

Technology and Reading

How to...
Create a reading blog



Summary

This resource will show you how to create a blog with Blogger. Blogger is a blogging service that requires registration but is free of charge to use. Blogs are generally seen as being online journals and so are a perfect way for learners to record and share their reading experiences with others. Blogs can also allow learners to supplement their written thoughts with links, images, audio and video.

Please note that access to some Web 2.0 applications (such as blogging sites) may be blocked within learning institutions or organisations.

Setting up your blog on blogger

Using the internet, go to www.blogger.com/start:

Click on:



You can now create a blog in three easy steps by following the instructions.

1. Complete the details to create a Google account and click on **continue**.
2. Name your blog. This step includes giving your blog a title and a URL so that other people can find it.
3. Choose a template. Blogger is great because it provides professional-looking templates which give an effective background (so you can take pride in what you add and write, and in others seeing it). Once you have chosen, click **continue**.



Your blog has been created!

Editing your blog on blogger

1. Once your blog is set up, choose the tab 'Settings' (top row of tabs) and then the tab 'Permissions' (second row of tabs).
2. In the field '**Blog Readers**' you can choose if your blog is to be accessible for everybody, or if you only want to allow selected people in. If you are using it with a specific group, go for the option '**Only people I choose**'. This way learners can be assured that the blog is private.
3. Click '**Add readers**'.
4. Add the email addresses of the people you would like to invite and click "**Invite**".
5. Click "**View blog**" (next to the top row of tabs).
6. On the left hand side of your blog you can see your profile. Click "**View my complete profile**", then "**Edit my profile**".
7. Edit your profile and then click "**Save Profile**".
8. From the menu that you can see in the top right corner, click on "**Dashboard**" and then "**View Blog**". You can now see what your blog looks like.
9. From the menu that you can see in the top right corner click "**New Post**".
10. Add a title to your new post.
11. Write your post (you can include URLs if you wish). Click "**Publish Post**".
12. Click "**View Blog**".



More ideas...

Encourage learners to read, comment and feed back on each others' blog posts. They could also encourage family and friends to do this, spreading and perhaps sustaining their reading interest.

Blogrolls or Blog Lists

These are links on a blog to other blogs that you like or read regularly.

Encourage learners to link to each others' blogs in this way and as a way to find and then keep up with other reading-related blogs.

By being aware of blogrolls, one reading or book site will lead to many more.

Tips to find good blogs

Finding blogs on a specific topic is not always easy. Try using Technocrati (www.technocrati.com) or Google Blog Search (blogsearch.google.com) which are search engines for blogs, or similar blog directories.

Also remember that many good blogs are found by recommendation, such as inclusion in a blogroll.

Reading blogs on mobile phones

Learners can read each others' blogs on their mobile phones. The availability of this will depend on the model of phone and costs may vary.

For Inspiration

Examples of and links to other people's blogs can be found at:
<http://tigersread.blogspot.com/>
<http://dovegreyreader.typepad.com/>
<http://www.yasarah.blogspot.com/>

Please note that this resource does not intend to recommend certain products, it rather presents options to explore when supporting and encouraging reading for pleasure.

The Reading for Pleasure suite of materials:

- CPD modules: Reading for pleasure in a number of contexts
- Storytelling: CPD unit with lesson ideas
- Families, Learning and Storytelling: Using archives for community cohesion
- Take Your Partner: Engaging emergent adult readers
- Technology and Reading: How to use blogs, wikis, iPods and e-books to promote reading
- Putting two and 2 together: Creating a bridge between literacy and numeracy learning
- Resources for libraries: Guidance on how to engage families to read for pleasure