



WORDPRESS

Creating a Blog

What on Earth is a Blog?



The word Blog is actually a contraction of the term “Web Log” and is a type of website that is a type of online diary. They usually consist of regular entries of daily events, ideas, social commentary, or other thoughts and may even contain photos or video.

The word has also been turned into a verb (sadly) and refers to the action of adding content to a blog.



Where can I find one?

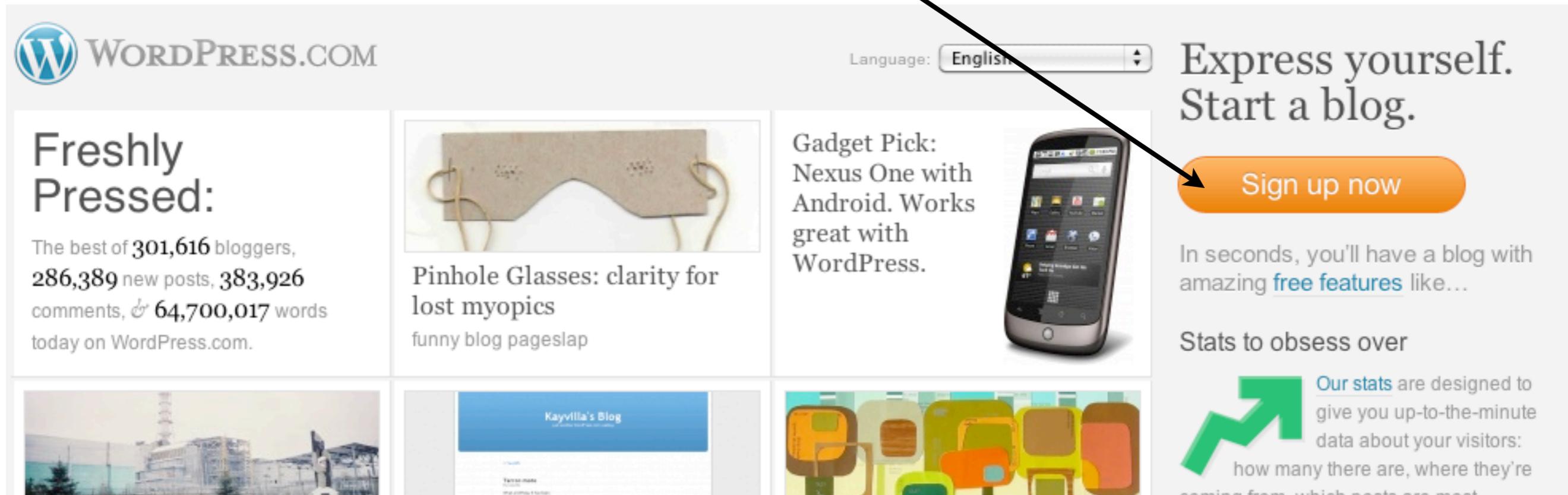
The easy answer to this question is to search online using a site like <http://www.google.com> or <http://www.bing.com>. Three popular ones are: <http://www.typepad.com>, <http://www.wordpress.com>, and <http://www.blogger.com>. TypePad is a commercial vendor, so there is subscription fee involved.

WordPress and Blogger are both free services. (Free in the sense that there is no out of pocket expenses.) These services have a revenue stream that is maintained by advertisements. They are established companies in the “blogosphere” and have fairly strict privacy policies.

How do I sign up for a blog?

To keep things simple, let's look at WordPress. <http://www.wordpress.com>

Click on the button "Sign up now"



The image shows a screenshot of the WordPress.com homepage. At the top left is the WordPress logo and the text "WORDPRESS.COM". To the right of the logo is a language dropdown menu set to "English". On the right side of the page, there is a large heading "Express yourself. Start a blog." followed by an orange "Sign up now" button. Below the heading, there is text: "In seconds, you'll have a blog with amazing [free features](#) like...". Further down, there is a section titled "Stats to obsess over" with a green upward-pointing arrow icon and text: "Our stats are designed to give you up-to-the-minute data about your visitors: how many there are, where they're coming from, which posts are most...". On the left side of the page, there are several featured content blocks. The first is "Freshly Pressed:" with statistics: "The best of 301,616 bloggers, 286,389 new posts, 383,926 comments, & 64,700,017 words today on WordPress.com." Below this are three smaller featured items: "Pinhole Glasses: clarity for lost myopics funny blog pageslap" with an image of cardboard glasses; "Gadget Pick: Nexus One with Android. Works great with WordPress." with an image of a Nexus One phone; and "Kayvilia's Blog" with a screenshot of a blog post. At the bottom left, there is a partial view of a nuclear power plant.

