SALSIFY | E-book

The Content Advantage

How Improvements to the Product Page Help Brands Succeed on Amazon

What's Inside

03	Executive Summary
05	Accelerating Adoption, Spending Increasingly Moving Online
06	Understanding the Product Detail Page
08	Comparing Product Content on European Amazon Marketplaces

09	Amazon France Deep-Dive				
Better Content Increases Your SERP Rank					
Successful F	Products Get Their Content Right	11			
Choose The	Right Content For Your Product Category	14			
Enhanced C	ontent Gets Results For Higher-Value Products	16			
18	Take Control for Your Digital Shelf				
18	Methodology				
19	About Salsify				

Executive Summary

With the onset of the pandemic, brands across
Europe, faced with the closure of traditional retail
stores, turned to online channels to sell their products.
As we move into 2022, we see that many consumers
have fundamentally changed how they shop. As more
brands and retailers expand their online offering, the
competition for shoppers' eyes and wallets is becoming
increasingly intense. To survive and thrive, you need
to ensure that customers can find you and that your
products stand out compared to the competition.
This is especially true on Amazon.

Ignoring the Amazon channel is no longer an option. Across the three largest European markets, Germany, France, and the U.K., Amazon accounts for more than 1 in 4 euros spent online. Not only that, but it's also the first place consumers go for inspiration and to research potential purchases regardless of the ultimate sales channel. Focusing on driving quality content deeper and deeper into your product catalog can help improve your search ranking, drive conversions, and stand out from those with lower quality content. Even marginal content improvements can have a significant impact in the battle for shoppers' attention.

In this report, we analyze more than 14,000 product detail pages across Amazon.de, Amazon.co.uk and Amazon.fr to uncover the key product content themes. We also include an in-depth deep-dive into Amazon.fr, looking at the impact of content on sales and search rankings. France is the region with the most scope for product content enhancements, but the insights apply to all European brands and retailers.

Key Findings

Better content leads to more conversions: A-rated content on Amazon had 3.4 times more conversions than F-rated content. As your product content improves, your pages better support shoppers' purchase decisions and gain relevance with Amazon's algorithm — together winning more conversions.

Better content increases your search engine results page (SERP) rank: A-rated content appears 5.2% higher in organic search results than B-rated content. Better content creates a virtuous cycle, increasing your product visibility and improving your conversion rates. In turn, this feeds back into Amazon's algorithm, further improving your product rankings.

Good to Know: A-rated content meets Salsify's definition of industry best practices for Amazon product pages. A+ content is a key element of this.

A+ content allows brands to create enhanced brand and product information using elements such as high-definition images, text, videos, and comparison charts.

Recommendations

- Create better content to increase your conversion and page rank. Remember that Amazon product pages are a key interface between your customers and your brand.
- Invest in improving your content throughout your entire product catalog. This will place your A-rated content against products with poor content quality, giving you an advantage in shopper consideration.
- Develop a process implemented by a dedicated team and backed by the right technology to maintain a continuous cycle of content-driven improvement.

