. I also recommend some good apps for kids.

Let's Light This Fire

If you’ve already gone through the initial setup of your Kindle Fire, you might be tempted to skip ahead to Chapter 2 at this point. I urge you to avoid the rush and at least skim Chapter 1. You won’t want to miss the hidden gems in Chapter 1.

Now that the stage is set, let’s light up your Kindle Fire!

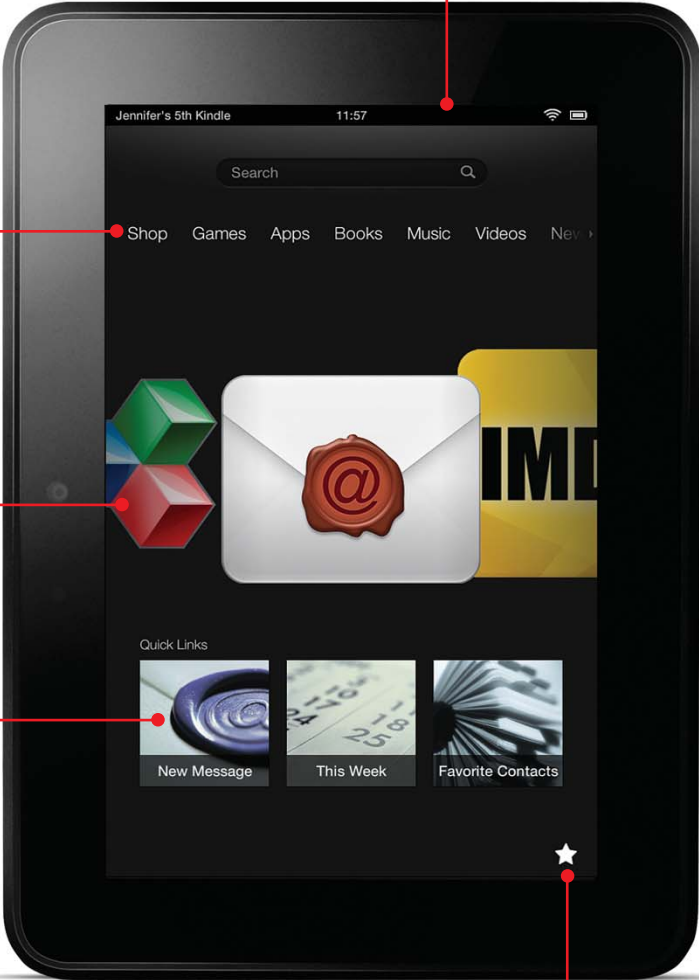
View content in
each category

Swipe down to
access Settings

View your
Amazon
content
from the
Carousel

Access
Quick
Links for
Apps

Tap to see
Favorites



In this chapter, you learn how to connect your Kindle Fire to your Wi-Fi network and register it with Amazon, and you discover the basics of navigating and using your tablet.

Topics include the following:

- The hardware
- Initial setup
- Basic usage of the Kindle Fire
- The home screen
- Notifications and options
- Settings
- Using the keyboard
- Connecting to other hardware
- Searches

1

Getting Started with the Kindle Fire

The Kindle Fire is unassuming at first glance. However, after you power it up, you soon realize that it opens up a new world of entertainment and information. Couple it with Amazon's wide range of services, and the Kindle Fire becomes a truly extraordinary device. In fact, in addition to being a great reading device, your Kindle Fire might replace your computer for some of the things you do on the Internet, especially when you're away from home.

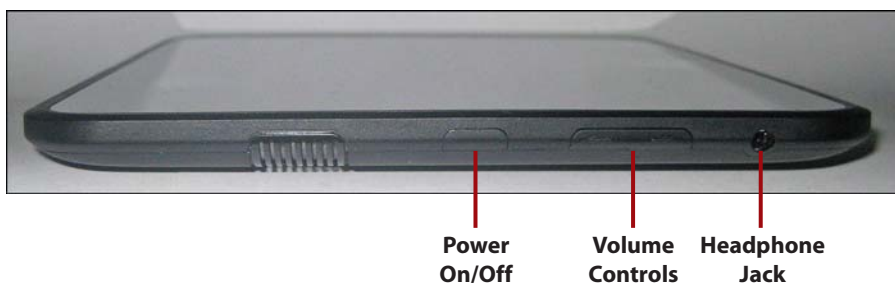
The Kindle Fire is not difficult to use. Many of its features are intuitive, and you can easily discover many of the great tasks it can do just by playing with it. However, if this is your first tablet, you should be familiar with some essentials to get the most from the device. This chapter starts you on the right foot by teaching you about the basic operation of the Kindle Fire.

The Hardware

Your Kindle Fire is equipped with a power button on the top of the device when in portrait mode (holding the Kindle Fire with the camera on the left side). Press and release this button to power on your Kindle Fire. If the Kindle Fire is already turned on, a quick press of the power button puts it to sleep. Many Kindle Fire covers automatically turn on the device when opened and put it to sleep when closed. Pressing and holding the power button enables you to power off your Kindle Fire.

Should You Power Off?

The display on your Kindle Fire is the primary power consumer on the device. Therefore, your Kindle Fire uses much less power when it's in sleep mode. Obviously, turning it off completely uses even less power, but if you subscribe to a magazine or a newspaper, you won't get your subscription automatically when your Kindle Fire is turned off.



To the left of the power button is the volume up/down button. Press the left side of the button to raise the volume, and press the right side to lower it. If you want to use headphones or external speakers while listening to music or video, plug them into the 1/4-inch audio plug to the right of the volume controls.

On the right side of the device (if you're holding it in portrait mode, with the camera on the left) is a micro-USB port for charging your Kindle Fire. The Kindle Fire comes with a cable to connect it to a computer so that you can charge the device from your computer's power. You can also separately purchase a wall charger, which charges the Kindle Fire faster and can be used when you're away from your computer.



Below the micro-USB port is a micro-HDMI port. The micro-HDMI port is used to connect the Kindle Fire to a television or other display and is useful when you want to watch a movie or TV show on a larger screen. You learn how to make this connection later in this chapter.

At the top and bottom of your Kindle Fire are dual stereo speakers. If you hold your Kindle Fire in landscape position, the speakers are on either side of the device, making watching movies and TV shows a much more enjoyable audio experience.

It's Not All Good

Charging the Kindle Fire

The Kindle Fire ships with a micro-USB-to-USB cable. You can use this cable to connect your Kindle Fire to your computer so that you can transfer files and charge the device. Fully charging your Kindle Fire using this cable takes 11 hours. If you want to cut this to less than 5 hours, you must spend an extra \$19.99 to purchase an Amazon Kindle PowerFast adapter. This charger plugs directly into a wall outlet instead of using your computer as a charging conduit.

Initial Setup

When you first turn on your Kindle Fire, you see the lock screen. This screen is usually an ad for a book or other form of Amazon content. Swipe your finger across the lock from right to left to unlock the device. You then go through a series of steps that get you started using your new device.

Kindle Fire Updates

It's possible that your Kindle Fire won't have the latest version of the Kindle operating system. If it doesn't, the latest version is downloaded and installed automatically when you set up your Kindle Fire for the first time.

