

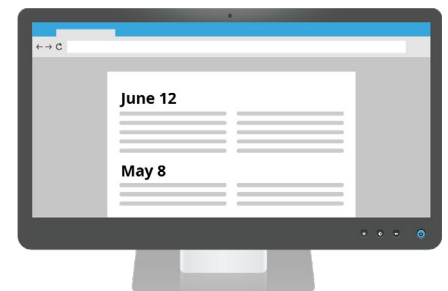
How to write a blog

It's simple for anyone to create a free blog, offering a great way to express yourself and share your ideas with the world.

What is a blog?

A blog is just like an online diary. It allows you to write down your thoughts on a website and share them with the world over the internet. Each individual entry is known as a **blog post**.

- Your blog posts are listed in chronological order, with the most recent entry at the top.
- You don't need to install special software to write your blog posts or to read someone else's blog, you can just use your web browser.
- Blog posts are not limited to text. You can also add photos, illustrations and videos to help get your message across.
- By default, a blog is on the open internet for anyone to see, although there is the option to lock it down so only certain people to read it.
- There's no pressure to publish something every day. You can write a blog post whenever you feel that you've got something to share.

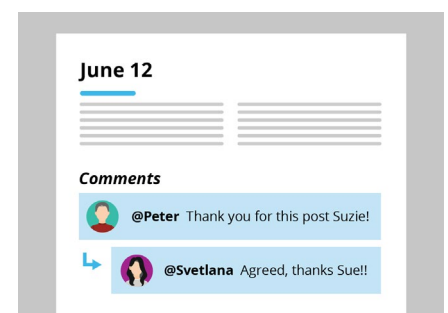


New blog posts will be listed at the top of your blog

Why should you blog?

Bloggging is like keeping a personal journal. It lets you express your thoughts, convey your ideas and share your passions with readers. Post as often as you like about your thoughts, feelings, activities or anything else.

- A blog is a great way to reach like-minded people online who share your interests and passions.
- A blog is also a great way to stay in touch with family and friends without needing to use social media websites like Facebook.



Comments allow readers to interact with your blog post

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- You can build up an online community around your blog and exchange ideas with readers in the **Comments** section below each post.
- You can share your expertise and help encourage others, whether you're talking about travel destinations, gardening tips or knitting patterns.
- You can document your adventures as you embrace a new interest or embark on a new project.

'The best blogs tend to be personal, sharing feelings, opinions and personal experiences'.

What can you blog about?

You can blog about absolutely anything, some people share their thoughts like a journal while others focus on a particular subject. Here's how to choose a good blog topic that is interesting and engaging:

- The best blogs tend to be personal, sharing feelings, opinions and personal experiences.
- Focus on something you're passionate about and that passion will shine through, encouraging people to keep reading.
- You might blog to recall your adventures over the years, or perhaps to talk about your plans for the future, such as a big trip.
- Blogs that offer advice based on personal experience – from home cooking to car repairs – tend to keep people coming back for more.



Focus on blog topics that you are passionate about

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How do you start a blog?

Ready to dive in and start writing? It's simple to start a blog using Google's Blogger website. It handles everything for you, so you can focus on getting started with your first post.

- Blogger.com is absolutely free – all you need to do is create a free Google account.
- You don't need to know anything about creating websites; Blogger.com handles it all automatically.
- You write your blog posts in your web browser, using a simple notepad-like interface.
- When you're happy with the text, and you've perhaps added a photo, just press **Publish** and your new post will appear at the top of your blog.



Use Google's Blogger website to easily create a blog

'You don't need to know anything about creating websites; Blogger.com handles it all automatically.'

How do you share your blog?

Easily share your thoughts and feelings with anyone on the internet. Your blog isn't locked away in a social media service like Facebook, it's available online for the world to see.

- You can email the web address of your blog to your family and friends, so they can check back regularly to see what's new.
- You can add buttons that let people subscribe, so they're notified when you publish a new post.
- You can publish the link to your new blog posts on Facebook, Twitter and other social media services.

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How do I stay safe while blogging

Just like other online activities, you need to use some common sense when blogging. There are important online security precautions that you can take to help ensure you remain safe online.

- Don't share personal information such as your full name and street address.
- Be prepared for negative feedback, some people take pleasure in leaving nasty comments but it's best to just delete them.
- Don't publish your email address, as spammers are always trawling the internet looking for new email addresses.
- Create a long and complex password, and don't reuse that password elsewhere.

Login	
Username	Sue Barnes
Password	MhAIL-45

Long and complex passwords help to keep you safe online

'There are important online security precautions that you can take to help ensure you remain safe online.'