Accelerating Adoption Spending Increasingly Moving Online

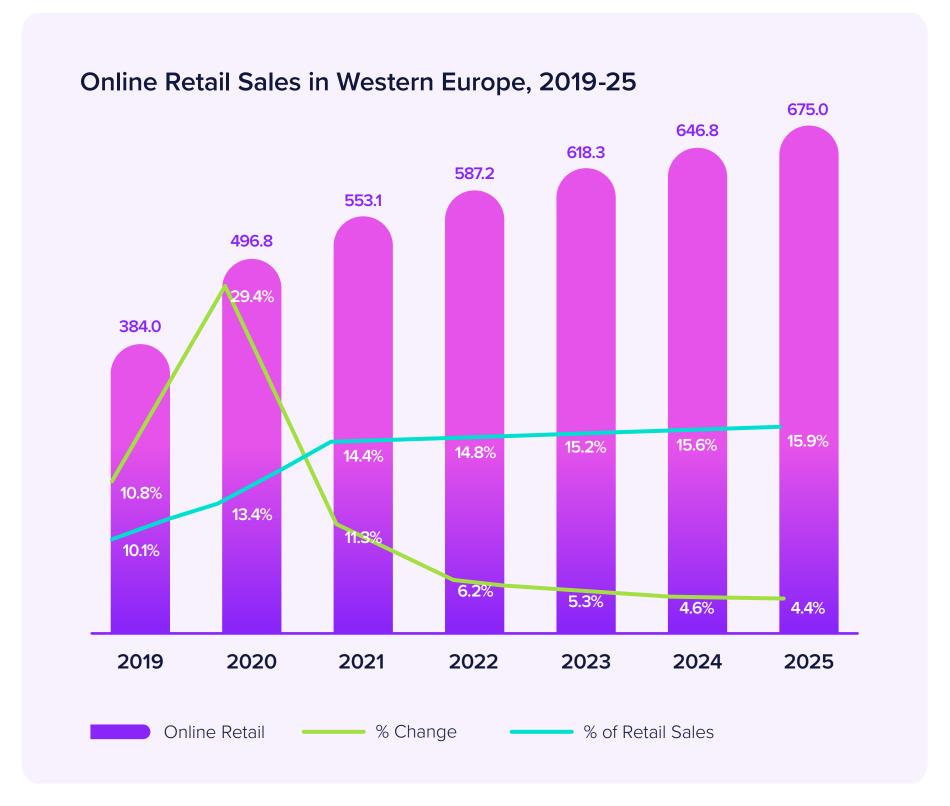
COVID-19 accelerated multiple consumer trends. Across Europe, more than €112 billion of retail spending moved online, driven by an influx of new online shoppers, the growth of categories with previously low penetration rates, and rising spend per consumer. European markets added 73 million new online shoppers, with penetration rates rising rapidly across previously hard-to-reach demographics. A survey in October 2021 by McKinsey found that omnichannel and online shopping is now mainstream across all categories, including grocery and household supplies.

As the online market grows, so does Amazon. In Germany, Amazon's largest European market, the company recorded annual an revenue of €24.5 billion in 2020, while in the U.K., revenue jumped 51%.

In France, Amazon has a 19% market share. A study by FEVAD, the French ecommerce association, found that 51.5% of adults made a purchase on the site in 2020.

Despite accounting for more than a quarter of online spending, this understates Amazon's importance in the online customer journey. In Spain and Germany, more than 80% of consumers search Amazon prior to making product purchases. In France, around 60% of consumers and 85% of Prime members start their search on Amazon. This applies to both purchases made via both online and offline channels. This means that ensuring your products can be found and that

the product detail page provides an engaging customer experience needs to be at the forefront of your ecommerce strategy.



Source: eMarketer, May 2021

Understanding The Product Detail Page

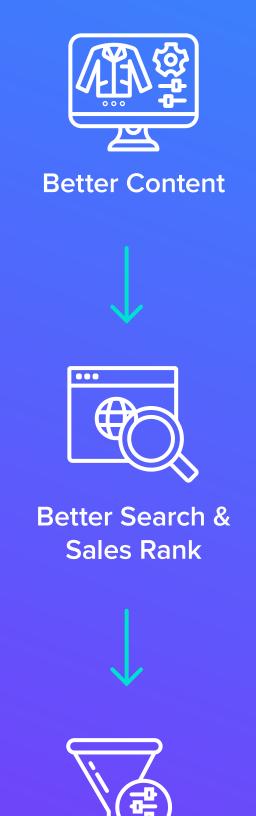
At Salsify, we talk about the digital shelf. The digital shelf encompasses all the diverse digital touchpoints between a brand and a consumer. The product detail page is a key part of the digital shelf. It's your opportunity to showcase your brand, attract new customers, and drive sales. On the physical shelf, product placement matters. Products placed at the end of an aisle or at a shopper's eye-line have significantly higher sales than those on the bottom shelf. Brands are willing to pay significant fees for a good position.

The same applies on the digital shelf. Globally, a third of all Amazon shoppers click on the first product link, and 64% of all clicks are on the top three products. A product's ranking is governed by Amazon's internal search algorithm. This incorporates factors such as sales, price, and the quality and completeness of the product detail page to determine a product's rank.

64% of all Amazon shoppers click on top three products.

As shown in this report, **enhanced content is the key**. Products with more engaging content rank higher in product search results and generate more conversions.

A study published in the Journal of Marketing found that optimizing the verbal and visual content of Amazon product pages increased sales by up to 10%. The study found that the perception of a brand's trustworthiness was heavily influenced by the entertainment value and the social and sensory elements included on the page. These include images and short-form videos showing the product in use. This had the greatest impact for "emotional" products such as children's toys or beauty products. "Rational" products, such as electronics, benefited from informative elements with comparison tables and succinct bullet point descriptions — providing the biggest boost in sales.



