BILL'S HOME TECH
Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

BILL'S COMPLETE MANUALS

Amazon Fire Tablet

Everything your Fire tablet can do — and how it helps you — explained in plain English, one step at a time

A plain-English guide for every Fire tablet owner

Take your time — you can't break it

Written for you by Bill — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com

For Fire HD tablets (Fire OS) · facts current November 2026

What's Inside

This is your Amazon Fire tablet manual. Read it in any order and at your own pace — there is no test. The Fire tablet is a little different from other tablets, so this book explains its quirks plainly: how it leans on Amazon, how to find the apps you want, and how to make it do everything you hoped. Every step is slow and anyone can follow it.

Part 1 — Meet Your Fire Tablet

1 A Note from Bill
2 What a Fire Tablet Is
3 Which Fire Tablet You Have
4 The Parts, Buttons & Charging
5 The Touchscreen: Taps & Swipes
6 Is a Fire Tablet Right for You?

Part 2 — Finding Your Way Around

7 The Home Screen & Amazon's Layout
8 Your Apps: Opening, Closing & Arranging
9 Settings & the Quick Panel
10 Making Everything Easier to See
11 Typing on the Tablet
12 Those Lock-Screen Ads (and Turning Them Off)
13 Decluttering & Personalizing
14 Sound, Notifications & Little Settings

Part 3 — Getting Connected & Your Account

15 Joining Wi-Fi
16 Your Amazon Account
17 Profiles: Sharing the Tablet
18 Using Your Tablet Away From Home

Part 4 — Apps on a Fire Tablet

19 The Amazon Appstore
20 What You Can & Can't Easily Get
21 The Apps Worth Having
22 Signing In to Your Apps

Part 5 — Alexa & Show Mode

23 Meet Alexa
24 Talking to Alexa
25 Show Mode: A Little Echo Show

26 Calling Family with Alexa
27 Alexa for Daily Help
28 Alexa & Your Smart Home

Part 6 — Reading, Watching & Doing

29 Reading Books with Kindle
30 Watching Shows & Movies
31 The Web with Silk
32 Email on Your Tablet
33 Your Photos, and Video Calls
34 Listening: Audible, Audiobooks & Podcasts
35 Music on Your Tablet
36 Games & Keeping the Mind Sharp
37 Shopping on Amazon, Made Simple
38 Recipes, Hobbies & Learning

Part 7 — Staying Safe & Running Smoothly

39 Avoiding Accidental Purchases
40 Spotting Scams
41 Updates & Making Room
42 When Something Goes Wrong
43 Protecting & Caring for Your Tablet
44 Keeping Your Photos & Things Safe
45 Freeing Space When It's Full
46 Starting Fresh: The Reset

Part 8 — Your Everyday Cheat-Sheet

47 The Everyday Cheat-Sheet
48 A Plain-English Glossary
49 Where to Learn More & When to Call Bill

PART 1

Meet Your Fire Tablet

What a Fire tablet is, why it's a little different from other tablets, which model you have, the parts, charging, and the finger taps that run everything.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. Perhaps a kind family member gave you an **Amazon Fire tablet** — they're a popular, affordable gift — and you're wondering what to do with it. This book is for **you**, and I'm glad you're here. The Fire tablet is a capable little machine, and it's a touch quirky, so a plain-English guide helps a great deal.

I'm Bill. Helping folks feel at home with their technology is what I do every day, and I wrote this book the way I'd talk it through at your kitchen table: slowly, in plain English, with no rushing. The moment I use a term you don't know, I'll stop and explain it.

A friendly warning: the Fire tablet is a bit different

I'll be straight with you from the start: a Fire tablet works a little differently from an iPad or a regular Android tablet, because Amazon built it around *their* world — their store, their shows, their assistant, Alexa. That's not a bad thing; it just means some things are in unexpected places, and a few things work in Amazon's own way. This book explains those quirks plainly, so nothing trips you up.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What you'll get from this book

A clear understanding of how your Fire tablet thinks, how to find and use the apps you want, how to talk to Alexa, how to read books and watch shows, and how to keep it safe and running well. By the end, the quirks won't be quirks — they'll just be the way your handy little tablet works.

The big promise: you can't break it

The most important thing in the whole book: **you cannot break your tablet by tapping on it and exploring.** Tapping and poking to see what happens is exactly how everyone learns. If you ever feel lost, there's always a simple way back to the Home screen, and you'll learn it soon. And you're never stuck alone — call me at **(330) 200-8042** and we'll sort it out together.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

What a Fire Tablet Is

Let's start simple. A **tablet** is a flat, touchscreen computer — like a large phone without the phone calls, or a very simple computer you touch instead of type on. A **Fire tablet** is Amazon's inexpensive version of that idea.

Amazon's tablet, built around Amazon

The Fire tablet (often called a "Fire HD") does what tablets do — browse the web, send email, watch videos, read books, play games, make video calls. What makes it special is its low price, and that it's built around **Amazon's** services: their app store, their shows and movies (Prime Video), their books (Kindle), and their voice assistant (**Alexa**). If you already shop with Amazon or have Prime, it fits right in.

The software: "Fire OS"

The Fire tablet runs Amazon's own software, called **Fire OS**. It's actually a cousin of **Android** (the software on many phones), dressed up in Amazon's style. That family tie matters a little later when we talk about apps. (Amazon has begun moving newer tablets toward a fuller version of Android — if yours is very new, a few things may look a touch different, but this book's ideas still hold.)

GOOD TO KNOW

Why the Fire tablet is so affordable

Fire tablets cost far less than an iPad for a reason: Amazon sells them cheaply hoping you'll buy books, shows, and goods *through* the tablet. That's a fair deal — you get a capable tablet for a low price. It also explains the quirks: the tablet nudges you toward Amazon's offerings, which is handy if you use them and easy to ignore if you don't.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A lot of tablet for a little money

For a modest price, a Fire tablet gives you a window on the web, a library of books, a theater of shows, a video phone to family, and a helpful voice assistant — all in something you can hold in one hand. Once you know its ways, it's a genuinely useful companion that punches well above its price.

CHAPTER 3

Which Fire Tablet You Have

Fire tablets come in a few sizes, named mostly by their screen size in inches. Knowing which you have helps you follow along and lets you tell me exactly what you've got.

The common models

Model	What it is
Fire 7	The smallest and cheapest, about 7 inches — pocketable, good for reading and simple tasks.
Fire HD 8	A middle size, about 8 inches — a popular all-rounder.
Fire HD 10	The largest common one, about 10 inches — roomier screen, nicer for video and reading. Often recommended for older eyes.
Fire Max / newer Alexa tablets	Larger or newer premium models, sometimes with a fuller Android and the Google store built in.

Finding your exact model

1. Swipe down from the top of the screen and tap the **Settings** (gear) icon.
2. Scroll down and tap **Device Options**.
3. Tap **About Fire Tablet** (or similar). The model name and "Fire OS version" are listed there.
4. Jot the model on the inside cover of this book so it's always handy.

TIP

A bigger screen is kinder to older eyes

If you're choosing a Fire tablet (or helping someone pick one), the **Fire HD 10**'s larger screen is usually the most comfortable for reading and watching, with bigger text and buttons. The smaller ones are fine and cheaper, but if eyes or hands aren't what they were, the extra inches are worth it.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Know your tablet, get better help

When you can tell me "it's a Fire HD 10," I know in an instant what your screen looks like and can walk you through anything over the phone. It turns a guessing game into a quick, confident answer — so that thirty-second check pays off every time you need a hand.

CHAPTER 4

The Parts, Buttons & Charging

A Fire tablet has very few physical buttons — nearly everything happens by touching the glass. Let's name the pieces and cover charging, so you're never caught with a dead tablet.

The buttons and parts

- **The power button** — a small button on an edge. A quick press turns the screen on and off; a longer press powers the tablet fully off or on.
- **The volume buttons** — two buttons (or a rocker) on an edge, for sound up and down.
- **The charging port** — a small slot (usually USB-C) on an edge where the charging cable plugs in.
- **The headphone jack** (on some models) — a small round hole for headphones.
- **The cameras** — a small one on the front (for video calls) and often one on the back.
- **The screen** — the glass front, which you touch to do everything.

Charging the tablet

Plug the cable into the charging port and the other end into the wall. A battery symbol shows it filling up. Fire tablets can take a while to charge fully — that's normal for their price. It's perfectly fine to charge overnight. When the battery symbol turns **red**, it's getting low; time to plug in.

HEADS UP

Fire tablets charge slowly — be patient

One honest quirk: Fire tablets charge more slowly than pricier tablets, especially with the small charger that may come in the box. Give it plenty of time, charge it overnight, and don't be alarmed if it's not quick. If charging seems unusually slow or stops working, it's often just a tired cable — and an easy thing to sort out.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Ready whenever you are

Knowing how to wake, rest, and charge your tablet means it's there when you want it — to read, watch, or call family — rather than going dark at the wrong moment. Keep it charged on a side table, and it's always a tap away.

CHAPTER 5

The Touchscreen: Taps & Swipes

The whole Fire tablet is run by a handful of finger moves on the glass. Once these are in your fingers, you can operate anything. Let's learn them slowly — you can't do them wrong.

The everyday finger moves

- **Tap** — a single light touch, then lift. This chooses things: open an app, press a button. A light touch is all it takes.
- **Swipe** — touch the glass and slide your finger before lifting. For scrolling through a list, turning a page, or moving between screens.
- **Press and hold** — touch and keep your finger down a second or two. Brings up extra options, like a little menu.
- **Pinch and spread** — put two fingers on the screen and move them apart to zoom in (make bigger), or together to zoom out. Lovely for small text and photos.
- **Drag** — press and hold something, then slide it to a new spot before lifting.

