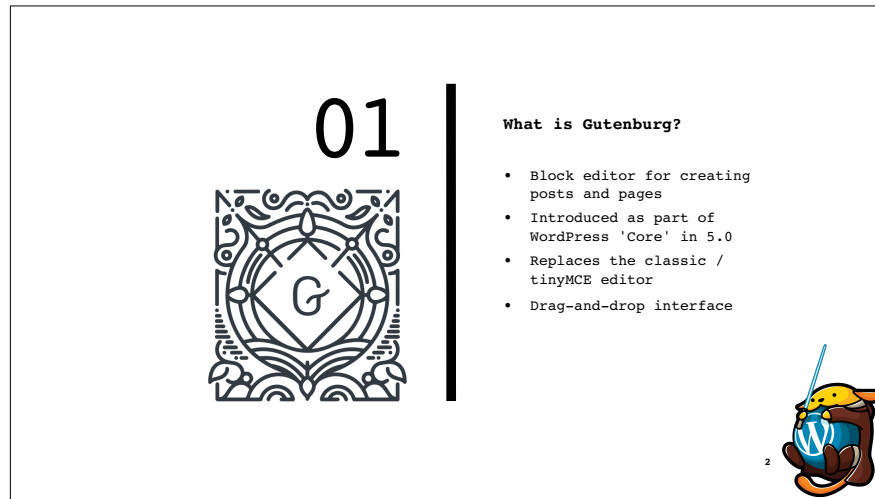


Gutenberg:

the block editor
+ WordPress Q&A





Gutenberg is the new "block editor" for WordPress websites, used on both posts and pages.

It was introduced first as a plugin during the testing & development phases, and then as a core feature in WordPress 5.0, and continues to be improved in subsequent versions of WordPress, including the upcoming 5.2.

Gutenberg replaces the classic tinyMCE editor, although you can still use this by installing the 'classic editor' plugin, or using a 'classic' block. By having the plugin installed but set to use Gutenberg editor by default, you have the best of both worlds; using the new editor in future posts while still being able to fall back on the full classic editor when there is a plugin incompatibility. You can change the default editor at Settings - Writing page in WP admin.

Gutenberg introduces a block based drag & drop interface which allows you to rearrange your content easily.

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Why should I use it?

- Greater flexibility for post and page layouts
- Learning curve is worth it!
- Posts can be more than just paragraph, image, paragraph
- It can reduce your plugin usage
- Offers a distraction free writing experience
- Mobile-friendly for content creation and visitors

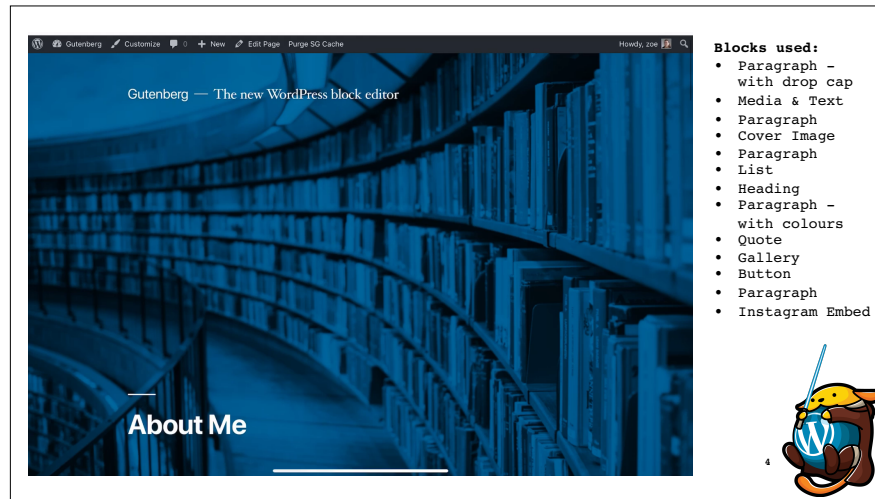


Gutenberg allows you to create better looking sites, easily - once you are past the initial learning curve. I recommend you take a few days to get to know it and you will find it worth it. Once you understand how it works and have a workflow that suits you, you'll be surprised how easily and fast it is to create great looking posts.

Your posts and pages can become more dynamic, rather than just being text with the odd image.

You can get rid of unwieldy page builder plugins that once installed are difficult to stop using. This can also speed up your site - yay!

The full screen writing experience is great, especially on mobile devices. It removes the WordPress top bar and sidebar from the post/page edit screen, which is especially nice on smaller laptops and tablets/iPads.



All these blocks are 'core' Gutenberg blocks, and using the free Twenty Nineteen theme. I've used the drop cap feature & colour customisation options on some of the paragraph blocks.

