

Introduction to YouTube.com

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New to YouTube? If you have a gmail address, or a google username and password, you can use that to log in to youtube. Otherwise, choose a username and password, and sign up. It's best to choose a username that's descriptive of your mission; as with any password, choose one that is not a dictionary word, non-obvious, uses upper and lower case, and includes a number for best security. Write it down in a safe place, and change it from time to time. You may choose a name for your channel, again, this should be as descriptive as possible, not too broad, and not too narrow; you can NOT change your channel name once you have chosen it.

YouTube videos are generally less than 10 minutes, unless you've paid for a premium account. If your videos are longer, either break them up into parts, or upload them instead to google videos site, or to archive.org. YouTube video uploading also limits the size of your file. You may upload your video if it is in a .mov (QuickTime movie) or .wmv (windows media viewer) format. YouTube then converts it into a "flash" format. If you do not have flash installed on your computer, download it from adobe.com.

Before you upload your video, enter a title, description, and keywords. The title should be brief and catchy; in some views it will be truncated. The description may be as long as you like. Use keywords that people are likely to use when searching for videos. YouTube will also ask you to categorize your video; there are relatively few categories, so if you don't find just the right category, don't fret, just choose 'film' category or whatever.

Once you have uploaded your video, you may edit the title, description, etc. Youtube chooses an image from the video as an 'icon'; if you don't like the one chosen, you may choose another, you will have two other choices.

Youtube allows you to set up a user profile, where you can describe yourself and your projects in greater detail.

Once you've got a number of videos, you can categorize them into playlists.

Youtube will allow you and others to 'embed' your video into a website, unless you choose not to allow it. When you view a video, that 'embed' code shows up on screen and you can just copy it and paste it into the html code.