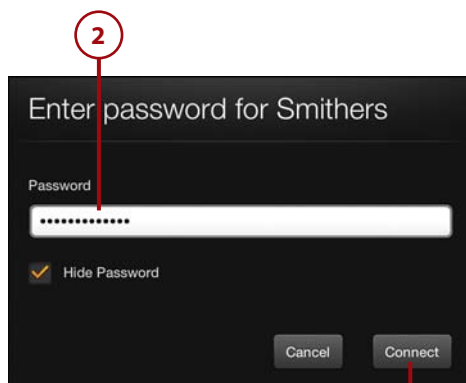
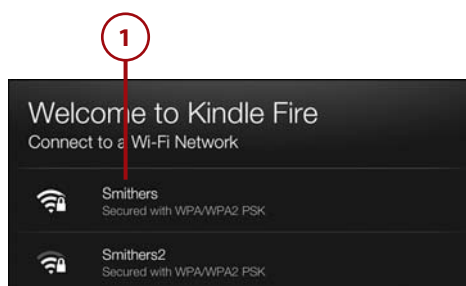
Connecting to a Listed Wi-Fi Network

To access content on your Kindle Fire, you need to connect to a Wi-Fi network, which is where the initial setup process begins.

1. Tap the name of your Wi-Fi network.
2. Enter the password for your Wi-Fi network.
3. Tap Connect.

Manually Connecting to a Wi-Fi Network

If you need to return to the Wi-Fi setup or want to set up an additional Wi-Fi connection, first tap the time and pull down to open the Quick Settings and then tap Wi-Fi.



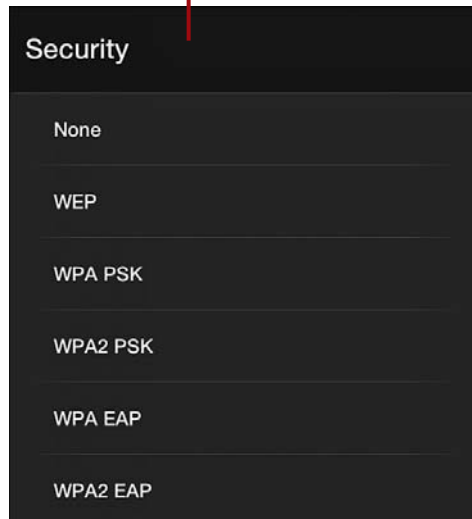
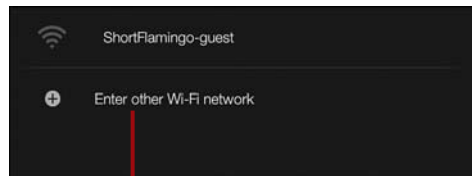
COMPLETE SETUP LATER

If you're anxious to play with your Kindle Fire without having to go through all the setup motions, use the Complete Setup Later option that appears at the bottom of the Connect to a Wi-Fi Network screen. Because this aborts the entire setup process, you must manually go into the My Account option in Settings to register your Kindle Fire with your Amazon account to gain access to the Amazon Cloud. You also must set up a connection in the Wireless option in Settings before you can connect to the Internet. My advice is to be patient and go through the entire setup procedure right away.

Connecting to an Unlisted Wi-Fi Network

If your network's name isn't listed, you might need to manually enter the information necessary to connect to your Wi-Fi network.

1. Tap Enter Other Wi-Fi Network at the bottom of the network list.
2. Enter the name (SSID) of your network.
3. Tap the type of security that your network uses.



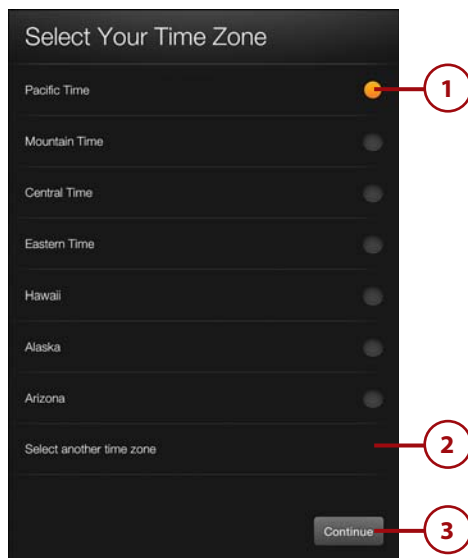
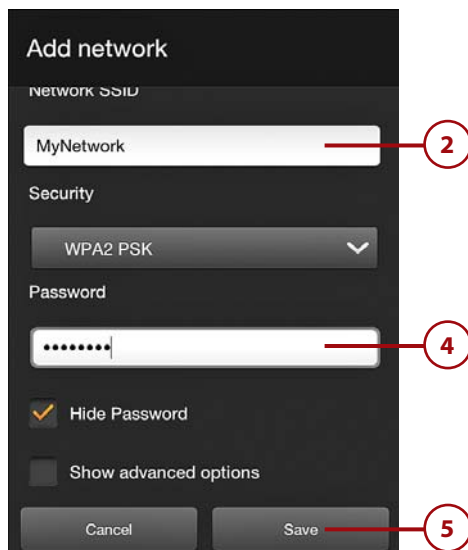
4. Enter the password for your network, if necessary.
5. Tap Save.

If you are fortunate enough to own a Kindle Fire HD 8.9-inch 4G, you can find instructions for setting up your 4G service at the website that accompanies this book. The URL for this site is www.informit.com/title/9780789750716.

Setting Your Time Zone

Your Kindle Fire doesn't have a GPS, so it can't determine your time zone automatically. You need to select your time zone during setup.

1. Tap your time zone.
2. If your time zone isn't listed, tap Select Another Time Zone to see a list of additional time zones.
3. Tap Continue.



Registering with Amazon

Your Kindle Fire must be registered with an Amazon account so that you can access content. If your Kindle is not already registered to your Amazon account, you need to do that next.

Is Your Kindle Already Registered?

If you ordered your Kindle Fire from your own Amazon account, it will be preregistered before Amazon ships the device to you. If you received your Kindle Fire as a gift or purchased it at a retail store, you will need to register the device before you can access content.

1. Enter your e-mail address that is registered with Amazon.
2. Enter your Amazon password.
3. Tap Register.

Don't Have an Amazon Account?

If you don't already have an Amazon account, you can create one online at Amazon.com or you can tap Create Account at the bottom of the Register Your Kindle screen to create one.

4. Your Kindle confirms that it is now registered to your account. Tap Continue.

The screenshot shows the 'Register Your Kindle' screen. At the top, it says 'Register Your Kindle'. Below that is the section 'Enter Amazon Account Info'. There are two input fields: 'E-mail address' and 'Password'. A red circle with the number '1' points to the 'E-mail address' field. A red circle with the number '2' points to the 'Password' field. Below the password field is a 'Hide Password' checkbox. To the right of the password field is a 'Register' button. A red circle with the number '3' points to the 'Register' button. Below the 'Register' button, there is a line of text: 'By registering or creating an account, you agree to all the terms found [here](#).' Below that is the text 'New to Amazon?' and a 'Create Account' button. At the bottom left is a '< Back' link.

