

Wordpress For Beginners 2018

WordPress for Beginners 2018: The Ultimate Guide to Starting Your Website Are you looking to create a website but feeling overwhelmed by the technical aspects? If so, you're not alone. In 2018, WordPress remained one of the most popular and user-friendly platforms for building websites, especially for beginners. This guide will walk you through the essentials of WordPress for beginners in 2018, helping you understand how to set up, customize, and manage your website effectively.

What is WordPress?

WordPress is an open-source content management system (CMS) that powers over 30% of all websites on the internet. Its popularity stems from its ease of use, flexibility, and extensive community support. Whether you're creating a blog, business site, portfolio, or online store, WordPress offers a versatile platform to bring your ideas to life.

Why Choose WordPress in 2018?

In 2018, WordPress continued to dominate the CMS landscape due to several advantages:

1. **Free and Open Source:** WordPress is free to download and use, with thousands of themes and plugins available.
2. **Ease of Use:** Designed with beginners in mind, it offers a straightforward interface for managing content.
3. **Extensibility:** Thousands of plugins allow you to add new features without coding.
4. **Community Support:** A large community means plenty of tutorials, forums, and resources.
5. **SEO-Friendly:** Built-in features and plugins make it easier to optimize your site for search engines.

Getting Started with WordPress in 2018

Embarking on your WordPress journey involves several key steps:

1. Choosing a Domain Name and Hosting

Your domain name is your website's address (e.g., www.yoursite.com). Selecting a memorable, relevant domain is crucial. For hosting, consider providers that specialize in WordPress hosting, such as Bluehost, SiteGround, or WP Engine, which offer one-click WordPress installation.

2. Installing WordPress

Most hosting providers offer easy, one-click WordPress installation options. After purchasing hosting and domain:

1. Log in to your hosting account.
2. Navigate to the control panel or dashboard.
3. Find the WordPress or website installer tool.
4. Follow the prompts to install WordPress on your domain.

Once installed, you can access your site at www.yoursite.com/wp-admin to log in to the dashboard.

Understanding the WordPress Dashboard

The dashboard is your control panel for managing your website. Key areas include:

1. **Posts:** For creating blog entries or news updates.
2. **Pages:** For static content like About Us, Contact, or Services.
3. **Themes:** To change the look and layout of your site.

4. **Plugins:** To add new functionalities.
5. **Settings:** For configuring site options such as permalinks, privacy, and reading settings.

Choosing and Installing a Theme

Themes control the visual appearance of your website. In 2018, there were thousands of free and premium themes available.

How to choose a theme:

1. Ensure it is responsive (mobile-friendly).
2. Check for regular updates and good reviews.
3. Match your site's purpose and style.

Installing a theme:

1. Navigate to **Appearance > Themes** in the dashboard.
2. Click **Add New**.
3. Search for a theme or upload a downloaded theme file.
4. Click **Install** and then **Activate**.

Adding Content to Your WordPress Site

Content is king. Here's how to add and manage your content:

Creating Posts

Posts are used for blog entries and news updates.

1. Go to **Posts > Add New**.
2. Enter your title and content using the block editor.
3. Add categories and tags to organize your posts.
4. Publish when ready.

Creating Pages

Pages are static and typically include About, Contact, or Services.

1. Navigate to **Pages > Add New**.
2. Enter your page content.
3. Publish and assign to menus for navigation.

Installing Essential Plugins in 2018

Plugins extend your website's functionality. Some essential plugins include:

1. **Yoast SEO:** For optimizing your site for search engines.
2. **Jetpack:** For security, backups, and performance enhancements.
3. **Contact Form 7:** To add contact forms.
4. **WP Super Cache:** To improve site speed.
5. **WooCommerce:** For creating an online store.

How to install plugins:

1. Go to **Plugins > Add New**.
2. Search for the plugin name.
3. Click **Install Now** and then **Activate**.

Customizing Your Website

Beyond themes and plugins, customization involves:

Menus

Create navigation menus:

1. Go to **Appearance > Menus**.
2. Add pages, posts, or custom links.
3. Arrange menu items and assign locations.

Widgets

Widgets add content to sidebars and footer areas:

1. Navigate to **Appearance > Widgets**.
2. Drag and drop available widgets into widget areas.

Customizing Colors and Fonts

Many themes offer customization options:

1. Go to **Appearance > Customize**.
2. Adjust colors, fonts, and layout options as per your branding.

Optimizing Your WordPress Site for SEO in 2018

SEO (Search Engine Optimization) is vital for visibility. - Use SEO plugins like Yoast SEO to optimize your content. - Craft descriptive titles and meta descriptions. - Use relevant keywords naturally within your content. - Optimize images with alt text. - Ensure your site loads quickly and is mobile-friendly. - Generate and submit a sitemap to search engines.

Maintaining Your WordPress Website

Regular maintenance ensures your website runs smoothly.

