



Blog? What Is A Blog?

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We hear much about blogs in today's world. Apparently, blogging helped to shape the most recent presidential election. So, just what is a blog? (My MS Word 2004 for Mac does not even have the word in its spell-checking dictionary.)

In answer to the question, here is a quote from blogger.com:

A blog is a personal diary. A daily pulpit. A collaborative space. A political soapbox. A breaking-news outlet. A collection of links. Your own private thoughts. Memos to the world.

Your blog is whatever you want it to be. There are millions of them, in all shapes and sizes, and there are no real rules.

In simple terms, a blog is a web site, where you write stuff on an ongoing basis. New stuff shows up at the top, so your visitors can read what's new. Then they comment on it or link to it or email you. Or not.

The word "blog" is a contraction of the word(s) weblog or web log. It can be as simple as a private journal that no one but the author sees or it can be a very public political forum. Some blogs are so well received that the blog becomes published as a book. Some blogs are sales tools.

Many, but not all, blogging sites are free and simple to use. Members may have noticed that there are blogs on some of our Society websites.

Here are some examples of blogs:

- **Society**
 - <http://dkg-corlea.blogspot.com/>
 - <http://dkg-carolyn.blogspot.com/>
 - <http://joannbrooks.blogspot.com/>
- **Education**
 - http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/techtorial/techtorial037.shtm
- **Political**
 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/>
- **Travel/Vacations**
 - <http://interestingspot.blogspot.com/>
 - <http://dianemoose.blogspot.com/>
- **News**
 - <http://blogsearch.google.com/>
 - <http://www.topix.com/news/blogs>
 - <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/blogs>

- **Creativity/Just for Fun**
 - <http://talesfromanocottage.blogspot.com/>
 - <http://todayscreativeblog.blogspot.com/>
 - <http://onceuponaplate.blogspot.com/>

- **Any topic under the sun**
 - <http://www.delightfulblogs.com/>
 - <http://www.blogcatalog.com/>
 - <http://technorati.com/>

Should you wish to start a blog, I recommend using blogger.com; having tried several different blogging sites, this one seems to me to be the easiest to use. **So, here is how to go about creating a blog.**

Type **www.blogger.com** into the address line of your web browser. You might want to take the “quick tour” and watch the “video tutorial” first. To get started, it is necessary to create a Google account. After you click through the set up information, you may begin writing just as you would on a word processor. You may insert photos, video, audio clips, links, etc. Anything you want...

- To get started, click **Create Your Blog Now (or, Create A Blog)**.

- **Fill in the blanks.**
 - Give your blog a title. (You can change this later, if you want too.)
 - Type in a name you use for your blog’s address. You might try using your name if you do not have any creative ideas.
 - Skip the next two steps and click **Continue**.
 - Choose a **template**. You can always change it later.
 - Click **Continue**

- Click **Start Blogging**

- It does not matter the order in which you work on your blog. You can start writing immediately, or you can work on your settings and layout first. All things can be changed.

- Lets start by clicking the **Settings** tab.
 - Starting with **Basic**, scroll down and make your choices. Click **Save Settings**.
 - Under publishing, fill in the blank and click **Save Settings**.
 - Click through the tabs and make any changes you want (or, not).

- The **Layout** tab is where things become fun!
 - Starting with **Page Elements**, note that each section has an **Edit** you can click. The choices are yours to make. At any time you can click **Preview** or **View Blog** and make any changes you desire.

- Determine how you would like your posts to be archived.
 - **About Me** is referring to your profile that you may choose to have visible or not. Click **Dashboard** (upper right of page) to edit your Profile, add a photo of yourself, etc.
 - **Add a Gadget** is lots of fun.
 - Click and drag the various page elements to arrange them the way that pleases you.
 - Under **Fonts and Colors**, you may make many changes to the look of your blog.
 - Do not worry about **Edit HTML** unless you actually know how to do that.
 - **Monetize?** Do you want to have revenue generating ads on your blog?
- Now let's move to the actual **Posting**.
 - Begin typing in the **Compose** area just as you would on any word processor...it is that easy. Be sure to save often and to preview often.
 - On **the Compose** screen, click the picture icon to add a photo (or the film icon to add a video). You will be directed to browse your computer for a photo to upload or to use a URL to add an image already on the web. Choose the Layout and the Image size. Accept the Terms of Service and click **Upload Image**. Click **Done**.
 - Be sure to save often; when you are satisfied with your results, **Publish** your post.
 - Remember, you may always return and edit anything.
 - **Be creative and have fun!!!**

Your blog will be saved at blogsot.com. There is much more that can be said about creating your blog, but this should get you started. If you wish to delete your blog, while on the blog, click **Settings > Basic > Delete Blog**.

Here are some other sites that offer free blogging.

- <http://www.myblogsite.com/>
- <http://www.livejournal.com/>
- <http://wordpress.com/>