Better Conversion

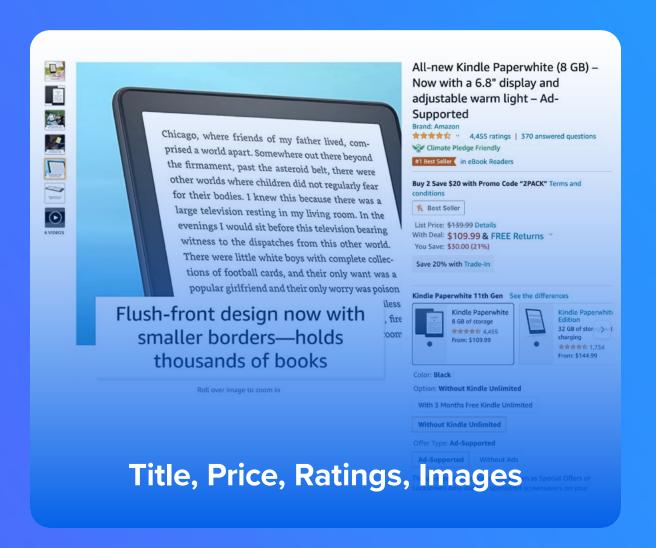
Elements of a Good Product Detail Page

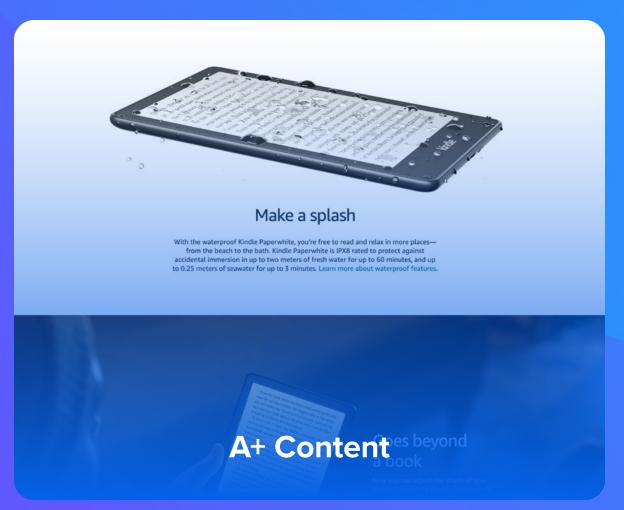
We analyzed more than **14,000 products** across all major product categories on the top three European Amazon markets to discover the page elements that drive a product's search and sales rank.

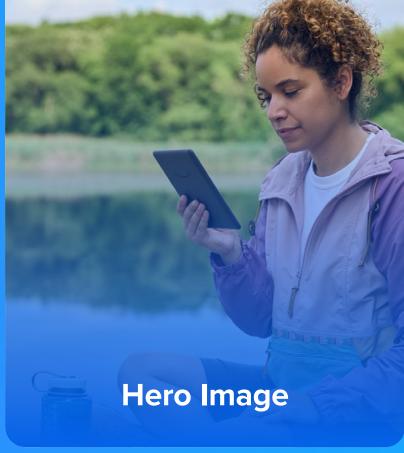
The most important factor? A+ content.



71% of products in the top 10 for sales in their product category have A+ content, compared to just 47% of those outside the top 20. Only 25% of unranked products have A+ content.