1. Update WordPress core, themes,, and plugins regularly.
2. Perform backups frequently.
3. Monitor website performance and security.
4. Respond to comments and engage with your audience.

Final Tips for Beginners in 2018

- Keep your website simple and focused on your goals. - Use high-quality images and content. - Take advantage of online tutorials and community forums. - Experiment with different themes and plugins to find what works best. - Be patient; building a successful website takes time.

Conclusion

WordPress for beginners in 2018 remains one of the best options for creating a professional website without extensive technical skills. With its user-friendly interface, vast customization options, and supportive community, you can launch your website confidently. Follow this guide to get started, learn as you go, and gradually grow your online presence. Start your WordPress journey today and turn your ideas into a thriving website!

WordPress for Beginners 2018: The Ultimate Guide to Getting Started and Thriving In the ever-evolving landscape of web development, WordPress remains the most popular and accessible platform for creating websites, blogs, and online stores. As of 2018, WordPress continues to dominate the CMS (Content Management System) world, powering over 30% of all websites on the internet. Whether you're a complete novice or someone looking to refresh your knowledge, this comprehensive guide aims to walk you through everything you need to know about using WordPress effectively in 2018. From installation basics to customizing your site, we'll cover it all with an expert eye, ensuring you feel confident in your journey.

Why Choose WordPress in 2018?

Before diving into the mechanics, it's essential to understand why WordPress remains a top choice for beginners and professionals alike. **User-Friendly Interface** WordPress is renowned for its intuitive dashboard, which makes content management straightforward even for those with no coding background. Its WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) editor simplifies content creation, allowing users to add text, images, videos, and other media seamlessly. **Extensive Customization Options** With thousands of themes and plugins available, WordPress offers unparalleled flexibility. Whether you want a simple blog, a professional business website, or an eCommerce platform, there's likely a solution tailored to your needs. **Cost-Effective Solution** WordPress itself is free, open-source software. You only need to pay for hosting, premium themes, or plugins if you choose. This makes it an economical choice for startups and small businesses. **Active Community and Support** A vast community surrounds WordPress, providing tutorials, forums, and professional support. This ecosystem ensures you won't be left stranded should you encounter issues or require

guidance.

Getting Started with WordPress in 2018

Embarking on your WordPress journey involves several key steps: choosing a domain and hosting, installing WordPress, and familiarizing yourself with the dashboard. Selecting a Domain Name and Hosting Provider Your domain name is your website's address (e.g., www.yourwebsite.com). It should be: - Short and memorable - Relevant to your content or brand - Easy to spell and pronounce For hosting, consider providers known for WordPress compatibility, such as Bluehost, SiteGround, or WP Engine. In 2018, many hosting services offer one-click WordPress installation, simplifying the setup process. Installing WordPress Most hosts provide a straightforward, one-click install. Alternatively, you can download WordPress from wordpress.org and upload it manually via FTP, but for beginners, the one-click method is recommended. Accessing Your Dashboard Once installed, you can access your WordPress admin area at www.yourwebsite.com/wp-admin. Here, you'll manage all aspects of your site, from creating posts to customizing design.

Understanding the WordPress Dashboard

The dashboard is your control center. Let's explore its main components: The Sidebar Menu - Posts: Create and manage blog posts. - Pages: Create static pages like About or Contact. - Media: Upload and organize images, videos, and documents. - Appearance: Customize themes, menus, and widgets. - Plugins: Extend functionality with add-ons. - Users: Manage site users and permissions. - Settings: Configure site-wide options. The Main Workspace This area displays options relevant to the selected menu item, providing quick access to editing tools, options, and site statistics.

Choosing and Installing Themes

Themes determine your website's look and layout. In 2018, thousands of free and premium themes are available. How to Choose a Theme When selecting a theme, consider: - Responsiveness: Mobile-friendly design is essential. - Customization Options: Can you modify colors, fonts, layouts? - Compatibility: Ensure the theme works with popular plugins. - Support & Updates: Opt for themes from reputable sources with regular updates. - Ratings & Reviews: Check user feedback for reliability. Installing a Theme 1. Navigate to Appearance > Themes. 2. Click Add New. 3. Browse or search for your preferred theme. 4. Preview the theme and click Install. 5. Activate the theme once installed. Premium Themes Premium themes often offer advanced customization, dedicated support, and better security. Popular marketplaces include ThemeForest and Elegant Themes.

Essential Plugins for Beginners

Plugins add new features to your WordPress site. In 2018, some must-have plugins include: - Yoast SEO: Optimize your site for search engines. - Jetpack: Enhance security, performance, and site stats. - Akismet: Protect against spam comments. - WP Super Cache: Improve website speed. - Contact Form 7: Create customizable contact forms. - WooCommerce: Turn your site into an online store. To install plugins: 1. Go to Plugins > Add New. 2. Search by name or browse featured plugins. 3. Click Install Now, then Activate.