Fill in the blanks

Get your own WordPress.com account in seconds

Fill out this one-step form and you'll be blogging seconds later!

Username

(Must be at least 4 characters, letters and numbers only.)

This will be part of your web address, so choose accordingly.

Password

Confirm

Use upper and lower case characters, numbers and symbols like !"£\$%^&() in your password.

Email Address

(We send important administration notices to this address so **triple-check** it.)

It says to triple check your email address. It is a good idea. A confirmation letter will go to this address.

Legal flotsam

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

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

Just a username, please.

This option is chosen by default. It is important to leave it that way.

Next →

Blog Domain

live4squares.wordpress.com

(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!)

Double check the Blog Domain as once it is in, it can't be changed.

Blog Title

Live4squares's Blog

The blog title can be changed at any time.

Language

What language will you be primarily blogging in?

en - English

Privacy

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

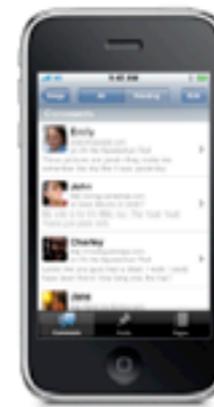
Signup ->

ON WORDPRESS.COM

- 24/7 Support
Forums
Free Features
Premium Features
VIP Hosting
Advanced Services
Popular Tags

ALSO COOL

- iPhone App
BlackBerry App
More Apps
WordPress.org
WordPress.tv
Fan WP on Facebook
Matt



WordPress for iPhone

FROM OUR BLOG

- Publicize: Facebook
WP.com Downtime Summary
Proofread More Languages
rssCloud By The Numbers
Mobile Apps for WordPress
Read more...

The Confirmation Page

Check Your Email to Complete Registration

An email has been sent to stephen.cole@isquaredance.com to activate your account. Check your inbox and click the link in the message. It should arrive within 30 minutes. If you do not activate your account within two days, you will have to sign up again.

Update Your Profile!

If you haven't got your activation email why not update your profile while you wait?

First Name:

Last Name:

About Yourself:

Feel free to fill in the profile information while you wait for the confirmation email

Save Profile →

Still waiting for your email? If you haven't received your activation email yet there are a number of things you can do:

- Wait a little longer. Sometimes delivery of email can be delayed by processes outside of our control.
- Check the junk folder of your email client. The email sometimes ends up there.
- Have you entered your email address correctly? We think it's stephen.cole@isquaredance.com but if that's wrong use the button below to fix it.

The Confirmation Email

[WordPress.com] Activate <http://live4squares.wordpress.com/> Inbox | X

★ **WordPress.com** to me [show details](#) 8:22 PM (4 minutes ago) ↩ Reply ▼

Howdy,

Thank you for signing up with WordPress.com.

You are one step away from blogging at live4squares.wordpress.com.
Please click this link to activate your blog:

<http://wordpress.com/activate/306658a1f99de431>

--The WordPress.com Team

(If clicking the link in this message does not work, copy and paste it into the address bar of your browser.)

↩ Reply ➔ Forward

Follow this link by clicking on it. Each one will be unique. So, don't be alarmed if yours is different.

You can login or view your new blog by using the links in this next page

Your account is now active!

Username:

Password:

live4squares

Your account is now active. [View your site](#) or [Login](#)

ON WORDPRESS.COM

[24/7 Support](#)
[Forums](#)
[Free Features](#)
[Premium Features](#)
[VIP Hosting](#)
[Advanced Services](#)
[Popular Tags](#)

ALSO COOL

[iPhone App](#)
[BlackBerry App](#)
[More Apps](#)
[WordPress.org](#)
[WordPress.tv](#)
[Fan WP on Facebook](#)
[Matt](#)



Your visual guide to WordPress

FROM OUR BLOG

[Publicize: Facebook](#)
[WP.com Downtime Summary](#)
[Proofread More Languages](#)
[rssCloud By The Numbers](#)
[Mobile Apps for WordPress](#)
[Read more...](#)

Login to your new blog

Live4Squares's Blog

Just another WordPress.com weblog

Hello world!

