



Facebook with Screen Reader

What Is Facebook?

In trying to describe Facebook, people may use terms like, “social network” or “social platform,” but you might not be clear on what they actually mean.

Facebook is a network of people, groups, companies, and more who are connected on a single website. There are different ways to access Facebook, such as a mobile app for iPhones or Android phones. But this series focuses on using the Chrome browser on your Windows computer. There is nothing to install. You just open your browser and go to the Facebook website.

Why Do People Use Facebook?

People use Facebook for many different things. Most people use it to stay connected to family and friends and catch up on the latest news. Many people use it to connect to others with similar interests, whether a hobby, a recreational activity, a sports team, or a civic or religious group. When you connect with others, it’s often referred to as “following.”

People often follow celebrities, musicians, athletes, companies, and other groups that they're interested in, like Hadley! You can also view pictures, watch videos, and play games on Facebook. And some people use Facebook to buy and sell things.

Tip: Even though you won't create your account in this series, you can find step-by-step directions for creating a Facebook account in a separate handout. The Getting Started workshop begins after you've created your Facebook account and takes you to the next step, creating your profile.

Overview of How to Use Facebook

When using Facebook, set up an account first, then create a profile. If it sounds a little confusing, don't worry; you'll learn about the differences between the two.

Your Facebook Account

Start off by creating a free Facebook account. Your account is where you enter information about yourself, including details like your name, email address, mobile phone number, birthdate, and gender.

Sometimes you're asked to confirm your account. The information in your Facebook account is private and only meant for you.

Your Facebook Profile

Your profile tells your story and is meant to be shared with others. You get to choose what to share, like your hobbies, interests, photos, and personal information. You also select who to share it with.

Your profile is where you see your own posts and posts you've been tagged in. Don't worry if you don't know what a post or being tagged means. You'll learn all that and more in this series!

When you first create an account, Facebook displays a list of people you may know. The purpose of this is to encourage you to start adding people to your Friends list. You'll learn how to add Friends in another workshop in this series.