

How to create a blog

A blog (or web log) is an online journal. You can use blogs to share thoughts, ideas, information, web links, images, audio and video.

Several of the major newspapers use blogs as a way of gathering opinions on news stories and articles. Many celebrities blog to give their fans a behind the scenes look at their lives, or to set the record straight if they've been involved in a scandal.

Blogging

Creating a blog is really simple. The easiest way to get started is to sign up to a specialist blogging site. There are thousands to choose from but here are three of the most popular: www.blog.co.uk, www.blogger.com (owned by Google) and www.blog.com.

Each site requires you to sign up to their services. This is free. In order to sign up, you need to have an e-mail address. If you don't have an e-mail address, you can create a free e-mail account at: www.googlemail.com (or www.googlemail.co.uk), www.yahoo.co.uk or www.hotmail.com (or www.hotmail.co.uk).

All of the blogging sites take you through the sign-up process using easy to follow step-by-step guides. They also all have a Help menu, which you can click on for advice at any point. Once you're signed up, you can write your first blog post.

Writing my blog

You type straight onto screen, as if you're writing an e-mail. You can write about anything – just make sure that you stay away from anything libellous and take care not to reveal any of your personal contact details.

For inspiration, check out:

www.stephenfry.com/blog

www.scaryduck.blogspot.com

www.dooce.com