March 2, 2010 by live4squares

Welcome to [WordPress.com](#). This is your first post. Edit or delete it and start blogging!

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#) »

Pages

» [About](#)

Archives

» [March 2010](#)

Categories

» [Uncategorized](#) (1)

Blogroll

» [WordPress.com](#)

» [WordPress.org](#)

Meta

» [Log in](#)

» [Valid XHTML](#)

» [XFN](#)

» [WordPress](#)

To make changes, login here:



Once your blog is created, you'll be able to return to it by using the profile name created earlier. Our blog name for this exercise is:

<http://live4squares.wordpress.com>

A default post has been created for us. Don't worry, it can be removed.

The Login Page



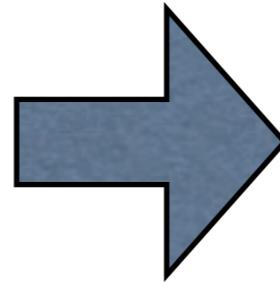
WordPress.COM

Username

Password

Remember Me

[Get a free WordPress account](#) | [Lost your password?](#)



WordPress.COM

Username

Password

Remember Me

[Get a free WordPress account](#) | [Lost your password?](#)

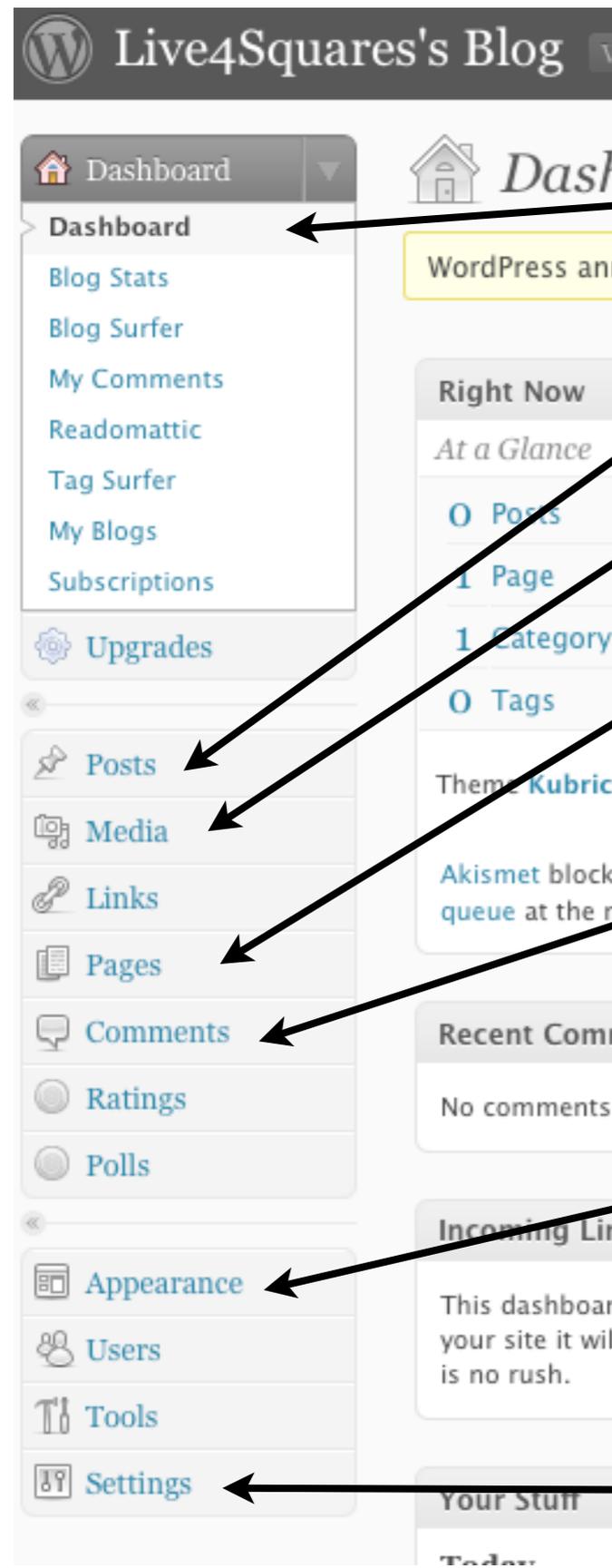
The WordPress Dashboard

The screenshot shows the WordPress dashboard for a user named 'live4squares'. The top navigation bar includes links for 'My Account', 'My Dashboard', 'New Post', and 'Blog Info'. A search bar is located on the right. The main header displays the site name 'Live4Squares's Blog' and a 'Visit Site' button. On the right side of the header, there are buttons for 'New Post', 'Howdy, live4squares | Turbo', and 'Log Out'. Below the header, there are 'Screen Options' and 'Help' buttons.

The dashboard is divided into several sections:

