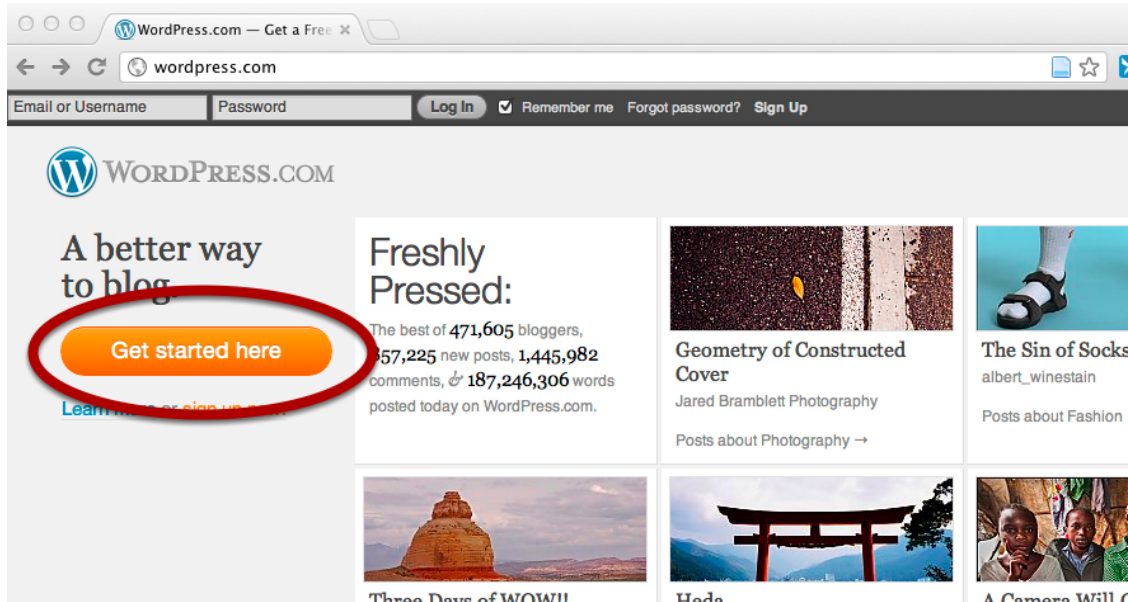


Starting a WordPress Site

Navigate to www.wordpress.com



Click on **Get started here**.

Choose a name for your website

Get your own WordPress.com account in seconds

Fill out this one-step form and you'll be blogging seconds later!

Blog Address ✓

reallycoolblogname .wordpress.com \$0

Choose an address for your blog. Don't worry, you can change this later.

Did you know, the address **reallycoolblogname.com** is also available?

Great! Use this address on my blog for \$18 a year No thanks, I'll use the free address.

If you don't want a blog you can [signup for just a username](#).

You have a couple options here. You can choose a site name that ends in "wordpress.com" for free, or, for \$18 a year, you can purchase a site name that ends in ".com." Some people think that ".com" sounds more professional. It's up to you, and you can switch later.

Should you upgrade?

Thinking about upgrading?
Grab the WordPress Value Bundle and save some cash.

Free Blog	✓	✓
Domain Name & Mapping	✓	✗
10GB Space Upgrade	✓	✗
No Ads	✓	✗
Custom Design	✓	✗
VideoPress	✓	✗
	\$99 instead of \$166 per year	Free

