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## Blog Reading

I love blogs. I love reading new posts, reading about the writers' families, marriages, kids, jobs, hobbies, favorite books and movies, and funny life stories. Even though I haven't met the people who write the blogs I read, I feel as if they are my friends. I know about their lives. I care what happens to them.

I first started reading blogs in the summer of 2005 while I worked at Sports and Dance Camps at BYU. I found one blog and then started reading the blogs she linked. By the end of the summer, I had about four blogs that I read on a daily basis, not counting the livejournals of many of my high school and college friends. Back then, I just manually checked the blogs when I thought about which was several times a day.

Now, I use Google Reader to track my blogs. I have a little notifier in my tool bar and whenever a new entry posts to any of the blogs I subscribe to, it dings and shows me the total number of unread posts, the blog, and the title of the post. I also like that it's set up so much like G mail, which I love with all my little heart.

Currently, I have about 70 blogs in my Google Reader and I read every entry that's posted. I have a number of different categories that I divide my blogs into (family, friends, cooking, alphasom blogs, favorites, trial blogs, etc).

I find most new blogs through the blog rolls (list of favorite links) on blogs I already read. I look for links with a catchy title or that I've heard of elsewhere in the comments section or on other blog rolls. I love a good "About" page so I can get a quick overview of the new writer before I dive into the archives. If a blog doesn't have an about page or a list of "100 things about me," I find it difficult to read because I've had no introduction. I have no idea about the person whose private life I'm reading about. If I read half a dozen or so good entries, I add the blog to



my trial blogs folder.

I go through my Google Reader subscriptions every few weeks and re-sort. Nothing But Bonfires, for instance, went into my favorite categories after only a week or two (how can you not love a person who has a hot pink KitchenAid AND has a British accent?). Other blogs get dropped after a week or two because I find that I really don't care about them or enjoy their writing. If I really love a new blog, I try to go back and read some or all of their archives because I love knowing the whole back story. As I read more and more by a single author, I feel that I get to know them, that they are a friend. I feel a little sadness when I get to the end of their archives, when I've read all they've written.

I read blogs and books for different reasons. Blogs are more interactive (I can comment), are ongoing, and are real people, right now. I wouldn't want to read only books or only blogs. Both are fulfilling in different ways and both, most importantly, leave me with different insight into my own life and the lives of others around me.



1  
SHARES

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*« Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America  
by Barbara Ehrenreich*

*Saturday is a Special Day »*

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### Comments



*Doug Bradshaw*says  
MARCH 24, 2007 AT 5:44 PM

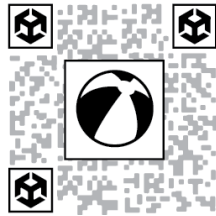
Thanks, Janssen. This is the neatest article I've seen about blog reading.

Reply



*Janssen* says  
MARCH 25, 2007 AT 5:00 PM

Thanks, Doug! I appreciate that.



Reply



*Melissa Clarkson* says

SEPTEMBER 7, 2014 AT 8:18 PM

I'm glad I'm not the only one who reads every entry in the archives when I find a blog I enjoy. Sometimes it makes me feel like a stalker, ha ha. I'm reading your blog archives now. ☐

Reply



*Johanne Sebastian Bach* says

FEBRUARY 4, 2021 AT 12:37 AM

That's very interesting. I love the article!!!!

Reply



*RANIA GLASS* says

FEBRUARY 17, 2021 AT 10:50 AM

Very interesting, I'm starting a blog

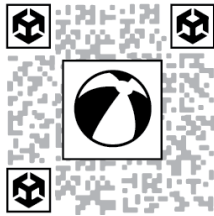
Reply



*A* says

JULY 12, 2021 AT 2:56 PM

I'm just starting my own blog, and I was wondering if you could tell me what website or format you used to start your blog, because I am having a difficult time finding a good website to use. P.S. I love your blog!! Thank You!



Reply



**JANSSEN BRADSHAW** says  
JULY 14, 2021 AT 8:38 AM

I did Blogger for 10 years and now have been on WordPress for the past 5 years.

Reply



**K** says  
MARCH 31, 2024 AT 6:36 AM

hi, can i know where do you read these blogs? i want to start blogging but want to go through some before

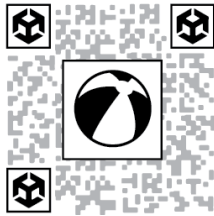
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