Can you read manga on Libby?

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Yes, if your library lends it: how to find manga in Libby, the Media Do books that read right to left in the browser, holds, downloads and age labels.

Yes, if your library lends manga through Libby, and many libraries do. You borrow it free with your library card, like any other Libby book. Some libraries also offer a second kind, Media Do books, which Libby's help page describes as "primarily manga, comic books, and books in Japanese"; those open in the web browser and read right to left. Everything below was read on Libby's own help pages and a library's page on 31 October 2026.

Libby is the free reading app that many public libraries use for ebooks, audiobooks and magazines. What it holds depends on what your library has bought, so two families in two towns can see quite different shelves.

How to find manga in Libby

Search for a series by name, or for the word "manga", and see what your library has. Two filters help:

- Available now. Libby's help page on finding titles shows how to set the "Availability" filter to "available now", so you only see books you can borrow today, with no wait.
- Media Do. If your library offers Media Do books, Libby's help page says to open the filters, choose "media do" under "Read With", and tap Show Titles.

Two kinds of manga in Libby

Ordinary Libby books. Most manga and graphic novels in Libby open in Libby's own reader, like any ebook. Libby's download-settings page says "many graphic novels are more than 100 MB", much bigger than a book of words, and that Libby skips larger titles when it downloads automatically. Download them by hand on Wi-Fi before a trip.

Media Do books. According to Libby's help page, these "open in your browser, outside of Libby's normal reader, and typically read right-to-left." They "can't be downloaded, so you'll need an internet connection to read them." Not every library has them.

Either way, a manga that reads right to left starts at what looks like the back. If that's new to your child, Peabody's how to read manga is five short steps, read aloud, with a practice strip.

Holds and limits

When every copy your library bought is out, Libby puts you in a line for it. Libraries set their own limits on how many books a card can borrow at once; the Indianapolis Public Library's e-comics page, for example, says you can borrow up to 20 titles there, and that its OverDrive

collection has e-comics and graphic novels "for all ages". Your own library's website will say what its limits are.

If your library also offers hoopla or Comics Plus, those work differently, with no waiting. Peabody's guide where to read comics free compares all of them, each in its own words.

Check the age label

Libby shows whatever your library bought, for every age, side by side. Every English manga carries an age label from its publisher, from All Ages up to Mature, and the label is the quickest check. Peabody's guide to what the age labels on manga mean goes through VIZ's and Kodansha's ratings, read at their own pages, and names the manga labelled for children.

A few habits help a child browse well:

- Look at the label before the art. Plenty of manga with round faces and big eyes are labelled Teen.
- Read volume 1 together, or skim it first.
- Keep a list of series you've checked, so the next volume is quick to borrow. Peabody's manga wing has the manga on our shelf, all of them sold for children in English, each with the books in order.

On paper too

Libby is not the only way. Most public libraries keep manga on the shelf, often in their own section, and a librarian can order a volume from another library if yours doesn't have it. For a child new to manga, a paper copy is often easier: no battery, and turning the pages the "wrong" way is half the fun.

Questions grown-ups ask

Is manga on Libby free?

Yes. Libby's getting-started page says you can "enjoy free ebooks, digital audiobooks, and magazines from your library". Manga is borrowed the same way, with your library card, at no charge.

Why can't I download some manga in Libby?

Those are probably Media Do books. Libby's help page says they open in the browser and "can't be downloaded", so they need an internet connection.

Does Libby have a children's section for manga?

Libby lets you filter by audience, and what you see depends on your library. The quickest check for any one book is still its age label from the publisher.

Peabody is free through the end of 2026. Alongside the comics there is a library of stories for every reader, from first books up.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/can-you-read-manga-on-libby