

The visual appearance of your WordPress blog is controlled by blog themes. When you first visit your blog, it will look something like this...

As you can see, it is very blank and bland. While that is because you don't have any content on your website right now, you can still start to customize the look and feel of your blog. The way that you can do that is by clicking on the left sidebar and clicking "Appearance" and then themes. There are thousands of WordPress themes available (both free and paid). As a beginner, you may want to try out a few of them on your site until you find the right one. The following themes are those that are automatically downloaded to your website as potential options. However, you can also explore even more templates by clicking on the add new button at the top. There are thousands of free and available templates for you to choose from, so this can seem a little overwhelming, but one way you can simplify the search is by clicking this "Filter feature" option. From there, you can see you can filter by subject, features, and layout. Since we are making a blog, I will click blog and apply filters.

Once you get to this page, you can take your mouse over to a new theme, and you will see a Preview button. Clicking on it will open the theme preview where you can see how the design would look on your website. The preview of your theme may not look exactly as shown in the screenshot, which is normal as you will get to customize and set it up later, and right now you don't have any content to format. What you really need to look for is design, colors, typography, and other elements as some themes might only have certain fonts or colors. The cool thing about Wordpress Themes is that you can change your theme at any time and it will automatically format any content you have created into the new appearance that comes with each theme. So this is by no means set in stone. For now, when you find one that you like, you can click install. This will download the theme to your themes. In order to actually change over your theme, you will have to click this activate button. And if we go up to the top of the page and click visit site here, you can see that our appearance of our website is now changed. Wordpress has this option in the left sidebar under themes called customize. Here, you can see all the options that this particular theme has, including things like site identity, colors, and menus. You can play around with each of these settings to change the appearance of your site even more.

Now, we still don't have any content that we've created to be on our pages so we can't really see exactly how the theme will look. If you feel comfortable with starting from scratch and building your content now, you can skip the next tutorial and go straight to creating your first page or post.

However, if this empty space is daunting to you, you can find a theme with a starter site option for you that will automatically create starter content that you can edit instead of creating from scratch if that feels better. In the next tutorial, I will show you how to use starter sites.