03

Tips & Tricks

- Upgrade your themes & plugins as many now have added compatibility & custom blocks
- Get to know the different types of blocks
- Create reusable blocks for snippets you repeat often
- Multiple ways to add blocks - find the ones that suit you

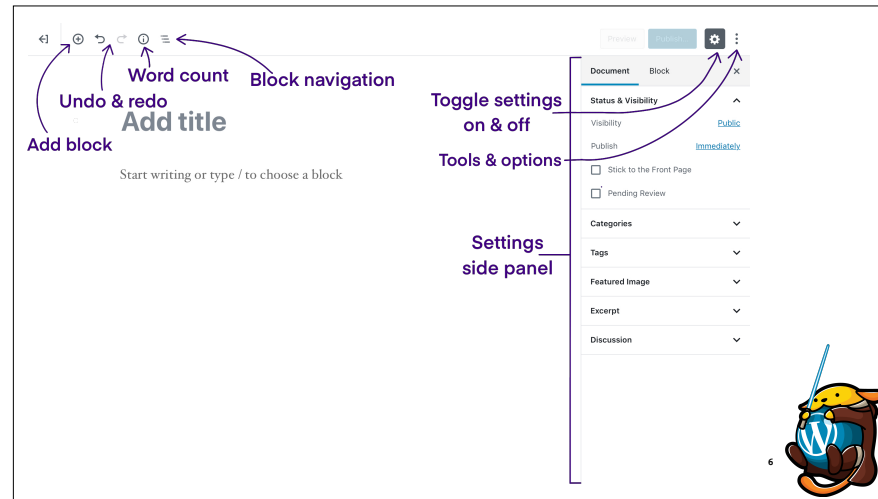


Plugins such as Jetpack, Amazon Associates, Yoast - all have their own custom blocks in the latest versions. Some themes are now being designed to make use of the Gutenberg editor so you see exactly what your post is going to look like while you are editing your post.

There are a lot of different types of blocks to make your posts and pages stand out, and you can add more with plugins - get to know them so you can take advantage of the new capabilities that come with Gutenberg.

Reusable blocks are useful for things like post intros for a series of posts, or standard disclosures for reviews. They are blocks that you create and then save under a new block name, so you can re-add them in future posts.

There are several ways to add blocks to your posts - keep an eye out for the + (in a circle) symbol which you'll find in the top toolbar, and above/below blocks when you hover on their top/bottom edge, and also below the bottom most block of a post. There are also keyboard shortcuts to insert blocks - I'm going to demonstrate my favourite.

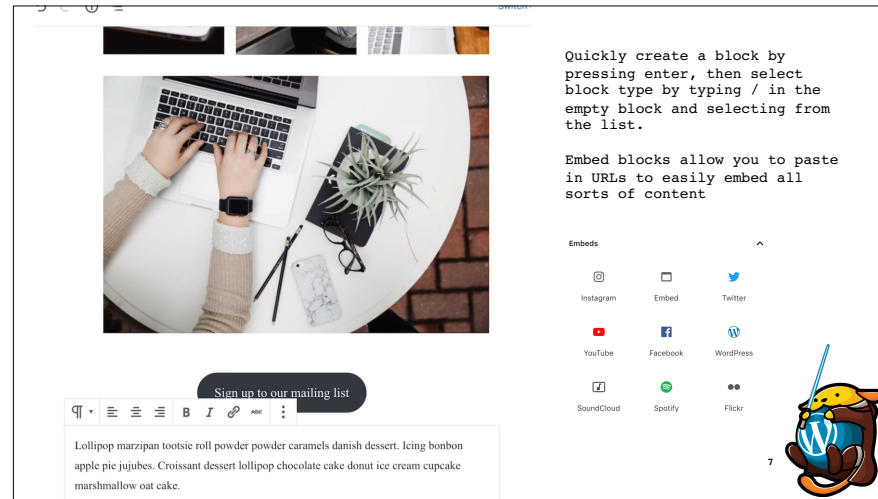


The top toolbar has several useful tools such as an 'add block' button, the 'undo' & 'redo' functionality, and an info button that pops up a little panel with your document info, including word count and an sort of table of contents style outline of headings you've used in your post. You can then click a heading and it will jump to that part of the content.

Block navigation is another useful tool that lets you see an outline of your content, as block types.

The Settings side panel is where you find all the configuration options for your document (aka post or page), or the block you currently have selected. Here you can find everything like your featured image setting, publish date, and so on for your post, and things like image size settings for blocks.

