



The following information was extracted online from
www.abc.net.au/technology/techexplained/articles/2011/04/11/3158075.htm

What is Facebook?

Facebook is a social networking website that allows people (13 years and over) to stay in touch with friends and acquaintances, share interests, join networks and connect with organisations online. In its simplest form, you can post a 'status' update to your Facebook profile, and everyone who has become your Facebook 'friend' will be able to see your post in their Facebook news-feed.

You can personalise your Facebook profile page to share your interests with others and use it as a space where friends, family and colleagues can directly connect with you. Facebook also allows you to post photos or videos, or links to websites you like or find interesting. You can also start up your own fan pages around particular things that you think other people might like too.

When someone becomes your friend on Facebook you allow them to see your Facebook profile page, receive your status updates and communicate with you. By the same token, you can ask someone for permission to become their Facebook friend, and this in turn allows you to see their profile and send them messages. Facebook is also a good way to build a community around a program, event or common interest. Organisations, businesses, groups, celebrities and various causes all use Facebook pages to publicise information about their activities, programs and products. When a user engages with an organisation's Facebook page, all of that user's friends see that interaction and in this way messages can spread 'virally' throughout a series of linked groups of people.

The ABC has a range of official Facebook accounts for specific individuals, programs, stations, networks and divisions.

What do I need to get started?

- You need a computer with internet connection and an email address.
- If you have a Smartphone you can choose to use the phone browser, or a Facebook application.

Step by step instructions

1. Start by going to [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and create an account by entering a username, password and some other personal details. You can enter as much or as little as you like about yourself, but it's good to upload a picture to represent yourself or your account.

2. It is important to check the privacy settings on your Facebook profile to make sure you only share information that you want to publicly share. You can also decide which of your Facebook friends you want to share information with. You should regularly check these settings as Facebook changes how these settings work quite often. You can find the privacy settings under the 'Account' link at the top right of the page.

3. When you sign into Facebook it will open a page called 'News Feed'. This is where you will see the status updates of your friends on Facebook.

4. If you want to see what your Facebook page looks like to others, click on the 'profile' link in the top menu. Post a status update in the area saying 'What's on your mind?' You can also post pictures, website links and videos by clicking on the icons underneath.

5. Find friends, acquaintances or organisations that you want to connect with. Facebook offers different ways for you to find people through the 'Find your friends' link. Once you've tracked them down, 'Add' them as a friend. You will receive a notification via email if your friend request has been accepted.

6. When you have some friends, you'll start to see their status updates in your news feed. If you enjoy one of their posts you can click the 'like' icon underneath. This will show up in your own profile - and other people will see that you liked that post in their news feeds. You can also add a comment to your friend's post and the same thing applies.

7. If you are interested in a particular organisation or business you can visit their Facebook page and 'like' it. This means all their status updates will appear in your news feeds, and your Facebook profile page will also indicate that you like those particular pages.

8. If your friends are also on Facebook when you log in, you can find a list of them on the bottom right side of the screen and chat with them through instant messaging.

9. Facebook also offers lots of add-on applications that, for example, allow you to play games across the internet, rate films you've watched and get recommendations, or keep up with your friends' birthdays on a calendar. You can form or join groups that share your interests and chat to people whom you may not know personally but are fellow members of the group.