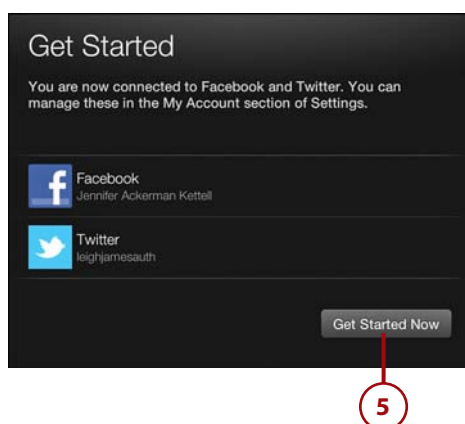
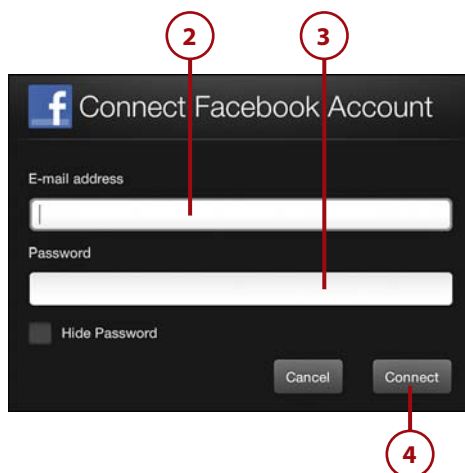
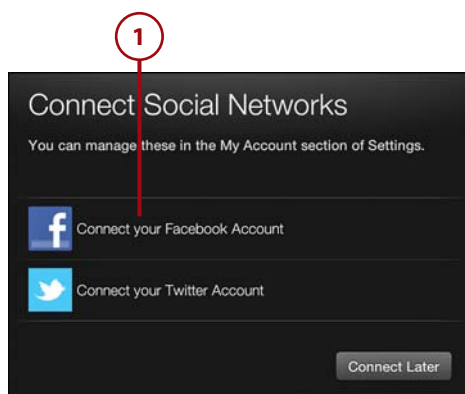
The screenshot shows the 'Confirm Account' screen. At the top, it says 'Confirm Account'. Below that, it says 'Your Kindle is registered to Jennifer Kettell'. Below that is a link: '[Not Jennifer Kettell?](#)'. At the bottom right is a 'Continue' button. A red circle with the number '4' points to the 'Continue' button.

Connecting to Facebook and Twitter

Your Kindle Fire can help you stay connected to your social networks. If you enter your username and passwords during the initial setup, the Facebook and Twitter apps are automatically configured for you.

1. Select Connect Your Facebook Account.
2. Enter your e-mail address.
3. Enter your password.
4. Tap connect.
5. Repeat steps 1–4 for Twitter. Tap Get Started Now when you're done.

You've reached the end of the guided setup. Congratulations! After you complete the initial setup, the Kindle Fire guides you through a series of screens that describe some of the basic usability features of the tablet. And now you're ready to play.



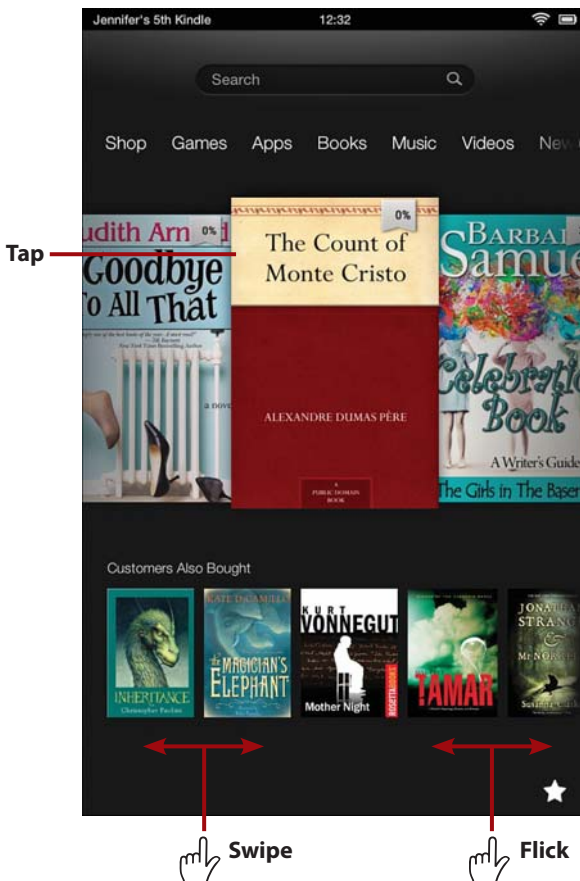
Basic Usage of the Kindle Fire

By now, you're already familiar with tapping to select buttons and other items on your Kindle Fire. You can also use several other gestures to interact with your Kindle Fire.

Canceling a Tap

Taps are registered when you lift your finger from the screen. If you tap something by mistake and you want to cancel the tap, slide your finger onto another part of the screen before lifting it.

In addition to tapping to select items, you can double-tap to do things such as zoom in on a figure in a book or a website. To do this, tap your finger on the same point on the screen twice in quick succession.



You can scroll through lists of items both horizontally and vertically by swiping your finger. Hold your finger on the list and move it up and down or left and right to scroll through items. To quickly scroll, flick your finger in the direction you want to scroll as you remove your finger from the screen.

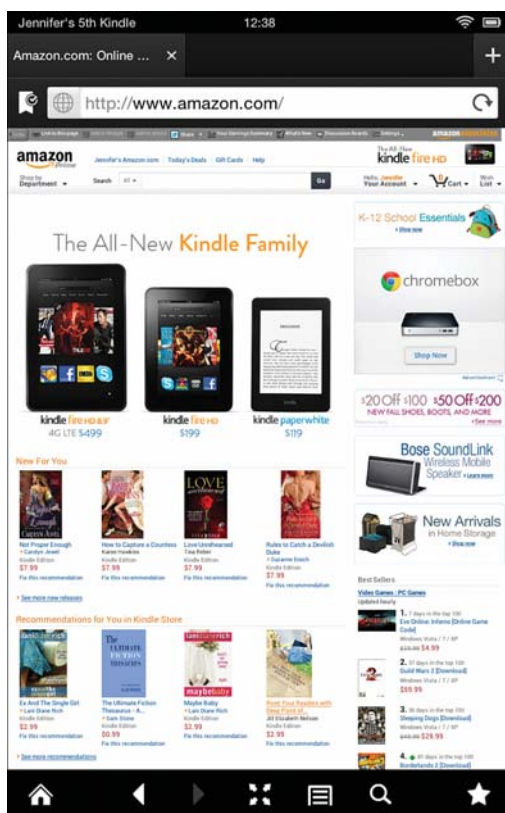
To incrementally zoom in and out, you can use pinch and reverse pinch gestures. This is typically used on pictures, websites, and subscription content, but many applications also allow you to use this gesture.

To zoom in, place your thumb and index finger on the screen close together and move them apart (reverse pinching). To zoom out, place your thumb and index finger on the screen with some distance between them and move them together (pinching).

Zoom In

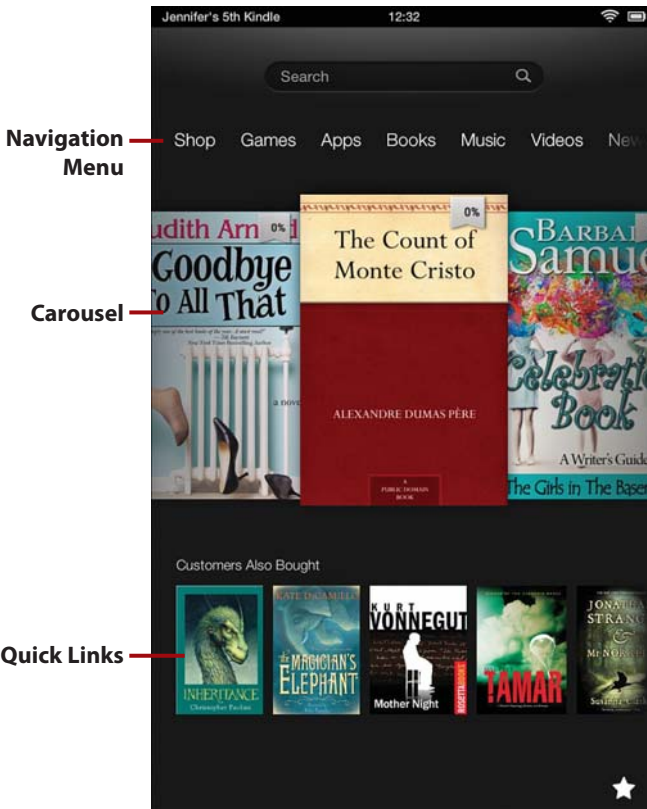


Zoom Out



The Home Screen

After you complete the initial setup, press the Home button (the one that looks like a house) to get to the home screen. The Carousel contains thumbnails for your books and recently accessed content and websites. Swipe or flick across the Carousel to browse the items available there. Tapping an item opens that item. You can't change the order of items in the Carousel; the most recently accessed items always appear first.

