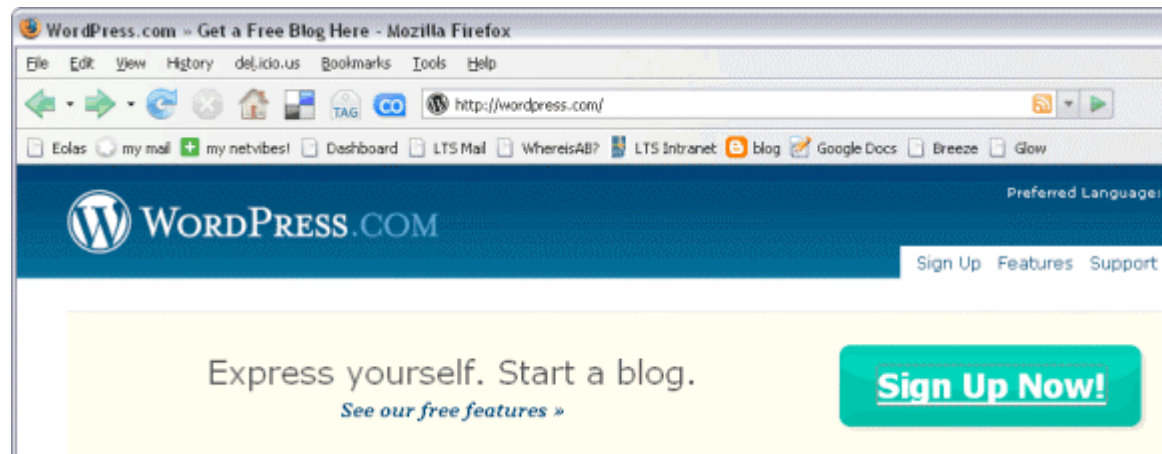


Getting Your Own Blog

There are many platforms that provide blogs for people. These notes deal with using WordPress as the blogging platform.

To get a WordPress blog, go to www.wordpress.com and **click** on the huge **'Sign Up Now!'** button.

The screen will alter to show the sign up page.



Decide on a **username**, **password**, and **confirm** your **password**.

TIP – *your username will form part of your blog address, so think carefully about what you want to use. In this example, I've used the username 'whereisab', which will make my blog address <http://whereisab.wordpress.com>*



The screenshot shows the WordPress.com sign-up page. At the top, there is a blue header with the WordPress logo and the text "WORDPRESS.COM". To the right of the logo, there is a "Preferred Language" dropdown menu set to "English". Below the header, there are links for "Sign Up", "Features", "Support", "Story", and "Advanced". The main heading is "Get your own WordPress.com account in seconds". Below this, it says "Fill out this one-step form and you'll be blogging seconds later!". The form has four fields: "Username:" with the value "whereisab" and a note "(Must be at least 4 characters, letters and numbers only.)"; "Password:" with "*****"; "Confirm:" with an empty field and a note "Passwords must match! Use upper and lower case characters, numbers and symbols like !\"'£\$%^&() in your password."; and "Email Address:" with an empty field and a note "(We send important administration notices to this address so triple-check it.)". Below the "Confirm:" field, there is a "Password Strength:" indicator showing a green bar with the word "Strong" in white text.

Type in an **email address** so that you will be able to activate your blog.

An Introduction to WordPress

Tick the **box** to say that you have read all the vitally important legal information, make sure that **‘Gimme a blog!’** is **selected**, and then **click** on the big **‘Next>>’** button.

Blog Domain:
(Your address will be domain.wordpress.com. It must be at least 4 characters, letters and numbers only. It cannot be changed so choose carefully!)

Blog Title:
The blog title can be changed at any time on your Options page.

Language: What language will you be primarily blogging in?

Privacy: I would like my blog to appear in search engines like Google and Technorati, and in public listings around WordPress.com.

The screen will change to tell you that your account is active – that’s it – you’ve got yourself a blog!

Legal flotsam: I have read and agree to the [fascinating terms of service](#).

Gimme a blog! (Like [username.wordpress.com](#))

Just a username, please.

A confirmation screen will appear.

When you’re happy with the details, **click** the big **‘Signup >>’** button.



Your account is now active!

You are now logged in as whereisab.
An email with your username, password, Akismet API key and important links has been sent to your email address.
[Write a post](#), [change your template](#) or visit the [homepage](#).
We hope you enjoy [WordPress.com](#).