- Left Sidebar:** A vertical menu with icons and labels for 'Dashboard', 'Blog Stats', 'Blog Surfer', 'My Comments', 'Readomattic', 'Tag Surfer', 'My Blogs', 'Subscriptions', 'Upgrades', 'Posts', 'Media', 'Links', 'Pages', 'Comments', 'Ratings', 'Polls', 'Appearance', 'Users', 'Tools', and 'Settings'.
- Top Announcement:** A yellow banner with the text 'WordPress announcement: [Proofread More Languages](#)'.
- Right Now:** A section titled 'At a Glance' showing a summary of site statistics: 1 Post, 1 Page, 1 Category, 0 Tags, 1 Comment, 1 Approved, 0 Pending, and 0 Spam. Below this, it shows the current theme 'Kubrick with 0 Widgets' and a 'Change Theme' button. A note mentions 'Akismet blocks spam from getting to your blog, but there's nothing in your spam queue at the moment.'
- QuickPress:** A form for creating a new post, including fields for 'Title', 'Content', and 'Tags', along with 'Save Draft', 'Reset', and 'Publish' buttons.
- Recent Comments:** A section showing a recent comment from 'Mr WordPress' on the post 'Hello world! #'. The comment text is 'Hi, this is a comment. To delete a comment, just log in, and view the posts' comments, there you will have ...'. A 'View all' button is present.
- Incoming Links:** A section explaining that the widget queries 'Google Blog Search' for incoming links to the site, noting that none have been found yet.
- Recent Drafts:** A section stating 'There are no drafts at the moment'.
- Stats:** A line graph titled 'Views per day' showing a single data point at 2 views for the current day.
- Your Stuff:** A section at the bottom left, currently empty.

Dashboard Components in Brief



The menu at the left can bring you back to the main Dashboard at any time.

A list of created posts can be found here.

This is where you can add photos.

