

# Comments Overview

Comments allow your readers to add feedback to your posts and pages. Comments extend the conversation allowing your readers to interact with you and each other.

It's amazing how even just a few comments can make student realise they are writing for a global audience — for many is incredibly motivating.

Comments are an important part of both the readers and blogger's learning process.

## Default Comment Settings

By default, comments are enabled on all newly created blogs, and a comment form will appear at the bottom of posts and pages where readers can respond to what you've written.

Here is what a comment form looks like:

Approved comments are displayed under the individual post or page, not on the blog home page. Click on the post title to read the comments.

The latest comments can be displayed on the blog home page by adding the [recent comments widget](#) to the sidebar.

## Comment Management

The default comment setting on all newly created blogs is 'Comment author must have a previously approved comment before a comment appears'.

This means any visitors that have had a comment approved on the blog in the past will have their comment immediately posted and only comments from new visitors are placed in the moderation queue.

Blog owners have complete control of comments left on their blog and can change [comment moderation](#) at any time in **Settings > Discussion**. To moderate all comments you need to change it to "Comment must be manually approved".

Users on the blog who are assigned the role of administrator or editor are able to approve pending comments and [manage comments](#). Contributors can't see pending comments.

You can also [turn off comments](#).

## Adding a comment

You add a comment as follows:

1. Click on the post title or the "comment" link at the top or at the bottom of the post.

The image shows a comment form with the following elements:

- Name \***: A text input field.
- Email \***: A text input field.
- Website**: A text input field with the placeholder text "Not required".
- Comment**: A large text area for writing the comment.
- Anti-spam\***: A text input field.
- A CAPTCHA image showing the text "no treble" in red cursive.
- A blue **Post Comment** button.
- An unchecked checkbox.
- The text "Notify me of followup comments via e-mail" below the checkbox.

2. Scroll down the page to the comment form or click on **Reply** (to reply to a specific comment).
3. Enter your name and email address – your email address is hidden and only the blogger sees it. If you are logged into your Edublogs account you won't need to add these details.
4. Write your comment.
5. Enter the anti-spam word.
6. Select the “ if you want to be notified by email to comments by other readers.
7. Now click '**Submit Comment**'.

The image shows a comment form with the following fields and annotations:

- Name \***: Sue Waters
- Email \***: sue@edublogs.org (Annotation: Name and email address)
- Website**: Not required
- Comment**: Hi Dan  
Thanks for the reminder. I'm planning on adding [Thinglink](http://teacherchallenge.edublogs.org/step-8-cools-tools-to-embed/) to our cool tools that you can embed into posts and pages –  
<http://teacherchallenge.edublogs.org/step-8-cools-tools-to-embed/> (Annotation: Your comment)
- Anti-spam\***: count sun (Annotation: Anti spam word)
- Security Image**: To prove you are a person (not a spam script), type the security word shown in the picture. The image shows the words "count sun" in a blue, handwritten font.
- Post Comment** button (Annotation: Submit comment)
- Notify me of followup comments via e-mail** (Annotation: Email notification of follow up comments)
- CANCEL REPLY** button

## Editing comments

Only users on the blog who are assigned the role of administrator or editor are able to edit or delete comments left on other Edublogs blogs. If you need a comment deleted or edit you need to ask the blog owner to do this.

## Threaded Comments

Threaded comments allow readers to reply to other comments inline/nested which encourages better discussion and responses.

**Below is an example of a post:**

## Commenting Counts (or does it?)

Post Title

February 5, 2013 by Sue Waters | 44 Comments

Number of Comments



Post content

We've worked hard emphasizing that reading other people's posts and commenting on posts are both a very important part of the learning process as a blogger.

Maybe we're wrong? Or maybe we haven't helped you experience it in action?

But what I do know is some have reflected they feel that commenting feels like a burden or that once you've made a comment it often goes no further.

I'm hoping this is where you'll help out?

### Please share your thoughts by leaving a comment:

1. Has commenting helped your learning? Yes or No? Why?
2. What advice would you give others on commenting?
3. What else could we do to improve the process?

Categories: [Tips For Better Blogging](#) | Tags: [etmooc](#) | [Permalink](#)

Here is an example of a threaded comment on the post:



**Brendan Murphy**

February 5, 2013 at 10:10 pm

Comment

I only wish I could get comments. Yes, I blog as a reflection, but also as an exploration. I want someone to tell me if they agree or disagree. I was my ideas to be challenged. It's the best way to learn and grow.

[Reply](#)



**Sue Waters**

February 6, 2013 at 8:18 am

Threaded Comment

Hi Brendan

Comments can be a challenge. As Scott McLeod highlights the online participation rule indicates that only about 1% of readers actively comment. Building a strong blog community does help and some styles of writing are more likely to receive comments.

But saying all that I think it is considerably easier to engage commenters nowadays than when I first started blogging. We now have a considerably stronger, and larger, educational community and communities like ETMOOC can really help educators connect and support each other.

[Reply](#)

## Commenting tips

Most readers are reluctant commenters, not because of lack of time, but because they feel uncomfortable leaving comments.

Read through the comments on these posts:

1. [Comments Count!](#)
2. [Parents Comments Count!](#)
3. [Teaching students how to write quality comments](#)

The comments on these posts provide:

1. Reasons why readers mightn't leave comments on blog posts
2. Explanations of what makes a good comment
3. Tips for encouraging readers to comment

Both posts are also a good example of how both the blogger and readers can interact with each other when encouraged properly.