



Facebook Basics: Glossary

Profile: Your personal Facebook home page. It displays your information and interactions with friends. Each registered user should have only one profile.

Wall: A section of your Profile where you and your friends can write short notes to one another, share photos and video, and generally connect. You post on your own wall to let your friends know what you're up to. You post on others' walls to ask them what they've been up to, wish them a happy birthday, etc.

News Feed: This is a continuous stream of updates about your friends' activities. It's the first thing you see when you log into Facebook.

Friends: In Facebook, a friend is a friend. A friend can also be a family member, a coworker, an acquaintance, your hairdresser ... basically, anyone with whom you've agreed to share information.

Page: Pages are similar to Profiles, except they are for businesses, organizations or celebrities.

Like: A button that allows you to give positive feedback on a friend's comment, photo, etc. If you select "Like" for a Facebook page (such as the Skokie Public Library page), that page's updates are added to your news feed.

App: Short for "application." These are small pieces of software designed to run on Facebook, such as games, quizzes, calendars, book lists, and more. Friends can invite you to participate in an app or you can search for your own in the Applications link on the left side of your profile page.

Poke: A casual gesture that means "I'm thinking of you." It's more widely used among teen Facebook members.





Facebook Basics: Privacy

Facebook gives users control over their profiles and the way their personal information is shared. However, you are not prompted to alter these settings when you sign up. They can be managed through the account tab at the top left of your profile page.

- Under My Account>Settings, create a security question (under Security Question) and sign up for login notifications (under Account Security)
- Under Privacy Settings, check all settings under Connecting on Facebook, Sharing on Facebook (choose Customize Settings) and Applications and Websites.
- To disable your public search setting (so people don't find your Facebook account when searching sites like Google or Bing), go to the Applications and Websites section at the bottom of the Privacy Settings page and click Edit Your Settings. Uncheck the box in the Public Search Section.

Also, use common sense!

- Give yourself a unique password that you only use for Facebook
- Don't list your home address or mention that you'll be away from home
- Don't reveal compromising information from your wild days.

Remember you only control your own security settings ... not those of your friends. A comment you make on a friend's wall or photo may be visible to the world. Proceed accordingly.

Consider creating hierarchies of friends using the Groups and/or Lists function. These allow you to share information with only a specific segment of friends—it comes in handy when you want to share a photo with, say, your family but not your coworkers. Go to the Groups and Lists section of the Help page for more information.

Decided you've had enough of Facebook? To deactivate your account, navigate to the Settings tab on the Account Settings page. Deactivation will remove your profile and content associated with your account from Facebook. If you'd like to come back to Facebook anytime after you've deactivated your account, you can reactivate by logging in with your email and password. Your profile will be restored in its entirety (friends, photos, interests, etc.).

You can also delete your account completely (you'll lose all your profile information). This isn't easy to find on Facebook—the simplest way to do it is to search “Delete my Account” in the Help area to access directions.