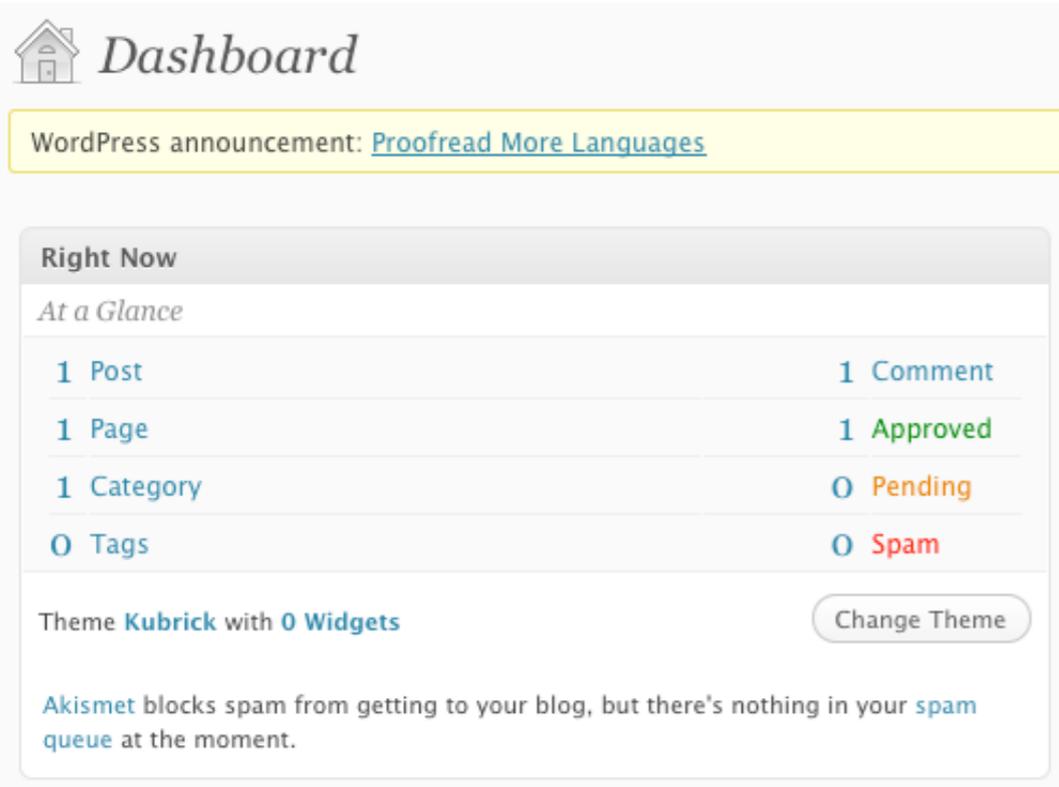
WordPress Pages are static web pages. WordPress can also be used to host web pages. You can create Pages just like blog posts.

Comments are a way to get direct feedback from your posts. You can choose to allow/disallow comments from being created.

The Appearance link lets you change how your Blog looks to the outside world. It includes color schemes/themes and what links are visible.

The Settings link is a page of security and other setup options. (Where you can restrict Comments/Discussion.)

Dashboard Components in Brief

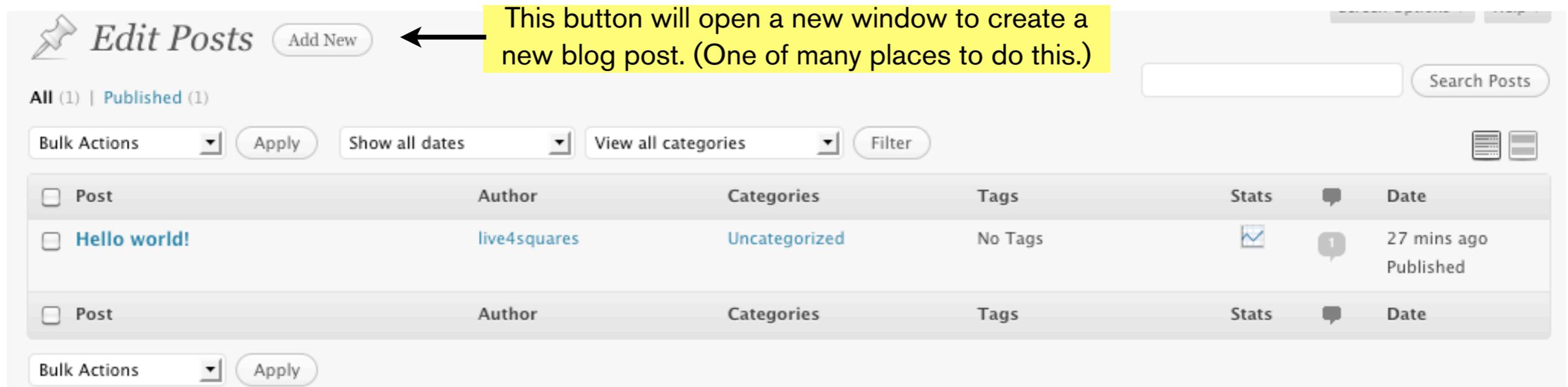


The screenshot shows the WordPress Dashboard. At the top left is a home icon and the word "Dashboard". Below this is a yellow banner with the text "WordPress announcement: [Proofread More Languages](#)". The main content area is titled "Right Now" and "At a Glance". It displays a summary of site statistics: 1 Post, 1 Page, 1 Category, and 0 Tags on the left; 1 Comment, 1 Approved, 0 Pending, and 0 Spam on the right. Below the statistics, it shows the current theme is "Kubrick" with 0 Widgets and a "Change Theme" button. At the bottom, there is a message from Akismet stating that no spam is currently in the queue.

