u3a

Computer Group

Learn, Laugh, Live in the Digital Age

2pm-3.45pm Beginners Group Choosing a printer

Ken Surplice
Basingstoke and Old Basing Computer Group

Help you choose a printer that is right for you.

Compare different types of printer.

Review what is currently on offer today and prices.

The best choice for economical printing has changed.

How to print from phones/tablets.

Discover tips to get the most from your printer.

Computer Group helpers



Ken	Andy
Alister	Arthur
Gordon	Nick

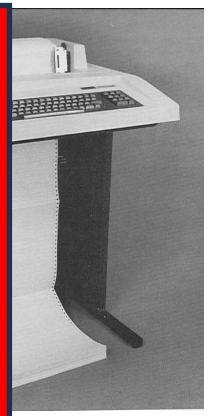
Session agenda

- Helpers are here to help you
- All about printers
- Tea and coffee
- Help from helpers

Printer evolution



Mainframe band



ix printer



Dot matrix printer



Laser printer

Their problem

Your problem



Desktop laser printer



Inkjet printer

PRICE

SIZE

Big buying decision

Upfront costs



Running costs

u3a

learn, laugh, live

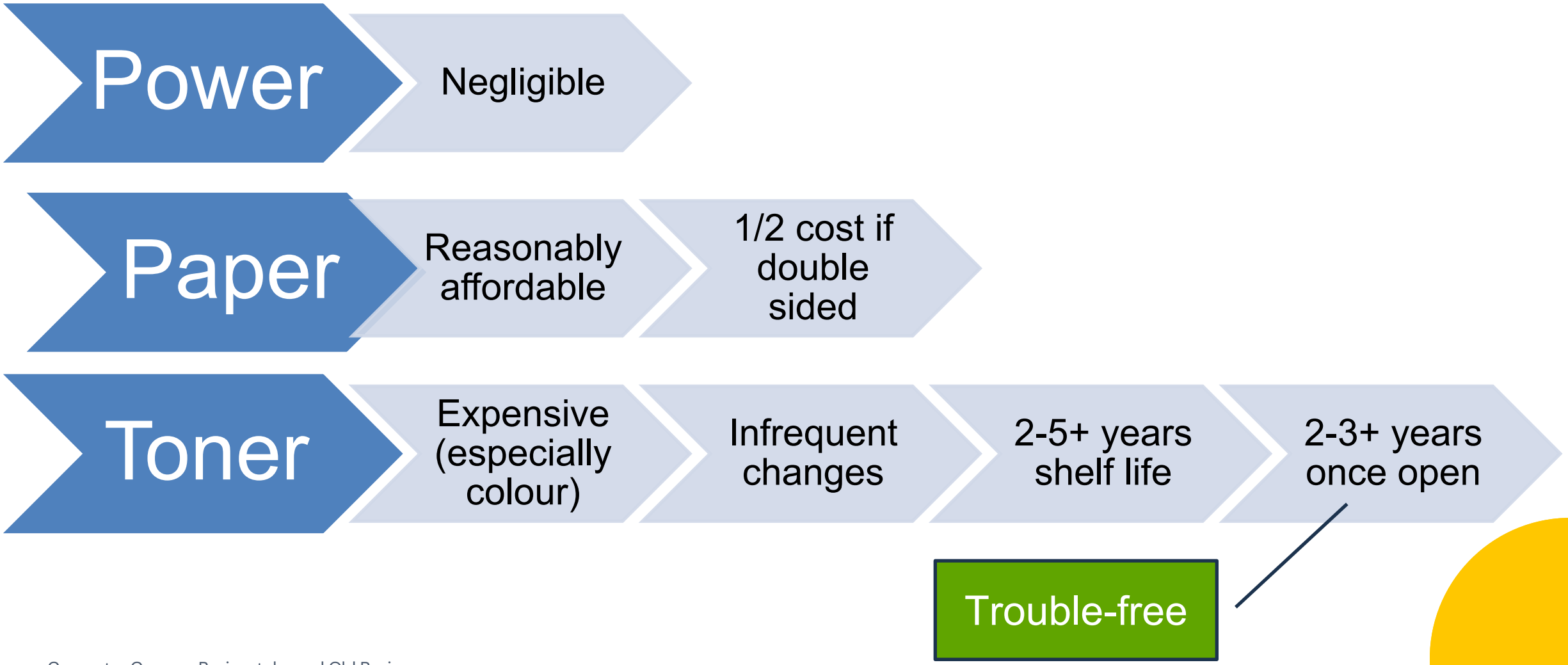
Chez moi







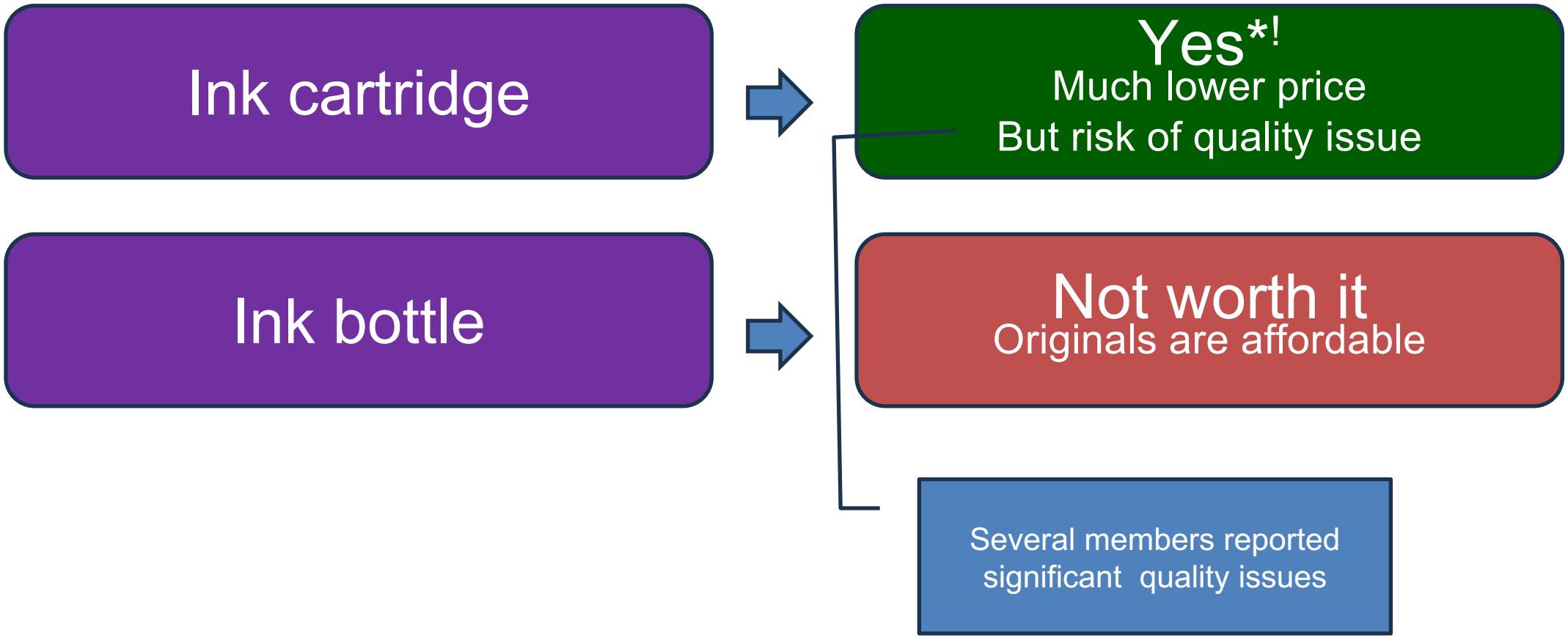
Printer consumables 1 of 2



Printer consumables 2 of 2

	Cartridge & bottle: mess-free	Cartridge & bottle: print test page or head clean every few weeks to prevent ink drying		
Ink cartridge	Expensive	Not much ink	18-24 months shelf life	6-12 months once open
Ink bottle	Reasonable price, cheap to run	2++ years shelf life	6++ months when open	

Can I use third party ink?



