



By Dr. Telly Kamelia

Key Decision Summary

- **Edition Fit:** ISBN 9780357857557 matches the ninth edition of *Essentials of Meteorology: An Invitation to the Atmosphere*.
- **Cheapest Route:** The 180-day eTextbook is still the lowest price in this snapshot.
- **Best Print Value:** The current print listing is lower than all sampled print comparators, including the used one.
- **Study Pattern:** Print has a stronger case when you learn best by moving back and forth across diagrams, maps, and visual process explanations.
- **Price Snapshot Date:** April 15, 2026

If you only need the buying answer

If you want the absolute lowest price for one term, the 180-day eTextbook at **\$58.99** is still the cheapest route. If you want an owned print copy, the current print listing at **\$70.99** is unusually strong because it is below every sampled print comparator, including the used one. For a diagram-heavy science text, that makes print more attractive than it usually is.

Store	Format	Condition	Price	Link
Merybook	Print	New	\$70.99	Check listing
VitalSource	eTextbook	180-day access	\$58.99	Check price
Textbooks.com	Print	Used	\$74.49	Check price
Textbooks.com	Print	New	\$78.67	Check price

This is a rare pricing pattern where new print is not only competitive with digital, but also below the sampled used copy. That matters because meteorology students often study by tracking visual sequences across diagrams, maps, circulation models, and weather-system explanations. When print is this close to digital on price, format preference starts to matter more.

What this book actually teaches

Essentials of Meteorology is designed to explain atmospheric processes in a visually organized way. The book works by helping readers connect temperature, pressure, circulation, moisture, cloud formation, storms, and climate patterns into one atmosphere-level story. That is why students often move back and forth between figures and text rather than reading linearly.

The book becomes stronger in print for readers who learn visually or who like comparing figures side by side while studying process. If you are comfortable reading science diagrams digitally, the cheaper eTextbook still makes sense. If not, this is one of the better cases for paying slightly more to own print.

When print is worth keeping

If you just want the lowest cost, digital wins. If you know you study better with physical pages and visual cross-reference, the current print listing is unusually good value because it even undercuts the sampled used copy.

Sources checked

- Cengage product page for *Essentials of Meteorology: An Invitation to the Atmosphere*, 9th edition: [cengage.com](https://www.cengage.com)
- Current market pricing reviewed on April 15, 2026.