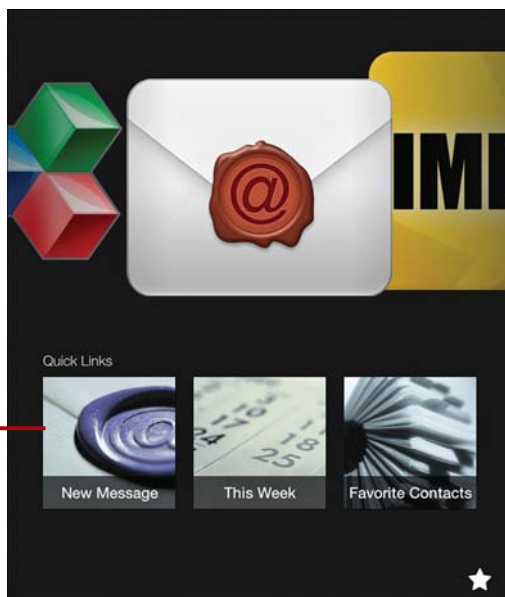


The Navigation menu provides quick access to the various content libraries available on the Kindle Fire. If you select a specific content library, the Carousel shows content from only that library. Swipe or flick across the Navigation menu to see additional categories of content.

The Quick Links bar provides thumbnails of content related to the content in the center of the Carousel. If the Carousel displays a book at the center, for example, the Quick Links show books that other readers of that book have

purchased through Amazon. Some apps provide Quick Links to tasks within that app. If the Carousel is focused on the E-mail app, as shown here, the Quick Links provide options to send a new message or view your Favorite Contacts.

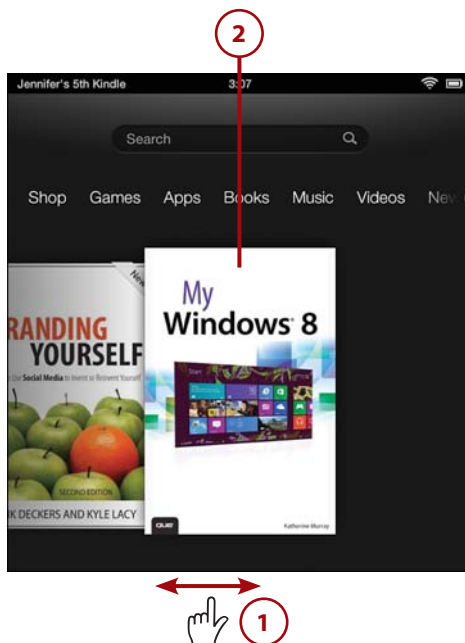
Application-Related Quick Links



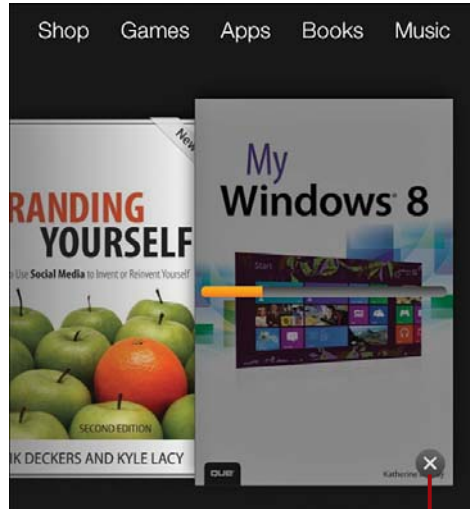
Downloading Items

The Carousel displays both items on your Kindle Fire (called *device items*) and items that you've previously purchased that are in your online library (called *cloud items*). If you want to open a cloud item, you first need to download it to your device.

1. Swipe to the item you want to download.
2. Tap the item to download it to your device.



3. While the item is downloading, you can tap the X to cancel the download. After an item has been downloaded, it is a device item and can be accessed at any time, even when the Kindle Fire is not connected to Wi-Fi.



3

>>>Go Further

FINDING YOUR ITEMS

The Carousel on the home screen shows a mix of cloud and device items, but it shows only the most recently accessed items. If you are looking for content that is not visible on the Carousel, use the Navigation menu to access the type of content you're seeking (books, music, and so on), and then download the item you want from that screen.

Removing Downloaded Items from Your Kindle Fire

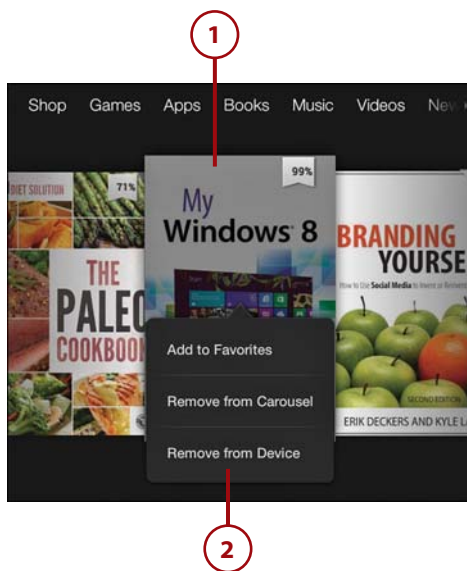
After an item is downloaded, it takes up some of the memory on your Kindle Fire. The amount of memory you have available varies by which model of the Kindle Fire you own. You can free up memory by removing unused items from your device. This removes only the device copy of the item; this content is still available to you in your cloud library, so you can download it again at a later date.

1. Tap and hold the item you want to remove.
2. Tap Remove from Device.

Cloud Versus Device

Cloud is a common buzzword in today's technology. If something is in the cloud, it means that it exists on a computer that you access via the Internet instead of on your local device. The Kindle Fire accesses a lot of its content on Amazon's computers in the cloud.

Many screens on the Kindle Fire enable you to choose whether you are viewing content on the device or in the cloud. Having content in the cloud makes sharing that content among multiple devices easy. You can read the same book or watch the same movie on your Kindle Fire, your computer, and your smartphone.



