Get Started

By the end of this section, you’ll know how to:

- Set up a wordpress site
- Get a homepage
- Turn off comments

Register and configure basic settings

Ready to be a blogger? Welcome to WordPress.com — we’ve been expecting you.

Okay, not really; that would be pretty creepy. But we are glad you’re here; we think WordPress.com is the best place to build your online home, and we’re excited to have you join our community. In this section, we’ll get the basics out of the way and help set you up with a WordPress.com account and site so you can get on with the bigger and better work of publishing.

Create your WordPress.com account

Whether you’re creating a website for your new business or a blog to share your ideas with the world, first things first — you need to create a WordPress.com account. Here’s how:

(Already have your account? We thought your might be an overachiever. Skip ahead to picking your web address.)

This and more can be accessed at:  http://learn.wordpress.com/
1. Visit [WordPress.com](http://learn.wordpress.com) and click on the orange *Get Started* button:

![Get Started Button](http://learn.wordpress.com)

2. Enter your email address. We’ll send you an email to confirm your account, so be sure to triple-check that you’ve typed it correctly:

![Email Address Input](http://learn.wordpress.com)

3. Choose a username. You can use anything you like, provided it isn’t already in use by someone else. Create a username that’s at least four characters long composed of numbers and letters. We recommend choosing something fun that you’ll remember:

![Username Input](http://learn.wordpress.com)

   If you’re worried that “JaneSmith47627” is a terrible name for a blog (which it is) don’t be — your username is just how you log in. Your blog’s title can be anything you want; you can set that up once you’ve finished registering.

4. Next up, you’ll need to choose a password. Be sure to choose a unique password, one that you don’t use anywhere else.

   (Note: this is something you should be doing for all your online accounts — here’s a bit more on [strong passwords](http://learn.wordpress.com) and why they’re so important. A bunch of strong passwords can be difficult to manage and impossible to remember, so we recommend applications [1Password](http://learn.wordpress.com) and [KeePass](http://learn.wordpress.com) to help you create, store, and manage your passwords. Okay, end of password lecture.)

**This and more can be accessed at:** [http://learn.wordpress.com](http://learn.wordpress.com)
Great passwords use a combination of upper and lower case characters, numbers, and symbols such as !’£$%^&(). Not-great passwords are things like your phone number, the word “password,” or “12345.” Here’s a great one:

You can click Show to see the characters you type as you enter them. Clicking Hide makes the characters appear as a series of dots:

If your password is something that may be easier for the bad guys to guess, we’ll let you know; we’re looking out for you:

If you like, we can create a strong password for you — simply click on Generate strong password and we’ll create a super-strong, super-random password.

For those of you who want to add another layer of security, you can consider enabling Two Step Authentication: a second step to your log-in process that no one but you can access. (You may be familiar with the Two Step Authentication process if you’ve got a Google account!) Two Step Authentication uses your mobile device to add a second, impossible-to-guess login requirement.

This and more can be accessed at: http://learn.wordpress.com/
to your account. The process is optional, but recommended to help keep your account super-secure. Check out the Two Step Authentication setup on our Support site to enable it, or just bookmark this section if you’d like to add it later.

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## Picking a web address

There are two types of web addresses to choose from on WordPress.com: a free wordpress.com web address, yours just for registering, or a custom address, which you can purchase.

Everyone who registers for a site with WordPress.com gets a free address that looks like this: http://ourfabulousbusiness.wordpress.com:

![Blog Address](yourimage.png)

Did you know, the address **ourfabulousbusiness.com** is also available?

Great! Use this address on my blog for $18 a year  No thanks, I’ll use the free address.

Some people like to nix the “wordpress.com” part. (It’s fine, our feelings aren’t hurt.) If you’d like to do that, you can buy a custom domain name like http://ourfabulousbusiness.com:

![Blog Address](yourimage2.png)

A custom domain costs $18 to register for one year. You can register a domain with the extensions .co, .me, .com, .net, or .org. (Note: .me and .co registrations cost $25 per year.) You can upgrade to a custom domain any time, so if you’re not sure during registration, no pressure.