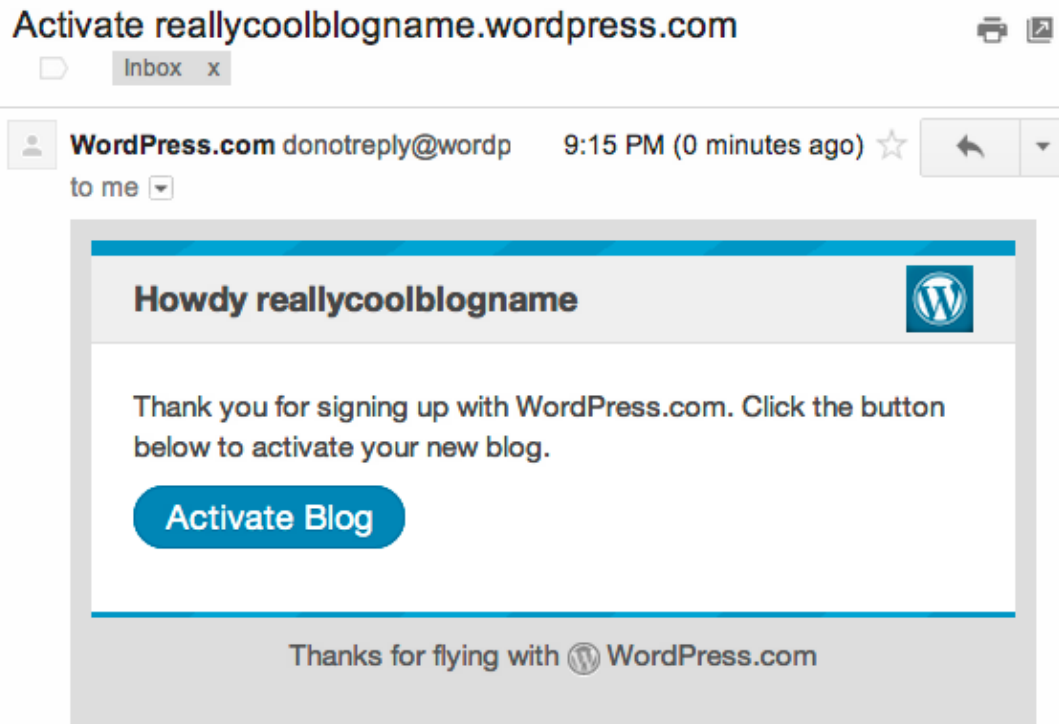
You agree to the [fascinating terms of service](#) by submitting this form.

Upgrade →
Save 41%!

Create Blog →

Upgrading comes with a number of benefits, as you can see. Perhaps most importantly, you get more storage space, no ads, and the ability to include video. But if you've never had a WordPress site before, it's probably best to experiment with the free version before you upgrade. For now, click **Create Blog**.

Check your email and click on the link to register

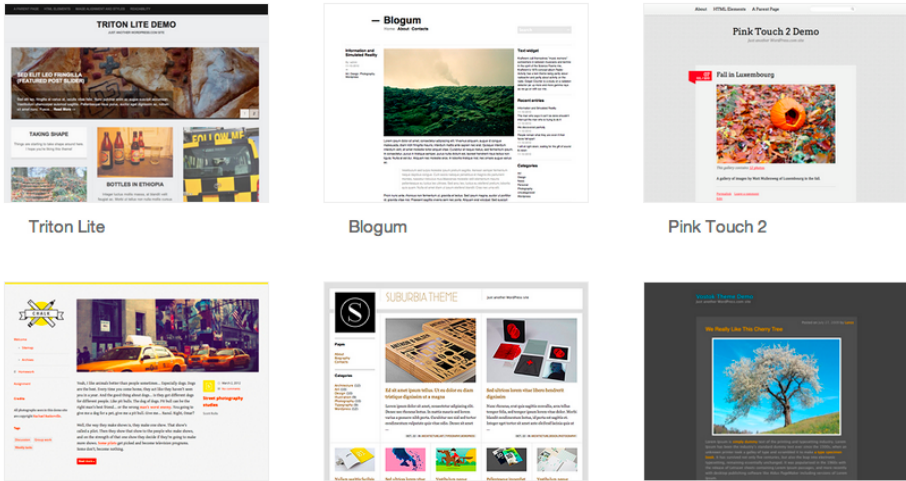


If you didn't get the email, try entering a different address on the signup page.

Pick a theme

Choose a starter theme for reallycoolblogname.wordpress.com

Click on a thumbnail below to **customize the look** of your blog. (Don't worry, you can always switch to a different theme later.)



The image shows six theme thumbnails arranged in a 2x3 grid. The top row includes 'Triton Lite' (a food blog theme), 'Blogum' (a clean, modern theme), and 'Pink Touch 2' (a theme with a pink and white color scheme). The bottom row shows three other themes, including one with a yellow and white color scheme and another with a dark background and a tree image.

A theme is like a template for your blog. It makes it easy to change everything about the way your blog looks without changing the content. Pick a theme now; you can always change it later.

