

5 Best Tablets

So Many Tablets...So Little Time

Tips, details and pricing - finding the right toy this holiday season

Here's a collection of the **5 best tablets** rated highest by CNET editors. CNET (stylized as c|net) is a tech media website that publishes news, articles, blogs, and podcasts on technology and consumer electronics.

Your first choice

Apple iPad (4th generation)

Best premium Android tablet

Asus Transformer Pad Infinity TF700 (gray, 32GB)

The best small tablet

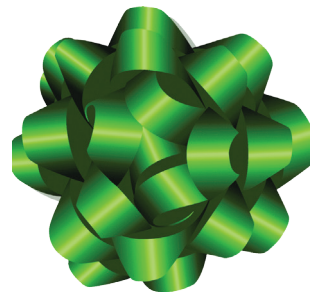
Google Nexus 7 (16GB)

Best media consumption tablet

Amazon Kindle Fire HD 8.9

Best full-size bang for your buck

Asus Transformer Pad TF300 (16GB)



Prices and details on the following pages

1. The iPad

Apple iPad 4th generation
\$499.00-\$543.99

The good: The newest iPad's A6X processor adds extra system speed and graphics power. Improved worldwide cellular compatibility makes the LTE model a more appealing proposition. And the iOS App Store remains best in class, with the widest selection. Battery life on the iPad and its wide selection of accessories are also top-notch.

The bad: The fourth-gen iPad is otherwise identical to its recent predecessor -- same size, weight, and Retina screen. It's heavy to hold in one hand, and most older accessories won't work without investing in a pricey Lightning adapter.

The bottom line: The latest iPad adds several tweaks and improvements to secure its position at the top of the tablet heap. It's better all around, but third-gen owners need not apply.



2. **Android TF700**

Asus Transformer Pad Infinity TF700

\$449.00-\$549.00

The good: First off, the Android tablet lets you do something that you can't on Apple products- like watch flash videos. They're also more up-front about your privacy and security settings. The Asus Transformer Pad Infinity TF700's high-resolution screen rivals the new iPad's display in sharpness and clarity. Also, apps launch quickly, GPS works well, and its rear camera is the best on any Android tablet. The tablet's body has the same great thin and light design as the Prime while having slots for expandable memory cards.

The bad: So far, not enough Android apps take advantage of the TF700's higher pixel count. Also, its battery life isn't as good as the Prime's.

The bottom line: The Asus Transformer Pad Infinity TF700 is one of the fastest Android tablets out there, combining an already proven design with a better camera, a faster processor, and a beautiful screen.



3. Google Tablet

Google Nexus 7

\$199.00-\$274.00

The good: The Nexus 7 features a sharp screen, a comfortable design, and great battery life at a low starting price. Android 4.2 adds some welcome and useful features.

The bad: Android still needs more tablet-optimized apps, newer games have frame rate issues, and HSPA+ speeds seem particularly location-dependent.

The bottom line: With its excellent design, useful software features, and low starting price, the Nexus 7 is the cheapest way to experience the best that the Android OS has to offer



4. The Kindle

Amazon Kindle Fire HD 8.9

\$299.00

The good: The Kindle Fire HD 8.9 has zippier navigation than its 7-inch counterpart, a beautiful high-definition screen, incredibly fast 4G LTE speeds, seamless streaming performance, and access to one of the best media ecosystems available. The new Fire HD interface feels better suited on the 8.9-inch screen



The bad: Web performance is lacking compared with that of other tablets. Its physical design is fairly plain with buttons that are too flush with its chassis. The curated Appstore means many games and non-entertainment quality apps are not available. There's a \$15 opt-out for ads.



The bottom line: If you're looking for a pure media consumption experience, the Kindle Fire HD 8.9 delivers better than any tablet before it. People looking for something more utilitarian, however, will want to look elsewhere.



5. Android TF300

Asus Transformer Pad TF300

\$345.99-\$415.99

The good: The Asus Transformer Pad TF300's Tegra 3-induced performance more or less matches the Transformer Prime's and goes a step further with a better rear camera, faster Wi-Fi performance, a more responsive screen, and an actual (and official) GPS feature. Micro-HDMI and microSD return, as does the keyboard option. The \$350 entry price makes the TF300 the best full-Android tablet value currently on the market.



The bad: The tablet's design isn't as thin, sturdy, or sexy as the Transformer Prime's and feels a bit hollow in comparison. The \$150 keyboard dock is still \$150. The screen isn't outside-friendly, like the Prime's.



The bottom line: Though it isn't as thin or as sturdy, the Asus Transformer Pad TF300 delivers Prime levels of performance at a more affordable price. proven design with a better camera, a faster processor, and a beautiful screen.