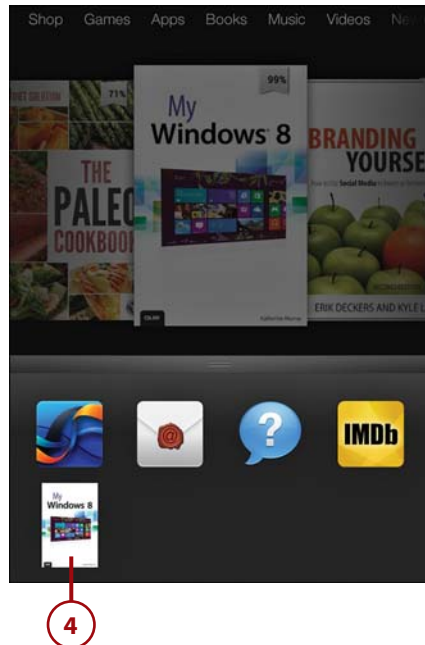
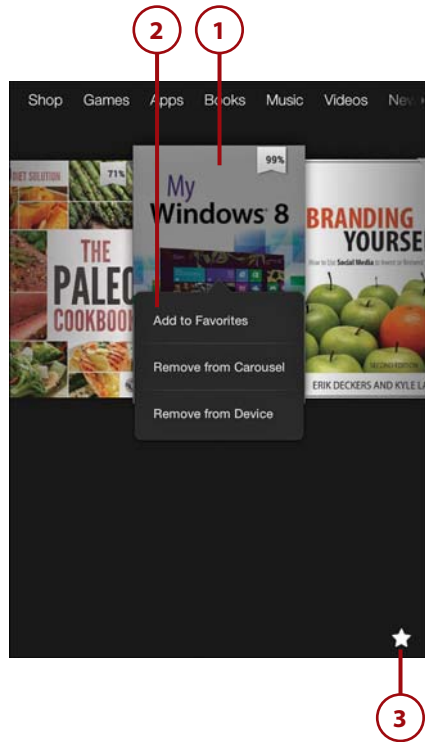
Adding an Item to Favorites

The Favorites drawer appears below the Carousel when you press the star icon in the lower-right corner. It provides a convenient way for you to access your most-often-used items. You can add any item to Favorites.

1. Tap and hold the item you want to add to Favorites.
2. Tap Add to Favorites.
3. Tap the Favorites icon.
4. Your Favorites appear on shelves below the carousel.

Adding Subscription Items to Favorites

If you add a subscription item to Favorites and that item isn't currently on your device, the item is downloaded immediately. If you remove that item from your device later, it is automatically removed from Favorites as well.



Removing an Item from Favorites

If you decide that you no longer want an item to be listed in Favorites, you can remove it.

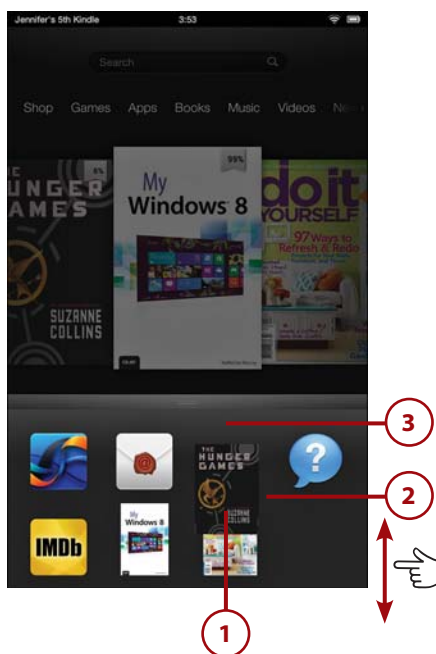
1. Tap and hold the item in Favorites.
2. Tap Remove from Favorites.



Rearranging Favorites

By default, items are listed in Favorites in the order in which you add them. If you want to rearrange your Favorites, you can easily do so.

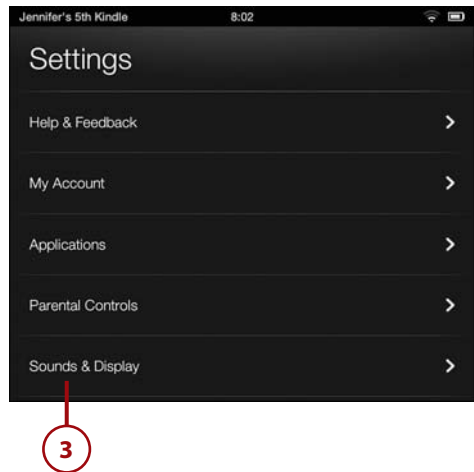
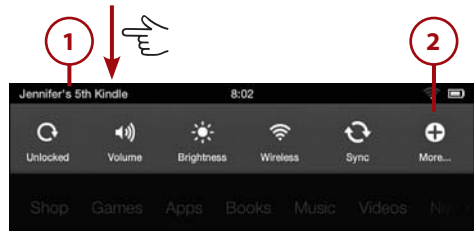
1. Tap and hold the item you want to move. Don't lift your finger, even when you see the Remove from Favorites menu pop up.
2. Drag the item to the new location.
3. Release the item.



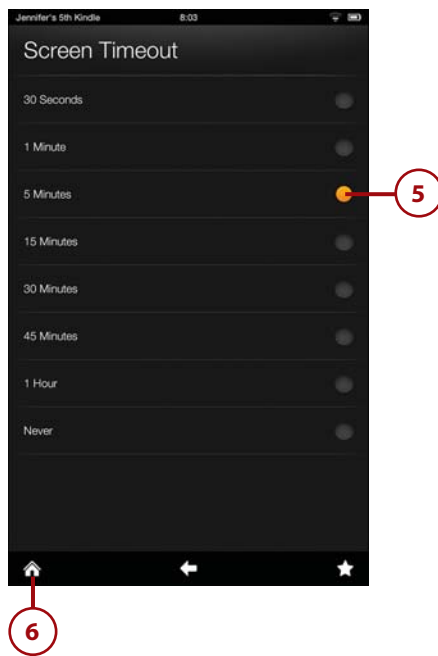
Changing the Screen Timeout

While you're learning how to use your Kindle Fire, particularly if you are doing each task as you follow along with this book, you might get frustrated if the device automatically goes into sleep mode just as you're about to reach for it. Your Kindle Fire's screen turns off automatically after 5 minutes without use. You can adjust the timeout or completely turn off the automatic timeout.

1. Tap the top of the screen (where the name of the device and time are displayed) and drag down.
2. Tap More.
3. Tap Sounds & Display.
4. Tap Screen Timeout.

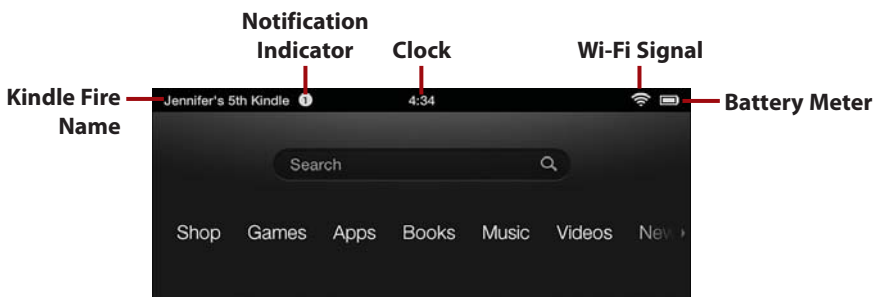


5. Select a screen timeout period.
6. Press the Home button to return to the home screen.



Notifications and Options

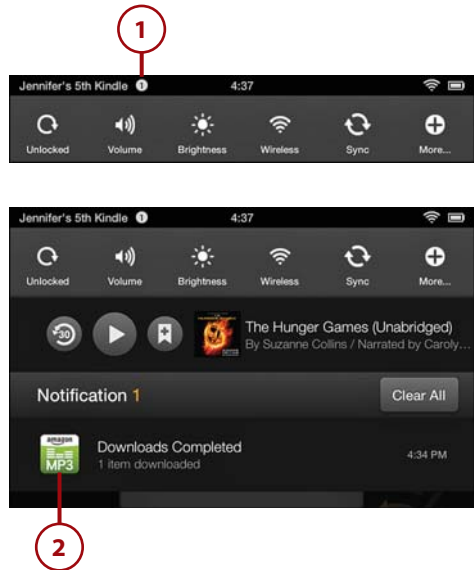
The status bar appears at the top of the Kindle Fire screen. It displays the name of your Kindle Fire, a notification indicator (if notifications are present), the clock, the Wi-Fi signal indicator, and the battery meter. If you have the Kindle Fire HD 8.9-inch 4G LTE, the status bar also displays your 4G signal strength.