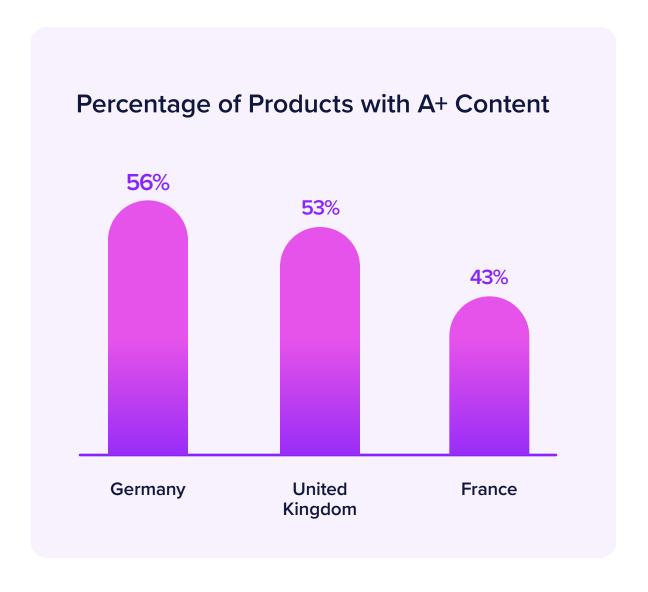


- All-new Kindle Paperwhite Now with a 6.8" thinner borders, adjustable warm light, up to battery life, and 20% faster page turns.
- Purpose-built for reading With a flush-front ppi glare-free display that reads like real pape sunlight.
- More books in more places Store thousands take them all with you. A single charge via US not hours.
- Easy on the eyes Now with adjustable warm screen shade from white to amber.
- Waterproof reading Built to withstand accident in water, so you're good from the beach to the
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Comparing Product Content on European Amazon Marketplaces

Germany has the highest share of products using A+ content, more than 13 percentage points higher than France. Products with A+ content have between 1.5x and 3.6x more reviews than products with only basic content. Products on Amazon UK have the most images, reviews, and highest product ratings. On all sites, products with A+ content have longer titles, bulleted descriptions, and more images — but shorter product descriptions.

	Germany		United Kingdom		France	
	A+	Basic	A+	Basic	A+	Basic
Title (Word Count)	18.1	15.0	19.7	15.8	21.1	17.3
Bullets (Word Count)	140.7	93.3	150.6	99.5	170.2	106.5
Product Description (Word Count)	27.5	80.5	35.3	78.5	64.3	96.5
Images (Word Count)	6.5	6.0	6.9	6.4	6.8	6.4
Product Rating	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3
Customer Reviews (Word Count)	2435	671	2703	1786	2218	737



n = Germany (2,256), UK (2,281 products), France (10,043)

Amazon France Deep-Dive

How Product Content Impacts Sales and Search Engine Results Page (SERP) Ranking

Better Content Increases Your SERP Rank

Better content can help your products' search engine results page (SERP) rank, making them easier for shoppers to find.

The content score, rating, or content grade is a score Salsify developed using a proprietary model to score product content on a scale of 0 to 100 and subsequently graded on an A to F scale.

A-rated content meets current industry best practices by optimizing the length of titles, bullets, and descriptions for the relevant product category, providing multiple high-quality images, and including A+ content elements such as "hero" images and comparison tables. B-rated, C-rated, D-rated, and F-rated content have progressively fewer or none of the content elements required to provide an industry-leading customer and brand experience on Amazon.

Amazon's search results are governed by a proprietary algorithm that's designed to return products that the customer wishes to purchase. It incorporates multiple factors including product relevance, price, reviews, ratings, past sales, and the product detail page.

- Pages on Amazon.fr with A-rated content appear 5.2% higher in organic search rankings than B-rated and 9.7% higher than F-rated.
- A-rated content is **1.6 times** more likely to appear in the top 5 search results than B-rated content.
- A-rated content is **1.7 times** more likely to be featured in the top 10 search results than F-rated content and 1.3 times more than B-rated content.
- The most important content element in driving higher search rankings is A+ content. A+ content increases a product's organic search rank by 5.6%.

Successful Products Get Their Content Right

The Amazon Bestsellers Rank (BSR) tracks a product's sales velocity. In general, the higher a product's BSR, the higher its sales.

We looked at the characteristics of products that rank in the top 10 of their respective category (we look at sub-categories such as "baby monitors," rather than the broader "Toys, Children, and Baby" category). The results show clear differences in the product detail pages between top-selling products and their competitors.

On average, a product with a Bestsellers Rank of 10 has average monthly sales 26% higher than a product with a BSR of 20 and 140% higher than a product with a BSR of 100. Moving from 10th place to first place increases sales by 154%.



higher average monthly sales are recorded for products with Bestsellers Rank of 10 compared to a product with BSR of 20.

- 71% of top-ranked products include A+ content compared to an average of 47% and just 25% of unranked products.
- Top-ranked products have **14% longer titles** than average (135 characters vs. 118 characters).
- Top-ranked products tend to have **25% longer bullet descriptions** (167 characters vs. 133 characters).
- Most pages now have the maximum number of images; however, top-ranked products have slightly more images (6.9 vs. 6.5).