Creating Content: Posts vs. Pages

Understanding the difference between posts and pages is fundamental. Posts - Used for blog entries or news updates. - Display in reverse chronological order. - Categorized and tagged for organization. - Ideal for dynamic content that updates regularly. Pages - Static content like About, Contact, Services. - Not part of the blog stream. - Usually linked in menus. - Use for timeless information. Tips for Content Creation - Use clear headings and subheadings. - Incorporate images and videos to engage visitors. - Optimize content for SEO with keywords and meta descriptions. -

Ensure mobile responsiveness and readability.

Customizing Your Website

Beyond themes and plugins, WordPress offers various customization options. **Menus** Create navigation menus via Appearance > Menus. Organize pages, categories, and custom links for easy browsing. **Widgets** Widgets add content blocks to your sidebar, footer, or other widget-ready areas. Common widgets include recent posts, search bars, and social media links. **Customizer** Under Appearance > Customize, you can tweak site identity, colors, header images, and more, often with live previews.

Optimizing Your WordPress Site in 2018

A well-optimized website attracts visitors and performs efficiently. **Speed Optimization** - Use caching plugins like WP Super Cache. - Optimize images with plugins like Smush. - Choose a reliable hosting provider. **SEO Best Practices** - Use SEO plugins like Yoast to optimize titles and meta descriptions. - Create high-quality, original content. - Build backlinks and promote your site on social media. **Security Measures** - Keep WordPress core, themes, and plugins updated. - Use strong, unique passwords. - Install security plugins like Wordfence. - Regularly back up your site with plugins like UpdraftPlus.

Monitoring and Maintaining Your Website

Running a successful WordPress site involves ongoing management. **Analytics** Integrate Google Analytics via plugins or manually to monitor traffic, user behavior, and conversions. **Updates and Backups** Regularly update WordPress, themes, and plugins. Schedule backups to prevent data loss. **Community and Support** Join WordPress forums, Facebook groups, or local meetups to exchange tips and troubleshoot issues.

Final Thoughts: Is WordPress Still the Best for Beginners in 2018?

Absolutely. In 2018, WordPress remains the most accessible, flexible, and scalable platform for beginners. Its vast ecosystem of themes, plugins, and community support makes it an ideal starting point for anyone looking to establish a web presence without heavy technical skills. However, success with WordPress depends on continuous learning. The platform is powerful but requires attention to security, SEO, and content quality. By following best practices, leveraging available resources, and staying updated with the latest trends, beginners can turn their simple websites into thriving online platforms. Recommended Next Steps - Choose a reliable hosting provider and register your domain. - Install WordPress and select a theme aligned with your goals. - Install essential plugins and create your first content. - Customize your site's appearance and navigation. - Optimize for speed, SEO, and security. - Launch and promote your website across channels. By embracing the WordPress journey in 2018, you set the foundation for a versatile digital presence that can grow alongside your ambitions. Whether for a personal blog, small business, or eCommerce store, WordPress offers the tools and community support to make your online dreams a reality. Embark on your WordPress adventure today—your website awaits!

Questions & Answers About wordpress for beginners 2018

No	Question	Answer
1	What are the essential steps to install WordPress for beginners in 2018?	To install WordPress in 2018, start by choosing a reliable hosting provider, then use their one-click installation feature or manually upload WordPress files via FTP. Next, create a database, run the installation script by visiting your domain, and follow the setup prompts to configure your site.
2	Which themes are recommended for beginners starting with WordPress in 2018?	Popular beginner-friendly themes in 2018 include Astra, OceanWP, and Twenty Seventeen. These themes are easy to customize, responsive, and come with pre-built templates to help beginners create attractive websites without coding.

3	How can I add and customize plugins on my WordPress site in 2018?	In 2018, you can add plugins by navigating to the 'Plugins' section in your WordPress dashboard, clicking 'Add New', searching for desired plugins, and clicking 'Install Now' followed by 'Activate'. Customization options vary per plugin and are usually accessible via the plugin's settings menu.
4	What are some basic SEO tips for WordPress beginners in 2018?	Beginner SEO tips for WordPress include installing an SEO plugin like Yoast SEO, creating quality content with relevant keywords, optimizing your titles and meta descriptions, using descriptive image alt texts, and ensuring your site is mobile-friendly and fast-loading.
5	How do I secure my WordPress website as a beginner in 2018?	To secure your WordPress site, use strong passwords, keep WordPress and plugins updated, install security plugins like Wordfence, enable SSL certificates for HTTPS, and regularly back up your website to prevent data loss.

WordPress tutorial, WordPress beginner guide, WordPress setup 2018, WordPress themes, WordPress plugins, WordPress installation, WordPress customization, WordPress SEO, WordPress security, WordPress dashboard