

# How is my iPad different than my Computer?

For many students, browsing the web, checking email and connecting with friends and fellow students is most of what they need in a PC, especially in a laptop. If you don't use your laptop for heavy homework and if you aren't into PC gaming, there's a good chance the iPad could replace your laptop.

Obviously, the main physical difference in an iPad and a laptop is the lack of physical keyboard. While you can pair any Bluetooth keyboard or buy the keyboard dock from Apple, the point of the iPad is defeated if you also have to carry extra hardware with it. Like the iPhone, typing on a flat surface with no tactile feedback takes some getting used to.

Although there are thousands of apps for iPad you never seem to get the full functionality of a desktop application. This can be a hindrance when you really want to "wow" an audience with that extra special PowerPoint presentation or PhotoShopped image.

## iPad Care

### Caring For The iPad Screen

Here are some ways to protect your iPad screen.

- Don't drop it on hard surfaces. It is glass and it can break.
- Clean the screen with a soft, slightly damp, lint-free cloth. I clean my screen after every use in order to make sure the lingering smudges don't wear on the coating.
- Do not clean it with window cleaners, glass cleaners, aerosol sprays, abrasives, or alcohol
- You can use the [iKlenz solution](#) to clean the iPad and the screen. It is safe and I use them to clean my screen every couple of weeks

You can also use a [screen protector](#). These are not for everyone but they do work for the care of the iPad screen. Some people swear by them and others don't like having anything on their screen.

### Caring For Your Batteries

Part of caring for your iPad means caring for the batteries.

- Make sure you keep up on the latest iPad updates. This sounds odd but Apple will sometimes make adjustments to software which help with drain on resources and battery life.
- Go through one charge cycle per month. To do this all you have to do is charge the iPad to 100% and then run it completely out.

## Caring For Your iPad: Environmental

There are also a few environmental ways to care for your iPad. Some of these are obvious while a few are not so obvious.

- Keep the iPad out of heat above 95 degrees for an extended length of time
- Keep the iPad out of cold below 32 degrees for an extended period of time. Like in your car in winter!
- Keep it out of water or extremely humid locations
- Do not dry it with an external heat source, i.e. a hair dryer.

It should also go without saying that part of caring for your iPad is to make sure you do not insert anything into the port connections other than the intended peripherals. Jamming things into the port connectors could render it unusable.

## External Protection

Protecting the outside of the iPad is part of caring for your device. You have been provided a case to keep your iPad in at all times. This will help protect the iPad from any damage and help keep it cleaner.