Beware

Cartridge subscription

Once activated, printer will not accept 3rd party cartridges, ever

Best for

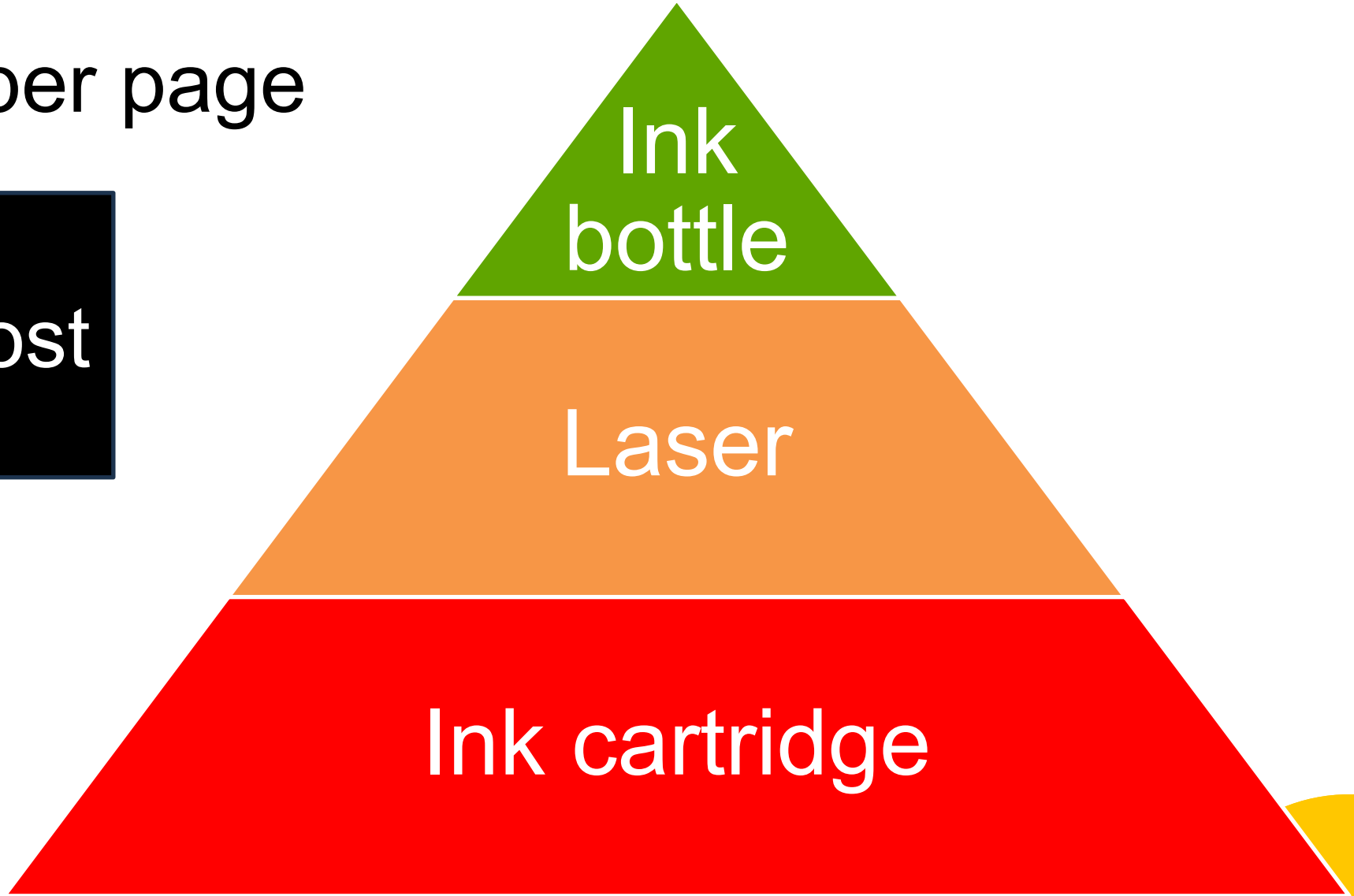
- printing many full pages
- when you can't afford an ink tank printer



Not recommended

Printing cost per page

Increasing cost



Printing cost per page

Approximate Cost Per Page (UK)

Printer Type	Black & White (Mono)	Colour Page	Notes / Best Used For
Ink Cartridge Printer	**4p – 7p**	**10p – 18p**	Lowest initial printer cost, but very expensive ink refills. Cartridges can dry out if unused.
Laser Printer	**1.5p – 3.5p**	**10p – 15p**	Highly reliable for text documents. Toner doesn't dry out over time.
Ink Tank Printer	**0.2p – 0.5p**	**0.8p – 1.5p**	Very low running costs. High initial purchase price for the machine.