This window will show you your existing posts and pages. (A WordPress Page is a static web page. Some people use WordPress as their Internet Service Provider.)

Clicking on any of the words here will take you to a page where you can see/edit content.

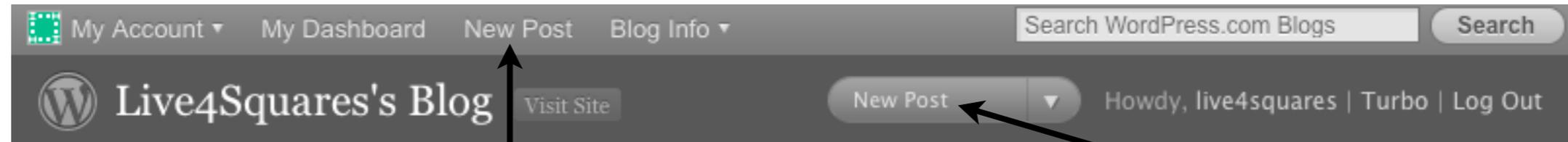
Clicking on the link titled Post will take you to a page with this in the window. Click on the "Hello World" link to edit it or, put a check in the box to the left of it and select Move to Trash from the Bulk Actions menu.



The screenshot shows the "Edit Posts" page in WordPress. At the top left is a pushpin icon and the text "Edit Posts". To its right is an "Add New" button, which is highlighted with a yellow box and an arrow pointing to it from a text box. Below the header, there are filters for "All (1)" and "Published (1)", a search bar labeled "Search Posts", and a "Filter" button. A table of posts is displayed with columns for Post, Author, Categories, Tags, Stats, and Date. The first row shows a post titled "Hello world!" by "live4squares" in the "Uncategorized" category with "No Tags". Below the table, there is another "Bulk Actions" dropdown and an "Apply" button.

This button will open a new window to create a new blog post. (One of many places to do this.)

Create a New Post From the Dashboard Page



Click on New Post

Click on New Post

A screenshot of the QuickPress form. It has a title field, a content area with an 'Upload/Insert' toolbar containing icons for image, video, audio, link, and gallery, and a tags field. At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Save Draft', 'Reset', and 'Publish'.

- Or -
Enter your post in the QuickPress box.

Add New Post

Just like email, every Blog post must have a subject. It goes here.

Upload/Insert

Visual HTML



This is where you type the body of your post. Formatting controls are above.

Path: p

Word count: 0

When you're ready to put your comments online, click on the Publish button.

Excerpt

Excerpts are optional hand-crafted summaries of your content that can be used in your theme. [Learn more about manual excerpts.](#)

Send Trackbacks

Send trackbacks to:

(Separate multiple URLs with spaces)

Trackbacks are a way to notify legacy blog systems that you've linked to them. If you link other WordPress blogs they'll be notified automatically using [pingbacks](#), no other action necessary.

Discussion

- Allow Comments.
- Allow [trackbacks and pingbacks](#) on this page.

Publish

Save Draft

Preview

Status: Draft [Edit](#)

Visibility: Public [Edit](#)

Publish immediately [Edit](#)

Publish

Post Tags

Add new tag

Add

Separate tags with commas.

[Choose from the most used tags in Post Tags](#)

Categories

All Categories

Most Used

Uncategorized

Posts can be given Categories for easy searching. Tags work nearly the same way as Categories. In practice, Categories are general and Tags tend to have more detail.

[+ Add New Category](#)

Add New Post

Square Dancing is Fun!

Permalink: <http://live4squares.wordpress.com/2010/03/02/square-dancing-is-fun/> [Edit](#)

[Get Shortlink](#)

Upload/Insert     

Visual HTML

B *I* ABC            

I've been dancing since 1992 and I've loved every minute. It is a fun activity that engages the body and mind and connects you with other people. This blog will be our continuing adventures in Square Dance Land.

