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Lesson 2: Setting up your WordPress.com site

INTRODUCTION

From your reading you may have noticed that there are two options with **WordPress**:

First Option

The first option is to create your blog/website using the free resources available to you from **WordPress.com**. This is where we will spend the majority of our time. **WordPress.com** allows you to become familiar with **WordPress**, learn how **WordPress** works, easily to set up a basic blog or website, manage your blog or website without the overhead costs associated with an independent website.

Second Option

The second option is to create your blog/website using the free software available to you from **WordPress.org**. This software must be installed on an independent web server. You have to find and pay for an internet service provider to host your blog/website. There are many providers to choose from, and many are optimized to work with **WordPress** software, but all of the work is up to you.

Do you see the subtle differences between these two options?

- WordPress.com has free resources (software, hosting services)
- WordPress.org offers only free software
- WordPress.org takes more effort and there is a financial cost
- WordPress.com has limits on what you can do on their server
- Wordpress.org gives you freedom
- WordPress.com would be analogous to a restaurant
- WordPress.org would be analogous to a supermarket

In both cases there are costs.

Read the following article:

[Self-hosted WordPress.org vs. Free WordPress.com](#)

For now we focus on **WordPress.com** which is completely free and gives you time to come up to speed on using **WordPress**. This lesson deals with the process of being successful in creating your account on **WordPress.com** and getting a very basic blog started.



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Note regarding browsers:

The screen captures shown in these lessons will typically show either the Chrome or Firefox browser. You have almost complete flexibility in choosing your favorite browser.

If you find that Internet Explorer or Safari work better for you, then use the browser that best meets your needs. Occasionally your preferred browser may not have a feature or the flexibility you need, in those cases use another browser to complete that task and then return to your preferred browser.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Define differences between WordPress.com and WordPress.org
- Create a WordPress.com account.
- Create a WordPress.com domain name.
- Create your initial WordPress blog.
- Define vocabulary words specific to WordPress.

LEARNING SEQUENCE

Required Reading	Read the following: Lesson 2: Setting Up Your WordPress.com Site <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get Lingo• Self-hosted WordPress.org vs. Free WordPress.com• WordPress Showcase
Resources	Additional resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to a computer, browser software, and internet service.
Assignments	Complete the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assignment 2a: WordPress Account and Blog Creation Tutorial• Assignment 2b: WordPress Vocabulary• Assignment 2c: WordPress Account and Blog Creation Project



INSTRUCTION

Getting Started

In this lesson (and the following lessons) you will see a series of screen captures that you will follow along with on your computer. These will take you to WordPress.com and then through the process of "Get Started" which is registering you with WordPress.com so that you can use the resources to create your first blog.

You will need to have two valid email addresses to complete this lesson. While you may have several, you need to create at least two special email addresses just for this project. You can use your favorite email provider - Gmail (a Google, Inc. product) is recommended if you do not have another preference.

It is likely that you have a lot of email arriving in your existing email account. It is recommended that you create two (2) new email accounts, just to keep everything as clear as possible for this class. If you do so, you might consider using similar names:

janedoe2013wpa@someemail.com

janedoe2013wpb@someemail.com

Grading

You may be wondering how you will be graded for much of your online work. The beauty of what you are creating is that it is visible to the world; therefore it is visible to your instructor.

Once you are done with your assignments you will notify your instructor, your instructor will access your blog/website, and assess the outcome of the steps you took.

In a few cases you will be asked to take a screen capture to submit to show work that is not publicly obvious or accessible. Using **Alt-PrintScreen** is the preferred method.

Alt-PrintScreen:

1. Click on the window you want to take a picture of
2. Hold down the **Alt** key
3. Press the **PrintScreen** key once

Assignment 2a: WordPress Account and Blog Creation Tutorial

You are going to start right into your first assignment. It is a step-by-step tutorial to help you walk through the process of creating your first WordPress account and inside that account to create your first blog. Review the following tutorial and work through the steps needed to complete Assignment 2a: WordPress Account and Blog Creation Tutorial.



WordPress Account and Blog Creation Tutorial



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Turn in: At the end of this lesson you will email your instructor the name of this assignment and the complete blog address for this blog: Assignment 2a – blog address.

Assignment 2b: WordPress Vocabulary

For this assignment you are to carefully study the [Get Lingo](#) vocabulary list found in [Learn WordPress.com](#).



Turn in: Your work will be submitted as part of Assignment 2c and will be covered in the Lesson 2 Quiz.

Assignment 2c: WordPress Account and Blog Creation Project

Creating your second WordPress account and blog

In Assignment 2a you walked through the steps of creating your first WordPress account and your first WordPress blog.

In this assignment you are going to walk through these steps on your own to create another WordPress account.

This is a reinforcement exercise to help you retain what you learned in your first experience.

For this assignment you will:

- Sign up using the second email address you created
- Create a new username
- Create a new blog address
- Activate your blog
- Create and set up a new blog
- Use your **email address** for your blog title
- Use "**Assignment 2c – Creating your second WordPress account and blog**" for your tagline
- Select a theme
- Customize your theme by changing the background color to a shade of **blue**
- Create a text post
- For the text you will select any five (5) vocabulary words and their definitions from the [Get Lingo](#) page that you studied in this lesson (for example – Dashboard) and write each vocabulary word with its definition into your first post.



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Turn in: At the end of this lesson you will email your instructor the name of this assignment and the complete blog address for this blog: Assignment 2c – blog address.

Who uses WordPress?

You have just worked through creating your own WordPress environment. To see a sample of who uses WordPress take a few moments to view the following: [WordPress Showcase](#). Hopefully this will motivate and encourage you as you finish this lesson and press on to greater depth in knowing and using WordPress.

PRACTICE

1. Use a browser to navigate to your Assignment 2a blog address.
2. Use a browser to navigate to your Assignment 2c blog address.
3. Use a browser to search for blogs and select one to review. Compare your completed blog with the blog that you selected to review.

SUMMARY

So what should you take away from this lesson?

- WordPress.com is a website that allows you to create a free blog/website but limits the resources available to you.
- WordPress.org is a website that allows you to download free software to create your own blog/website, but you must install this software on an independent webserver yourself, perform all of the maintenance, and pay for the services.
- How to navigate to WordPress.com.
- How to create a basic blog in WordPress.com.
- How to make minor customization changes to your blog.
- How to create your first blog post.
- Definitions for vocabulary that is important to the understanding and use of WordPress.

ASSIGNMENTS

Note: Assignment details are located within the lesson.

1. Assignment 2a: WordPress account and blog creation tutorial
2. Assignment 2b: WordPress Vocabulary
3. Assignment 2c: WordPress Account and Blog Creation Project



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