Allow 0.8p to 1.5p for each sheet of paper

Printing cost per page vs. a per page subscription

Approximate UK Cost per Page (CPP) Comparison

Printing System	Black & White Text	Full Colour / Photo
HP Instant Ink Subscription	**4.3p – 17.9p**	**4.3p – 17.9p** (Same cost as mono)
Traditional Ink Cartridges	**4p – 7p**	**10p – 18p+**
Ink Tank Printers *(EcoTank / Smart Tank)*	**0.2p – 0.5p**	**0.8p – 1.5p**

Ink cartridge subscription prices

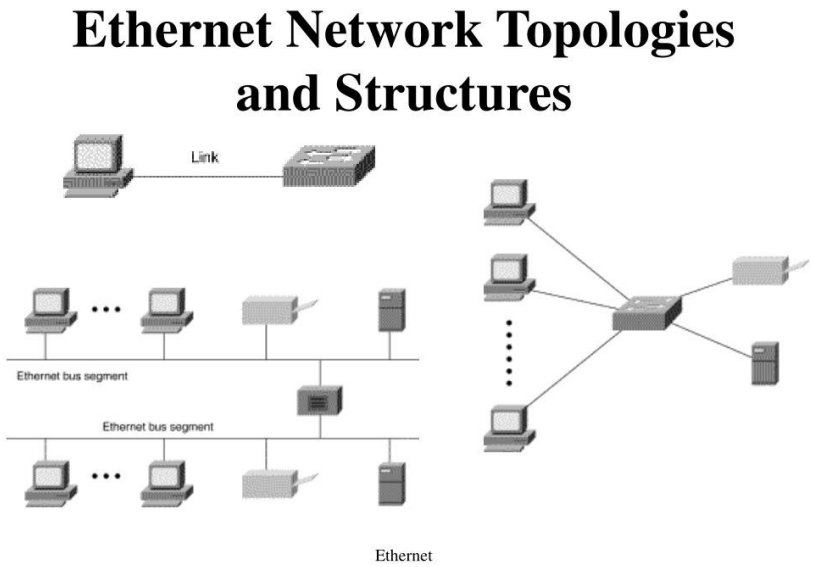
Instant Ink plans in the UK typically range from **£1.79 to £28.99 per month** depending on your plan tier: HP

- **Light (10 pages/mo at £1.79):** ~17.9p per page
- **Home (50 pages/mo at £4.49):** ~9.0p per page
- **Moderate (100 pages/mo at £6.49):** ~6.5p per page HP
- **Frequent (300 pages/mo at £13.49):** ~4.5p per page
- **Business (700 pages/mo at £28.99):** ~4.1p per page
- **The Advantage:** If you print heavy full-page color graphics or A4 photos regularly, Instant Ink is drastically cheaper than buying regular cartridges. Box
- **The Drawback:** For light text printing, it is significantly more expensive per page than standard mono printing. If you don't print your full page limit every month, your effective cost per page rises because you pay the monthly fee regardless.