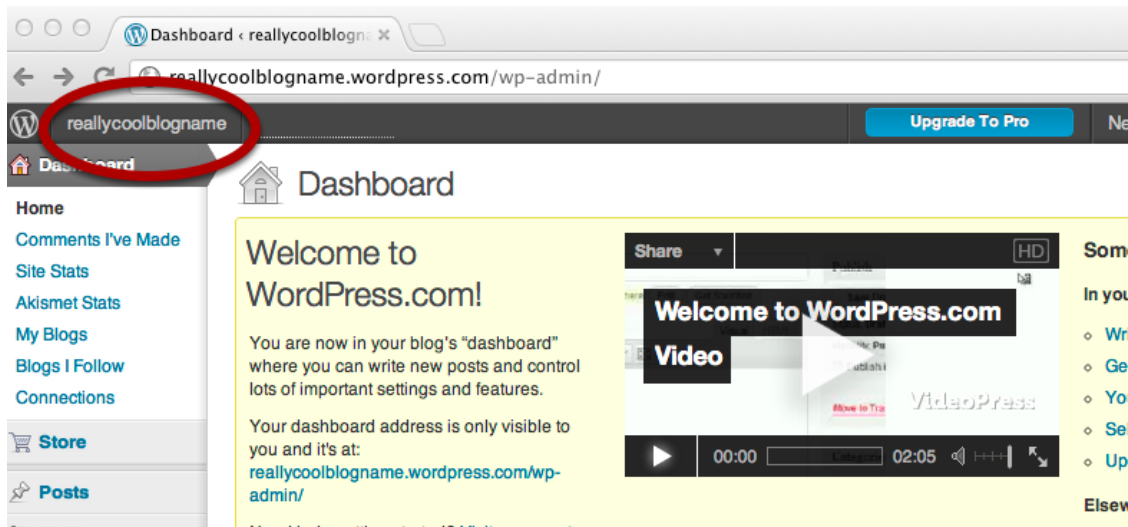
Uh ... where am I now?



The screenshot shows the WordPress.com 'My Blogs' page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'New Post', 'Reader', 'Freshly Pressed', 'Topics', 'My Blog', and 'My Stats'. The 'My Blog' tab is circled in red and has a '1' in a circle above it. Below the navigation bar, the page displays 'My Blogs' with a sub-header 'reallycoolblogname Primary Blog'. Underneath, there are buttons for '1 Post', '1 Page', and '1 Comment'. A 'Dashboard' link is circled in red and has a '2' in a circle above it. Other links include 'New Post', 'Drafts', 'Your 1 post', and 'Stats'. At the bottom, there is a 'Create a New Blog' section with the text 'Start posting to a new blog in seconds.'

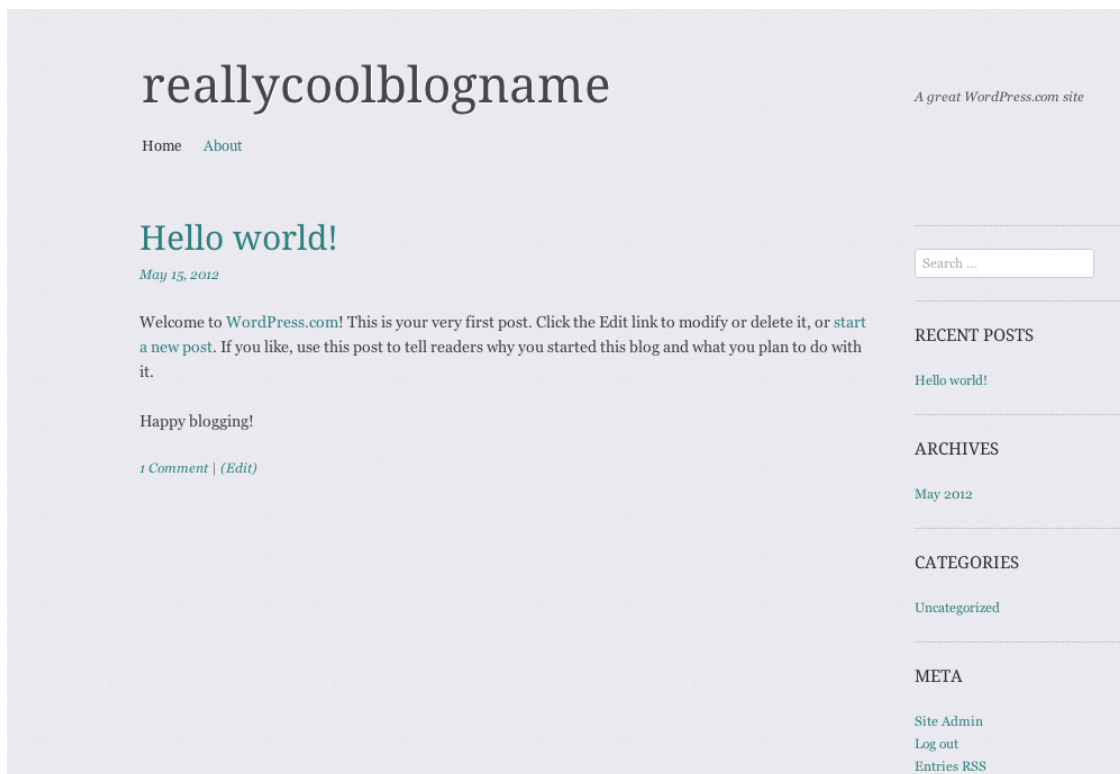
This is the page for your WordPress account. To get to your new site's dashboard, click on the **My Blog** tab and then **Dashboard**.