Notifications

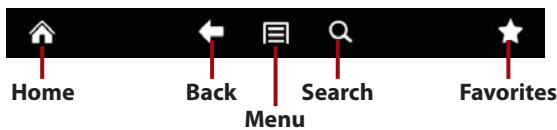
Your Kindle Fire uses the notification indicator to inform you of the status of background tasks and let you know when you've received e-mail. When you see the notification indicator, you can tap it to get more information.

1. Swipe the status bar downward to open the notifications.
2. Tap a notification for more information or additional options.



Options

The Options bar appears at the bottom of many screens. The buttons on the Options bar are called icons and include a Home icon, a Back icon, a Menu icon, a Search icon, and the Favorites icon on most screens. The Home icon always takes you to the home screen. The Back icon takes you back one screen, the Menu icon displays a menu for the current screen, the Search icon displays the Search screen, and the Favorites icon opens the Favorites shelf.



Other Options Bar Icons

Depending on the screen, you might see additional icons on the Options bar. These are covered throughout the book, where applicable.

Settings

I cover many of the Kindle Fire's settings throughout the book as necessary, but you should be immediately familiar with some general settings.

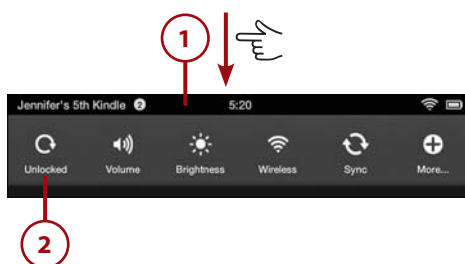
Locking the Screen Orientation

Your Kindle Fire features an accelerometer that can sense the orientation of the device. When you turn the device while holding it, the screen rotates automatically to match the orientation of the device. In some cases, you might want to prevent the screen from rotating. For example, if you're reading a web page in portrait mode, setting your Kindle Fire on a table sometimes flips the orientation. You can lock the orientation to prevent this.

Orientation Isn't Always Your Choice

If you are watching videos, your Kindle Fire automatically switches to landscape orientation.

1. With the screen displaying the desired orientation, swipe the status bar down to open the Settings drawer.
2. Tap Unlocked to lock the orientation. The label on the icon changes to Locked.



Adjusting the Volume

A toggle button at the top of the device enables you to adjust the volume. When you press these buttons, a volume meter also appears on the screen to indicate the volume level. You can adjust the volume directly on the screen as well.

1. Swipe the status bar down to open the Settings drawer.
2. Tap Volume. The volume control appears.
3. Slide the volume control to the right to increase volume and to the left to decrease volume.



It's Not All Good

Using the Volume Toggle Switch

When you are holding your Kindle Fire in portrait mode, the volume toggles at the top of the device are counterintuitive. If you press the button to the right, the volume goes down. If you press the button to the left, the volume increases. Watch the volume control as you use these buttons, to adjust the volume to your liking.

Adjusting Screen Brightness

As mentioned earlier, the screen on the Kindle Fire uses more power than anything else, and the brighter the screen, the more battery power it uses. To increase battery life, you can lower the brightness of the display.

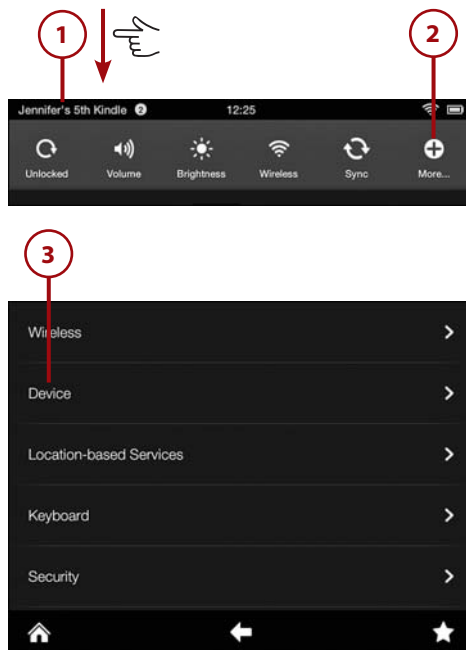
1. Swipe the status bar down to open the Settings drawer.
2. Tap Brightness.
3. Slide the brightness control to the right to increase brightness and to the left to decrease brightness.



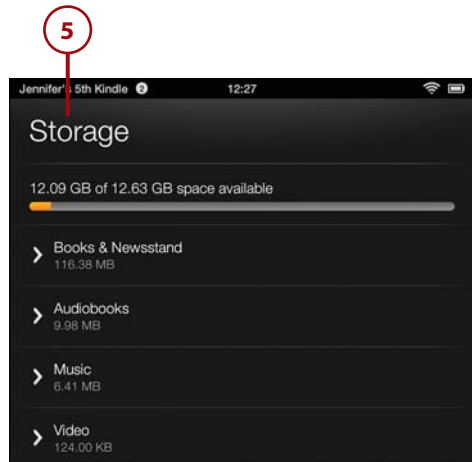
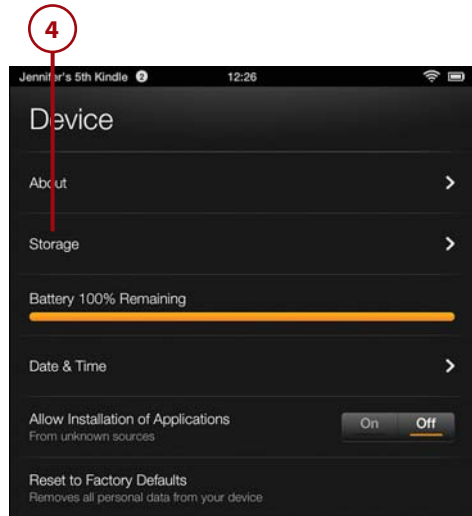
Checking Device Information

The Device screen displays information about your Kindle Fire, such as the percentage of battery remaining, how much storage space you've used, the version of your operating system, and other useful information.

1. Swipe the status bar down to open the Settings drawer.
2. Tap More.
3. Tap Device.



4. The Device screen displays. If you want to check your storage space, tap Storage.
5. The Storage screen displays. Here you can see how much space you have used across various types of data and how much remains available for future use.



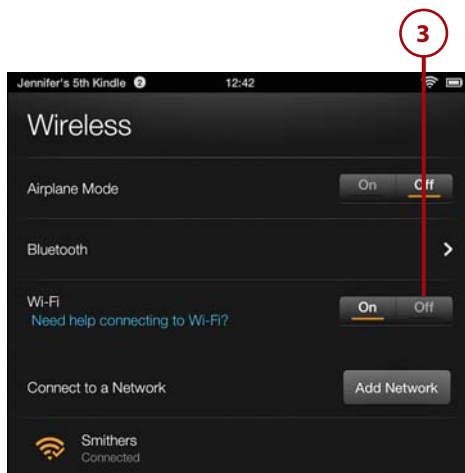
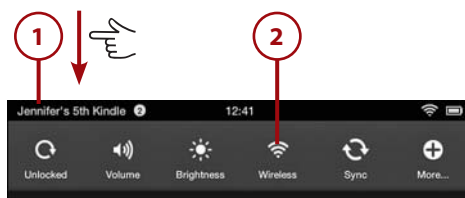
Turning Off Wi-Fi

Sometimes you need to turn off the Wi-Fi connection on your Kindle Fire, such as when you're traveling by air or in other sensitive areas. Turning off Wi-Fi also consumes less battery power when you don't need to access online content.