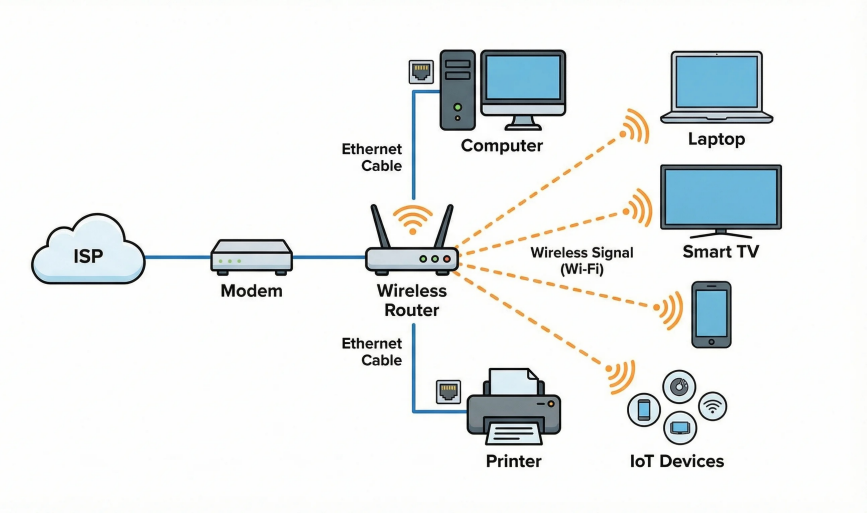
Printer connections evolution



Direct connection



Network cable connection



Wi-Fi network

Print over Wi-Fi for phones and tablets; choose cable or Wi-Fi for laptops

Printer choices today – laser

Laser	Positives	Negatives
• Monochrome or colour? • Scanner? • Sheet feeder? • Double sided (duplex) printing? • Wired or Wi-Fi?	• Toner does not dry out. Reliable. • Lower prices over time • Compact • Smudge-free paper if wet	• Toner expense but it can last a very long time. An infrequent but significant cost • If you print a lot, really a lot, you may need a new and expensive drum

Laser cost per page *used to be* cheaper than inkjet

Printer choices today – Inkjet

Inkjet	Positives	Negatives
~~• Monochrome or~~ colour? • Cartridge or tank? • Scanner? • Sheet feeder? • Double sided printing? • Wired or Wi-Fi?	• Ink cartridge printers inexpensive • Compact	• Ink cartridge expense • Ink bottle printers (ink tank) expensive up-front • <u>All inkjet printers may need replacing when waste ink collector is full but some printers have a replacable waste ink tank</u> (3rd party key and sponge)

Let's choose a printer

Am I printing a lot?
- Cost per page important ⇒ pay more for printer

Need double-sided?
- Save on paper

Want to scan?
- Sheet feeder?

Is speed important?
- Most are easily fast enough

How to connect
- USB cable
- Wi-Fi or network cable

If ink cartridge, can I change waste ink tank?

For high volume printing

Let’s choose a printer

Brother 3-in-1 compact inkjet colour printer, DCP-J1260W
£89.98 - £20 Costco. £80 elsewhere.
Print. Scan. Single sided, manual double sided.
£58.89 for 3 colour and one black cartridge. 500 pages.
Reviews not the best.



Epson
Printer chooser (highly recommended):
https://www.epson.co.uk/en_GB/printer-finder
Expression Premium XP-7100
£149.99 from Epson. £119.90 at Amazon
A4 print, copy, scan, auto double sided
Ink cartridges £29.49 530 pages black
Ink cartridge Cyan/Magenta/Yellow £22.99 each
Decent reviews



Let’s choose a printer



Epson EcoTank ET-5150 (I have this since mid 2023. £354)
£449.99 Epson. £401.53 at Amazon.
Print. Scan. Auto double sided. The works.
Ink tank. 13,300 black pages worth included. 5,200 colour.
Black ink bottle. 7,500 pages. £18.49
Colour bottles. 6,000 pages. 3*£14.99.
Never lets me down.