Welcome to your dashboard!



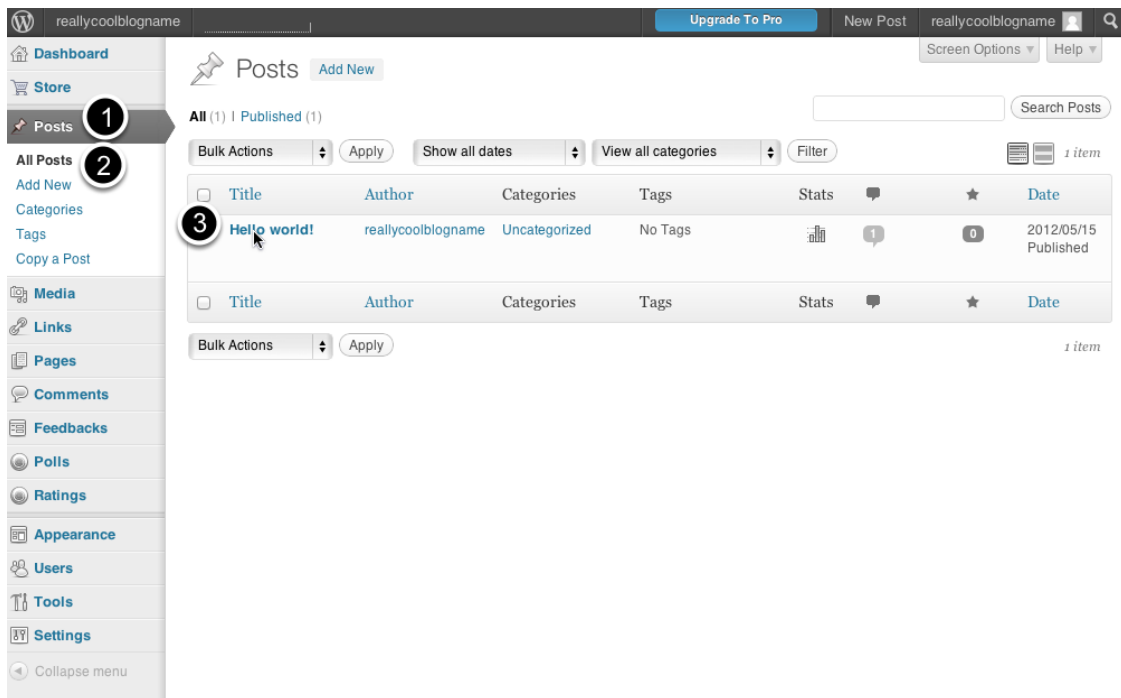
This is the behind-the-scenes control center for your blog. To see the front end of your blog, click on the blog name in the upper left-hand corner.

Welcome to your new website!



To get back to your dashboard, hover over your blog's name in the black menu bar, then click on **Dashboard**.

Edit your first post



Your new WordPress site came with a post to serve as an example. You can edit it by clicking on **Edit** on the front page of your blog. Or, if you're at your dashboard, click on **Posts** (in the left-hand sidebar), then **All Posts**, then click on the **Edit** button that appears under the name of your post.

The WordPress content editor



The box where you'll write your post isn't too different from the word processing programs you're used to using.

Add an image

Add Media ✕

[From Computer](#) [From URL](#) [Media Library](#)

Insert media from another website

Image Audio, Video, or Other File

URL ✓

Title *

Alternate Text
All text for the image, e.g. "The Mona Lisa"

Image Caption

Alignment None Left Center Right

Link Image To:

Enter a link URL or click above for presets.

You can add an image by clicking on the media upload button, then by either entering a URL or uploading a photo from your computer.

Add tags and categories

Categories

All Categories [Most Used](#)

About this blog
 Uncategorized

[+ Add New Category](#)

— Parent Category —

Tags

welcome, about, academic

Separate tags with commas

[Choose from the most used tags](#)

Tags and categories help you to organize your blog and help your readers to navigate it.