The important swipes from the edges

This swipe…	…does this
Swipe DOWN from the top	Opens the quick settings and notifications — Wi-Fi, brightness, and alerts.
Swipe UP from the bottom (or the Home button)	Goes Home — back to the main screen from anywhere.
The back arrow (bottom)	Steps back to the previous screen — your "undo."

TIP

Lost? Go Home, and you're safe

Here's the reassurance worth repeating: no matter how deep you've wandered into an app, there's always a **Home** button or swipe at the bottom that carries you straight back to the main screen — your safe harbor. You can never get stranded, so tap around freely and explore.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A few moves, and you can do anything

These same finger moves work the same way in every app on the tablet. Learn them once and you've learned the whole machine. Practice each a few times today and a few tomorrow, and within a week your fingers will know them without a thought. That's a promise.

CHAPTER 6

Is a Fire Tablet Right for You?

Perhaps you already have your Fire tablet and simply want to use it well — in which case, read on and enjoy. But if you're weighing whether a Fire tablet suits you, or thinking of one for a family member, it's worth an honest look at what it does brilliantly and where it falls a little short. I'd rather you knew the whole picture.

Where the Fire tablet shines

- **Price.** It costs a fraction of an iPad, so there's little to lose and it's a low-risk way to try a tablet.
- **Reading.** As a Kindle, it's a wonderful, affordable library with large, gentle text.
- **Watching.** With Prime Video built in, it's a fine personal theater.
- **Alexa.** The built-in voice assistant makes many things as easy as speaking — a real boon for anyone who finds tapping fiddly.
- **If you already use Amazon.** Prime members get shows, photos storage, and more at no extra cost.

Where it asks a little patience

- **The app situation.** Amazon's store lacks some apps (especially Google's), which can frustrate if you need a particular one. The browser usually bridges the gap.
- **The clutter.** Amazon fills the Home screen with suggestions and shows lock-screen ads — a mild nuisance you can tidy or ignore.
- **Speed and polish.** It's not as fast or smooth as a pricier tablet — fine for everyday use, but you feel the low price now and then.
- **Charging.** It charges slowly.

Who it suits best

A Fire tablet is an excellent fit for someone who mainly wants to **read, watch, video-call family, browse a bit, and ask a voice assistant for help** — without spending much. If you need a specific app that isn't available, or want the fastest, most polished experience, a different tablet might suit better. For a great many folks, though, the Fire does everything they want at a price that's hard to argue with.

GOOD TO KNOW

An honest bottom line

The Fire tablet is the best *value* in tablets, not the best tablet outright — and for most everyday needs, value is exactly what matters. Know its quirks going in (this book has you covered), tidy it to suit you, and it rewards you with far more than its modest price would suggest.

FROM BILL

Not sure if it fits? Ask me

If you're deciding whether a Fire tablet is right for you or a loved one — or wondering whether the one you have will do what you hope — I'm glad to give you an honest, no-pressure opinion based on how you'd actually use it. Sometimes it's a perfect match; sometimes another choice fits better. Either way, you'll know. **(330) 200-8042**.

PART 2

Finding Your Way Around

The Home screen and Amazon's unusual layout, your apps, the settings, making everything bigger, the keyboard, and dealing with the lock-screen ads.

CHAPTER 7

The Home Screen & Amazon's Layout

When you turn on your Fire tablet, you land on the **Home screen**. Here's where the Fire tablet first feels different from other tablets, so let's walk through it calmly — once it makes sense, the rest follows.

What you see

The Fire's Home screen is arranged Amazon's way. You'll typically find:

- **A row or grid of apps** — your programs, each a little picture (icon) you tap to open.
- **Amazon's suggestions** — books, shows, and things Amazon thinks you'd like, often taking up a good part of the screen. You can simply ignore these.
- **Tabs or labels across the top** — like "Home," "For You," "Books," "Games" — that sort content by type. Tap "Home" to return to the main view.
- **A search bar** at the top — to find apps, books, or things to buy.

Finding all your apps

To see *every* app you have, **swipe up** from the bottom of the Home screen (or tap an "apps" area). This reveals your full app library. The main Home screen shows favorites and Amazon's suggestions; the swipe-up view shows the complete list.

GOOD TO KNOW

Much of the Home screen is Amazon advertising

Be at ease about this: a good portion of the Fire's Home screen is Amazon showing you books, shows, and goods you might buy. It can look cluttered or pushy, but **you can ignore all of it** — just tap your own apps and carry on. You never have to buy anything, and nothing you tap by mistake will charge you without confirmation.

TIP

Make a folder for the apps you actually use

To cut through the clutter, gather your favorite apps into one spot or folder so they're easy to find. Press and hold an app and drag it on top of another to make a folder, then give it a name like "My Apps." With your handful of regulars in one place, the busy Home screen stops mattering. (We'll tidy up more shortly.)

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Once you see past the clutter, it's simple

The Fire's Home screen looks busier than other tablets because Amazon fills it with suggestions — but underneath, it's just your apps, a tap away. Learn to look past the advertising to your own handful of apps, and the tablet becomes calm and easy to use.

CHAPTER 8

Your Apps: Opening, Closing & Arranging

Everything you do on the tablet happens in an **app** — a little program for one job (reading, email, video calls). Let's get comfortable opening, closing, and arranging them.

The everyday app moves

- **Open an app:** tap its icon once.
- **Go back / go Home:** use the back arrow or Home button at the bottom of the screen.
- **Close apps you've finished with:** tap the small square (recent apps) button at the bottom to see what's open, and swipe them away. (You don't have to — but it tidies up.)
- **Move an app:** press and hold it, then drag it where you like and lift off.
- **Add a favorite to the Home screen:** from the full app list, press and hold an app and choose to add it to Home.

Removing an app

If you don't want an app, press and hold it and choose **Remove** or **Uninstall**. (Some of Amazon's built-in apps can't be fully removed, only hidden — that's normal.) Removing an app you installed is safe and frees up a little room.

TIP

Simplify the home screen for comfort

A lovely tip for making a Fire tablet easier to use: gather all the apps you *don't* use into a single folder tucked out of the way, and keep only your handful of favorites — reading, video calls, the web, photos — front and center. A simple, uncluttered screen makes the whole tablet feel calmer and friendlier.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Your tablet, tidied to suit you

A few minutes arranging your apps — favorites to the front, the rest tucked away — turns the busy Fire into *your* tablet, with the things you use right where you want them. It's the single best thing you can do to make it comfortable.

CHAPTER 9

Settings & the Quick Panel

Settings is where you adjust how your tablet behaves, and the **quick panel** gives you the handful of switches you change most. Both are a swipe away.

The quick panel

Swipe down from the very top of the screen to open the quick panel. Here you'll find handy switches and sliders:

- **Wi-Fi** — connect to the internet.
- **Brightness** — a slider to brighten or dim the screen.
- **Airplane Mode** — turns off all signals.
- **Auto-rotate** — whether the screen turns when you tip the tablet sideways.
- **A gear icon** — opens the full Settings.

Full Settings

Tap the **gear** icon (in the quick panel, or find the Settings app) to open the full Settings — where you adjust Wi-Fi, the display, sound, your account, and much more. Don't be daunted by the long list; you'll only use a handful, and you can't hurt anything by looking. Most settings are a simple switch or slider you can move right back.

TIP

Swipe down is your gateway to the controls

Remember this one move: **swipe down from the top** of the screen. It's how you reach Wi-Fi, brightness, your notifications, and the door to full Settings — all the everyday controls in one place. When you want to change something quick, that's the swipe to reach for.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

In command of your tablet

Knowing where the controls live — the quick panel for everyday switches, Settings for the rest — means you can make the tablet behave how you like: brighter or dimmer, quieter or louder, connected or not. You're in charge of it, rather than the other way around.

CHAPTER 10

Making Everything Easier to See

There's no reason to squint at your Fire tablet. It has good tools to make text bigger and the screen kinder to your eyes. This is one of the most useful things you can set up, so let's do it.

Bigger text and display

1. Open **Settings** (the gear icon).
2. Tap **Display** (or "Display & Brightness").
3. Look for **Font Size** (or "Text size") and **Display Size**, and drag the sliders larger until it's comfortable.
4. Everything — menus, web pages, messages — grows to match.

More help for the eyes

- **Brightness:** in the quick panel or Display settings — brighter in a sunny room, dimmer in the evening.
- **Pinch to zoom:** on any web page or photo, spread two fingers to enlarge it instantly.
- **Accessibility settings** (in Settings) offer a screen magnifier, a larger pointer, high-contrast text, and even reading the screen aloud. Worth a browse.

TIP

Reading books? Set the text just how you like it

When reading on the Kindle app (which we'll cover), you can set the text size, the font, and the page color independently — a bigger, cream-background page is easy on tired eyes. So even if you keep the rest of the tablet's text modest, you can make your reading as large and gentle as you please.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A screen that fits your eyes

Bigger text, the right brightness, pinch-to-zoom, and a magnifier when you need it — these turn a strain into a pleasure. A few minutes setting them up means every book, message, and web page is comfortable to read, and you'll enjoy the tablet far more for it.

CHAPTER 11

Typing on the Tablet

When you need to type — a web address, an email, a search — a keyboard appears on the screen. Typing on glass takes a little getting used to, but a few tricks make it easy, and you can always speak instead.

Using the on-screen keyboard

- The keyboard pops up whenever you tap a box where you can type.
- Tap letters to type; tap the **space bar** for a space.
- Tap the **up-arrow** (shift) for a capital; tap **?123** for numbers and punctuation, and **ABC** to return.
- Tap the **backspace** key (an x in an arrow) to rub out the last letter.
- Suggestions appear above the keys — tap one to drop in a whole word without typing it.

Speak instead of type

If the little keys are fiddly, tap the **microphone** on the keyboard and simply speak — your words become text. And because this is a Fire tablet, you can also ask **Alexa** to do many things by voice, skipping typing entirely (much more on Alexa soon).

