

Naruto^[a] is a Japanese [manga](#) series written and illustrated by [Masashi Kishimoto](#). It tells the story of [Naruto Uzumaki](#), a young [ninja](#) who seeks recognition from his peers and dreams of becoming the Hokage, the leader of his village. The story is told in two parts: the first is set in Naruto's pre-teen years (volumes 1–27), and the second in his teens (volumes 28–72). The series is based on two [one-shot manga](#) by Kishimoto: *Karakuri* (1995), which earned Kishimoto an honorable mention in [Shueisha](#)'s monthly *Hop Step Award* the following year, and *Naruto* (1997).

Naruto was serialized in Shueisha's [shōnen manga](#) magazine *Weekly Shōnen Jump* from September 1999 to November 2014, with its chapters collected in 72 [tankōbon](#) volumes. Part I of the manga was adapted into an [anime television series](#) by [Pierrot](#) and [Aniplex](#), which ran for 220 episodes from October 2002 to February 2007 on [TV Tokyo](#); the English [dub](#) of the series aired on [Cartoon Network](#) and [YTV](#) from September 2005 to December 2009. A second series, which adapts material from Part II of the manga, is titled *Naruto: Shippuden* and ran on TV Tokyo for 500 episodes from February 2007 to March 2017. The English dub of *Shippuden* was broadcast on [Disney XD](#) in the United States from October 2009 to November 2011, airing the first 98 episodes before eventually switching over to [Adult Swim](#)'s [Toonami](#) programming block in January 2014, starting over from the first episode. After Disney XD removed the series from broadcast, Viz Media began streaming new English dubbed episodes on their streaming service [Neon Alley](#) in from December 2012 to March 2016, starting at episode 99 and ending at episode 338 due to the service's shutdown. Besides the anime television series, Pierrot also developed 11 animated films and 12 [original video animations](#) (OVAs). Other *Naruto*-related merchandise includes [light novels](#), video games, and trading cards developed by several companies.

[Viz Media](#) licensed the manga and anime for North American production and serialized *Naruto* in their digital *Weekly Shonen Jump* magazine. The anime series began airing in the United States and Canada in 2005, and in the United Kingdom and Australia in 2006 and 2007, respectively. The films and most OVAs from the series were also released by Viz, with the first film premiering in movie theaters. The story of *Naruto* continues with Naruto's son, [Boruto Uzumaki](#), in *Boruto: Naruto Next Generations*: Boruto wishes to create his own ninja way instead of following his father's.

Naruto is one of the [best-selling manga series](#) in history having 250 million copies in circulation worldwide in 47 countries and regions, with 153 million copies in Japan alone and remaining 97 million copies elsewhere. It has become one of Viz Media's best-selling manga series; their English translations of the volumes have appeared on *USA Today* and *The New York Times* bestseller list several times, and the seventh volume won a [Quill Award](#) in 2006. Reviewers praised the manga's character development, strong storylines, and well-executed action sequences, though some felt the latter slowed the story down. Critics noted that the manga, which has a [coming-of-age](#) theme, makes use of cultural references from [Japanese mythology](#) and [Confucianism](#).