Free technology books for kids

Peabody · checked 2026-10-19

Peabody has 33 free technology books for kids, on how robots, AI, e-bikes, drones, VR headsets, cars and video games work. They run from levels 7 to 14 and each opens at once with no sign-up. The table shows every book's level and length, so a grown-up can pick one that fits the reader. Free through the end of 2026.

- Book: Be My Robot · Level: Level 7 · Kind: True story · Words: 400
- Book: The Thread That Glowed · Level: Level 7 · Kind: True story · Words: 297
- Book: Four Blades Up · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 877
- Book: How Does a Car Work? · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 947
- Book: One Person or Two Thousand · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 720
- Book: Under Two Seconds · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 720
- Book: The Spam Filter That Learned · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 867
- Book: Is It a Robot? · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 874
- Book: Inside an E-Bike · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 690
- Book: Two Pictures, One Deep World · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 800
- Book: The Blue Dot and the Clocks · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 746
- Book: How Does Formula 1 Work? · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,321
- Book: How Do You Learn to Code? · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,021
- Book: How Do Drones Fly? · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,318
- Book: How Do You Learn to Drive? · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,260
- Book: How Are Video Games Made? · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,301
- Book: How Do VR Headsets Work? · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,164
- Book: Who Invented the Light Bulb? · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 844
- Book: How Do Robots Work? · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,346
- Book: How Do Electric Bikes Work? · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,384
- Book: How Does AI Work? · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,472
- Book: The Wind in the Willows · Level: Level 11 · Kind: Classic · Words: 1,818
- Book: How a Cat Picture Gets to You · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 843
- Book: Downforce, Drag and the Rulebook · Level: Level 13 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,879
- Book: Fooling Two Eyes and One Inner Ear · Level: Level 13 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,810
- Book: Watt-Hours and Bike Lanes · Level: Level 13 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,749
- Book: Six Joints, Five Million Robots · Level: Level 13 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,997
- Book: Debugging Since 1843 · Level: Level 13 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,449
- Book: A Practical Lamp, Not a First One · Level: Level 14 · Kind: True story · Words:

1,267
• Book: The Loop That Holds a Drone Up · Level: Level 14 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,753
• Book: Inside the Sixteen-Millisecond Frame · Level: Level 14 · Kind: True story · Words: 2,146
• Book: Why New Drivers Crash · Level: Level 14 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,755
• Book: Imitation, Prediction, Understanding · Level: Level 14 · Kind: True story · Words: 2,163

Picking one for your child

Every book here is sorted by Peabody's reading level, which is worked out from the text and never from the child. A lower level means shorter sentences and easier words, so start where your child can read about half of a book alone and read the rest together. If it is too hard, go down a level. If they race through it, go up.

A reading level is not an age

A twelve-year-old who asks how to drive, or how a drone stays up, wants a straight answer and may still read at a middle level. Each topic here is written three times: an easy version for about 7 to 11, a fuller one for about 10 to 13 and a detailed one for about 13 to 16, none of them babyish. The level in the table is how hard the words are. The ages above are who the book is for.

Safety and rules

Where a book touches a rule, such as where a drone may fly or how old you must be for a headset, it says it is the United States and that rules differ by state, and it names the page the rule comes from. The driving books explain what the controls are for and how a licence works. They never teach a child to start or drive a car.

For growing readers

10 are at levels 7 to 8: Be My Robot, The Thread That Glowed, Four Blades Up, How Does a Car Work?, One Person or Two Thousand, Under Two Seconds and more. Longer books, with more going on in each one.

For confident readers

23 are at levels 10 to 14: The Blue Dot and the Clocks, How Does Formula 1 Work?, How Do You Learn to Code?, How Do Drones Fly?, How Do You Learn to Drive?, How Are Video Games Made? and more. These are for children who read chapters and longer passages on their own.

Reading them together

A grown-up can read any of these aloud from a phone or tablet, one page at a time, and a child who reads can take over. Where a device can speak, the book page has a Read to me button that reads each page aloud in the device's own voice. Every book page has a Print link too, if you would rather read on paper.

More free stories

- The whole library: free stories by reading level, no account needed.
- Classic stories retold short: fables, fairy tales, myths and legends.
- Free nonfiction books for kids, one topic at three levels
- Free sports books for kids
- Free space stories for kids
- Free beginning reader books for kids just learning to read
- By level: Level 7 · Level 8 · Level 10 · Level 11 · Level 13 · Level 14

Questions parents ask

What reading level are these technology books?

They run across levels 7 to 14. Peabody works each level out from the book's text: how long the sentences are, how many words fit on a screen and how common the words are. The table shows the level of every book, so you can pick a lower or a higher one.

Are any of these books scary?

None carries a mark above gentle, and none is on the scary stories shelf. The short description on each book's page says what it covers, so read it first if your child is sensitive.

Do the books cost anything?

No. Every story on this page is free to read through the end of 2026, with no account and no card.

Free at peabody.kids/technology-books-for-kids