

How2 start blogging safely

What is a blog?

A **blog** is actually short for **web log**, which is a website where users can write their own posts, similar to keeping a journal or a diary.

The problem with blogging, though, is that many blogs are public which means **anyone can see them**, and they can add posts to your blog too. For some people, that's fine because they want everyone to see what they are writing. But for someone your age, it might be a problem.

Blogging is great fun, and people have become writers by starting with a blog. **But you need to blog safely.** This how2 will give you some hints and tips for safe blogging.



Tips for blogging safely



- Use a blogging site that allows you to set privacy settings. **Google Blogger** is a good blogging site that allows you to set the permissions so that only the people you choose can see it.
- See our How2 for a guide to making your Blogger site private.
- If you do decide to let others see your blog, you need to be prepared for them to add comments and posts to your site.
- **Don't ever include private or personal information about yourself**, even if your blog is set to be private. So things like your first and second name, your school, date of birth, address, and mobile phone number should never appear in your blog posts.
- Think about what you're posting too. This isn't like a private diary that you don't think anyone will read, so don't write anything that you would feel uncomfortable with people knowing. If you're not sure whether something is okay to post, just check **with a teacher or your parents.**
- The blog you will be creating in the Sport Blogger challenge is about your favourite sports. Adding images is fine, if you've taken some of your school's teams, but try to **take long shot pictures so that individual players can't easily be recognised.** And check with the players that they don't mind you posting their picture.



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- **Always try to write positive things on your blog.** Sometimes people get angry with others and post up messages that they regret later. With your Sport Blogger blog, don't say negative things about the school's team performance!
- Always remember that **what appears on the Internet could be a permanent record.** If your blog is open to people, they could print out what you have posted. Or they could save the blog page to their computer.
- Don't get into a competition with others who are also blogging. Just do your own thing with your blog, and don't get drawn into 'my blog is better than yours' arguments! This can lead to you putting things up there that you wouldn't if you weren't competing.
- **Blogging is great fun**, you can gain lots of writing skills from posting on a blog, and it could be the start of a great career in journalism! Just follow the guidelines, make your blog private, and enjoy writing in safety!