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# Introduction

There is no way of getting around it, online reading and writing is a natural part of the research and studying process. So, how do you make reading online easier and make studying more efficient?

This guide will cover some simple device and app settings and e-book features to help you get the most out of online reading.

This guide does not provide information on accessibility software. Please speak with the [University of Glasgow Disability Service](https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/disability/) if you have a disability, learning difficulty, or medical condition.

# Device settings

## Night light and dark mode

There are two settings that might help reduce eye strain: night light, and dark mode. These features are useful regardless of the time of day or ambient light levels.

On a Windows PC:

* [Night light](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/set-your-display-for-night-time-in-windows-18fe903a-e0a1-8326-4c68-fd23d7aaf136#Category=Windows_11)
* [Dark mode](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/learning-center/when-to-use-dark-mode)

On a Mac:

* [Night shift](https://support.apple.com/en-gb/102191)
* [Dark mode](https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/mac-help/mchl52e1c2d2/mac)

On a phone:

* Android: [Extra dim](https://support.google.com/accessibility/android/answer/11183305?hl=en-GB&ref_topic=9079043&sjid=9219304437904928242-EU#zippy=%2Cdim-your-screen) and [dark theme](https://support.google.com/android/answer/9730472?hl=en-GB&sjid=9219304437904928242-EU)  
  iPhone: [Night shift](https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT207570) and [dark mode](https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT210332)

## Accessibility features

Some useful features such as changing text size and colours, screen contrast, and text-to-speech are often found in a device’s accessibility menus.

Accessibility features:

* [On a Windows PC](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/learning-center/how-to-find-computer-accessibility-settings)
* [On a Mac](https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/mac-help/mh35884/mac)
* [On an Android phone](https://support.google.com/accessibility/android/answer/9078941?hl=en)
* [On an iPhone](https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/iphone/iph3e2e4367/ios)

# App settings

Let's look at two apps used for academic reading and writing that are supported by the University: Office 365 and Adobe Reader.

## Office theme and apps

* [Changing the Office Theme](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/change-the-look-and-feel-of-microsoft-365-63e65e1c-08d4-4dea-820e-335f54672310) is a universal setting in that all Office apps will be changed at once, regardless of which app you are using.
* To change the document colours, use [Dark Mode for Word](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/dark-mode-in-word-e17b79a3-762f-4280-a81c-a15a859a693a) (similar options appear in other Office 365 apps). Having the option to switch between light and dark modes within an app is useful because some images and figures do not render as well in dark mode.
* [Immersive reader in Word](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/use-immersive-reader-in-word-a857949f-c91e-4c97-977c-a4efcaf9b3c1#PickTab=Windows) and [Office Accessibility tools](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/accessibility-tools-for-microsoft-365-b5087b20-1387-4686-a0a5-8e11c5f46cdf) such as text-to-speech and using your voice to type are also useful features to aid efficient reading and writing.

## Adobe Reader

* Adobe Reader has the option to [change text size and app theme](https://helpx.adobe.com/uk/acrobat/using/viewing-pdfs-viewing-preferences.html).
* There is no dark mode, but you can mimic these settings. To do so, click on Edit, Preferences, then Accessibility. You now need to Replace Document Colours, switching the Page Background to black and the Document Text to white. If an image or figure doesn't render well on this view, simply untick Replace Document Colours, then turn it back on again when required.

# E-book features

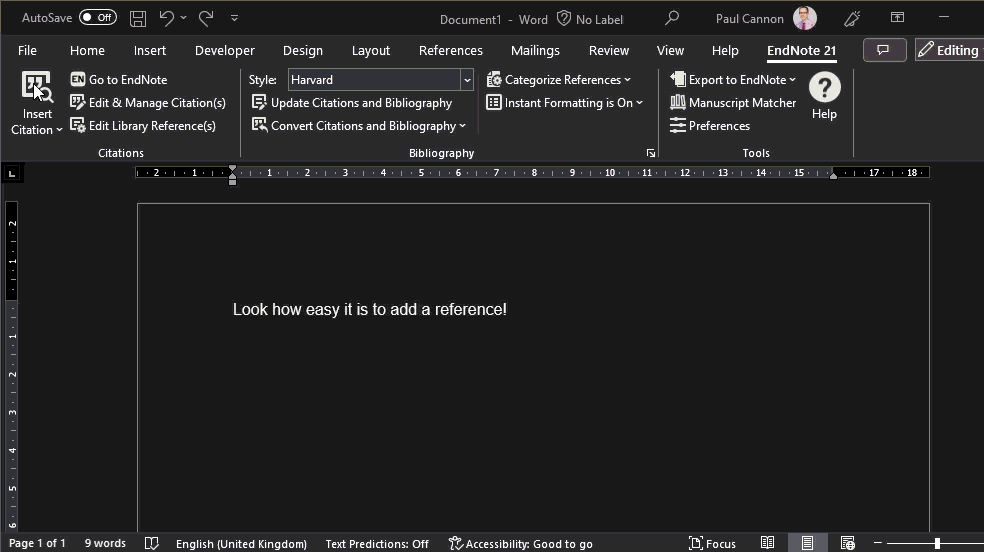
Full guidance on accessing, downloading, printing, and using e-books on a mobile device or e-reader can be found via the [University Library Books and e-books help webpages](https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/library/booksandebooks/#ebooks).

## Annotate and highlight e-books

Functionality varies between the e-book publishers and aggregators but, generally speaking, selecting text within an e-book reader or a pdf in Adobe Reader will open a pop-up box allowing you to highlight text (often in a range of colours) and add notes. If you are logged into the e-book provider’s website, these annotations are often automatically saved. If you are using Adobe Reader, ensure that the pdf is saved to a suitable location, and periodically click ‘Save’ to avoid loss of work.

## Exporting citations

Similarly, most e-book readers allow you to export a citation (reference details) in a range of formats for reference management software. Once you have a reference, this animation shows just how easy it is to add a citation into Word.



If you are not using a reference manager, you can [find out about EndNote and download a copy](https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/library/endnote/) to a personal device.

Remember to use reference management software in conjunction with the [appropriate referencing style](https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/library/referencing/).

# What do you find useful?

Is there anything I've missed? Let me know: [paul.cannon@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:paul.cannon@glasgow.ac.uk)

# Credits

#### Author credit

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