

SOCIABILITY: SOCIAL MEDIA FOR  
PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

# TIPS FOR FACEBOOK



## WHAT IS FACEBOOK?

---

Facebook is a popular social networking tool that lets users create a personal profile, add other users as friends, send messages and share photos and videos.

## WHY TRY FACEBOOK?

---

Facebook is all about personal interaction – people use it to share information and keep in touch with friends. For people with disabilities, Facebook is an easy way of communicating with friends without the need for travel.

## FACEBOOK FEATURES

---

- Profile: this has any personal information you choose to share with your friends.
- Friend search: find your friends on Facebook and add them to your contacts.
- Wall: where you can update your status, share photos and videos and post links for your friends to see. Friends can also post updates and share information on your Wall.
- News feed (home page): gives you an updated list of your friends' activities. You can also update your status and share things with friends.
- Message: send private messages to your friends.
- Chat: send real-time instant messages to friends who are online via the chat function on each page.



MEDIA  
ACCESS  
AUSTRALIA  
INCLUSION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY



Australian Communications  
Consumer Action Network

# SOCIABILITY: SOCIAL MEDIA FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

# TIPS FOR FACEBOOK

## GETTING STARTED

---

1. Signing up for an account: go to facebook.com. Select 'Sign Up' and follow the instructions.
2. Profile: select the 'Profile' option and put in your personal information and a photo.
3. Privacy: by default, some of your information can be viewed by the public. You can control who sees your information by going to 'Accounts', then 'Privacy' and following the instructions.
4. Friends: type the name of your friend in the search box and once you've found them select 'Add Friend'.

## FACEBOOK ACCESSIBILITY TIPS AND TRICKS

---

People with disabilities who use Facebook have provided some tips and tricks on how to overcome some of its accessibility issues:

- Mobile Facebook website: if the main Facebook website proves too difficult to use try the mobile site [m.facebook.com](http://m.facebook.com).
- Facely HD app: if you use an iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad, this app provides Facebook access that works with the VoiceOver screen reader.
- Keyboard shortcuts: the Facebook website has some additional keyboard shortcuts available. See Facebook Help links below.
- Finding friends: one potential barrier for blind or vision impaired users is finding friends without being able to see their photo. It's helpful to know that the first search results will be people who live closest to you or have friends in common with you and are more likely to be the correct person.
- Captions for photos: photo descriptions are helpful for screen reader users and can be added by using the 'Add a caption' option beneath an image.
- ARIA landmarks: the Facebook website has WAI-ARIA support allowing modern screen readers to jump between website sections.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional Facebook accessibility resources and step-by-step instructions can be found at:

- The Online Media section of the Media Access Australia website: [mediaaccess.org.au/online-media](http://mediaaccess.org.au/online-media)
- Facebook assistive technology helpdesk: [facebook.com/help/contact.php?show\\_form=accessibility](https://www.facebook.com/help/contact.php?show_form=accessibility)

- Facebook accessibility information including keyboard shortcuts: [facebook.com/help/?page=440](https://www.facebook.com/help/?page=440)

For more information about accessing social media, visit the Media Access Australia website [mediaaccess.org.au](http://mediaaccess.org.au) or follow @mediaaccessaus on Twitter.

*This resource is provided by Media Access Australia with funding received from the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN).*