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Ways To Personalise The Appearance Of Your New Blog

I have to say that the default theme provided with the most recent versions of WordPress is far better than the themes provided up to version 2.9.2, but even still, on the whole it is not a choice for a serious weblog. Why? Well because you want to look unique. If you and thousands others are using the default theme then you are lost in the crowd of same looking websites.

Find free themes

The first thing to do is to search the internet for a few good looking free themes to start of with. There are thousands to select from, a few on WordPress.org and others on a whole myriad of other web-sites. Take your time and find several that you like the looks of. I never only choose one and start with that, for the reason that quite often what looks good on the sample looks totally varying when you install it. I have even download themes and installed them, only to find that they are not compatible with certain popular browsers.

So download several themes, unzip them to your computer and upload them to your website (if you haven't done this before, you load the entire theme directory to wp-content/themes).

Install a theme

Now sign on as your admin user and go to appearance and look for one of the new themes. Click on it to preview and then select activate. Then have a look at your blog and see if it looks right. If you aren't sure, activate one of the other themes that you have uploaded [_Jelly](#) and try again.

Customise it!

The customisations available to you will depend on you theme as a few have options for varying header colours and so on. If this is your first theme that you have uploaded you will also need to go to settings and name yourblog and give it a description. "Merely another WordPress weblog" proudly displayed on the top of your site does not give a serious impression!

Take a look at the side bars of you new look blog and see what changes you want to make. You might like to go to the widgets section of the appearance menu and choose several widgets to install. You might select widgets for a whole different array of options, as for instance varying ways to display the archives. Personally, I like to have the archives available on every page, but depending on what you are doing with theblog this may not be needed. Have a look through the widgets and choose which you want to display and how.

If you are happy with a bit of PHP code then you can edit the code instead of using the widgets. Such as, I always remove the Uncategorized category from the list of displayed categories (only add &exclude=1). My reason being that if I am writing off topic then it is not so indispensable to link to it from everywhere.

Written by Keith Lunt of [How To Start A Blog](#). Call in if you need any help or advice with [starting blogging](#).

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You can also find this article published on [Ways To Personalise The Appearance Of Your New Blog](#), and on the tag pages [starting blogging](#).