Step-by-Step Guide to Create Azure Free Account

30 days Free Trial Subscription

Important Note for Learners

When you sign up for an Azure Free Trial:

- You get **$200** Azure credits.

- The **Free Trial subscription is valid for 30 days**, or **until the credit is exhausted — whichever happens first**.

- After 30 days or credit exhaustion:

    - Your subscription is **automatically disabled**.

    - You will **not be charged** unless you manually upgrade to a **Pay-As-You-Go** subscription.

    - Azure ensures there are **no hidden charges** during or after the trial period.

- You can continue learning by upgrading or using services under the **always-free tier**.

Note: Azure Account vs. Azure Subscription

It's important to understand the distinction between an **Azure account** and an **Azure subscription**:

- **Azure Account**:
  This refers to your **identity in Azure**, usually linked to an email address (Microsoft account or organizational account). It gives you access to the Azure portal and allows you to manage subscriptions and resources.

- **Azure Subscription**:
  A subscription defines **how your Azure services are billed**. It is a **billing**

mechanism for resources created in Azure (like VMs, databases, storage, etc.). You can have:

- Multiple subscriptions under one Azure account.

- Different access controls and billing settings per subscription.

Example:

You might use one Azure account (your email) to manage:

- A **Free Trial subscription** for personal learning.

- A **Pay-As-You-Go subscription** for a production project.

- A **Student subscription** through your university.

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Prerequisites:

- A **valid email address** (preferably not used earlier for Azure).

- A **mobile number** for verification.

- A **debit/credit card** (will be charged temporarily for verification).

Step by step instructions

Step 1: Visit Azure Free Trial Page

Go to: https://azure.microsoft.com/en-in/free/

Click on **Try Azure for free**

Step 2: Sign in or Create a Microsoft Account

If you already have a Microsoft account, sign in.
Otherwise, click **Create one!** and follow the instructions.

Step 3: Add profile details

Enter your address, state postal code and other details

Step 4: Identity Verification by Phone

Select your country and enter your phone number.
Choose **Text me** or **Call me** for OTP verification.

Step 5: Identity Verification by Card

Enter your card details for identity confirmation. Make sure you have a **Credit card** and international payments should be enabled.

✓ Don't worry — ₹2 or $1 is just a verification charge and will be refunded.

✓ Debit cards may work; Credit cards are more reliable.

Step 6: Accept Agreement and Start

✓ Review the **Microsoft Azure Agreement** and **Privacy Statement**.

✓ Check the required checkboxes.
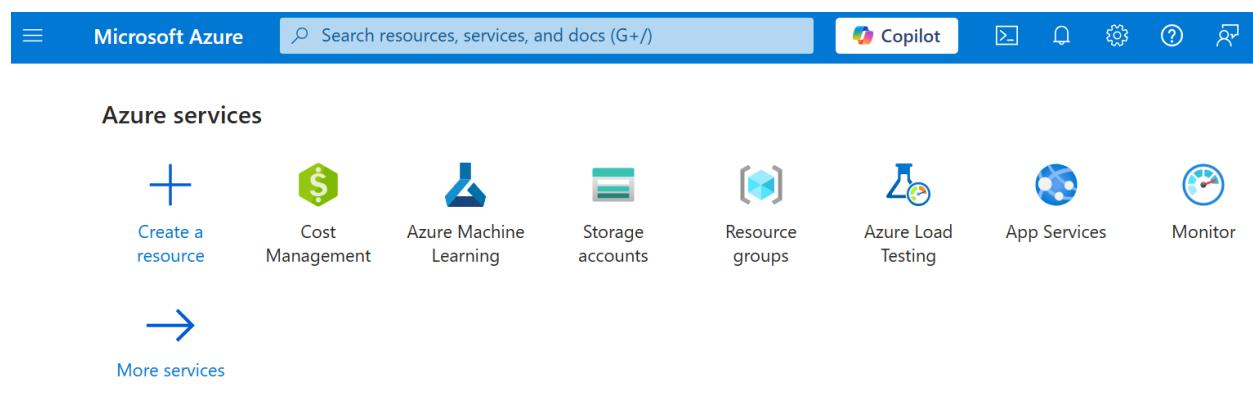
✓ Click **Sign up**.

Step 7: Azure Portal Dashboard

You'll now be redirected to the Azure Portal:
https://portal.azure.com

You'll also see a banner showing your ₹14,500/$200 free credit balance.

Tips for Learners

- Free services include **Linux/Windows VMs**, **App Services**, **Azure SQL**, **Azure Functions**, and **Blob Storage**.

- Track your credit usage under **Cost Management + Billing**.

- After the trial, either upgrade or continue using **always-free services**.