Path: p

Word count: 27

Draft Saved at 4:57:18 am.

Excerpt

Excerpts are optional hand-crafted summaries of your content that can be used in your theme. [Learn more about manual excerpts.](#)

Send Trackbacks

Send trackbacks to:

(Separate multiple URLs with spaces)

Trackbacks are a way to notify legacy blog systems that you've linked to them. If you link other WordPress blogs they'll be notified automatically using [pingbacks](#), no other action necessary.

Discussion

- Allow Comments.
- Allow [trackbacks and pingbacks](#) on this page.

Publish

[Save Draft](#)

[Preview](#)

Status: **Draft** [Edit](#)

Visibility: **Public** [Edit](#)

 **Publish immediately** [Edit](#)

[Move to Trash](#)

[Publish](#)

Post Tags

[Add](#)

Separate tags with commas.

[Choose from the most used tags in Post Tags](#)

Categories

All Categories

Most Used

- Travel
- Music
- News
- Square Dance Land
- Uncategorized

Here's what the post looks like in the editing stage.

[+ Add New Category](#)

Parent category



[Add](#)

The Result with the Default Theme

The image shows a screenshot of a WordPress blog post. At the top, there is a blue header with the text "Live4Squares's Blog" and "Just another WordPress.com weblog". Below the header, the main content area features a post titled "Square Dancing is Fun!" dated "March 2, 2010 by live4squares". The post text reads: "I've been dancing since 1992 and I've loved every minute. It is a fun activity that engages the body and mind and connects you with other people. This blog will be our continuing adventures in Square Dance Land." Below the text, there are links for "Posted in Square Dance Land", "Edit", and "Leave a Comment". To the right of the main content, there is a sidebar with a search box labeled "search this site" and several menu sections: "Pages" with a link to "About"; "Archives" with a link to "March 2010"; "Categories" with a link to "Square Dance Land (1)"; "Blogroll" with links to "WordPress.com" and "WordPress.org"; and "Meta" with links to "Site Admin", "Log out", "Valid XHTML", "XFN", and "WordPress". At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text "Blog at WordPress.com. Entries (RSS) and Comments (RSS)."

Live4Squares's Blog
Just another WordPress.com weblog

Square Dancing is Fun!
March 2, 2010 by live4squares

I've been dancing since 1992 and I've loved every minute. It is a fun activity that engages the body and mind and connects you with other people. This blog will be our continuing adventures in Square Dance Land.

Posted in [Square Dance Land](#) | [Edit](#) | [Leave a Comment](#) »

search this site

Pages
» [About](#)

Archives
» [March 2010](#)

Categories
» [Square Dance Land \(1\)](#)

Blogroll
» [WordPress.com](#)
» [WordPress.org](#)

Meta
» [Site Admin](#)
» [Log out](#)
» [Valid XHTML](#)
» [XFN](#)
» [WordPress](#)

Blog at WordPress.com.
[Entries \(RSS\)](#) and [Comments \(RSS\)](#).

The same post with the iNove Theme

LIVE4SQUARES'S BLOG

Just another WordPress.com weblog

Home About

Type text to search here...

Square Dancing is Fun!

March 2, 2010 live4squares [Leave a comment](#) [Edit](#)

I've been dancing since 1992 and I've loved every minute. It is a fun activity that engages the body and mind and connects you with other people. This blog will be our continuing adventures in Square Dance Land.

[Square Dance Land](#)

RSS feed

Random Posts

- [Square Dancing is Fun!](#)

Tag Cloud

Categories

- [Square Dance Land](#)

Blogroll

- [WordPress.com](#)
- [WordPress.org](#)

Archives

- [March 2010](#)

Meta

- [Site Admin](#)
- [Log out](#)

Copyright © 2010 Live4Squares's Blog
Blog at WordPress.com. Theme by NeoEase. Valid XHTML 1.1 and CSS 3. [Top](#)

Conclusion/Summary

There are far many more options and details available than covered here.

There's not that much damage you can do, so experiment, browse the help, search the forums, and ask around.

Three pieces of advice... Have fun with it, don't air dirty laundry (it will come back to haunt you), and short updates posted often tend to be read much more than long ones posted every now and again.

Enjoy!