

# Getting to grips with my iPad

## Why buy an iPad – or any other tablet?

There are many answers to this question – but three of the most persuasive are:

- Portability – they can fit in a pocket or handbag and can be used in cramped places such as trains or buses.
- Their batteries generally last for a full working day – unlike most laptops.
- They are expandable – there are now a vast array of 'apps' (applications) available that cover virtually all possible user requirements.


## So, if you are considering buying a tablet, which should you buy?

This is a question beyond this simple introduction, suffice to say that Apple's iPad is probably the best known but a range of other manufacturers have now caught up which means that a serious market survey is needed to identify the best fit with your needs. We recommend looking at Which? (Consumers' Association) for their thoughts and tests.

So, lets have a look at Apple's iPad as it comes, straight-from-the-box...

## Getting your iPad up-and-running

Your iPad has its own built-in **User Guide** which can be accessed as follows:

- i. Tap **Safari** on the homepage.
- ii. Tap on the 'open bookmarks' icon at top left... 
- iii. At the foot of this menu is **iPad User Guide** – tap this.
- iv. The screen then has 'chapter headings' to the left with the right-hand side of the screen for sub-sections and display.

First, however, you need to get it set up for use...

1. **Tablets are touch-screen devices** but external keyboards can be connected too.
2. **Initial power-up** leads to the *Setup assistant* which walks-you-through settings such as: language, country (time and date are usually pre-set), password (similar to laptop password idea) and e-mail address (if already created). Completion of this then drops you onto the homepage (similar to a laptop's desktop).
3. **Returning to homepage** at any time – press the little square button beneath the screen.
4. Tablets are weight and size limited – by design - but a range of connectors are available at reasonable prices if you need/want to connect camera cards, USB devices, etc.
5. **Settings** is the next place to go – tap this icon on the home screen. This page is divided into Settings down the left-hand side and details of that currently selected to the right. Here we just highlight a few settings that you might want to visit early on:  
**Wi-fi** will come up automatically if a signal is detected. You will need to enter the appropriate password to gain access (tap Wi-fi in the left-hand panel ).  
**General** has various security locking options – have a look in the light of your typical usage. To return to your homepage – see 3. above.

Apple's **internet web browser** is called Safari – equivalent to 'our' Firefox, which some iPad users also install since in some ways it is more universally supported than Safari. Initial tapping on Safari leads to **Bookmarks** menu from which you can choose your preferred search engine.

For an overview of the current UK tablet market, have a look at Argos at:

[http://www.argos.co.uk/static/BuyingGuide/bgTrail/tablets\\_operating\\_systems\\_476.htm](http://www.argos.co.uk/static/BuyingGuide/bgTrail/tablets_operating_systems_476.htm)

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## Identifying your iPad version

If you've been given, or bought, a second-hand (pre-owned, - or whatever!) iPad you will probably need to identify which version you are using since not all versions support all of the features provided in the latest, top-of-the-range, versions.

A Google search yields:

### [Identifying iPad models - Support - Apple](http://support.apple.com/kb/ht5452)

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This shows a table of versions with their model numbers which are to be found on the back of the case. This might be all that you need to know. If you need to know more, such as the operating system (OS) then, on your **iPad**:

1. Tap **Settings**
2. Tap **General**
3. Tap **About**
4. The iOS version is listed under **Version**

Hopefully this will tell you all you need to know.

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