



Welcome! You are about to start using the fastest growing form of communication man has ever created. To quote Apple inc, Twitter is a [*“Triumph of Humanity”*](#) and after using it for awhile I’m sure you’ll agree.


Although a very simple concept, Twitter has evolved in many ways that the creators never intended. And as with any social tool there are certain things you need to know in order to make the most of it. Twitter can be a way to get deals on travel, find tech support, get the news, stay in touch with friends, or even make new friends. I hope this brief guide can help make Twitter as fun and useful to you as it has been to me.


Language


Here are a few quick tips for understanding how posting a Tweet works.

 Starting a tweet with **@UserName** is a public message to that person, it will only show up in the timelines of people who follow both you, and the person the message is for. But it will be publically viewable to anyone who goes directly to you twitter home screen.

 If you include **@UserName** in the middle of a tweet it will appear in the list of everyone who follows you.


 Beginning a Tweet with **d UserName** sends a direct message to the person that only they can see. Remember, you can only direct message people who also follow you.

 Hashtags can be confusing but they are a simple idea; putting a # sign in front of keywords allow you to mark a tweet as belonging to a specific topic. Just like most of Twitter, these are very loose ideas and the only “official” hashtags are those that the community agrees upon.


 Re-Tweets allow you to give credit to someone else’s tweet that you would like to re-post. the correct format is **RT @UserName: *Wow, this is a really witty and funny comment i am making!*** Feel free to add your own commentary before the RT.


Twitter Links


Twitter made a crucial business decision when they were founded; they made all of their information publicly available to any developer. So instead of a closed system like Facebook, an entire eco-system of tools has sprung up around Twitter making use of the tremendous amount of information it holds.


 www.twitter.com - This is the main site where you can go to sign up for a free account.


 www.twendz.waggeneredstrom.com - This is the site that allows you to judge positive and negative comments about a product. *Very cool stuff.*


 www.twistori.com - This website is the art project that follows people's emotions in real time.


 www.twitcam.com - This website allows you to do a live video stream and connects through twitter.


 www.twitterbackgrounds.com - download free wallpapers for your twitter homepage. also you can buy custom wallpaper here as well.

 www.bit.ly - is a link shortening service that allows you to shorten URLs that you tweet to your followers.

 www.iconfactory.com - here you can download the program Twitterific for your computer. An excellent Twitter client for your mac.
















 www.tweetstats.com - a really interesting site that graphs out your entire twitter history and graphs it out in many different ways.

 www.twitterless.com - helps you keep track of your followers so that you can see when someone stops following you.

 www.twtrfrnd.com - lets you compare two Twitter users so that you can see who they follow in common.

There are a lot more websites out there that take advantage of the information from Twitter, and a lot more to learn. Twitter is your gateway into a wealth of fun and useful information. Enjoy!

People to Follow

-  [WintersNight](#) - That's Me!
-  [BreakingNews](#) - Stay up to the minute with all the current news.
-  [Trivia](#) - Answer trivia questions for prizes
-  [Biz](#) - Biz Stone co-founder of twitter
-  [hodgman](#) - John Hodgman, The "PC" in Apple ads a *very* funny man.
-  [simplytweet](#) - The developer of my personal favorite iPhone Twitter App
-  [MCHammer](#) - 'Nuff Said
-  [mental_floss](#) - a great way to learn interesting things about the world.
-  [BarackObama](#) - The President of the United States of America
-  [ThatKevinSmith](#) - Indie movie director and idol to geeks everywhere
-  [Oprah](#) - Talk show host, slightly more influential then @BarackObama
-  [THE_REAL_SHAQ](#) - Basketball Star, Comic Book nerd, and twitter-a-holic
-  [Schwarzenegger](#) - You have one guess to figure this one out.
-  [Agent M](#) - Spokesman for Marvel Comics
-  [wilw](#) - Wil Wheaton, idol to geeks everywhere

Twitter is a fun and easy way for celebrities, Software developers, and major companies to keep in touch with their fans. Search for your favorites and odds are you'll find them!

I hope that this very brief guide to the "Twitterverse" has helped you in your journey, and I hope it's inspired you to go and seek out more information about what will one day be an indispensable tool for you, and everyone else on the planet.