Epub Reader for Dyslexia review: an offline reader that tints syllables

A free offline EPUB, FB2, MOBI, AZW3 and TXT reader for iPhone and Android that tints every second syllable in 10 languages and ships with no internet permission.

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Online version: https://appstoryo.com/en/apps/epub-reader-for-dyslexia-review-2026



Epub Reader is a free offline ebook reader for iPhone and Android that opens EPUB, FB2, MOBI, AZW3 and TXT files you already own and tints every second syllable so long words break into readable chunks. It is built for slow, tired or dyslexic readers, needs no account, and the Android build ships with no internet permission at all.

Disclosure: AppStoryo is operated by the studio that develops Epub Reader. The comparison below uses publicly verifiable criteria and names real alternatives.

What is Epub Reader, and who is it actually for?

Epub Reader is a reader for the books already on your phone, not a bookshop. No catalogue, no sign-in, nothing to subscribe to. You import an EPUB, FB2, MOBI, AZW3 or TXT file from Files, iCloud Drive or another app's share sheet, and it opens.

The audience is narrower than most reader apps aim at: people who can read but find it costly. Long words that dissolve into letter soup, lines that swap places, italics that smear. Every headline feature attacks one of those. The iOS build, Epub Reader for Dyslexia on the App Store, arrived on 4 September 2026 at version 1.0, weighs 36 MB and needs iOS 15.0 or newer. Epub Reader – Syllables, FB2 on Google Play was updated on 3 September 2026. Both are free, with no ads and no in-app purchase.

How does Epub Reader make text easier to read?

Three tools, and they stack. Syllable highlighting tints every second syllable, so a fourteen-letter word arrives as four visible pieces instead of one wall; it covers 10 languages: Czech, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. The reading ruler dims the page except a band around your current line, which you drag with a finger. Easy-reading mode widens letter and word spacing, swaps white for cream, and replaces italics with bold.

Those are not house preferences. The W3C's accessibility guidance on visual presentation asks for line spacing of at least one and a half within paragraphs, lines no wider than 80 characters, text that is not justified, and resizing up to 200 percent without horizontal scrolling. Epub Reader exposes font, size, line height, margins and alignment as separate controls, which is what makes those targets reachable. Easy-reading mode also applies to the app's own menus — which matters when the settings screen is the part you are struggling with. Read-aloud, driven by the voice engine already on your device, highlights the spoken sentence in a colour kept separate from the four you highlight with yourself.

Which ebook formats does Epub Reader open, and what happens to FB2 or MOBI?

Five: EPUB 2 and EPUB 3, FB2, MOBI, AZW3 and TXT. EPUB matters most, and it is a real standard rather than a vendor format — EPUB 3.3 is a W3C Recommendation, in its current version dated 13 January 2026. A companion specification, EPUB Accessibility 1.1, became a W3C Recommendation on 17 October 2024, defines how a publication declares what it offers a reader who needs help.

The non-EPUB formats are not merely listed. Import an FB2, MOBI, AZW3 or TXT file and it is converted into an internal EPUB container on the spot, so it opens with the same typography controls instead of sitting unreadable in the library. DRM-protected files are declined; the app does not strip DRM, so a book bought inside another shop's ecosystem will not open. Highlights and notes export as Markdown, plain text or JSON.

How private is Epub Reader, and can that claim be checked?

On Android the claim is structural, not a promise. Android apps must declare every permission they use in the manifest, and network access requires the INTERNET permission. Epub Reader's Android build does not declare it, so the system will not let the app open a socket even if its code tried to.

The Google Play listing states no data collected and no data shared with third parties, in the Data safety section every developer must complete. The listing puts it plainly:

> The Android build ships without the INTERNET permission. The app is technically unable to open a network connection, so your library, highlights, notes and reading stats never leave your phone.

There is no account and no advertising or crash-reporting SDK. The consequence is worth saying out loud: nothing is backed up for you. Epub Reader writes a local backup archive, and that is the only copy of your highlights there will ever be. Install Epub Reader from Google Play if the no-network guarantee is the point.

Which ebook reader should you actually install?

Choose PocketBook Reader if you need format breadth and cloud sync

- Pocketbook International SA lists 19 book formats plus the CBR and CBZ comic formats, including PDF, DJVU, DOCX and RTF that Epub Reader does not open at all
- It opens books protected with Adobe DRM, which Epub Reader deliberately refuses to do
- PocketBook Cloud synchronises books, reading positions, notes and bookmarks across devices
- Free, version 5.21, updated 3 September 2026, 9,856 App Store ratings averaging 4.5 — but 106 MB installed, and built for range rather than for reading difficulty

Choose eBoox if your library is FB2-heavy and you want automatic sync

- REDIT, OOO lists EPUB, MOBI, DOC, DOCX, TXT, FB2, PRC, RTF, ODT, HTML, AZW and AZW3, with PDF in beta
- Online automatic sync of books and reading progress, plus a free web reader for the same library
- Free, version 2.23.3, updated 28 May 2026, with 3,655 App Store ratings averaging 4.76
- The trade: sync means a server holds your library, and there is no syllable view or ruler