How Does Content Impact Sales?

Deliver the experience shoppers demand with A+ content.

A+ content is your opportunity to memorably show, not just tell, shoppers about your brand and product.

Product pages containing A+ content have average sales 2.5 times higher than basic product pages. The average sales rank of pages with A+ content is 4 times better (126 vs. 505).

Images help shoppers see your product's features and visualize its use.

Amazon allows up to 7 images per product page (excluding A+ content) and most products now take full advantage with an average of 6.6 per page. However, what's important is that the quality, style, and subject of the images is varied, on-brand, and provides customers with relevant information. The right set of images will depend on the product you're selling.

Going from 4 to 7 images increases sales by about 120%.



Optimizing the length of descriptions can increase sales by 58%.

Bullets should deliver key information in a way that's succinct and to the point.

Bullets should provide shoppers with relevant information about the product and focus on the product's key features and characteristics.

The optimal length seems to be around 170 words or 4–5 bullets. Although, there are significant differences between product categories. Day-to-day products tend to have shorter descriptions (around 50–100 words) while more expensive, comparative items are longer (350–400 words). Optimizing the length of descriptions can increase sales by 58%.

Ratings and reviews are as important as ever.

You need to get your products reviewed and rated to be successful. However, if they're "too perfect," consumers will doubt you.

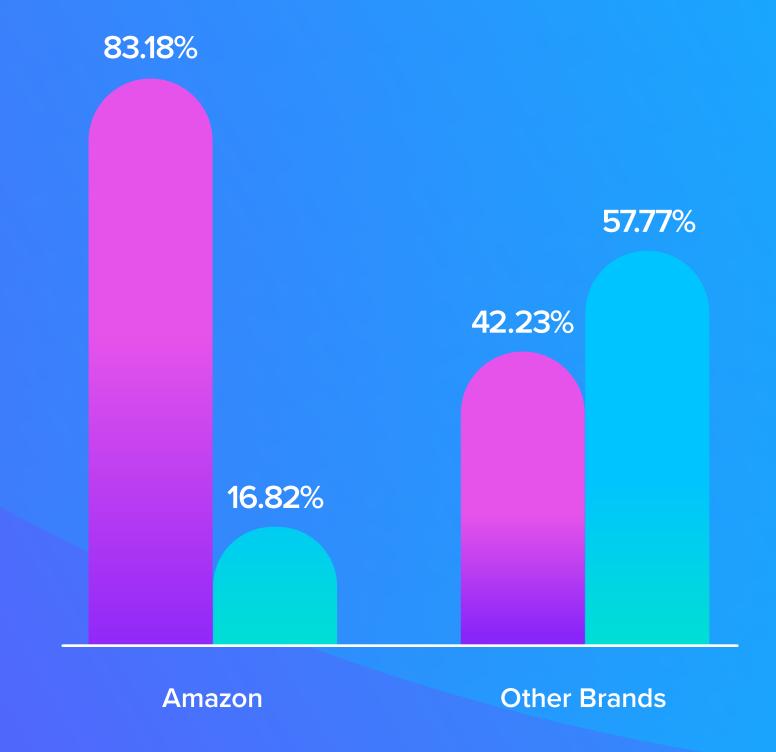
Sales grow by 27% moving from 2 to 4 stars while moving from 4.1 stars to 4.8 stars increases sales by 82%.

However, products with a perfect 5-star rating see sales fall by 79%. Increasing the number of (generally positive) reviews is more important than maintaining a perfect score.

Amazon Uses A+ Content on Nearly All Amazon-branded Products

Amazon has access to vast amounts of information on how shoppers navigate and use their platform and the content that captures their attention — the most important factors in driving sales.

when Amazon includes A+ content on 83% of their brand's product pages, it's time to take note.