TIP

Go slowly, and let it help you

The single best typing advice: go slowly at first and tap deliberately. Speed comes with practice. Lean on the word suggestions above the keyboard, and if a word keeps coming out wrong, just tap the microphone and say it. There's no prize for typing fast, and speaking is often easier anyway.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Your words, the easy way

Whether you peck out letters, lean on the suggestions, or simply speak, the tablet keeps up. Within a few weeks the keyboard stops being a hurdle, and until then, the microphone is always there to do the work for you.

CHAPTER 12

Those Lock-Screen Ads (and Turning Them Off)

Here's a quirk worth addressing head-on, because it puzzles and sometimes annoys people. Many Fire tablets show **advertisements on the lock screen** — the screen you see before you swipe in. Amazon calls these "Special Offers." Let's demystify and, if you like, be rid of them.

What they are

When you wake the tablet, you may see an ad for a book, a show, or a product filling the lock screen. You simply swipe past it to get to your Home screen — it's harmless, just a little intrusive. Amazon sells the tablets a bit cheaper *because* of these ads.

Turning them off

You can remove the lock-screen ads, usually for a small one-time fee, which many people happily pay for a cleaner screen:

1. Open **Settings**.
2. Tap **Device Options**, then **Ads** (or look for "Special Offers").
3. Choose to **remove** the offers. It may show a small fee to pay once; after that, the lock screen is clean.
4. If you'd rather not pay, no harm done — just swipe past the ad each time.

GOOD TO KNOW

The ads can't hurt you — and are optional

The lock-screen ads are a minor nuisance, not a danger. You never have to tap them, and they can't charge you. If they bother you, the small fee to remove them is money many find well spent for a tidier tablet. If you don't mind a swipe, save your money. Either way, now you know what they are.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A cleaner start every time

Whether you remove the ads or simply swipe past them, understanding what they are takes away the confusion and the mild irritation. Your tablet is yours; the ads are just Amazon's way of keeping the price down, and you're free to keep or clear them as you please.

CHAPTER 13

Decluttering & Personalizing

We've touched on the Fire's busy Home screen a couple of times, because taming it is the single best thing you can do to make the tablet pleasant. Let's do it properly here — a few minutes of tidying turns a cluttered, pushy screen into a calm one that's all yours.

Gather your favorites, hide the rest

1. Swipe up to see all your apps.
2. **Press and hold** an app you use often and drag it to your Home screen (or into a folder you've made).
3. Make a **folder** for the apps you rarely touch: drag one app on top of another, and name the folder "Other" or "Extras." Drop the clutter in there, out of the way.
4. Keep only your handful of regulars — reading, video calls, the web, photos, a game — front and center.

Quieting Amazon's suggestions

The rows of Amazon suggestions on the Home screen can often be reduced. Look in **Settings** → **Home Screen** (or Apps & Games settings) for options to turn off "recommendations" or "customers also bought" rows. Turning these off leaves a cleaner screen with just your own things. (And remember, you can remove the lock-screen ads too, from Part 2.)

A background you love

You can usually change the background picture (wallpaper) in **Settings** → **Display** — choose a photo of the grandchildren or a view you enjoy. A small touch that makes the tablet feel like *yours* every time you turn it on.

> **TIP**
>
> **Fifteen minutes of tidying changes everything**
>
> If the Fire tablet has felt cluttered or confusing, spend fifteen minutes on this one chapter — favorites to the front, extras in a folder, suggestions turned down, a photo you love as the background. People are often amazed how much friendlier the tablet feels afterward. It's the best quarter-hour you'll spend on it.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A calm tablet that feels like yours

A tidy Home screen with your handful of favorites, the clutter tucked away, and a background you love turns the Fire from a busy, pushy gadget into a peaceful, personal one. Every time you pick it up, you see *your* things, ready — and that makes all the difference to how much you enjoy it.

CHAPTER 14

Sound, Notifications & Little Settings

A few more small settings make daily life with the tablet smoother — the sound, the notifications, how long before the screen sleeps. None is essential, but tuning them to suit you adds up to a tablet that behaves just how you like.

Sound

- **Volume** — press the volume buttons on the edge, or use the slider in the quick panel.
- **Notification sounds** — in Settings → Sounds, you can quiet the dings and beeps if they bother you.
- **Headphones or a speaker** — connect them (by cable or Bluetooth) for clearer, louder sound when you want it.

Notifications

A **notification** is a little message that appears at the top — a new email, an app wanting attention. Swipe down to see them. If a particular app notifies you too much, you can turn its notifications off in **Settings** → **Apps & Notifications**. Your tablet should inform you, not pester you.

Screen timeout and brightness

In **Settings** → **Display** you can set how long the screen stays on before it sleeps to save battery — a longer time is handy for reading, a shorter one saves power. And the brightness slider lets you set it comfortably for the room you're in.

TIP

Turn off notifications from apps that nag

Some apps (especially games and shopping) send frequent notifications hoping to pull you back. If they interrupt or clutter, simply turn that app's notifications off in Settings. You lose nothing important — the app still works — and your tablet grows noticeably more peaceful. Keep notifications on only for things you genuinely want to know about, like email or messages from family.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A tablet that behaves the way you like

The right volume, quiet from apps that nag, a screen that stays on as long as you need — these small settings, once tuned, make the tablet feel considerate and comfortable. It stops surprising you and starts simply doing what you want, which is exactly how a good tool should feel.

PART 3

Getting Connected & Your Account

Joining Wi-Fi, the Amazon account at the heart of the tablet, and setting up separate profiles so the whole household can share.

CHAPTER 15

Joining Wi-Fi

Your Fire tablet needs the **internet** for nearly everything — books, shows, email, video calls — and at home it gets online through **Wi-Fi**: the internet carried through the air from a box in your home. Let's connect it.

Connecting, step by step

1. **Swipe down** from the top of the screen and tap the **Wi-Fi** symbol (or open Settings → Wi-Fi).
2. Make sure Wi-Fi is turned **on**.
3. A list of nearby network names appears. Tap **yours** (often printed on a sticker on your internet box).
4. Type the Wi-Fi **password** exactly as printed — capital and small letters matter — and tap **Connect**.
5. A checkmark and the Wi-Fi symbol at the top mean you're on. The tablet remembers this network and rejoins it on its own from now on.

TIP

A typo is the usual snag

Wi-Fi passwords are often a jumble, and one wrong character stops it connecting. Tap "show password" if offered so you can see what you've typed, and watch for capital "O" versus zero, small "l" versus the number one. If it won't connect, it's nearly always a typo — try again slowly.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

The gateway to everything

Once your tablet knows your home Wi-Fi, it connects the moment you turn it on — nothing to do, every time. And with that, the whole tablet comes alive: your library, your shows, your family, all a tap away.

CHAPTER 16

Your Amazon Account

The Fire tablet is built around your **Amazon account** — the same email and password you'd use to shop on Amazon. It ties everything together: your apps, books, shows, and settings. Understanding it clears up a lot.

What the account does

Your Amazon account is how the tablet knows it's *yours*. It holds the books and shows you've got, the apps you've installed, and your preferences. If you already shop on Amazon, it's the same account; if not, one was created when the tablet was set up. You sign in once, and the tablet remembers you.

If you're unsure of your account details

Many people aren't certain of their Amazon email or password, especially if family set the tablet up for them. That's very common and fixable. The tablet works fine day to day regardless, and we can track down or reset the details together whenever you like. It's worth knowing them, so let's note them once we do.

STAY SAFE

Guard your Amazon password — and watch for "Amazon" scams

Your Amazon account holds your payment details and order history, so its password deserves real care — a strong one, kept safe, never shared. And be very wary of calls, texts, or emails claiming to be "Amazon" about a problem with your order or account, asking you to "verify" or pay — these are a hugely common scam. Amazon doesn't operate that way. When unsure, don't act, and call me.

GOOD TO KNOW

One account, one price to watch: easy buying

Because the tablet is tied to your Amazon account with your card on file, buying a book, show, or app can be as quick as a tap — convenient, but worth a little care so nothing is bought by accident (especially by curious grandchildren). You can require a password for purchases in Settings; we'll cover that in the safety part. For now, just know buying is easy, so tap "Buy" deliberately.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Everything tied together, simply

Your Amazon account means your books, shows, and apps are *yours* wherever you sign in — on this tablet, a new one, or the Amazon website. Set it up once, keep it secure, and the whole tablet simply knows you and your things. That's the convenience at the heart of the Fire.

CHAPTER 17

Profiles: Sharing the Tablet

A Fire tablet can hold separate **profiles** — private spaces for different people — so the whole household can share one tablet without mixing up each other's things. It's especially handy for keeping grandchildren's content separate from yours.

Grown-up profiles and child profiles

- **Adult profiles** — each adult gets their own space, books, and apps, switched between with a tap.
- **Child profiles** — a safe, walled-off space for a grandchild, showing only kid-friendly content you approve, with no way to buy things or wander off. Amazon calls the child features "Amazon Kids."

Switching profiles

Swipe down from the top and look for a **profile** icon (a little person or a face), or find **Profiles** in Settings. Tap to switch to another person's space. Each is protected so people only see their own things.

TIP

A child profile makes the tablet safe for the grandkids

If grandchildren use your tablet, setting up a **child profile** is well worth it: they get only age-appropriate games and books, can't buy anything or reach the web unsupervised, and you can even set time limits. It gives you peace of mind and them a safe little world of their own. Happy to help you set one up.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

One tablet, everyone happy

Profiles let a single, affordable tablet serve the whole family — your reading and email kept separate from your spouse's, and a safe, fun space for the grandchildren. Everyone gets their own tidy corner, and nobody steps on anyone else's things.