(If you already have a domain that you bought somewhere else, like GoDaddy or Network Solutions, you can also connect it to your WordPress.com site with the domain mapping upgrade — no need to buy another domain.)

This and more can be accessed at: **http://learn.wordpress.com/**
Get a Homepage

If you’d rather turn your blog into a website, with a static homepage that people will land on every time they arrive, it’s easily done. Combine a homepage with other static pages and some custom menus to help visitors navigate, and before you can say “Told you so!” you’ve got a website.

Create your homepage

Start off by creating the page you’d like to use as your homepage, via Pages >> Add New in your dashboard. Call it “Home.” Don’t worry about writing it yet — we’re just getting your website set up here. Stick in a bit of placeholder text if you’d like.

Now, create a second, blank page from the same menu and call it something like “News” or “Blog” — anything that communicates that this is where to find your posts, as opposed to your homepage.

Now head to Settings >> Reading and scroll until you see “Front page displays” (this setting is theme-specific; if your blog doesn’t have this setting, try a different theme): this is where you’ll find the option to switch your homepage from showing your latest posts to the new, static page you just created. Click the button next to “A static page” and select both the page you decided to

This and more can be accessed at: http://learn.wordpress.com/
use as your homepage, and the blank one you created to house your blog. You should have something that looks like this:

Front page displays

- Your latest posts
- A static page (select below)

Front page: Master the Basics and Beyond
Posts page: — Select —

And when you go to your web address, you should now see your new homepage rather than blog posts. Granted, you’re looking at either a blank page or some placeholder text, but still! You’ve built a website. Kudos.

Basic Details
These basic details just help people find out who (and where) you are.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Username</th>
<th>gusstevens ()</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First name</td>
<td>Gus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last name</td>
<td>Stevens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full name</td>
<td>Gus Finnegan Stevens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display name publicly as</td>
<td>G. Finnegan Stevens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About you</td>
<td>I'm a freelance reporter covering news from around Winnipeg, Manitoba. I love to run in my spare time!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This and more can be accessed at:  http://learn.wordpress.com/
Enable and Disable Comments

Comments are enabled on new WordPress.com posts and pages by default. You can change the default for new posts or pages, as well as enable/disable comments on posts or pages you’ve already published.

You can change the defaults for new posts or pages on the Settings -> Discussion screen.

Please see this support doc for more information.

Enable/Disable Comments

To change the comment settings for a post or page you already published, first locate the post/page you want to edit on the Posts or Pages page on your WordPress.com site’s dashboard and click on its title.

Then, locate the Discussion module on the edit screen, and either check or uncheck the options it offers:

- To prevent any kind of discussion, uncheck both boxes.
- To disable the ability to use the comment form, but allow comments as Pingbacks or Trackbacks from other blogs, uncheck the box that says Allow comments, and leave the other box checked.
- To allow visitors to compose comments on the page but prevent responses from coming in as Pingbacks or Trackbacks from other blog, uncheck the box that says Allow Trackbacks and Pingbacks, and leave the other box checked.

Make sure to save the post after you change any comment setting.

This and more can be accessed at: http://learn.wordpress.com/
Missing Discussion Module

The edit screen on your blog is highly customizable. You can move modules around, minimize them, or hide them completely, so this module might not always be in the same place on every blog.

By default, new blogs on WordPress.com will have the Discussion module hidden. You can reveal it by clicking on Screen Options on the top right, and checking the box that says Discussion.

See the Screen Options support doc for more information.

Bulk Editing Comments

There is not a way to turn comments on or off for all published posts and pages at once. However, you can use the bulk edit feature to change many posts or pages at a time.

1. Go to the Posts -> All Posts screen in your blog dashboard.
2. Select the posts you would like to modify or check the box next to “Title” column at the top to select all posts on that page.
3. Select Edit from the Bulk Actions drop down menu.
4. Click the Apply button.
5. Change the options for Comments and Pings to Allow or Do not allow.
6. Click the Update button.
7. Repeat with your Pages.

Automatically Closing Comments

It’s possible to turn comments off automatically after a certain number of days. To do that, go to the Settings -> Discussion page and look for Other comment settings on the left. Check the box next to the following option, fill in the number of days, and save.