Choose The Right Content For Your Product Category

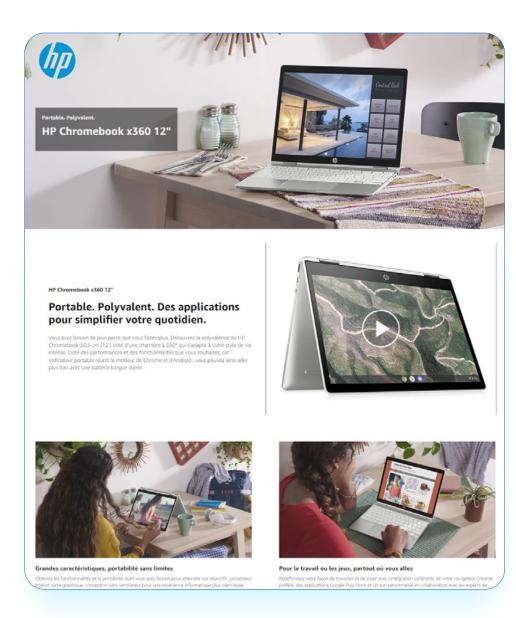
When consumers land on a product page, they're looking for information. However, the type of information they're looking for depends on the type of product. Successful brands design enhanced content to meet the needs of their target customer. Not all products have the same requirements. The product page for a laptop will look different and have different types of content and information than a page for diapers or beauty products.

Products can be divided into three broad categories:

Emotional products: Such as children's toys or beauty products. Consumers need to trust the brand before making a purchase.

Rational or comparative products: Include electronic appliances, tools and equipment, or homewares. For these goods, consumers want information that allows them to make an informed decision.

Utilitarian or day-to-day products: Purchases of these products are often habitual such as buying groceries or stationary products. Most consumers will buy the same thing every time unless a new brand can capture their attention.











A+ content has most impact for "emotional" products.

A+ content is the best way to provide engaging content that helps form trust with the customer through images, short-form videos, and brand-relevant copy.



82% of "emotional" product pages ranked in the top 10 for sales have A+ content compared to only 44% of those products outside the top 100.

48% of top 10 ranked "emotional" products use hero images (banner images) and 31% use comparison tables.

But it's still important for "rational" products to use opportunities to showcase features and functions.

Rational products tend to have longer descriptions than emotional (+12%) and utilitarian (+31%) products.

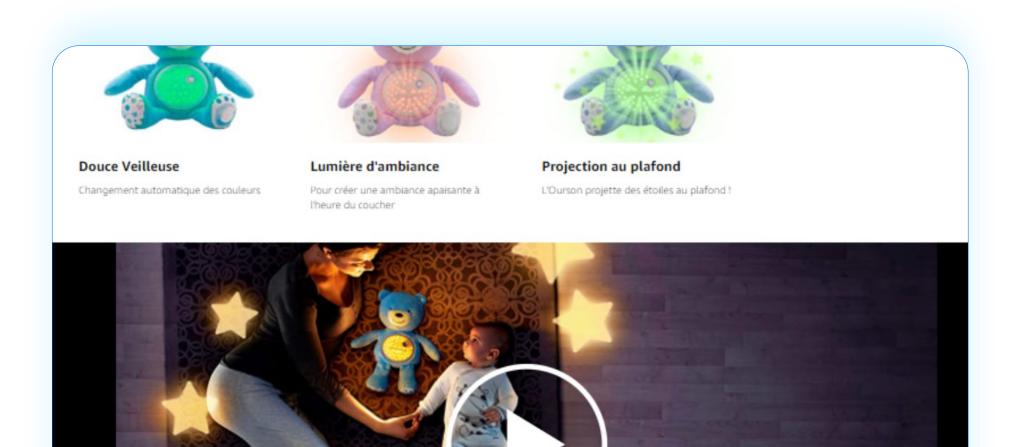
Using A+ content increases average sales of rational products by 140% compared to pages with basic content.

69% of top 10 ranked "rational" products use A+ content compared to 37.5% of those outside the top 100.

Day-to-day or utilitarian products use enhanced content less frequently than other product types, but the most successful brands deploy it skillfully to provide an enhanced customer experience.

48% of top 10 ranked utilitarian ranked products use A+ content.