CHAPTER 18

Using Your Tablet Away From Home

A Fire tablet isn't tied to your living room — it's a lovely travel companion. Most models connect only by Wi-Fi (not the cell network), so a little planning lets you enjoy it anywhere, even with no internet.

Wi-Fi on the go

Away from home, your tablet connects to Wi-Fi the same way: swipe down, tap Wi-Fi, pick the network (at a hotel, a relative's house, a cafe), and sign in. Once you've joined a network, the tablet remembers it for next time. For public Wi-Fi, the same gentle caution applies as with any device — fine for browsing and watching; save sensitive tasks for home or a trusted connection.

The magic trick: download before you go

Here's what makes a Fire tablet brilliant for trips, waiting rooms, and anywhere without internet: you can **download** books, shows, music, and podcasts *while on Wi-Fi at home*, then enjoy them later with no connection at all.

1. While on your home Wi-Fi, open a show, book, or album you'll want.
2. Look for a **download arrow** (a downward arrow) and tap it. It saves onto the tablet.
3. Later — on a plane, in a car, at a cabin — open it and enjoy, no internet needed.

If you want internet everywhere

Since most Fire tablets are Wi-Fi only, to use the internet somewhere with no Wi-Fi you can create a **hotspot** from your smartphone (a feature that shares your phone's internet with the tablet). It's a handy trick; ask me and I'll show you how to set it up if you travel often.

> **TIP**
>
> **Load up before a trip**
>
> The evening before a journey, spend a few minutes downloading a couple of books, some shows, and a music album or podcast onto your tablet while you're on home Wi-Fi. Then the long drive, flight, or waiting room flies by with your own entertainment — no internet, no data charges, no boredom. It's one of the Fire tablet's quiet pleasures.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Entertainment that travels with you

Downloaded books and shows mean your Fire tablet keeps you company anywhere — the cabin with no Wi-Fi, the long flight, the hospital waiting room. A little loading-up before you leave, and you carry a library and a theater in your bag, ready whether or not there's any internet to be found.

PART 4

Apps on a Fire Tablet

Where apps come from on a Fire tablet, the big thing to understand about the app store, which apps you can and can't easily get, and the ones worth having.

CHAPTER 19

The Amazon Appstore

New apps for your Fire tablet come from the **Amazon Appstore** — Amazon's own version of an app store. This is the single most important thing to understand about a Fire tablet, because it's where the tablet differs most from an iPad or a regular Android tablet.

Getting an app

1. Open the **Appstore** app (its icon, or find it from the Home screen's "Apps" area).
2. Tap the **search** box and type what you want — "solitaire," "weather," a service's name.
3. Tap the app in the results. Free ones show **Get** or **Download**; paid ones show a price.
4. Tap **Get**, and it installs onto your tablet. Find it afterward in your apps.

The key thing: it's Amazon's store, not Google's

On most phones and tablets, apps come from the Google Play Store (Android) or Apple's App Store. A Fire tablet uses **Amazon's** store instead. Amazon's store has many popular apps — but *not all* of them, because some makers only put their apps in Google's store. This is the Fire tablet's biggest quirk, and the next chapter explains what it means for you.

GOOD TO KNOW

Why the Fire has its own store

Amazon built its own app store to keep the Fire tablet in Amazon's world (and to keep the price low). For most everyday needs — reading, video, games, weather, and many popular apps — the Amazon Appstore has you covered. It's only for certain apps that the difference bites, which we'll sort out next.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A safe, simple place to add apps

The Amazon Appstore is a safe, checked place to find and add new apps with a tap — games, tools, services. For the great majority of what folks want to do, it has exactly what you need, and getting an app is as easy as a search and a tap.

CHAPTER 20

What You Can & Can't Easily Get

Let's be honest and clear about the app situation, because it's the thing most likely to frustrate a new Fire owner — and knowing it upfront saves a lot of puzzlement.

What's usually available

- **Amazon's own apps** — Kindle (books), Prime Video (shows), Amazon Music, Audible, the Amazon shopping app. All built in or easy to get.
- **Many popular apps** — Facebook, Netflix, weather apps, games, and more are in the Amazon Appstore.
- **Web versions** — even if an app isn't available, you can often use the service through the tablet's web browser instead.

What can be missing or tricky

- **Google's own apps** — Gmail, Google Maps, YouTube, Google Photos, Chrome — are usually *not* in Amazon's store (Google and Amazon are rivals). You can often use these through the web browser instead.
- **Some specific apps** — a particular bank, a certain game, or a video-call app a family member uses — may not be in Amazon's store.

The workarounds

If an app you want isn't in the Amazon Appstore, you have options: use the service through the **web browser** (often the easiest), or ask whether your family can video-call you with an app that *is* available (like Facebook Messenger or Zoom, both usually in Amazon's store). There's also a more advanced way to add Google's store, but it's fiddly and best done with help — see the box.

HEADS UP

Adding Google Play is possible but unofficial — get help

You may read online that you can "sideload" the Google Play Store onto a Fire tablet to get any Android app. It can be done, but it's an unofficial, fiddly process that Amazon doesn't support, and it can cause glitches. **Please don't attempt it from a random web guide on your own** — if you truly need a Google-only app, call me and we'll decide together whether it's worth doing and do it safely. (Newer Fire/Alexa tablets may include Google Play already — check yours.)

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Know the limits, find the way around

Understanding the app situation upfront means no nasty surprises — you know what's easy, what's missing, and that the web browser or a different app usually bridges the gap. For most people's everyday needs, the Fire does everything; and where it doesn't, there's nearly always a simple workaround.

CHAPTER 21

The Apps Worth Having

Beyond Amazon's built-in apps, a handful of free apps make a Fire tablet genuinely useful. Here are the ones I'd suggest starting with — all usually available in the Amazon Appstore.

A good starter set

App	What it's for
A weather app	The forecast at a glance — search "weather" in the Appstore.
A video-call app	Facebook Messenger, Zoom, or WhatsApp to see family (whatever they use).
Facebook	To keep up with family and friends, if you use it.
A browser	The built-in Silk browser works; many like it fine.
Games & puzzles	Solitaire, word games, crosswords — plenty of free ones.
A news app	Your local station or a news service, if they're available.

You don't need many. A video-call app to see the grandchildren, something to read, something to watch, the weather, and a game or two covers most people beautifully. Add more only as you find you want them.

TIP

Start small and add as you go

Resist the urge to load up on apps at the start. Begin with a video-call app and a game, get comfortable, and add others when a real need comes up. A tablet with a few well-chosen apps is far friendlier than one crammed with icons you never use — and easier to keep tidy.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A tablet that does what you need

The right handful of apps turns your Fire tablet into exactly the companion you want — a window to family, a library, a theater, a game table. You choose what it does, one useful app at a time, with no clutter and no waste.

CHAPTER 22

Signing In to Your Apps

When you add an app like Facebook, Netflix, or your email, it usually asks you to **sign in** — to prove the account is yours. This trips up a lot of newcomers, so let's make it clear and painless.

What signing in means

Each service — Facebook, Netflix, your bank, your email — has its *own* username and password, separate from your Amazon account and from your tablet's. When you open the app, it asks for *that* service's details, so it can show you *your* posts, shows, or messages rather than a stranger's.

Signing in, step by step

1. Open the app for the first time. It shows a sign-in screen.
2. If you already have an account with that service, tap **Log In** (or **Sign In**) and enter that service's email/username and password.
3. If you're new to it, tap **Sign Up** or **Create Account** to make one.
4. The app offers to **remember** you — say yes, so you don't have to sign in every time.

Keeping your many passwords straight

The honest difficulty here is that different services need different passwords, and that's a lot to juggle. The best answer is a **password manager** — a tool that remembers them all so you need recall only one. We have a whole separate manual on passwords; for now, keep your sign-in details written somewhere safe (not stuck to the tablet), and let each app remember you once you're in.

> **TIP**
>
> **"Remember me" saves you signing in every time**
>
> When an app offers to keep you signed in ("Remember me," "Stay logged in"), say yes on your own personal tablet — it means you won't have to type that password again each time. The one exception is anything very sensitive, like a banking app, where signing in fresh each time is a touch safer. For everyday apps, let them remember you.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Your own world in every app

Signing in is simply how each app knows it's *you* — so Facebook shows your family, Netflix shows your shows, and your email shows your messages. Do it once, let the app remember you, and from then on your personal world opens the moment you tap the icon.

PART 5

Alexa & Show Mode

The friendly voice assistant built into your tablet — what Alexa is, how to talk to it, turning the tablet into a little Echo Show, and calling family by voice.

CHAPTER 23

Meet Alexa

One of the best things about a Fire tablet is that **Alexa** — Amazon's voice assistant — is built right in. Alexa is a helper you talk to in plain words: ask a question, set a timer, play music, hear the news, call family, and more, all by speaking. For anyone who finds tapping and typing a bother, Alexa is a gift.

What Alexa can do

- **Answer questions** — "Alexa, what's the weather?" "How tall is the Eiffel Tower?"
- **Set timers and alarms** — "Alexa, set a timer for 20 minutes."
- **Play music and radio** — "Alexa, play Frank Sinatra."
- **Read the news and weather** — "Alexa, what's my news?"
- **Remind you of things** — "Alexa, remind me to take my pills at 8."
- **Call and message family** — "Alexa, call my daughter" (more on this soon).

Waking Alexa

You summon Alexa in one of two ways: **say "Alexa"** out loud (if hands-free listening is turned on), or **press and hold the Home button** (or an Alexa button) and then speak. A colored bar or light shows Alexa is listening. Then just talk naturally.