1. Swipe the status bar down to open the Settings drawer.
2. Tap Wireless.
3. Tap Off to turn off Wi-Fi. To reconnect, tap On.

Disconnecting from All Signals

If you are flying on a commercial airline, you will need to turn off Wi-Fi and all other wireless signals on your Kindle Fire, at least during takeoff and landing. Use the On/Off buttons for Airplane Mode on the Wireless screen to disable Wi-Fi, cellular (on the Kindle Fire HD 8.9-inch 4G LTE model), and Bluetooth signals.



Using the Keyboard

Your Kindle Fire's keyboard is much like the keyboard you use on your computer. However, unlike your computer's keyboard, this one has no physical keys. Instead, your Kindle Fire's keyboard uses touch, just like the rest of the interface.

At first, you might find the Kindle Fire's keyboard a bit hard to get used to, especially if you're typing a lengthy e-mail or document. After some time, however, you'll find it to be an easy way to enter data.

Entering Text

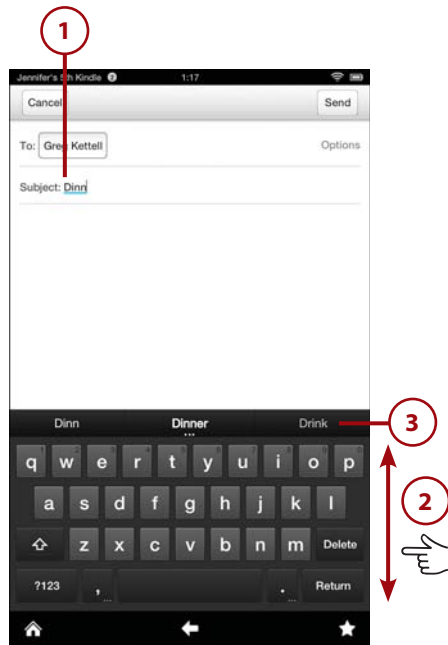
Entering text using your Kindle Fire's keyboard is a simple task, and a few convenient features make it easier.

1. Tap an area where text entry is possible, such as an e-mail message.
2. Tap letters on the keyboard to enter your text.
3. Tap a suggested word to insert the word.

A Couple of Shortcuts

You can quickly add a period to the end of a sentence by double-tapping the space key.

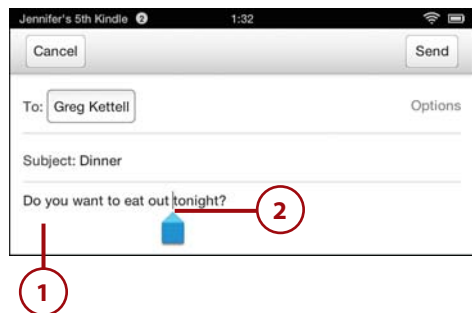
You can activate caps lock by double-tapping the Shift key.



Positioning the Cursor

As you type, characters are added at the position of the cursor. You can reposition the cursor, if necessary.

1. Tap in the text entry area.
2. Tap a new position to move the cursor indicator.



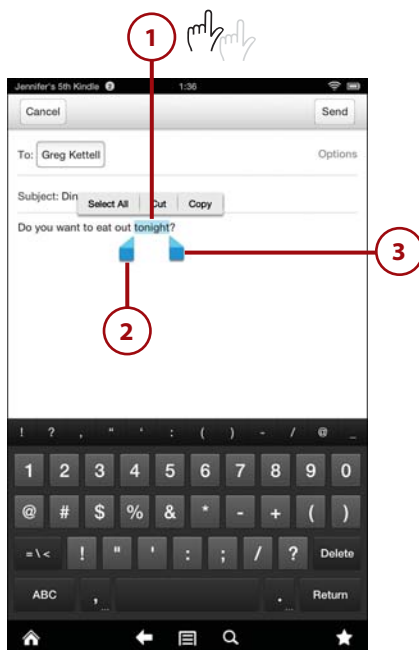
Selecting and Editing Text

If you want to change or remove some of the text you've entered, you can select a block of text instead of deleting one character at a time.

1. Double-tap the entered text.
2. Drag the left indicator to the beginning of your desired selection.
3. Drag the right indicator to the end of your desired selection.
4. Press Backspace to delete the selection or type to replace the selection.

Selecting an Entire Block of Text

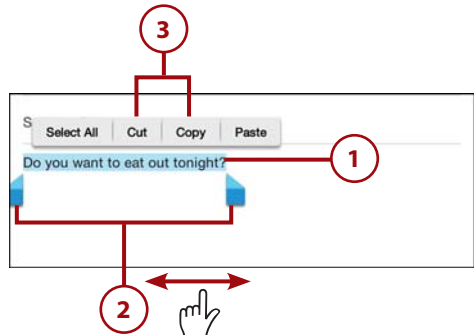
If you want to select everything you typed into a text area, such as the entire body of an e-mail message, tap Select All above the selection indicators.



Copying/Cutting and Pasting Text

You might want to copy or cut a selection of text and then paste it somewhere else. You can paste text either within the same message or document or into another message or document.

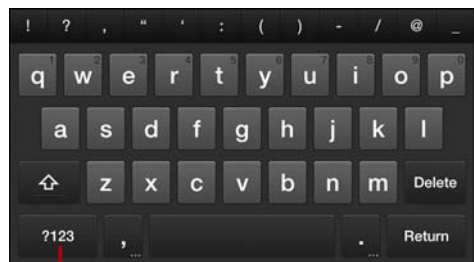
1. Double-tap the text you want to copy or cut.
2. Drag the indicators to make your selection, or tap Select All.
3. Tap Copy or Cut.
4. Tap and hold where you want to paste the text you copied or cut.
5. Tap Paste.



Entering Punctuation and Numbers

The most-often-used punctuation marks appear above the keyboard for easy access while you type. You can use the number keyboard to enter other punctuation, numbers, and symbols.

1. Tap the number key to change the keyboard so that it displays numbers and punctuation marks.



2. Tap the symbols key to change the keyboard so that it displays symbols.
3. Tap a number, punctuation mark, or symbol to enter it.
4. Tap the ABC key to return to the alphabet keyboard.

Adding Accent Marks and Diacriticals

If you are typing in a foreign language, you might need to add accent marks and diacriticals to certain letters. The letters that often require these marks are a, e, i, o, u, c, and n.

1. Tap and hold a letter that requires an accent.
2. Without lifting your finger from the keyboard, slide your finger to highlight the desired character and release.

Accessing Hidden Keyboard Features

As with adding accent marks, if you tap and hold the period (.) key, you can quickly slide your finger over additional punctuation marks without having to switch to the number keyboard.

If you tap and hold the comma (,) key and then slide your finger over the symbol that appears, you bring up the Keyboard options.



Connecting to Other Hardware

The Kindle Fire is a self-contained device. You can access your content directly from the Kindle Fire without connecting it to a computer or any other hardware. However, you might want to use accessories that will enhance the quality of your interaction with your Kindle Fire. You can pair the Kindle Fire with Bluetooth keyboards, headphones, or speakers. You can also use an HDMI cable to connect with a television or larger monitor so that you can view your movies on a larger screen.

