

Listen Up with MP3 Players

If you look around, you'll see many people with earphones in their ears. They are probably listening to their favorite music on their MP3 players.

What Is an MP3 Player?

An MP3 player is a small **device** that can play music. Many MP3 players also have tiny screens that show videos. MP3 players are very small, so people can carry them anywhere.

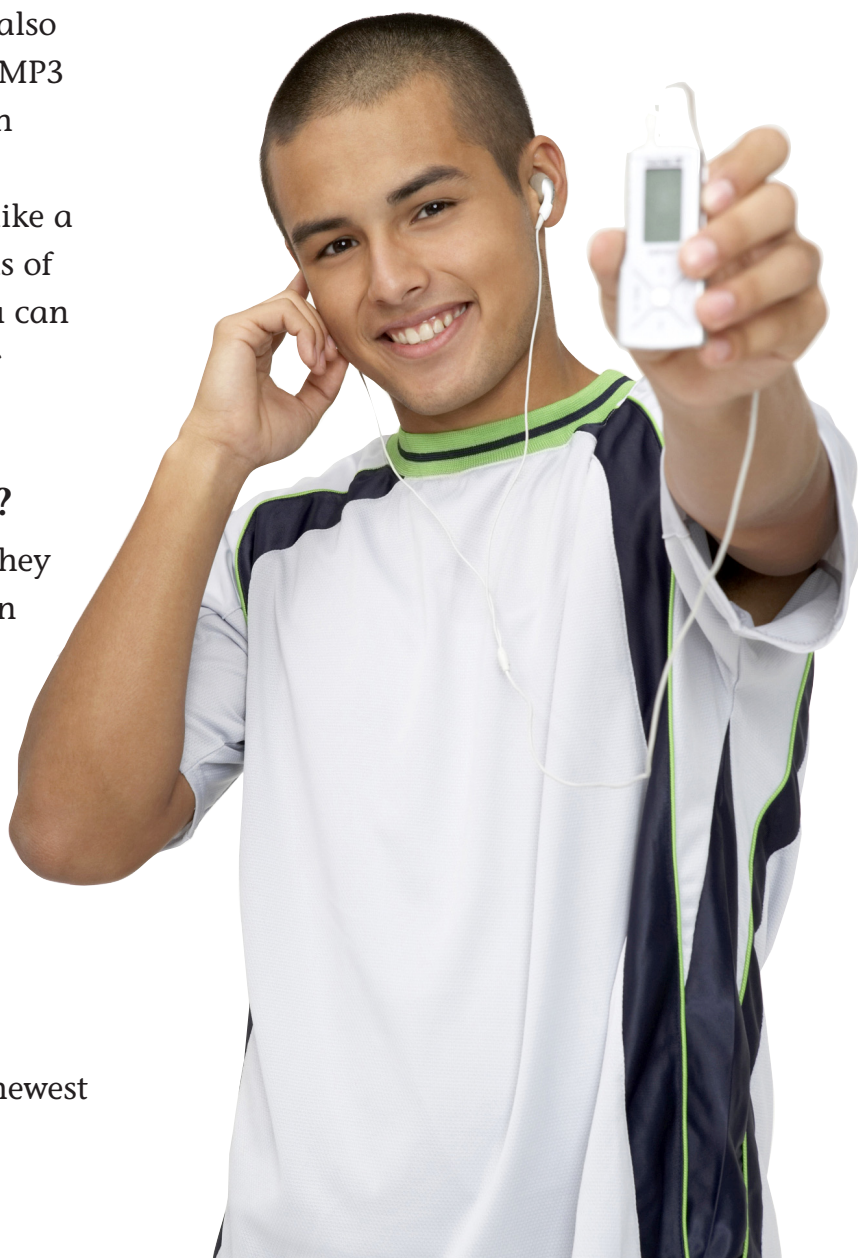
In some ways, an MP3 player is like a tiny computer. It can hold thousands of songs and videos in its memory. You can choose what you want to listen to or watch on your MP3 player.

What Can an MP3 Player Do?

MP3 players can do lots of things. They can play music and videos. They can also play **podcasts** such as news reports, radio shows, and speeches. They can even hold photos. When you have your MP3 player with you, it's like you're carrying around your music and video libraries and your photo albums in your pocket!

Besides carrying music, videos, podcasts, and photos, many of the newest

MP3 players also let you record videos, take pictures, get on the Internet, send and receive text messages, and make phone calls. Even though they are so small, MP3 players can do lots of things!



How Does an MP3 Player Work?

When you buy an MP3 player, it's empty. There are no songs or videos on it. You need to choose what you want to put into your MP3 player. In most cases, you'll have to connect your MP3 player with a computer. When they are connected, you **download**, or copy, the songs, videos, podcasts, and photos from your computer onto your MP3 player. When you do this, you are **syncing** your MP3 player with your computer. Every time you download new stuff on your computer, like a favorite song or a funny video, you'll have to sync them to your MP3 player.

Once everything is downloaded from your computer to your MP3 player, you're ready to listen to your music or podcasts and you can look at your videos and photos. All you need is a pair of earphones. Press play and enjoy!

An MP3 player is a handy device that lets you carry your favorite songs, videos, podcasts, and photos with you wherever you go.

Glossary

device — an object that is made for a special purpose; a gadget

download — to transfer data from the Internet to a computer or between a computer and a device

podcast — a radio show that can be downloaded from the Internet

syncing — to bring together; short for "synchronization"