GOOD TO KNOW

Alexa is the same helper that's in the Echo speakers

If you've heard of Amazon's "Echo" or "Dot" speakers, Alexa is the very same assistant — your Fire tablet simply has her built in. So anything an Echo can do, your tablet can do too, plus show you things on its screen. It's like having a smart speaker and a tablet in one.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Just ask, and it's done

Alexa turns a string of taps into a simple sentence spoken aloud. For quick questions, timers, reminders, music, and calls, it's often the easiest way of all — especially if the little screen keys ever give your fingers trouble. You speak; the tablet does. It doesn't get much friendlier than that.

CHAPTER 24

Talking to Alexa

Using Alexa well is mostly about getting comfortable speaking to a machine — which feels odd for a day and natural thereafter. Let's cover how to ask, and some handy things to try.

How to ask

1. Say **"Alexa"** (or press and hold the Home/Alexa button).
2. Wait for the light or bar to show she's listening (just a moment).
3. Ask in plain words, as you'd ask a person: "What's the weather tomorrow?"
4. Alexa answers aloud, and often shows the answer on screen too.

Handy things to try

- "Alexa, what time is it?"
- "Alexa, set a timer for 15 minutes." (For the oven, the laundry.)
- "Alexa, what's the weather this weekend?"
- "Alexa, play some big band music."
- "Alexa, how do you spell 'necessary'?"
- "Alexa, add milk to my shopping list."
- "Alexa, tell me a joke." (The grandchildren love this one.)

TIP

Speak naturally — you don't need magic words

You don't have to phrase things in any special way. Talk to Alexa as you would to a helpful person. If she doesn't catch it the first time, just try again, a little slower. There's no wrong way to ask, and she never minds being asked twice. The more you use her, the more natural it feels.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A patient helper, always ready

Once talking to Alexa feels natural, you have a tireless, patient helper on call — for the weather before you dress, a timer while you cook, a song you suddenly remember, a fact you're curious about. All without lifting a finger. It's one of the real joys of owning a Fire tablet.

CHAPTER 25

Show Mode: A Little Echo Show

Your Fire tablet has a clever trick called **Show Mode** that turns it into something like an **Echo Show** — a smart display that shows the time, weather, photos, and answers to your questions, all hands-free. It's lovely on a kitchen counter or bedside table.

Turning on Show Mode

1. Swipe down from the top of the screen.
2. Tap **Show Mode** (a switch in the quick panel).
3. The screen changes to a big, glanceable display — clock, weather, and rotating photos or tips.
4. Now you can just speak ("Alexa…") and see answers on the big, clear screen. Swipe or tap to leave Show Mode.

What it's good for

- **A bedside or kitchen clock** that also tells you the weather and news.
- **A digital photo frame** — set it to show your family photos as it rests.
- **Hands-free help while cooking** — timers, conversions, and reminders by voice, with answers big on screen.

TIP

Prop it up for the full effect

Show Mode shines when the tablet is standing up where you can see and talk to it — so a simple **stand** (or a case that folds into one) makes a big difference. Set it on the kitchen counter or nightstand, prop it up, switch on Show Mode, and it becomes a helpful little display you glance at and speak to all day.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Two gadgets in one

Show Mode means your Fire tablet doubles as a smart display — a clock, a weather station, a photo frame, and a voice helper, all hands-free — whenever you want it, and a regular tablet the rest of the time. Grand value from one affordable device.

CHAPTER 26

Calling Family with Alexa

Here's a feature that's a genuine blessing, especially for keeping in touch: your Fire tablet can make free **voice and video calls** to family through Alexa — and you can even start them just by speaking.

Alexa calling

If your family members have the free **Alexa app** on their phones (or their own Echo or Fire device), you can call them through Alexa — by voice, hands-free. "Alexa, call my daughter" and it rings her. For someone with shaky hands or poor eyesight, calling a loved one by simply speaking their name is a wonderful thing.

Getting it set up

1. Make sure the **Communication** or **Alexa calling** feature is set up (it asks you to confirm your name and allow it — a one-time thing).
2. Have your family install the free **Alexa app** on their phones and add you as a contact.
3. Then just say "Alexa, call [their name]" — or use the Communication icon on screen to call or video-call.

GOOD TO KNOW

"Drop In" — a handy, and optional, feature

Alexa has a feature called **Drop In** that lets approved family members connect to your tablet almost like an intercom, to check in. It can be reassuring for a worried family — but it's also quite personal, so it's entirely your choice whether to allow it, and for whom. If it interests you (or concerns you), we can set it up, or make sure it's off, together.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Reach loved ones by simply saying their name

Calling family by voice — no dialing, no squinting, just "Alexa, call my son" — removes every barrier between you and the people you love. For anyone who finds phones fiddly, it's the easiest, warmest way to stay in touch there is. And it's free, any time you like.

CHAPTER 27

Alexa for Daily Help

Beyond answering questions, Alexa can be a genuine help with the little tasks of daily life — especially the sort of things that are easy to forget. Here are some of the most useful, all done by simply speaking.

Reminders and medications

One of Alexa's most valuable everyday uses is **reminders**, and medication reminders in particular. Just say:

- "Alexa, remind me to take my pills at 8 in the morning."
- "Alexa, remind me every day at noon to take my medicine."
- "Alexa, remind me to call the doctor on Thursday."
- When the time comes, Alexa speaks the reminder aloud — a gentle, reliable nudge with nothing to remember yourself.

Shopping and to-do lists

Alexa keeps lists for you, hands-free. "Alexa, add milk to my shopping list" or "Alexa, add 'call the plumber' to my to-do list." You can see the lists on the tablet's screen or in the Alexa app on a phone — and they're there at the store, in your pocket, when you need them.

Timers, alarms, and the day's shape

- "Alexa, set a timer for 20 minutes" — for the oven or the laundry.
- "Alexa, set an alarm for 7 a.m." — a gentle wake-up.
- "Alexa, what's on my calendar today?" — your appointments read aloud.
- "Alexa, what's the weather?" — before you dress or head out.

TIP

Start with medication reminders — they're genuinely useful

If you take anything on a schedule, a daily Alexa reminder is one of the most worthwhile things your tablet can do. Set it once by voice, and Alexa faithfully reminds you every day, forever, with no app to open or alarm to fiddle with. If you'd like help setting up your reminders, that's a lovely thing to call me about.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A helpful hand, just for the asking

Reminders that nudge you, lists that follow you, timers and alarms on command — Alexa quietly takes over the little mental juggling of daily life, all by voice. For keeping on top of medications, appointments, and errands, it's a patient, reliable helper that never forgets and never tires.

CHAPTER 28

Alexa & Your Smart Home

If you have, or are thinking about, smart-home gadgets — lights you can control by voice, a video doorbell, a thermostat — your Fire tablet's Alexa can run many of them. You needn't bother with any of this, but it's worth knowing the tablet can be a little command center if you want one.

What Alexa can control

- **Smart lights** — "Alexa, turn on the living room lamp" or "Alexa, dim the lights." Grand for not fumbling in the dark.
- **A video doorbell or camera** (like a Ring or Blink) — "Alexa, show the front door" brings the camera up on the tablet's screen.
- **A smart thermostat** — "Alexa, set the temperature to 70."
- **Smart plugs** — turn a fan, a coffee pot, or a radio on and off by voice.

How it comes together

Each smart gadget is set up once (usually through its own app and the Alexa app), after which you control it by voice through your tablet or any Echo device. It's genuinely handy for anyone with limited mobility — lights, doors, and warmth managed from your chair with a word. This can get involved, so it's a fine thing to set up with help.

GOOD TO KNOW

You don't need any of this — but it's there if you want it

Smart-home gadgets are entirely optional; your Fire tablet is perfectly useful without a single one. But if controlling lights or seeing who's at the door by voice would make your day easier — especially if getting up is hard — your tablet can be the hub that runs it all. Start with one gadget, like a smart lamp, and grow from there if you enjoy it.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Your home, at your command

For those who want it, Alexa on your tablet turns your home into something you can run by voice — lights, warmth, the front door — from wherever you're sitting. It's convenience, and for anyone who finds getting up and about a chore, it can be a real measure of independence and safety.

PART 6

Reading, Watching & Doing

The things a Fire tablet does beautifully — reading books, watching shows, browsing the web, email, your photos, and video calls to see family.

CHAPTER 29

Reading Books with Kindle

The Fire tablet began life as a reading device, and it's still one of the loveliest things it does. The **Kindle** app turns your tablet into a whole library — thousands of books, with text as large and gentle as you like. For anyone who loves to read, it's a treasure.

Getting and reading a book

1. Open the **Books** or **Kindle** app.
2. Tap the **Store** or search to find a book — by title, author, or subject. Many classics are free, and most books cost less than the printed version.
3. Tap to buy (or borrow — see below), and it downloads in seconds.
4. Tap the book to open it. **Tap the right edge** to turn the page forward, the left edge to go back.

Making reading comfortable

While reading, tap the middle of the screen to show the controls, then look for text options (often an "Aa" button):

- **Bigger text** — make the words as large as you like. A real boon for tired eyes.
- **Page color** — a cream or dark background is gentler than stark white.
- **Brightness** — dim it for reading in bed.
- **Read aloud** — many books can be read to you in a natural voice, so you can rest your eyes and listen.

GOOD TO KNOW

Your library card works here too

You needn't buy every book. Most public libraries — very likely yours in Portage County — lend electronic books free through an app called **Libby**, and many Kindle books can be borrowed straight to your tablet with your library card. The same book you'd borrow from the shelf, delivered free. Ask your librarian, or ask me, and we'll set it up.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A whole library, sized for your eyes

No more squinting at small print or hauling heavy books. On your Fire tablet, you carry a library in your hands, with text as large and gentle as you please, and books that can even read themselves aloud. For a lifelong reader, it's a quiet marvel — and a wonderful reason to love this little tablet.

CHAPTER 30

Watching Shows & Movies

Your Fire tablet is a personal theater. Through **Prime Video** (Amazon's own service) and other apps, you can watch shows and movies right on the screen — in bed, in your chair, anywhere.

