



## **The Blog Club - Activity #1**

### **Learning the differences between Posts & Pages**

Newer bloggers sometimes publish content on pages when it would be better being published as a post.

This Activity will:

1. introduce you to the differences between posts & pages.
2. guide you in steps on how to write an About Me page.
3. have you Write an About Me page for your own blog.

### **Intro to Pages**

Blogs are composed of two main areas where you publish your content: Posts and Pages.

New bloggers sometimes confuse the two. We will try to clarify this for you:

In the old days before the *new* Blogger we used a regular blog-post as a page and backdated the timestamp so that the page did not show up in new feed entries. (Did you know you could do that? Maybe we should write a post about that on The Blog Guidebook!)

You can still do this if you need lots of Pages.

Now we have Pages:

Pages on blogs are usually used for information that you want to share with your readers but might not update often. Blogger pages let you to publish static information on stand-alone pages linked from your blog.

### ***Differences in features between Pages and Posts***

Pages in Blogger can be difficult to work with. We have found Pages to be temperamental when it comes to adding images and lots of links.

This might just be a glitch in Blogger, and will be worked out eventually.

Posts are our friends. We use them on a daily basis.

Pages are like distant relatives, we know their names but we do not visit them often. Pages will not show up in your Archives like Posts will (dated).

NOTE: Some platform blog themes do not allow comments on pages. This is why on many blogs you will not see comments on pages.

### ***How to use Pages on your blog:***

1. One of the most common types of Page on a blog is the **About Me** page. Your **About Me** Page is used to inform a reader more about yourself and what your blog is about.

2. Other Page uses can include, but are not limited to: Contact Us, Location, subjects you are blogging about such as Gardening, Kitchen, Travel etc.

### **How to write an About Me Page**

An About Me page is how a reader will find out more about you and your blog. Pretty important eh? Readers often use this Page to find your photo, your email address, read your blogging background and life story.

## **What to Write on Your About Me Page**

Your about page is all about letting people know who you are, what your interests are and what you will write about on your blog.

Start by telling people more about yourself as they are more likely to relate to your blog if they can relate to you as a person or individual.

Tell them about your blog and the reasons why you blog.

Your life story might be interesting, but save something for the blog itself. Try writing a few paragraphs of the most exciting things about you and your blog.

Include a photo or two that will help your readers relate to you as a person. You can introduce yourself and your family this way also.

Here is the link to our About Us page at The Blog Guidebook:

<http://www.blogguidebook.com/p/about-us.html>

Create your Page (in Blogger) by clicking on Design in your Blogger navbar. This will take you to your Layout page. From here you will click on Posting, then Edit Pages.

You may choose how your pages display on your blog. In Blogger you can choose Tabs or Sidebar. It is up to you what you would like to do.

Sometimes tabs are tricky and look funny if you do not have enough going across your page.

You may have not created a Page yet. You will get to do that here. Click New Page. Name your page About Me, or About Us etc.

In Blogger you can add up to 10 pages.

Here is a great [link](http://www.google.com/support/blogger/bin/answer.py?answer=165955) to Googles explanation of Pages:

<http://www.google.com/support/blogger/bin/answer.py?answer=165955>

You can now add your info to your page. Remember to click Save when you are finished or you will lose your information. There are three choices to view your pages, in Tabs, Sidebar or No Gadget\*\*\*. Try all three and see what you like the best. Sidebar is super easy. Tabs can be more difficult. We will have a future activity sheet about Tabs and No Gadget.

If you would like to SEE a few videos about Pages and Posts, we suggest going to YouTube and searching for **Pages in Blogger**. There are several great videos to watch and get a great visual for what we are talking about. Two that stand out: onlineiseasy from March, 2010 and bugbytes from February 2010. We hope you find the videos (not made by us!) helpful and not confusing.

### **Write your About Me Page**

Now it is time for you to write your About (You) Me page. Or you can edit or update your current About Me page if you have already created one.

OR

You can create a new page with a list of helpful resources (from your blog or other sources) to share with others.

Once you have written an About Me page or Resource page make sure you Save it. Then remember to view it on your blog. Make sure and let your team members know you've completed the first activity so they can check it out and learn more About You!

\*\*\*IF YOU DO NOT HAVE TABS OR A SIDEBAR SET UP FOR PAGES YOU MAY USE THE GADGET ONLY OPTION. YOUR PAGE(S) WILL NOT SHOW UP ON YOUR BLOG. JUST GRAB THE URL FROM YOUR BROWSER BAR AND COPY AND PASTE IT INTO YOUR SIDEBAR OR OTHER LOCATION AS A LINK. WRITE A CUTE SAYING OR USE AN IMAGE TO LINK IT TO.

When you visit your team's blogs make sure you:

1. Pay attention to their layout and how they use pages and posts
2. Find the About page if they have one and read about the team/group member.
3. Comment on the About page (or a post you like) if comments are open, introduce yourself to the blogger with a link to your blog. If you do not know how to leave a link, just type out your blog URL address.

HAVE FUN WITH THIS. Blogging should be fun!

\*\*\*\*ADVANCED EXTRA STUFF:

We found this info on the Blogger site:

### Making Custom Templates Compatible With Pages Tabs

If you are familiar with HTML and want Pages as tabs, follow these steps carefully (caution - this is not for the faint of heart!):

1. Make sure the Pages Widget hasn't already been added, if so, remove the widget
2. Go to the Layout | Edit HTML tab for your blog
3. Download a backup of your template by clicking Download Full Template
4. Click the checkbox next to Expand Widget Templates

5. Look for the following three lines of HTML. If this HTML exists, change showaddelement='no' to showaddelement='yes'

```
<div id='crosscol-wrapper' style='text-align:center'>  
  <b:section class='crosscol' id='crosscol' showaddelement='no' />  
</div>
```

6. If this HTML does not exist, paste the following lines of HTML where you want the tabs to appear (for instance, after <div id='content-wrapper'>)

```
<div id='crosscol-wrapper' style='text-align:center'>  
  <b:section class='crosscol' id='crosscol' showaddelement='yes' />  
</div>
```

7. Confirm tabs are correctly added, click Save Template

8. Go to Layout | Page Elements and look for the new horizontal Gadget area and add the Pages gadget there.

FEEL FREE TO PRINT THIS ACTIVITY OUT AND START A FOLDER OR BINDER AS A REFERENCE GUIDE. THANKS FOR BEING IN THE CLUB!