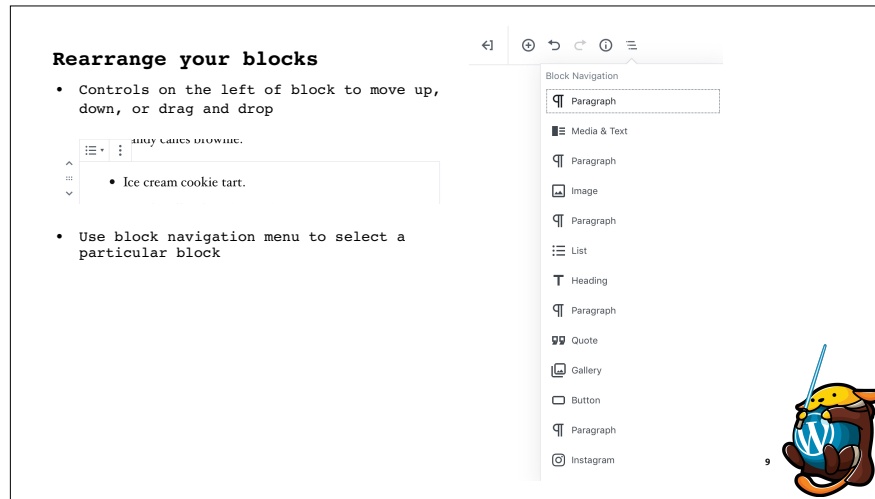
Tools & Options has some great ways to customise your set up like full screen mode for distraction free writing - also nice to use on smaller screens.



This is my favourite way to create a new block:

Press return/enter to start a new block, then hit /. Continue typing after the / to search your blocks - e.g. if you start typing image it will show you image related blocks. Type the full block name and hit enter to select that block type.

Here you can see me inserting an instagram embed block, which is one of the many embed type blocks built into Gutenberg, which allow you to easily embed social posts without the faff of using the html code. Many of them convert a pasted url in an otherwise empty paragraph block directly into the correct embed block, too.



Gutenberg allows you to rearrange your blocks with the drag and drop interface, and you can also use the arrow controls to move a panel up or down.

Block navigation menu - useful to select and drill down in blocks when in more complex layouts with columns etc. This block navigation menu displayed here is for the About Me page from the earlier slide.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Get to know them!

Keyboard Shortcuts

Global shortcuts

Display this help.	⌘ ⌘ H
Save your changes.	⌘ S
Undo your last changes.	⌘ Z
Redo your last undo.	⌘ ⌘ X
Show or hide the settings sidebar.	⌘ ⌘ ,
Open the block navigation menu.	⌘ ⌘ O
Navigate to the next part of the editor.	⌘ ⌘ ↗
Navigate to the previous part of the editor.	⌘ ⌘ ↖
Navigate to the next part of the editor (alternative).	⌘ ⌘ N
Navigate to the previous part of the editor (alternative).	⌘ ⌘ P
Navigate to the nearest toolbar.	⌘ ⌘ F10
Switch between Visual Editor and Code Editor.	⌘ ⌘ H

Selection shortcuts

Select all text when typing. Press again to select all blocks.

Clear selection.

Block shortcuts

Duplicate the selected block(s).	⌘ ⌘ D
Remove the selected block(s).	⌘ ⌘ E
Insert a new block before the selected block(s).	⌘ ⌘ T
Insert a new block after the selected block(s).	⌘ ⌘ Y
Change the block type after adding a new paragraph.	/

Text formatting

Make the selected text bold.	⌘ B
Make the selected text italic.	⌘ I
Underline the selected text.	⌘ U
Convert the selected text into a link.	⌘ K
Remove a link.	⌘ ⌘ K
Add a strikethrough to the selected text.	⌘ ⌘ D
Display the selected text in a monospaced font.	⌘ ⌘ X



There are a lot of keyboard shortcuts for Gutenberg, and you can really speed up your workflow by learning the most useful ones.

This list can be found on any post or page editing screen, by going to the tools & options button and selecting Keyboard Shortcuts. It will show you the correct shortcuts for the operating system you use - these ones are the Mac ones.

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Extend Gutenberg with plugins

Enhance functionality:

- Drop It
- Custom Color Palettes for Gutenberg
- Advanced Rich Text Tools for Gutenberg

More block types:

- Kadence Blocks
- Ultimate Addons for Gutenberg
- Advanced Gutenberg Blocks
- Atomic Blocks
- Pinblocks
- WooCommerce Blocks
- Block Lab

Block manager:

- Disable Gutenberg Blocks

Drop It - easily add images from Unsplash or Giphy to your posts & media library, including inserting the credit line.

Custom Color Palettes - lets you define additional Colors in the customiser options to use in block options (like paragraph blocks)

Advanced Rich Text Tools for Gutenberg - adds subscript, superscript and code buttons to the toolbar.

Kadence Blocks, Ultimate Addons for Gutenberg, Advanced Gutenberg Blocks, and Atomic Blocks - all these have some great blocks that let you build a really attractive page easily and quickly.

Pinblocks - for Pinterest blocks

WooCommerce Blocks - allows you to easily add products and so on to pages/posts/

Block Lab - create your own custom blocks - like reusable blocks, but better.

Disable Gutenberg Blocks - if you have several of one type of block - e.g. button - you can disable the ones you don't use to make it easier. This might be the case especially if you have several plugins that add blocks. It looks like this plugin won't be necessary after WordPress 5.2 as they are building this functionality into core (Tools & Options - Block Manager).

04

WordPress Q&A

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Tim Nash @tnash



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Some of the questions that came up during the Q&A and afterwards in conversation can be found at my blog post at:

<https://mamageek.co.uk/getting-to-grips-with-gutenberg/>