Choose Voice Dream if listening, not looking, is the real need

- Voice Dream LLC built the reference text-to-speech reader; an Apple Design Award winner that reads PDFs, textbooks, web pages and email, not only ebooks
- Far more voice control and source variety than a device voice engine gives
- Free to install, version 5.5.8, updated 18 August 2026, with 14,253 App Store ratings averaging 4.49
- The trade: 267 MB, and its advanced voices are a network service rather than something that runs in airplane mode

Choose Epub Reader if the problem is the reading itself

- Syllable tinting in 10 languages and a draggable reading ruler are the two features none of the three alternatives above offers
- 36 MB against 106 MB, 177 MB and 267 MB for the three alternatives, with easy-reading typography applied to the whole interface rather than only to the page
- The Android build has no internet permission, so offline is enforced rather than promised

- Epub Reader for Dyslexia on the App Store and Epub Reader – Syllables, FB2 on Google Play, both free

When is Epub Reader the wrong app to install?

If your books are PDFs, it is the wrong app: PDF is not one of the five formats, and no amount of typography control helps a page image. If your library lives in a shop's DRM — a Kindle purchase, an Adobe-protected library loan — those files are declined by design, and PocketBook Reader is the honest answer there. And if you expect your place in a book to follow you between devices, an app with no network access cannot do it; eBoox and PocketBook Reader can.

Two more caveats. Syllable highlighting covers 10 languages, so a book in Japanese, Arabic or Hindi gets the ruler, the spacing and the read-aloud but not the syllable view. And both listings are days old with no public rating yet, so there is no crowd verdict to lean on.

Frequently asked questions about Epub Reader

Is Epub Reader free, and is there a subscription later?

It is free on both stores, with no advertising and no in-app purchase listed. There is no account to create, so there is nothing for a subscription to attach to. The Android build cannot reach a payment server even in principle, because it ships without the INTERNET permission.

Does Epub Reader work with no internet connection?

Yes, and on Android the operating system enforces it rather than policy: without the INTERNET permission the app cannot open a connection. Importing, reading, highlighting, read-aloud and statistics all run on the device. Word lookup does need a connection and is available on iOS only.

Will Epub Reader open my Kindle books?

Only unprotected AZW3 and MOBI files. A book wrapped in DRM is recognised and declined, because the app does not remove DRM. That deliberate limit applies equally to Adobe-protected EPUB files, including most public-library loans.

What exactly does syllable highlighting do?

It tints every second syllable of a word, so a long word arrives as several visible chunks rather than one unbroken string. It works in 10 languages: Czech, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Books in other languages still get every other reading feature.

Is this app only useful if I have dyslexia?

No. The same tools help anyone reading tired, on a small screen, in a second language, or recovering from eye strain. The W3C's visual-presentation guidance frames wider line spacing and a narrower measure as help for cognitive disabilities and low vision generally, not for one diagnosis.

Does the read-aloud feature send my book to a server?

No. It drives the text-to-speech engine already installed on your phone, so no audio and no text leaves the device. The spoken sentence is highlighted in its own colour so it is never confused with your own highlights, and playback continues with the screen locked.

How is Epub Reader different from PocketBook Reader or eBoox?

Those two are broader: PocketBook Reader lists 19 book formats plus comics and opens Adobe DRM, and eBoox syncs library and progress online. Neither tints syllables nor offers a draggable ruler. Epub Reader trades format range and sync for reading support and no network access.

Is it safe to install an app with no ratings yet?

There is no user verdict to rely on, which is a real drawback. What you can check independently is the Google Play Data safety entry, declaring no data collected and no data shared, and the absence of the INTERNET permission — a fact about the package, not a marketing claim.

Pros

- Syllable highlighting in 10 languages breaks long words into visible chunks
- Draggable reading ruler dims everything but the line you are on
- Easy-reading typography applies to the whole interface, not only the book text
- Opens EPUB 2 and 3, FB2, MOBI, AZW3 and TXT, converting non-EPUB files on import
- Android build ships without the INTERNET permission, so offline is enforced
- Google Play Data safety declares no data collected and no data shared
- 36 MB install, free on both stores, no ads, no account, no subscription

Cons

- No PDF, DJVU, CBR or CBZ support at all
- DRM-protected purchases and library loans are declined by design
- No sync, so reading position does not follow you between devices
- Syllable highlighting covers 10 languages, not the 65 interface languages
- Both listings are days old with no public rating yet
- Word lookup needs a connection and is available on iOS only

Summary

A free offline reader aimed at the act of reading rather than at collecting books. Syllable tinting in 10 languages, a draggable reading ruler and easy-reading typography attack the three ways text goes wrong for a slow, tired or dyslexic reader, and the easy-reading setting covers the app's own menus as well as the page. It opens EPUB 2 and 3, FB2, MOBI, AZW3 and TXT, converting the non-EPUB formats into an internal container at import so they genuinely open. Privacy is structural on Android: the build declares no INTERNET permission,

so the operating system will not let it reach a network. Against it: no PDF, no DRM, no sync, an install that is days old with no public rating, and a local backup archive as the only safety net for your highlights.

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