Click "Update"

Screen Options Help

Edit Post Add New

Post updated. [View post](#) 2

Welcome to my blog!

Permalink: <http://reallycoolblogname.wordpress.com/2012/05/15/hello-world/> Edit

View Post Get Shortlink

Upload/Insert Visual HTML

Welcome to my new blog! I hope you'll enjoy reading it.

Publish

Preview Changes

Status: **Published** Edit

Visibility: **Public** Edit

Published on: **May 15, 2012 @ 4:16** Edit

[Move to Trash](#) 1 Update

Now you've edited your blog post! Click on **View Post** to see your new post.

But I don't want (just) a blog!

reallycoolblogname Upgrade To Pro New Post reallycoolblogname

Dashboard Store Posts Media Links Pages Comments Feedbacks Polls Ratings Appearance Users Tools Settings Collapse menu

Pages Add New

All (1) | Published (1)

Bulk Actions Apply Show all dates Filter 1 item

<input type="checkbox"/>	Title	Author	Stats	Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	About	reallycoolblogname	0	14 mins ago Published
<input type="checkbox"/>	Title	Author	Stats	Date

Bulk Actions Apply 1 item

WordPress defaults to a blog setup, meaning that it expects you to want to write **posts** and display them in reverse-chronological order. But if you had a more static site in mind, that's OK, too! WordPress provides another category of content, called **pages**. Pages are for content that's going to stay pretty much the same. You can have just posts, just pages, or a combination of the two.

To create a page, head back to the dashboard and click on **Pages**. WordPress has already created a sample page for you, called **About**. Click on the title to edit it.

Edit your page

The screenshot shows the WordPress page editor for an 'About' page. At the top, the title 'About' is displayed in a text box. Below the title, the permalink is shown as 'http://reallycoolblogname.wordpress.com/about/' with 'Edit' and 'View Page' buttons. A 'Get Shortlink' button is also present. The editor has two tabs: 'Visual' (selected) and 'HTML'. The 'Visual' tab shows a rich text editor with a toolbar containing icons for bold, italic, text color, list, link, unlink, quote, indent, outdent, link, unlink, table, undo, redo, and fullscreen. The main text area contains the sentence: 'I am a grad student at UCLA studying nineteenth-century African history.' At the bottom, a status bar shows 'Path: p', 'Word count: 10', and 'Draft saved at 1:00:54 am. Last edited on May 17, 2012 at 12:59 am'.

Delete what's inside the text box and write a new description. You can add images, just like a post. The only thing you *can't* do is add tags and categories. When you're done, hit **Update** and take a look at your new page.

Make your "About" page your home page

The screenshot shows the WordPress dashboard's left-hand menu with 'Settings' selected (1). Under 'Settings', 'Reading' is selected (2). The 'Reading Settings' page is displayed with the following options:

- Front page displays:** Radio buttons for 'Your latest posts' and 'A static page (select below)'. The 'A static page' option is selected (3).
- Front page:** A dropdown menu set to 'About' (4).
- Posts page:** A dropdown menu set to '- Select -'.
- Blog pages show at most:** A numeric input field set to '10' posts.
- Syndication feeds show the most recent:** A numeric input field set to '10' items.
- For each article in a feed, show:** Radio buttons for 'Full text' (selected) and 'Summary'.
- Enhanced Feeds:** Checkboxes for 'Categories', 'Tags', and 'Comment count' (checked).

At the bottom, a note states: 'Changes may not appear until you create a new page for the posts page.'

Many people prefer their visitors to be greeted with a static home page rather than a chronological series of blog posts. Luckily, that's easy to do. From your dashboard, click on **Settings** and then **Reading** in the left-hand pane. Then, under the **Front page displays** option, choose **A static page** and select **About** from the drop-down menu. Don't forget to **Save Changes** (at the bottom of the screen). Now, if you head to your blog's homepage, you'll see that it's your About page.