Prime Video

The **Prime Video** app is built in. If you have Amazon **Prime** (the membership many people have for free shipping), a big library of shows and movies comes with it at no extra cost. Open the app, browse or search, and tap to play. You can also rent or buy newer films.

Other services

Other apps — Netflix, and more — are available in the Amazon Appstore too, so if you subscribe to those, add their apps and sign in. (We have a whole "Cutting the Cord" manual if you'd like to replace cable with streaming entirely.)

TIP

Use headphones, or download to watch offline

Two handy tips: plug in or connect **headphones** to watch without disturbing anyone, and with clearer sound right in your ears. And you can **download** a show to the tablet while on Wi-Fi, then watch it later with no internet — grand for a trip or a waiting room. Look for a download arrow on the show.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Your own theater, on your schedule

Whatever you fancy — an old film, a new series, a documentary — your Fire tablet plays it whenever and wherever suits you, at your volume, with no trip anywhere. Entertainment on your terms, held comfortably in one hand.

CHAPTER 31

The Web with Silk

Your Fire tablet browses the web through a browser called **Silk** (Amazon's own). It works just like any browser — visit websites, read the news, look things up, shop — and it's especially handy for using services whose apps aren't in Amazon's store.

Using Silk

1. Open the **Silk** browser (its icon on the Home screen).
2. Tap the **address bar** at the top.
3. Type a website address (like *weather.gov*) or just what you're looking for, and tap **Go**.
4. Tap links to follow them; use the back arrow to return. Pinch two fingers apart to enlarge small text.

TIP

The web browser is your workaround for missing apps

Remember the app situation from Part 4? Here's the fix: if an app you want (like Gmail or YouTube) isn't in Amazon's store, you can usually just use it through **Silk** instead. Go to gmail.com or youtube.com in the browser, sign in, and you have the service without needing its app. Bookmark these so they're one tap away.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

The whole web, and a way around the app limits

Silk gives you the entire web — news, shopping, recipes, the answer to any question — and doubles as your clever workaround whenever a particular app is missing. Between the Appstore and the browser, there's very little you can't do on your Fire tablet.

CHAPTER 32

Email on Your Tablet

Your Fire tablet handles **email** nicely. There's a built-in **Email** app that works with most email accounts — including Gmail, Outlook, Yahoo, and others — so you can read and write from the comfort of your tablet.

Setting up your email

1. Open the **Email** app.
2. It asks for your email **address** and **password**; type them in.
3. It usually sorts out the rest automatically. In a moment, your messages appear.

Reading and writing

- **Read:** tap a message in your inbox to open it.
- **Reply:** tap the reply arrow, type, and tap send.
- **Write new:** tap the compose button (a pencil), fill in the address, subject, and message, and send.
- **Attach a photo:** tap the paperclip while writing.

SCAM ALERT

Watch for scam emails here, as everywhere

The same email caution applies on your tablet: be wary of messages that rush you, ask for a password or payment, or want you to tap a link to "verify" something — especially ones pretending to be from Amazon, your bank, or "support." Real companies don't operate that way. Don't tap links you weren't expecting. When in doubt, don't, and call me.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Your correspondence, comfortably in hand

Email on the tablet means you can keep up with family and handle business from your armchair — no desk, no fuss. With the text sized to suit you and the keyboard (or your voice) to reply, staying in touch is easy and pleasant.

CHAPTER 33

Your Photos, and Video Calls

Two more joys: enjoying photos on the tablet's screen, and seeing family face to face through video calls. Both are lovely on a Fire tablet.

Photos

The **Photos** app holds pictures you take or save. If you turn on Amazon Photos (free photo storage that comes with Prime), your pictures are also kept safely online. You can swipe through them, see one large, and — in Show Mode — let them play as a digital photo frame. Grandchildren's faces on a big screen on your counter: a daily delight.

Video calls to see family

Beyond Alexa calling (Part 5), you can video-call family using apps like **Facebook Messenger**, **Zoom**, or **WhatsApp** from the Amazon Appstore — whichever your family uses. The tablet's front camera and big screen make it a comfortable way to see the grandchildren. (Our "Staying in Touch with Grandkids" manual is full of ideas.)

TIP

The big screen makes video calls a joy

A tablet's screen is far roomier than a phone's, so video calls feel warmer — you can prop it up, see faces clearly, and keep your hands free. Lean it against something at about eye level, make sure a window or lamp lights your face, and settle in for a proper visit with the grandchildren.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Faces and memories, on a lovely big screen

Your photos to enjoy and share, and your family's faces live on a comfortable screen — the Fire tablet brings the people and memories you love right into your hands. For staying close, it's one of the warmest things this little tablet does.

CHAPTER 34

Listening: Audible, Audiobooks & Podcasts

Not everyone wants to read with their eyes — and your Fire tablet is wonderful for *listening* too. Audiobooks and podcasts turn chores, walks, and quiet afternoons into a pleasure, and they're a gift for tired eyes.

Audiobooks

An **audiobook** is a book read aloud by a narrator — often beautifully performed. Amazon's **Audible** app (built in or easily added) has a huge library. Many ordinary Kindle books can also be read aloud by the tablet itself. Either way, you settle back, press play, and listen to a good book while you knit, cook, or rest.

Podcasts

Podcasts are free audio programs — like talk radio on every subject under the sun: history, gardening, faith, news, true crime, old-time radio. Search for a podcast app or topic in the Appstore, find a show you like, tap **Follow**, and new episodes arrive on their own. A lovely companion for chores or a long afternoon.

Making listening easy

- **Use headphones or a speaker** for clearer sound, or a Bluetooth speaker to fill the room.
- **Ask Alexa** — "Alexa, read my book" or "Alexa, play a podcast" — to start listening hands-free.
- **Download episodes** while on Wi-Fi to listen later without internet.

TIP

Listening is a blessing for tired or failing eyes

If reading has become a strain — small print, tired eyes, or failing sight — audiobooks and the tablet's read-aloud feature keep the joy of books fully alive. You lose nothing of a good story by hearing rather than seeing it; many people come to prefer it. Your library needn't close just because the eyes aren't what they were.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Books and programs for your ears

Audiobooks and podcasts turn your Fire tablet into a companion that reads to you and keeps you company — through chores, walks, sleepless nights, and lazy afternoons. For anyone who loves a good story or a good conversation, it's hours of pleasure, hands-free and easy on the eyes.

CHAPTER 35

Music on Your Tablet

Your Fire tablet is a jukebox too. Whether it's the music of your youth or something new, you can fill the room with it — and often just by asking Alexa.

Playing music

- **Ask Alexa** — "Alexa, play Glenn Miller," "Alexa, play some gospel music," "Alexa, play the oldies." The easiest way by far.
- **Amazon Music** — the built-in app; Prime members get a large library included.
- **Other services** — apps like Spotify or Pandora are in the Appstore if you prefer them, with free options.
- **Free radio** — many apps and websites play radio stations at no cost.

Better sound

The tablet's built-in speakers are fine for a quiet room, but for fuller sound, connect a **Bluetooth speaker** (a small wireless speaker) — it pairs to the tablet and fills the room. Or use headphones for private listening. Ask me for a simple speaker recommendation if you'd like one.

TIP

"Alexa, play…" is the magic phrase

You don't need to hunt through an app to hear a favorite song. Just say "Alexa, play" followed by a singer, a song, a style, or an era, and the music starts. "Alexa, play some Johnny Cash" or "Alexa, play relaxing piano music" — it's the easiest jukebox you ever used, and it never runs out of records.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

The soundtrack of your life, on command

Rediscover the songs you grew up with, set a cheerful mood for the morning, or wind down with something soft in the evening — all by simply asking. Music lifts the spirits and stirs happy memories, and your Fire tablet keeps a world of it ready at a word.

CHAPTER 36

Games & Keeping the Mind Sharp

A Fire tablet is a grand place for games and puzzles — a pleasant way to pass the time and, many find, good exercise for keeping the mind nimble. There's something for every taste, and plenty of it free.

Popular gentle games

Kind	Examples
Solitaire & card games	The classics — solitaire, hearts, spades — free and familiar.
Word games	Crosswords, word searches, Wordscapes, Words With Friends — good for the vocabulary.
Puzzles	Jigsaw puzzles, mahjong, sudoku, matching games — soothing and absorbing.
Brain teasers	Memory and logic games made to keep the mind active.
Trivia	Test your knowledge, solo or against family.

Finding and playing them

1. Open the **Appstore** and search for the kind of game you like ("solitaire," "word search").
2. Pick a free one with good reviews and tap **Get**.
3. Open it and play — most explain themselves as you go.
4. If a game nags you to buy things, you can ignore those prompts, or just delete the game and try another.

HEADS UP

Watch for games that push you to spend

Many free games try to sell you extra coins, lives, or features as you play. You never have to buy any of it — just tap past the offers. But set a purchase password (Part 7) so nothing is bought by accident, especially if grandchildren play. A game should be fun, not a steady drain on your account.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Fun that keeps the mind spry

A good puzzle or card game is more than a pleasant way to pass an afternoon — it keeps the mind active, sharp, and engaged. Your Fire tablet offers endless free ones, always at hand, so there's always a game ready when you fancy one. Good for the spirits and good for the gray matter.

CHAPTER 37

Shopping on Amazon, Made Simple

Since your Fire tablet is an Amazon device, shopping on Amazon is especially easy on it — order anything from groceries to garden tools, delivered to your door, without leaving your chair. A real convenience, used with a little care.