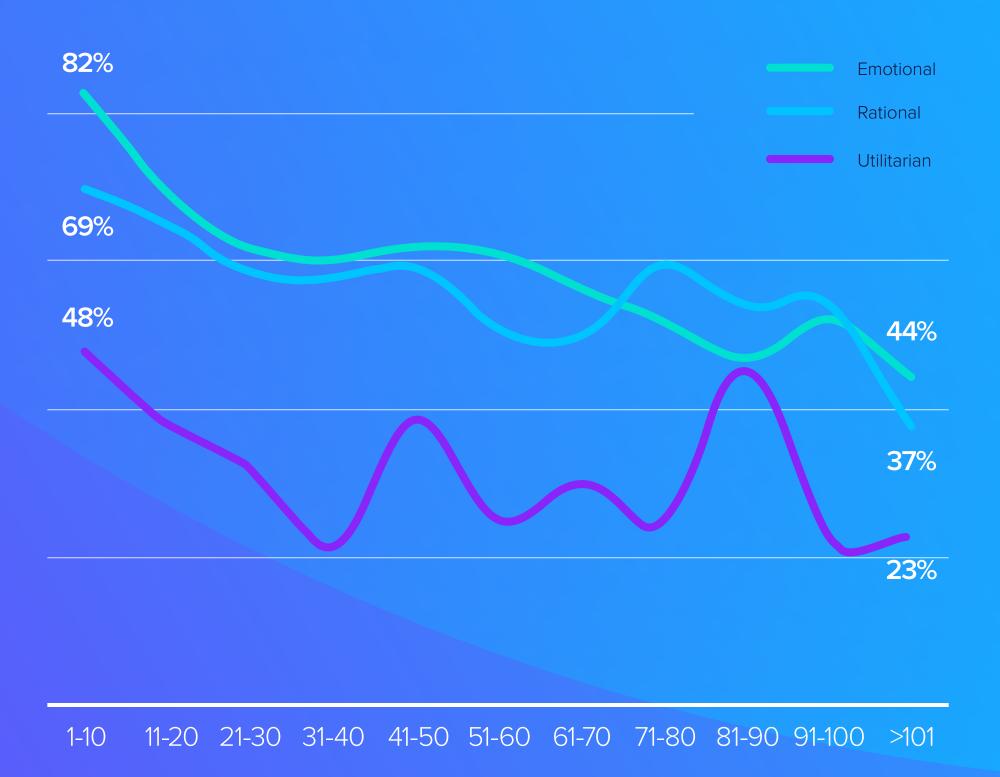
Utilitarian products using A+ content generate almost double the sales (1.9 times higher) than products with basic content only.



Enhanced Content Drives Sales Among Product Types

The bestselling products on Amazon use A+ content significantly more often than other products in the same category.

Percentage of Products using A+ Content



Amazon Best Sellers Rank

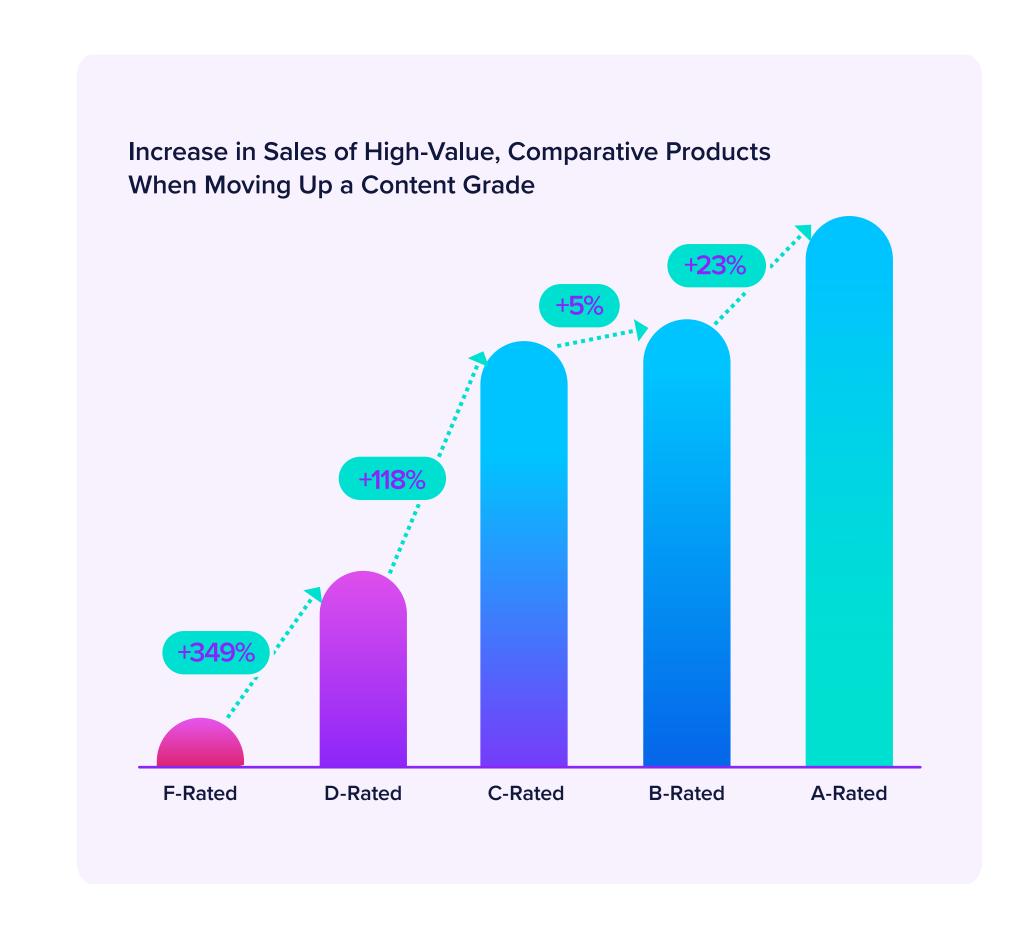
Enhanced Content Gets Results For Higher-Value Products