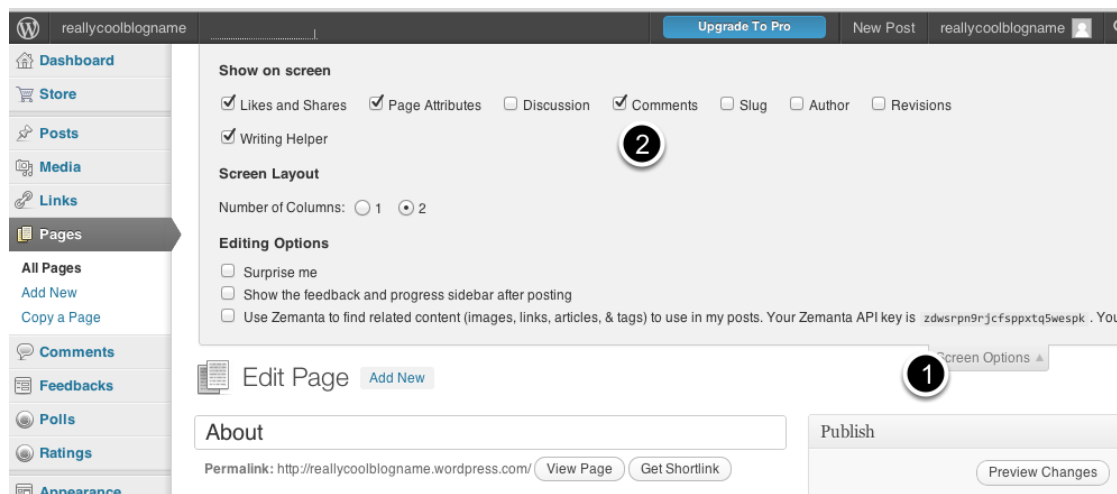
Yikes, where did my blog go!

This close-up shows the 'Posts page' dropdown menu. The 'Posts page' is currently set to 'Blog', which is circled in red. The 'Front page' dropdown above it is set to 'About'.

Now that you've removed your blog posts from the front page of your blog, you need to create a new page for them to live. Do this by creating a new page (**Pages** -> **Add New**), calling it **Blog**, leaving it blank, and publishing it. Now, head back to the Reading options (Settings -> Reading)

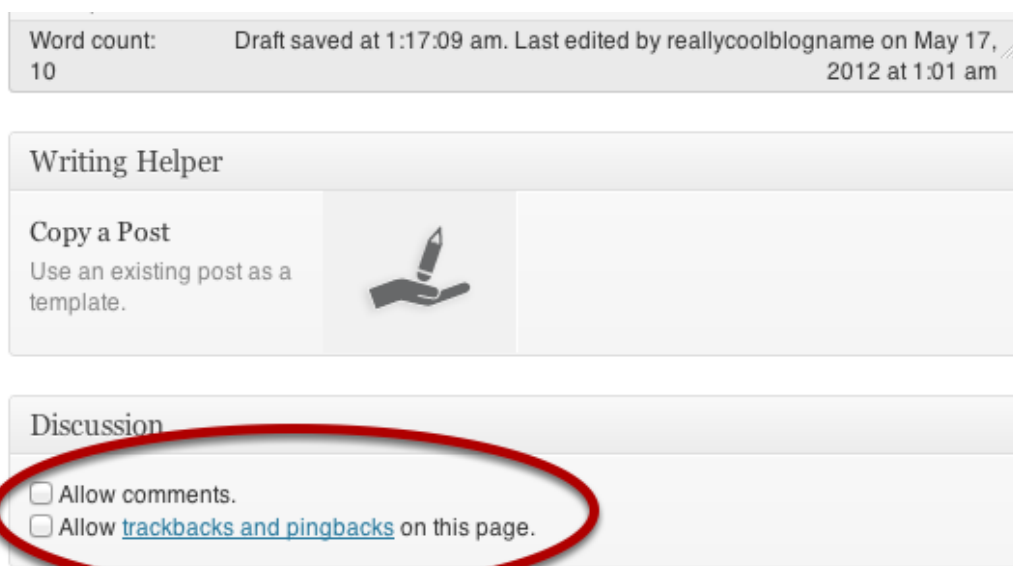
and setting the Posts page to **Blog**. Now, if you head back to your home page, you'll see that you can get to your blog from the menu.

I don't want comments on my pages!



There are two ways to turn off comments, and, alas, neither of them reside under the **Comments** menu item. If you don't want comments on any blog posts, head to **Settings** -> **Discussion**, and uncheck the box that says "Allow people to post comments on new articles." Be sure to save your changes. If you don't want comments on a page, go to the editing page for the page in question. At the very top right-hand portion of the screen, you'll see a **Screen Options** menu. Click on it, then check the **Discussion** box.

Turn off comments on pages



Now, if you scroll down the page, you'll see that you have options for turning off comments on your page. Uncheck both of the boxes.