

E-commerce companies and features.



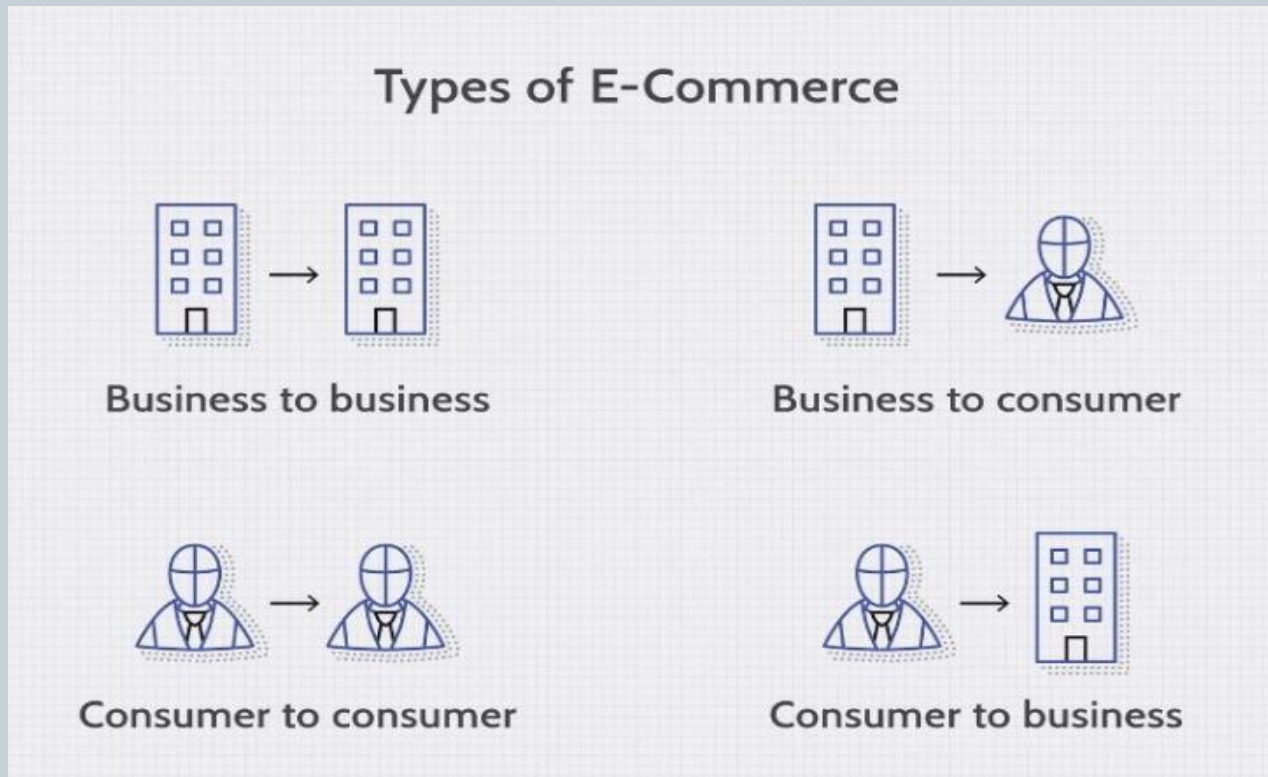
What Is Electronic Commerce (e-commerce)?

- Electronic commerce or e-commerce (sometimes written as eCommerce) is a business model that lets firms and individuals buy and sell things over the internet.



E-commerce operates in all four of the following major market segments:


- Business to business
- Business to consumer
- Consumer to consumer
- Consumer to business



E-commerce companies

Speaking 1 What products or services do you usually buy online? What products do you not buy online? Why?



Listening 2  29 Listen to this interview with David Aston. He works for a company that sells home cleaning products. Mark the statements true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1 David's company sells mainly online. | T / F |
| 2 70% of their business is online. | T / F |
| 3 People buy their cleaning products when they buy their food. | T / F |
| 4 People buy their cleaning products in supermarkets. | T / F |
| 5 Online sales are growing. | T / F |

Language

Talking about quantity

We use **many** and **a few** with countable plural nouns.

*We need **a few** users to test this.
They don't have **many** customers.*

We use **much** and **a little** with uncountable nouns.

*We have **a little** money for online shopping each week.
I don't have **much** knowledge on that subject.*

We use **a lot of** and **some** with countable and uncountable nouns.

***A lot of** businesses need E-commerce upgrades.
Some money has been kept aside for this.*

3 Choose the correct words to complete these sentences.

- 1 *A lot of/Much* shops have online presence. They sell *many/much* products online.
- 2 *Some/A little* companies offer customer service and advice on their E-commerce websites.
- 3 I don't have *much/many* knowledge of computers, but I can still shop online.
- 4 Companies spend *a lot of/many* money on E-commerce security.
- 5 Even when companies only have *a little/a few* money for online marketing, they should spend it.



Vocabulary 6 Match the types of business in the box to the correct column 1–4.

B2C business-to-consumer
B2B business-to-business

C2C consumer-to-consumer
M-commerce

Types of Business	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____
Explanation	Companies exchange information and make wholesale transactions.	Companies sell products or services to customers over the Internet.	People sell or exchange second-hand, used items and collectibles.	Customers purchase products and services via mobile devices.
Examples	coffee supplier to Nestlé	Amazon	eBay	news, sport results

7 Give examples of the four types of business in 6.



Writing 8 What are the advantages and disadvantages of shopping online? Use this table to make notes and then make sentences.

Example: There's more choice online but you can see things better in a shop.

	advantages	disadvantages
security		
speed		
choice		
convenience		
price		



Reading 5 Complete this text with the words in the box.

and but or so

Companies want to reach more customers, (1) _____ they go online. It is easy to set up an online business (2) _____ it is difficult to design and develop a website that attracts a lot of customers. Hardware (3) _____ software provide basic infrastructure for E-commerce.

Networking, customer interface and payment solutions are very important parts of a company's E-commerce solution. Customers expect a fast and reliable service (4) _____ they will go somewhere else to buy things.

Vocabulary 6 Match the first half of the sentences 1–6 to the second half a–f.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Effective product information and | a) I'll check online tutorials. |
| 2 Customers can use their credit cards, PayPal or | b) electronic cheques to pay for transactions. |
| 3 We used a lot of promotions, so | c) you can't touch it. |
| 4 I don't know how to buy online but | d) our sales improved a lot. |
| 5 They want to buy a Cat 5e cable so | e) they search the Internet. |
| 6 In E-commerce you can look at a picture of a product but | f) promotions attract customers. |

Speaking 7 Work in small groups. Talk about an E-commerce website you know and like. Say what is good about it. Use *and*, *so*, *but* and *or*.

*Example: I like the B&Q website.
It has ... and ...*