Shopping, step by step

1. Open the **Amazon Shopping** app (or go to amazon.com in the Silk browser).
2. Tap the **search** box and type what you want ("reading lamp," "vitamin D," "birthday card").
3. Tap a result to see details, price, and reviews. Scroll down to read what other buyers say.
4. Tap **Add to Cart**, then when ready, **Proceed to checkout** and confirm your address and payment.
5. Your order arrives in a day or few — and you can track it in the app.

Shopping wisely

- **Read the reviews** and the star rating before buying — and be a little wary of items with very few or suspiciously glowing reviews.
- **Check the seller** — "Ships from and sold by Amazon" is the safest; other sellers vary.
- **Mind the price** — if a deal looks too good to be true, it may be. Compare before you buy.
- **Use your purchase password** (Part 7) so nothing is ordered by accident.

SCAM ALERT

Order and delivery scams — check in the app, not a link

Because you shop on Amazon, scammers send fake "problem with your order" or "package couldn't be delivered" emails and texts with links. **Never tap those links.** If you want to check on a real order, open the Amazon app yourself and look under "Your Orders." The real status is always there. A message pressuring you to click or pay about an order is a red flag, not a request.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

The whole store, delivered to your door

Shopping on your tablet means nearly anything you need — household goods, gifts, health items, hard-to-find things — arrives at your door with a few taps, no driving and no lifting. For anyone who finds getting out to the shops harder than it was, it's a genuine boon to independence.

CHAPTER 38

Recipes, Hobbies & Learning

Beyond books and shows, your Fire tablet is a marvelous companion for the things you love to *do* — cooking, crafts, gardening, learning something new. Here are a few of the nicest ways to put it to work.

In the kitchen

- **Find any recipe** — search the web ("easy apple pie recipe") and prop the tablet on the counter to follow along.
- **Ask Alexa** hands-free while your hands are floury — "Alexa, how many teaspoons in a tablespoon?" "Alexa, set a timer for 40 minutes."
- **Watch a how-to video** — see a technique demonstrated step by step on YouTube (in the browser).

Hobbies and interests

- **Gardening, crafts, woodworking** — endless free guides, videos, and communities online.
- **Genealogy** — research your family tree on the web.
- **Faith** — Bible apps, devotionals, and streamed services.
- **Learning** — free courses and lessons on nearly any subject that interests you.

Keeping curious

Whatever sparks your curiosity — a historical event, a far-off place, how something works — your tablet holds the answer. A quick search or a question to Alexa opens a door, and one thing leads pleasantly to another. It's a lifelong library and classroom in your hands.

TIP

Prop it up in the kitchen with a stand

A folding case or a small stand makes the tablet wonderful in the kitchen — your recipe stays visible and splatter-free while your hands work, and Alexa handles timers and measurements by voice. It turns the tablet into the best cookbook you ever owned, one that also reads you the steps and keeps the time.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A companion for everything you love to do

Recipes on the counter, how-to videos for your projects, guides for your hobbies, answers to every curiosity — your Fire tablet enriches the things you already enjoy and opens doors to new ones. It's not just for passing time; it's a tool for living fully and staying curious.

PART 7

Staying Safe & Running Smoothly

Guarding against accidental purchases and scams, keeping the tablet updated, making room with a memory card, and the simple fixes for when something goes wrong.

CHAPTER 39

Avoiding Accidental Purchases

Because your Fire tablet is tied to your Amazon account with a card on file, buying things — books, apps, shows — can happen with a tap. That's convenient, but it means a stray tap (or a curious grandchild) could buy something by accident. A simple setting prevents it.

Requiring a password for purchases

1. Open **Settings**.
2. Find the purchase or parental-controls settings (often under **Device Options** or **Parental Controls**).
3. Turn on **require a PIN or password for purchases**.
4. Now nothing can be bought without typing your secret code — peace of mind, especially if children use the tablet.

TIP

This is the first thing to set if grandkids use the tablet

If any children ever use your Fire tablet, turning on a purchase password is essential — it stops them buying games or add-ons by accident (which can add up fast). It takes a minute and saves real money and headaches. Pair it with a child profile (Part 3) and the tablet is safe in little hands.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Easy buying, no nasty surprises

A purchase password keeps the convenience of one-tap buying while slamming the door on accidents. You buy what you mean to and nothing you don't — and the monthly statement holds no unwelcome surprises. A small setting, real peace of mind.

CHAPTER 40

Spotting Scams

The tablet itself is quite secure — the real danger is a clever person trying to *trick you* into giving up money or a password. These tricks are called **scams**, and Fire tablet owners get a particular flavor of them, so let's be ready.

The scams to know

The scam	What to do
Fake "Amazon" messages	Emails, texts, or calls claiming a problem with your Amazon order, account, or a refund, asking you to "verify," pay, or call a number. Amazon doesn't do this. Don't respond; check your account directly through the real app or site.
Pop-up "virus" warnings	A scary message in the browser: "Your tablet is infected, call now!" A fake, every time. Don't call; close the page.
The "refund" trick	A caller says you're owed a refund and needs "access" or your card to send it. It's a scam to drain your account. Hang up.
Prize and gift-card demands	"You've won!" or any demand to be paid in gift cards — always a scam.

SCAM ALERT

"Amazon" will never call you about a problem — that's the tell

Because your tablet is an Amazon device, scammers love to pose as "Amazon." Burn this into memory: the real Amazon will *not* phone you out of the blue about a suspicious order, a refund, or your account, and will never ask you to pay with gift cards or give someone remote access. Anyone doing so is a crook. Hang up, and if you're unsure whether an order is real, check it yourself in the Amazon app. When shaken, call me — it's free.

STAY SAFE

When in doubt, stop and call me

If a call, email, text, or pop-up ever makes you uneasy — about money, a password, your Amazon account, anything — **stop and call me before you do a single thing**, at **(330) 200-8042**. I'll never charge you, and never think less of you, for a "is this a scam?" question. Those calls are exactly what I'm here for.

CHAPTER 41

Updates & Making Room

Two bits of simple upkeep keep your tablet healthy: letting it **update**, and making sure it doesn't run out of **storage** room. Neither takes much effort.

Software updates

Amazon sends free updates that fix problems and close security holes. The tablet usually installs them on its own overnight, but you can check: **Settings** → **Device Options** → **System Updates**. Keep it plugged in and on Wi-Fi, and let it do its thing.

Storage, and a memory card

Fire tablets don't have a huge amount of built-in storage, so books, shows, and photos can fill it up. Two easy fixes:

- **Remove downloads you've finished with** — a watched show, a read book — to free space (they stay in your Amazon library to re-download later).
- **Add a memory card.** Most Fire tablets have a slot for a small **microSD card** — a cheap little chip that adds lots of room for photos, books, and shows. Slip one in and the tablet uses it automatically.

TIP

A memory card is a cheap, easy upgrade

If your tablet keeps saying it's low on space, a **microSD memory card** is the simplest fix — they're inexpensive, and they slot right in to multiply your storage. It's one of the few hardware upgrades a Fire tablet allows, and a genuinely worthwhile one. Ask me which size to buy if you're unsure.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Healthy, roomy, and current

Letting updates run and keeping a little storage free — helped along by a cheap memory card — keeps your tablet fast, safe, and ready for all the books, shows, and photos you want. A touch of easy upkeep, and it serves you well for years.

CHAPTER 42

When Something Goes Wrong

Like any gadget, a Fire tablet has the odd off day — a frozen app, a slow spell, Wi-Fi that won't connect. Happily, a few simple moves fix almost everything. Keep this chapter handy.

The golden fix: restart

Before anything else, **restart** the tablet: press and hold the power button, and choose **Restart** (or power off, wait, and turn back on). This clears up a great many glitches and never deletes your things. If you remember one fix, remember this.

Common troubles and fixes

If this happens…	…try this
An app freezes	Close it (tap the recent-apps square, swipe it away) and reopen. If still stuck, restart the tablet.
The tablet is slow	Restart it. Close apps you're not using. Check it's not low on storage.
Wi-Fi won't connect	Restart your router (unplug one minute, plug back in). Re-type the Wi-Fi password carefully.
The screen is dark	Press the power button once — it may just be asleep. Check it has charge.
No sound	Check the volume isn't down or muted. Make sure it's not sending sound to forgotten headphones.
An app won't update or install	Check your Wi-Fi and storage; restart; try again.

TIP

Charge it properly if the battery acts up

If your tablet won't turn on or the battery seems dead, give it a good while plugged in *before* you worry — Fire tablets charge slowly, and a fully-drained one can take several minutes just to show signs of life. Use a known-good cable and a wall charger (not a weak one), leave it a half-hour, then try. That solves most "it won't turn on" scares.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Most problems, solved by you, in a minute

You don't need a technician for the everyday hiccups. Restart the tablet, close a stuck app, restart the router — these few moves clear up nearly everything a Fire tablet ever throws at you. That's real confidence: knowing the problem is small and the fix is in your hands.

CHAPTER 43

Protecting & Caring for Your Tablet

Your Fire tablet is sturdier than it looks, but a little care keeps it working nicely for years — and a few inexpensive protections save a lot of heartache. Since the tablet is cheap, people sometimes skip these, but they're still worth it.

A case and a stand

- **A case** — a cover that cushions the tablet if you drop it, and protects the screen. Amazon and others make cases that fit each model snugly. Well worth having.
- **A stand** — many cases fold into a stand, which is perfect for watching shows, video calls, and Show Mode hands-free. A real everyday convenience.
- **A screen protector** — a thin clear sheet that takes scratches so the real screen doesn't. Cheap insurance.

Keeping it clean and well

- Wipe the screen with a **soft, slightly damp cloth** (an eyeglass cloth is ideal). Avoid harsh cleaners and paper towels.
- Keep it out of extreme heat (a hot car) and away from being dunked in water.
- Charge it with the cable and charger that came with it, or a good-quality replacement.