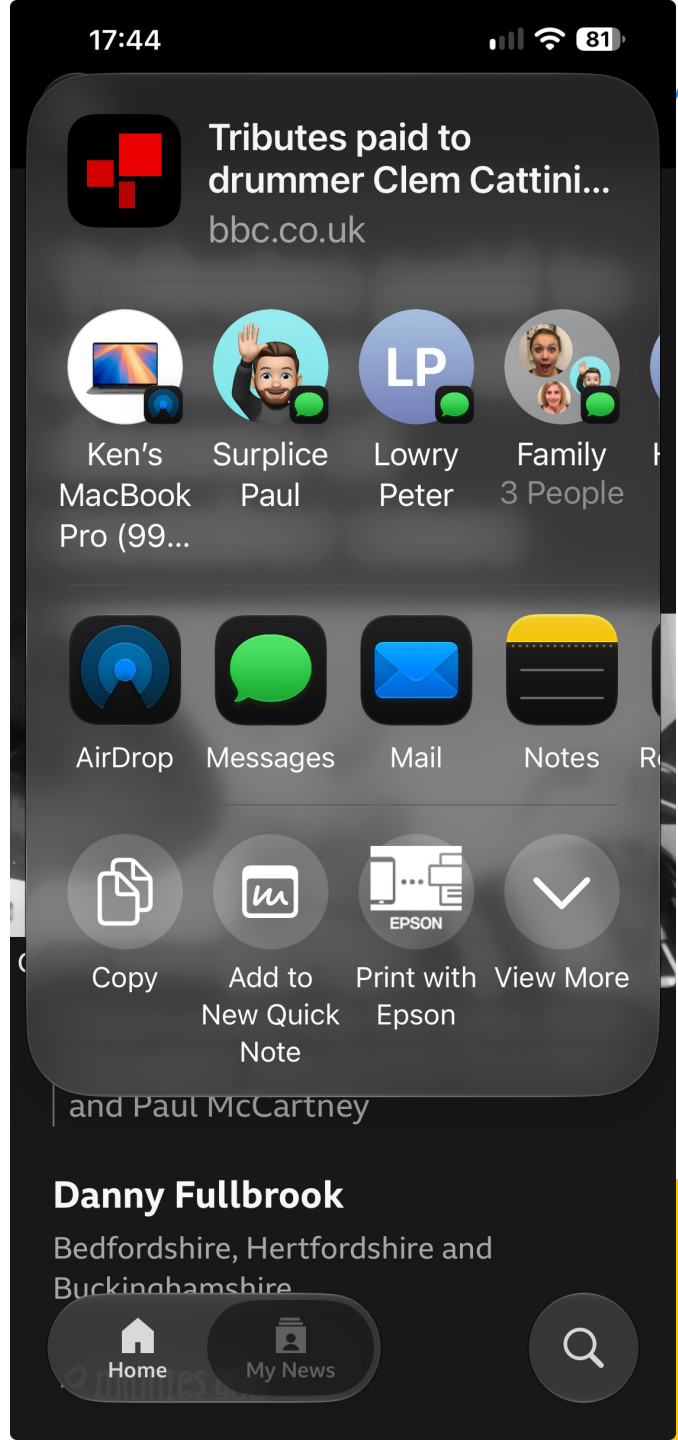
Brother Tankbenefit Brother DCP-T580DW
£219.99 at Amazon
A4 print, copy, scan, auto double sided
Black ink bottle. 7,500 pages. £17.93
Colour bottles. 5,000 pages. 3 for £19.54 total.
Medium reviews

Brand	Best Known For	Mobile & Multi-Device Support	Ideal Choice For
Brother	Reliability, longevity, and hassle-free connectivity	**Brother Mobile Connect app**, native AirPrint/Mopria, strong network stability	Black-and-white documents, working from home, and frustration-free Wi-Fi
Canon	Color accuracy and photo print quality	**Canon PRINT app**, AirPrint, Mopria, and broad mobile OS compatibility	Mixed document and photo printing, home crafts, and creative work
Epson	Ultra-low running costs via EcoTank refillable systems	**Epson Smart Panel app**, Wi-Fi Direct, seamless cross-device setup	High-volume printing for families, students, and home offices
HP	Brand recognition and intuitive mobile software	**HP Smart app** (very feature-rich, supports remote printing from anywhere)	Users who value simple phone-first setup and subscription ink options

u3a

Printing from phone or tablet





Printing from Android

- To print from your Android phone
  - Ensure your printer is connected to the same Wi-Fi network as your phone
  - Open the document or image you want to print
  - Tap the three-dot menu or Share, choose Print, select your printer, and tap Print
  - For websites, you can also open the page in Chrome, tap More/Share → Print, pick your printer, and tap Print or “Save as PDF.”

Printing tips

- A wired printer is more reliable than wireless
- Sometimes you can print more than one ‘page’ on one sheet of A4. It’s an easy way to convert from A4 to A5.
- Use narrow margins to reduce number of pages to print
- Add page numbers to keep sheets in order
- Only use high quality mode when needed
- Low ink? Keep printing until it stops.
- Only print in colour when really needed
- For inkjet printers, printing a page every few weeks prevents clogging



Thank you for attending today

