

## More Kindle comments

March 2012.

**B.D.A. helpline received this message.**

"I met a friend recently who has a severely dyslexic son of thirty-four years, and she was thrilled to tell me that, having been given a Kindle at Christmas, he had managed to read and enjoy 'Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy' by John le Carré. He found it much easier being able to change the size and style of the font and was less intimidated by having only one page at a time to read.

No doubt you have already considered the use of the Kindle but I thought it was worth writing to you. Anything that can help people overcome their disability should be used."

October 2011.

**by Alan Turner of Leicestershire Dyslexia Association.**

After reading lots of reviews on the Amazon Kindle 3G, I finally decided to buy myself one because I have always struggled with my reading and wanted to read more. After finishing my first book I realized the Kindle was more than a simple e-book reader. I found I could download newspapers, search the web and download notes that other people had written on the book.

I found the unit comfortable to hold and the screen extremely clear. Usually I require green tinted glasses while reading, but due to the off-white screen I don't need my glasses as much I normally would. The Kindle has an application for speaking the text to the reader. This is a nice touch but the voice is very



robotic and I would like a feature where you can click on just one word to hear it.

The most useful feature for me was the dictionary. While reading I was finding many words I didn't know or recognize. This is where the dictionary proved invaluable. While reading I could simply move the cursor to the word I was struggling with and the definition would pop up at the bottom of the screen and not interrupt the page that I was reading.

As someone who suffers from dyslexia, I have found that the Kindle has encouraged me to read more. Some of the features could benefit from tweaking, i.e. change the reading voice, but features like the dictionary and the screen make up for any issues. There is a certain satisfaction you get when actually reading a book that you don't get with a Kindle. With all these points in mind, I would strongly recommend the Kindle to anyone with or without any learning difficulty.

### **Good points.**

- Clear, sharp, crisp screen (I didn't need my green tinted glasses when using, screen is a light grey).
- Light and compact.
- Easy to use.
- Well positioned buttons i.e. next and previous page, well-spaced keys on the keyboard.
- Quick and simple dictionary (can be used by moving cursor under text while reading, to see definition of word, and the page isn't disrupted).
- Download newspaper on the move. (I had the 3g mobile Internet version).
- Extremely good battery life (I charged mine every 1.5 to 2 months).

- Ability to sync all my devices so I can continue from where I last left off no matter which device I use (Kindle, laptop, phone & iPod).

### **Bad points.**

- Text to speech is very robotic. (I couldn't find a way to change it).
- I would like to make more annotations with some books.
- Home screen layout is a bit boring.
- It would be nice to have a back lit screen (but I don't think it's possible on that type of screen).

### **June 2011.**

#### **From a Cornish reader.**

I'm looking to buy an Amazon Kindle or iPad to aid my son's dyslexia. I was wondering if there are any extras or accessories I can purchase to aid the reading visibility of dark text on light background? I really think that an electronic book will get him back into reading again.

I realise there is a Text to Speech function but as he is still young he needs to learn to read and not become lazy relying on this function.....

Any suggestions welcome.

**NTC reply:** Some people find it helpful to put a coloured transparent sheet over the Kindle. You can change the font type and size to suit his needs. A larger font, e.g. size 14, puts fewer words on the line and can make it easier.

Don't think of using the text to speech option as encouraging laziness. It will provide a dual sensory function, i.e. he can see and hear the text simultaneously and this will help him to follow the

story and 'stick at' his reading. The more he reads, the greater his skill will become.

There are thousands of books available on Amazon and you can scan parts of his school textbooks onto your computer and then transfer them to the Kindle. An iPad would give you colour, but it is heavier to carry around and there are a lot of other distractions available, if what you really want is a reading facility!

## **November 2010.**

### **Pete Sortwell, a dyslexic user of many handheld devices, likes Kindles.**

The positives are that you can have it read to you and the voice isn't too bad. I do not like robot voices and the Kindle was one of the better ones.

The E-ink was a good balance for me although it could only be changed to have a lighter grey behind it for reading in the dark. The letters are the same dark all the time.

If the fonts could be changed to the reader's choice it would be a complete thumbs up from me, however at present it can't.

[Kindle 3 has a choice of Caecelia serif regular and condensed and an unnamed sans serif, with rounded a and g, and a choice of 8 sizes.]

The other thing about it which stood out to me was some of the books are more expensive than a hard back new release. It jumped out at me as I was charged £19.99 for a book that sells new on Amazon for £4.99.

[NTC. That surprised us as most kindle books are very reasonable.]

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