TIP

A folding case is the best accessory you can buy

If you get one thing for your Fire tablet, make it a **folding case that doubles as a stand**. It protects the tablet *and* props it up for watching shows, video-calling the grandchildren hands-free, and using Show Mode on the counter. It transforms how pleasant the tablet is to use, for very little money.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A small investment that pays for itself

A case and stand together cost little and make the tablet both safer and far nicer to use — propped up for shows and calls, protected against the inevitable bump. Protect it once, and you can relax and enjoy it freely for years, which is exactly the point.

CHAPTER 44

Keeping Your Photos & Things Safe

A quiet worry worth settling: if your tablet were lost, broken, or stolen, would you lose your photos and the things you've bought? Happily, most of it is kept safe by Amazon automatically — let's make sure.

What's already safe

The good news about a Fire tablet being tied to Amazon: much of what you "own" lives in your Amazon account, not just on the tablet, so it's safe if the tablet isn't:

- **Books, shows, music, and apps** you've got are kept in your Amazon account — a new tablet would re-download them all when you sign in.
- **Photos** — if Amazon Photos is on (free with Prime), your pictures are backed up online automatically.
- **Your settings and profiles** largely come back with your account too.

Making sure photo backup is on

1. Open the **Photos** (Amazon Photos) app.
2. Look in its settings for **Auto-Save** or **Backup**, and make sure it's turned on.
3. Now every photo you take is also kept safely online — safe even if the tablet is lost.

GOOD TO KNOW

The silver lining of Amazon's walled garden

The same thing that makes the Fire tablet a little limited — being tied so tightly to Amazon — is also what keeps your content safe. Because your books, shows, and (with backup on) photos live in your Amazon account, losing the tablet doesn't lose them. Sign in on a new one, and your library comes flooding back. That's a genuine comfort.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Your memories and library, safe beyond the tablet

With photo backup on and your purchases kept in your Amazon account, your tablet is just a window onto your things — not the only place they live. A lost or broken tablet becomes an inconvenience, not a tragedy, because the books, shows, and precious photos are waiting safely to reappear on the next one.

CHAPTER 45

Freeing Space When It's Full

Fire tablets don't hold a great deal, so sooner or later you may see a "storage full" message, or things may slow down. Don't worry — making room is easy and safe once you know where to look.

The safe ways to free space

1. Open **Settings** → **Storage** to see what's using the room — apps, videos, photos, books.
2. **Remove downloaded shows and books you've finished.** They stay in your Amazon library to re-download anytime, so deleting the download loses nothing.
3. **Delete games and apps you don't use** — press and hold, then Remove.
4. **Move photos to the cloud** — with Amazon Photos backup on, you can remove local copies safely.
5. **Add a microSD card** (Part 7) for lots more room, cheaply.

TIP

Downloads are the usual space-hog

The most common cause of a full Fire tablet is **downloaded videos and books** piling up. A handful of downloaded movies can fill a small tablet. The fix is painless: delete the downloads of things you've watched or read (they're still in your library online), and the space comes right back. A quick clear-out now and then keeps the tablet happy.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Room to spare, running smoothly

A little housekeeping — clearing finished downloads, backing up photos, perhaps a memory card — keeps your tablet roomy and quick, ready for all the books, shows, and pictures you want. And since nothing you remove is truly lost, you can tidy up with complete confidence.

CHAPTER 46

Starting Fresh: The Reset

Very occasionally — if a tablet is badly muddled, or you're passing it on to someone — you might need to **reset** it, which wipes it clean back to how it came from the factory. It's a bigger step, so let's understand it, and when (and when not) to use it.

What a reset does

A **factory reset** erases everything on the tablet — your settings, downloads, and any photos not backed up — and returns it to a like-new state, ready to set up afresh. Your Amazon purchases and backed-up photos are safe in your account and come back when you sign in again; but anything only on the tablet is gone.

When you might reset

- **Giving the tablet away or selling it** — always reset first, to remove your account and personal data.
- **A deep, persistent problem** that restarting and the usual fixes won't solve — a last resort.
- **A fresh start** if the tablet has become hopelessly cluttered (though tidying is usually enough).

HEADS UP

Reset is a last resort — and back up first

A factory reset is a big, irreversible step, so don't reach for it to fix small troubles — a restart or the other fixes in this part handle almost everything. **Before any reset, make sure your photos are backed up** (Amazon Photos) and you know your Amazon sign-in, or you could lose things. Honestly, this is the ideal moment to call me — I'll make sure nothing precious is lost and that a reset is really needed before you do it.

FROM BILL

Before you reset, let me take a look

Nine times out of ten, a troubled tablet doesn't need wiping — it needs a restart, a clear-out, or one setting changed. Before you resort to a reset and risk losing anything, give me a call. I'll check whether something simpler will fix it, make sure your photos and account are safe, and only reset if it's truly the right move. **(330) 200-8042**.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A clean slate, when you truly need one

Knowing how a reset works — and that it's a last resort, not a first one — means you can clear a hopelessly muddled tablet or safely hand one on, without fear of losing your memories. Used wisely, with a backup in place, it's a fresh start; used hastily, it's a loss. Now you know the difference.

PART 8

Your Everyday Cheat-Sheet

The quick reference to keep by the tablet: the moves at a glance, a plain-English glossary, where to learn more, and my standing offer to help.

CHAPTER 47

The Everyday Cheat-Sheet

Here's the one-page reference to keep handy. These are the things you'll do most on your Fire tablet, with the simplest way to do each.

The essential moves

To do this…	…do this
Open quick settings & Wi-Fi	Swipe DOWN from the top of the screen
Go Home	Tap the Home button (or swipe up) at the bottom
Go back	Tap the back arrow at the bottom
Open an app	Tap its icon once
See all your apps	Swipe up from the bottom of the Home screen
Ask Alexa	Say "Alexa," or press and hold the Home button, then speak
Make text bigger	Settings → Display → Font Size; or pinch to zoom
Read a book	Open the Books/Kindle app; tap the right edge to turn pages
Watch shows	Open Prime Video (or Netflix); tap to play
Turn on Show Mode	Swipe down, tap Show Mode
Get a missing app's service	Use the Silk web browser instead
Fix almost anything	Restart the tablet (hold power, Restart)

TIP

Keep this page close for the first few weeks

Nobody learns all this at once. Keep this cheat-sheet by the tablet and glance at it whenever you need to. Within a few weeks you'll stop needing it — the moves will be in your fingers, and Alexa will handle the rest just by listening. That's exactly how it's meant to go.

CHAPTER 48

A Plain-English Glossary

If a word ever slips your mind, look it up here.

Term	In plain English
Fire tablet	Amazon's inexpensive touchscreen tablet.
Fire OS	The software that runs a Fire tablet (a cousin of Android).
Tablet	A flat touchscreen computer you operate by touching the glass.
App	A small program for one job — reading, video, email, games.
Amazon Appstore	Where you get new apps on a Fire tablet (Amazon's own store).
Google Play	The app store used on most other Android tablets — not normally on a Fire.
Sideloading	An unofficial way to add apps not in Amazon's store (fiddly; get help).
Alexa	The voice assistant built into the tablet — you speak to it.
Show Mode	Turns the tablet into a hands-free smart display (clock, weather, photos).
Drop In	An Alexa feature letting approved family connect like an intercom (optional).
Kindle	Amazon's app and service for reading books on the tablet.
Prime Video	Amazon's app for watching shows and movies.
Prime	Amazon's paid membership (free shipping, plus Video and Photos).
Silk	The Fire tablet's web browser.
Special Offers	The ads Amazon shows on the lock screen (removable for a small fee).
Profile	A separate private space for another person on the same tablet.
microSD card	A cheap little chip that adds storage room to the tablet.
Wi-Fi	The wireless way the tablet connects to the internet at home.
Scam / phishing	A trick to fool you into giving up money, a password, or access.

CHAPTER 49

Where to Learn More & When to Call Bill

You've reached the end — and the Fire tablet's quirks should feel a lot less quirky now. Here's where to turn for more, and a few parting words from me.

Good places to learn more

- **Ask Alexa** — "Alexa, how do I…" is often the quickest answer there is.
- **Amazon's device help** — search "Amazon Fire tablet help" for Amazon's own step-by-step guides.
- **GCFGlobal.org** — free, patient lessons on tablets and technology for beginners.
- **Your library** — many offer free help, and lend free Kindle books through Libby.
- **YouTube how-tos** — search exactly what you want to do. (Stick to well-known channels, and never call a number a video flashes on screen.)
- **And me, anytime** — when you'd rather just ask a real person who'll explain it kindly.

A few parting words

Here's the truth to carry away: **the Fire tablet is friendlier than it first looks.** Its quirks — Amazon's layout, its own app store, the lock-screen ads — are easy to work around once someone explains them, which now someone has. Underneath, it's a capable, affordable little machine that reads, watches, calls, and helps.

Don't feel you must learn it all at once. Pick one thing this week — read a book, video-call a grandchild, ask Alexa the weather — and build from there. And truly, you **can't break it** by exploring.

And if a call, text, or pop-up ever makes you uneasy — especially one claiming to be "Amazon" — stop and call me *before* you do anything. Those "is this a scam?" calls are exactly what I'm here for.

How I can help

I'm Bill, and helping folks feel at home with their technology is what I've done for more than 30 years. I serve **Portage County, Ohio**, in plain English, at a pace that suits you — whether that's setting up your Fire tablet, taming the clutter, getting Alexa calling the family, or sorting out an app that won't install. There's never any rush, and you can book a visit any time at **billshometech.com/book**.

FROM BILL

My standing offer

If anything about your Fire tablet ever puzzles you, pick up the phone. No question is too small, no problem too silly. I'll come out, or talk you through it, as plainly and as patiently as it takes. That's the whole reason I do this work. Enjoy your tablet — you're going to do just fine.

— Bill · Bill's Home Tech · (330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com/book