

## Socialising online

What's a social network and how can it help you?

### Connecting and sharing online

A social network is an online community where people can share information with each other in several ways.

You can use a social network to:

- Keep in touch with friends and family.
- Meet others with similar interests.
- Share your experiences with photos or video from your smartphone.
- Hear comments on your thoughts and experiences.



Keep in touch on a social network

### Who sees the information you share on social networks?

- You decide who can see your information by choosing who to connect with on a social network website.
- The people you connect with will be called Friends or Followers or something similar, depending on which social network you're using.
- You should consider who might see your information before connecting with them. You may not want some people to see certain aspects of your life.



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What do you need to do before you can start connecting and sharing on a social network?

- To join a social network, you need to sign up on its website. You'll need to provide an email address and create a password.
- You can search for people you know using the site's Search box.
- When you receive requests to connect from others, you can decide whether you want to accept the connection.
- When you post on most social networks, you can limit your post so it is seen only by your friends or followers.
- Go to the privacy settings on the social network and set them to your preference.



**Before calling on WhatsApp you need contacts**

## Choosing the right network

There are many social networks to choose from, and you can use more than one.

- **Facebook** is the world's most popular social network and is used by those who want to socialise, those who want to share their interests, plus some businesses.
  - **Pinterest** is a like a clip board where you can record things of interest for future reference, and share them.
  - **Twitter** is used to broadcast short messages to anyone who wants to follow you. **Hashtags** – putting the # symbol before a word or phrase – came to prominence on Twitter and spread to other social platforms.
  - #Hashtags mark words as subjects for searching and discovery.
- Which social network is for you? Why don't you find out what your friends and family use?

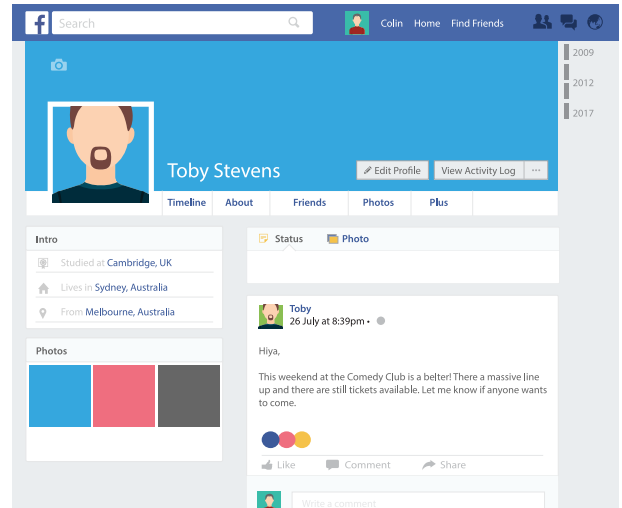


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## What does a social network look like?

Each social network is different, but they also have many of the same features.

- You can use the Search feature on each website to find others on the network.
- When you've found someone you know, you may have to make a friend request. You will have limited access to their information until they accept it.
- On some networks your connections are called Friends, on others they are called Followers. Other networks use different names.
- Social networks generally offer up a news feed or timeline or similar, which contains material posted by the person and her followers or friends.



**Facebook desktop interface**

## Take care of privacy

- Most social network sites let you set how much of your news feed or timeline, or your posts, are shared. You should check the Settings option to see if only your friends and followers see them, or if everyone can.
- If your settings let you share to everyone rather than just friends or followers, you should be extra careful about what details you share.
- Never share important personal information like bank details or passwords on a social networking site.