As the value of a product increases, the more consumers invest time in research before purchasing. Amazon is increasingly where they begin that process.

From our analysis, there seems to be an inflection point at around €50. At this point, the benefits from increasing from F-rated content to A-rated content increase significantly. 28% of the products over €50 with a top 10 Amazon Bestsellers rank have A-rated, compared to zero with F-rated content and just 8% with D-rated content. Sales of "rational" or comparative products with A-rated content are, on average, 11 times higher than those with F-rated content.

Intuitively, this makes sense. If customers are researching multiple products at the same time and one provides rich, engaging content and useful information, and the other provides only basic data points, it should be expected that the product providing an enhanced customer experience will have a higher conversion rate.

There is significant opportunity for brands to improve conversion rates by optimizing their product pages and creating enhanced content. Surprisingly, only 8% of higher value products have A-rated content and 30% have D and F-rated pages. Even marginal improvements can drive substantial increases in sales, moving from D-rated content to C-rated content results is an estimated increase in average monthly sales of 118%.



Take Control of Your Digital Shelf

The pandemic challenged the business models of many brands. However, the opportunity is tangible for brands able to seize the moment. Act now: This is not a static, one-time fix. For success, you need a dynamic digital shelf strategy and culture of continual innovation, constantly iterating and improving to meet your consumers' needs and stay ahead of your competitors.



Only 6% of products on Amazon.fr have A-rated content.

Only 6% of products on Amazon.fr have A-rated content. That means that well over 90% of products on Amazon still have room for growth and just under half (44%) are D or F-rated. We've seen that even incremental changes in the quality of product content — and especially incorporating enhanced content — can lead to improvements in SERP ranking and drive significant increases in conversions.

Even on the world's largest ecommerce site, there's still an opportunity to differentiate yourself from your competitors, seize the initiative, and convince both consumers and Amazon's algorithm to focus their attention on your brand and products.

Methodology

As far as we're aware, this is the first study to look at the impact of content on Amazon in Europe and on Amazon.fr in detail. Most existing studies focus on Amazon.com. While other studies can contain useful insights for European brands, they're focused on the U.S. market and U.S. consumers. In the U.S., Amazon accounts for almost 40% of online retail spending, whereas European consumers have access to a wider variety of ecommerce sites and have different habits and behaviors.

We initially collected data from Amazon in France, Germany, and the U.K. Identifying that France had the largest opportunity for product content enhancement, we analyzed more than 10,000 product pages across all major categories to create a unique database of content metrics covering all aspects of the product detail page, including titles, images, bullets, descriptions, ratings, reviews, and A+ content. The data was captured in between November 2021–January 2022.

Using this dataset, we assigned a content score on a scale of 0–100 to every page (and subsequently A-rated to F-rated). A-rated content meets Salsify's definition of industry best practices. The impact on sales was calculated using the Amazon's Bestseller Rank and estimates of monthly category-specific sales from JungleScout.



Salsify empowers brands to win on the digital shelf by delivering consistent and engaging product experiences — wherever customers shop. Whether you're selling wholesale, through distributors, on marketplaces, through social commerce, or directly on your own brand sites, Salsify's Commerce Experience Management (CommerceXM) platform powers the experiences shoppers demand at every stage of the buying journey, everywhere on the digital shelf.

Our integrated platform helps thousands of brands deployed across 80+ countries with almost a billion products published on Salsify improve business agility, achieve faster time to market, and increase sales and market share.

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