Setting Up a Custom Domain

When you create a free Teachable school, you can customize the subdomain part of your site URL, following the format http://yoursite.teachable.com. However, the root domain will remain teachable.com.

While this is a great starting point, you may already have an existing domain that you want to have your School point to. You can add your Teachable school to your current domain as a <u>subdomain</u> or you can have your Teachable school point directly to a <u>root domain</u> of your choice.

Jump Ahead

- Buying a Domain or Subdomain
- Adding a Domain to the Teachable Admin Area
- Creating a New DNS Record to a Root Domain
- Creating a New DNS Record to a Subdomain
- Making the New Domain your Primary Domain

Buying a Domain or Subdomain

To buy a domain name you have to register the name you want with an organization called the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) through a domain name registrar (like GoDaddy or Namecheap).

For example, if you choose a name like "example.com," you will have to go to a registrar, and pay a registration fee for that name. That will give you the right to the name for a year, and then you will have to <u>renew it</u> annually.

Adding a Domain to the Teachable Admin Area

In order to point your Teachable courses to your personal domain, you need to add the domain to your Teachable account.

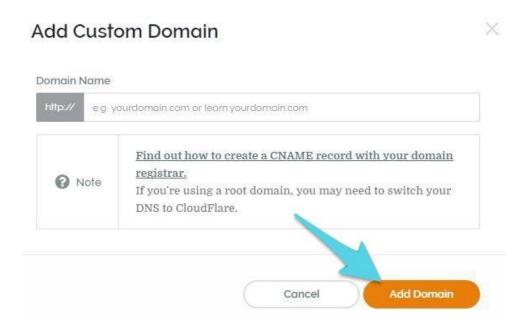
- 1. Log into your Teachable account.
- 2. Select **Site** from the admin sidebar.
- 3. Choose **Domains** from the submenu.
- 4. Click the **New Domain** button.



Enter the domain of your choice using the format mysite.com or courses.mysite.com.

NOTE: You don't need to enter www. or http:// here.

6. Click the **Add Domain** button and you will see your newly created domain added to the list of domains.



Creating a New DNS Record to a Root Domain

Now that you've added the domain name to your Teachable account, you'll need to create a new DNS record wherever you registered your domain. This DNS record will route requests from your custom domain to your Teachable course.

TIP: Several Teachable schools choose to set up a root (naked) domain as their custom domain. Some examples of such Teachable schools are http://bitfountain.io, http://learntoprogram.tv, and http://knowledge.ly.

In order to set a custom domain name, you need to create a CNAME record at the root level. Most domain providers do not let you create a CNAME record at root.

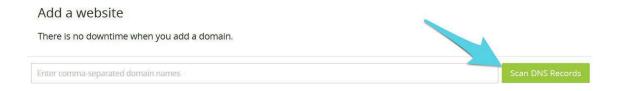
Luckily, <u>Cloudflare</u> lets you use their DNS completely free and allows you to create a CNAME record at the root level.

- 1. Create a free CloudFlare account.
- 2. Transfer your domain's DNS over to CloudFlare.
 - Go to http://cloudflare.com and click the **Sign Up** link.



 Enter the domain name that you want to use for your Teachable school without the www.

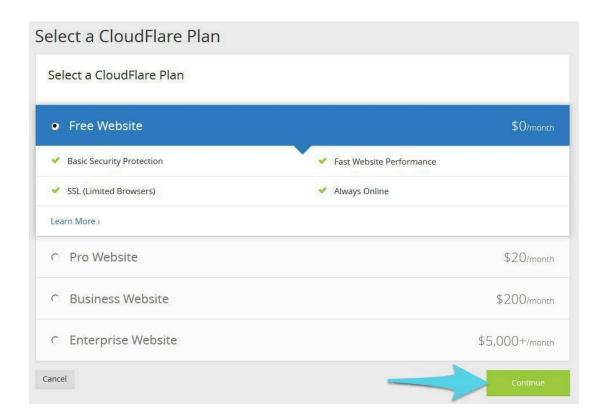
o Click the Scan DNS Records button.



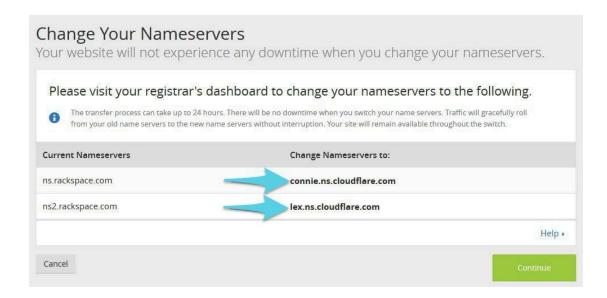
- Click the Continue button.
- If there are any additional records you'd like to add, you can add them
 here. After you've reviewed your DNS records, click Continue.



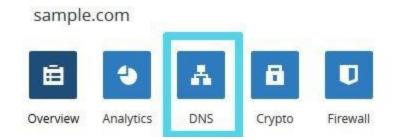
Choose the Free plan, leave the other settings the same, and click
 Continue.



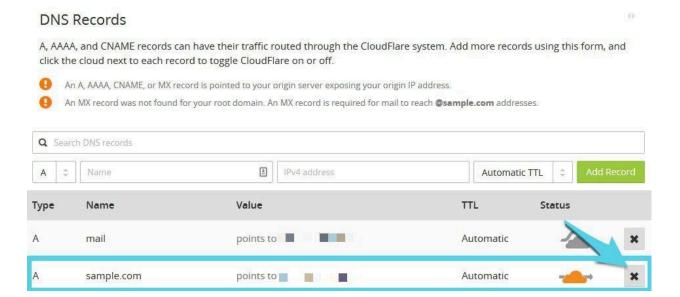
o Copy the names of the two nameservers listed.



- Update your domain registrar's nameservers with the two names you copied from CloudFlare.
- 3. Set up your Teachable school domain in CloudFlare.
 - Within CloudFlare, select your domain.
 - Choose the **DNS** icon from the top menu bar.



If there's an A record with your domain in it, delete that A record.



NOTE: Deleting the A record will produce a warning—don't worry! You want to delete the A record since you're about to add a CNAME at root pointing to your Teachable school.

- Create a CNAME record pointing to your school URL on Teachable.
- Click Add Record.



NOTE: This process often takes 24-48 hours to fully process.

Creating a New DNS Record to a Subdomain

Now that you've added the domain name to your Teachable account, you'll need to create a new DNS record wherever you registered your domain. This DNS record will route requests from your custom subdomain to your Teachable course.

- 1. Go to your domain registrar.
- 2. Create a <u>CNAME record</u> for your desired subdomain.
- 3. Point it to your Teachable school URL.

NOTE: This process often takes 24-48 hours to fully process.

Making the New Domain your Primary Domain

- 1. <u>Log into</u> your Teachable account.
- 2. Select <u>Site</u> from the admin sidebar.
- 3. Choose **Domains** from the submenu.
- 4. Verify that the new domain name works by clicking the **Check Domain** button.

NOTE: If your domain name works you will see a **Verified** message next to your domain.

CAUTION: Do not set your new domain as **Primary** in Teachable until you know the transfer is complete. If you have set your new domain as the Primary too early, you will be unable to log into your school.



5. Click the **Make Primary** button next to your new domain.