Adding Bluetooth Accessories

Bluetooth keyboards and headsets can connect wirelessly to your device. With Bluetooth headphones, you can listen to your music without being attached to your Kindle Fire by a wire. A Bluetooth keyboard can help you type messages and documents faster. If you have Bluetooth speakers in your car, you can even play music from your Kindle Fire over your car stereo.

1. Swipe the status bar down to open the Settings drawer.
2. Select Wireless.
3. Select Bluetooth.



4. Tap the On button to enable Bluetooth.
5. After the Kindle Fire locates available devices, tap the device you want to pair with.
6. Follow additional instructions, which vary by device.



It's Not All Good

Bluetooth Has Limits

Although Bluetooth microphones and headsets are popular, particularly among gamers, the Kindle Fire does not support these devices. If you want to use voice chat, you must use the Kindle Fire's built-in microphone.

Go Further

SHARING YOUR SCREEN

The Kindle Fire comes with an HDMI port, located to the left of the mini-USB port. You can use a micro-HDMI-to-HDMI cable to connect to an external display or television. That display will then mirror the display on your Kindle Fire. You do not need to adjust any other settings or go through any menus to make this connection.

Searches

All the content in your Kindle library is indexed for easy searching. Search is more useful than it might seem at first. For example, when you're reading a novel, you can use search to find references to a particular character. This is especially helpful when you pick up a book that you haven't read in a while.

Search results include content both on your device and in the cloud.

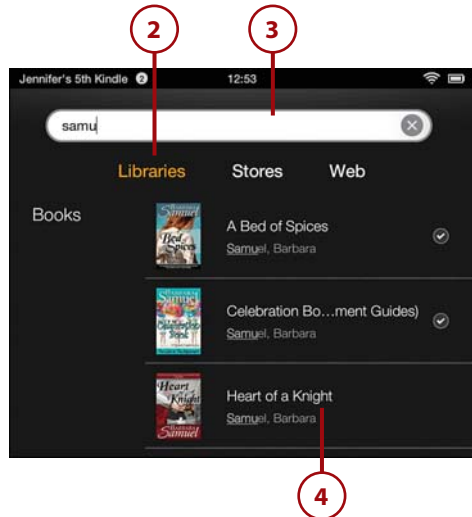
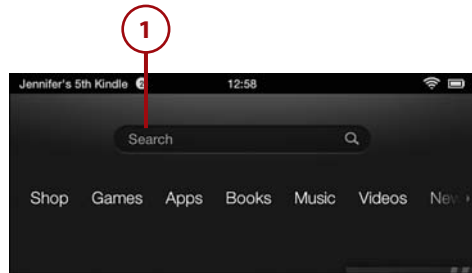
Searching Within Content

You can also search within books and other content. I cover how to do that in the “Searching Content and Accessing Reference Materials” section of Chapter 4, “Reading on the Kindle Fire.”

Searching Your Library

Searching your library returns results from books, periodicals, music, documents, and apps.

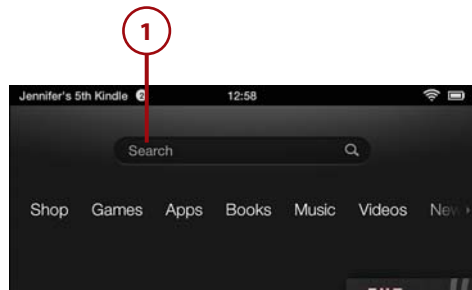
1. From the Home screen, tap inside the search box.
2. Tap Libraries to search your library.
3. Enter the text you want to search for using the keyboard that appears at the bottom of the screen. Results appear as you type.
4. Tap the item you want. If the item is on your device, it opens. If the item is stored on the Amazon cloud, it downloads to your Kindle Fire.



Searching the Web

In addition to searching for items in your libraries, you can search the Web quickly from the home screen.

1. From the home screen, tap inside the search box.



2. Tap Web to search the Web.
3. Enter the text you want to search for. Results appear as you type.
4. Tap an item in the results to open a search page using your default search engine. The preset default search engine is Bing.

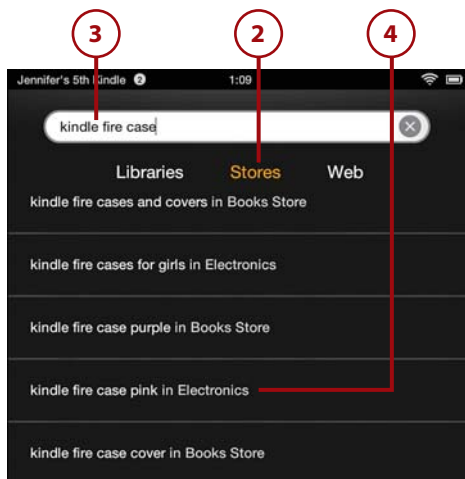
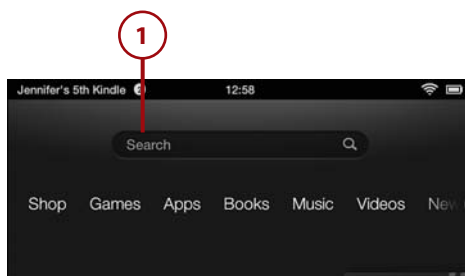
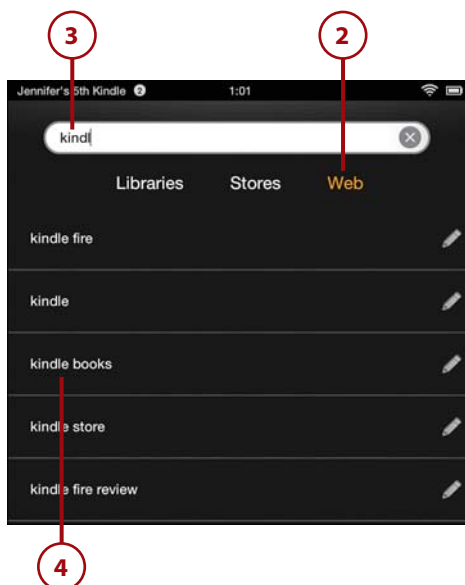
Changing Your Web Search Engine

I cover how to set your default web search engine in Chapter 12, "Browsing the Web with Silk."

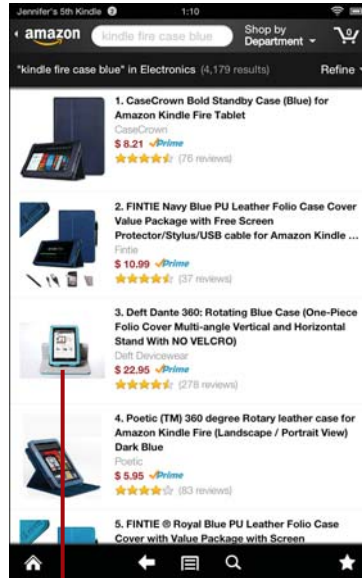
Searching Amazon Stores

You can search for items in the Amazon Stores from the Home screen. This is similar to performing a search on the Amazon website, but you can do it right from your Kindle Fire.

1. From the home screen, tap inside the search box.
2. Tap Stores to search Amazon Stores.
3. Enter the text you want to search for. Results appear as you type.
4. Tap an option in the results to get a list of items from a particular Amazon Store that match your search terms.



5. Tap the item you want to see from the list of items.



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