



# Twitter 101

## Getting started with Twitter

If you've signed up for Twitter and are wondering how to get started or why you're here, this is for you. Learn more about the basics of using Twitter [here](#). You can also use this guide, designed to help you dive into Twitter's wealth of information and find what matters most to you. First things first, you might be wondering:

### What is Twitter anyway?

Twitter is an information network made up of 140-character messages called Tweets. It's an easy way to discover the latest news related to subjects you care about.

### How is it useful?

Twitter contains information you will find valuable. Messages from users you choose to follow will show up on your home page for you to read. It's like being delivered a newspaper whose headlines you'll always find interesting – you can discover news as it's happening, learn more about topics that are important to you, and get the inside scoop in real time.

## How to Start Using Twitter

If you remember one thing after perusing this page, it should be this: **reading Tweets and discovering new information whenever you check in on your Twitter timeline is where you'll find the most value on Twitter.** Some people find it useful to contribute their own Tweets, but the real magic of Twitter lies in absorbing real-time information that matters to you.

### 1. DISCOVER SOURCES: Find and follow others

It's best to begin your journey by finding and [following](#) other interesting Twitter accounts. Look for businesses you love, public service accounts, people you know, celebrities, or news sources you read. ([Click here](#) for help finding interesting accounts.) **Tip:** One great way to find more interesting accounts is see who those you know or admire are following.

### 2. CHECK YOUR TIMELINE: See what's happening

Messages from those you follow will show up in a readable stream on your Twitter homepage, called your "[Timeline](#)." Once you've followed a few people, news outlets, organizations, or accounts of your interest, you'll have a new page of information to read each time you log in. Click links in others' Tweets to view articles, images or videos they've linked to. Click hashtagged keywords (#) to view all Tweets about that topic.

### 3. TAKE IT WITH YOU: Connect your mobile

One of the best things about Twitter is that it's portable. Connect your account to your [mobile phone](#) or download a Twitter application to begin reading Tweets on the go. Now you can get updates about traffic problems in the middle of your commute, find out what the players are saying while you're at the game, or catch up on the buzz about an event you're about to attend. **Tip:** Using Twitter [via SMS](#) allows you to pick and choose which updates you want from those you follow, so you can get mobile updates from the accounts that matter most to your life on-the-go.

## How to Start Tweeting

Many users find it fun or exciting to contribute their own content to Twitter (we call this "tweeting"). If you're one of them, here are some good ways to get started posting your own Tweets. People who are interested in what you have to say may follow you and they'll see all the Tweets you share with them.

### 1. BUILD A VOICE: Retweet, reply, react

Use existing information (other people's Tweets) on Twitter to find your own voice and show others what you care about. [Retweet](#) messages you've found and love, or [@reply](#) with your reaction to a Tweet you find interesting. **Tip:** If you're a new user, others are more likely to find your messages if they are Retweets or @replies.

## 2. MENTION: Include others in your content

Once you're ready to begin authoring your own messages, consider [mentioning](#) other users by their Twitter username (preceded by the @ sign) in your Tweets. This can help you think of what to write, will draw more eyes to your message, and can even start a new conversation. Try posting a message mentioning a celebrity or person you admire – they often respond to fans. You'll see their response on your Mentions tab. **Tip:** Can't think of anything to write? You don't have to. The real magic lies in reading content from sources you follow on Twitter.

## 3. GET FANCY: Explore advanced features

As you become more engaged on Twitter, others will begin to find and follow you. Once you're familiar with Twitter basics, consider exploring the site's more advanced features: [lists](#), [direct messages](#), and [likes](#). Learn how to include [images](#) or [videos](#) in your Tweets, or consider connecting your Twitter account to your [blog](#), [Facebook](#), or [website](#). **Tip:** The best way to gain followers on Twitter is to regularly engage and contribute in a meaningful way.

## Tips and Tricks

### Need help finding interesting accounts?

If you need some inspiration to help find interesting accounts, you can use “Who to Follow” for suggestions. On web, you can find this on the right side of your home page. On mobile you can find this on your profile page (accessed through the **Me tab**), in your Tweet timeline.

You can also choose to import contacts from your address book. On web, you can find this directly under “Who to Follow” on your home page. Finally, you can always search one-by-one for people or groups of interest.

### Need help using Twitter on your mobile phone?

By linking your Twitter account to your mobile phone number, you can receive and write Tweets via text message. Learn how to get started by [clicking here](#). Or, visit our [Mobile Help](#) section of articles.

### **Confused by our lingo?**

Check out the [Twitter Glossary](#) containing definitions for a ton of Twitter terms used on our website.

### **Want help setting up your Twitter profile?**

[Click here](#) to learn about adding a profile image, bio, and more to customize your Twitter profile!