

Must-Know Facebook Vocabulary



Profile: This is where individual members share information about themselves, including their interests, job history, education, religion, politics, relationship status, location (past and present), and favorite music, movies, companies. This information can be updated at any time, but often does not change on a regular basis.

Wall/Timeline: This is where members' most recent updates are showcased: photos they've uploaded, events they've attended, friends they've added, and more. "Timeline" is a new Facebook feature and will most likely replace the "wall." To see older activity on the "wall," users had to scroll endlessly through recent posts. With "timeline," users can click to specific months and years to see Facebook activity from that time period.

Status: Most people use this space to update their friends on what is happening right now. They'll post photos; mention what they're doing, where they are, or who they're with; ask questions. For example, they'll post things like "Home sick," "Stuck in traffic," "At the park with my family," "I love this new Brad Pitt movie," and "Just voted!" These updates can be as short as one character and as lengthy as thousands of characters.

Page: This is how you refer to the accounts of brands and celebrities. Don't go referring to your personal profile as a "page" and you'd better not be caught calling a company's page a "profile"! People will know you're a Facebook newbie if you confuse these two terms.

Comment: A reply to a status update or a note on a photograph. For example, if your loved one shares a photo you enjoy, you can click "Comment" and write a message. Note: Depending on your privacy settings, this may be visible to more than just your loved one.

Like: To click the thumbs-up button below a recent update to indicate support or approval of the recent activity.

Share: If someone has posted a photo, website link, or status update that one of their friends likes, the friends can click "share" to then share it with their own Facebook friends.

Likes: This is a section of your profile that shows off what entertainers, politicians, brands, and companies you like or endorse. When you want to follow a brand or entertainer, you "like" their page.

Check in: Users can map their physical location at any given time by tagging their location in a status update.

Chat: Facebook has its own instant-messaging service. Anyone you have added as a friend will have the ability to IM you, unless you sign out of the chat.

Poke: This is a fun way to let someone know you're thinking about them without writing them a private message or commenting on their recent activity. The exact meaning of a "poke" is unknown, and there have been some speculations, but it's usually a light, harmless way to contact someone.

Notes: If you want to write a longer message for all your friends to see, the "Notes" application on Facebook will allow you to create and write basic blogs.

Events: Snail-mail invitations? Evites? No way. Facebook invitations are the way to go. Facebook invitations are an easy way to keep your Facebook friends informed up upcoming events. You can easily share information about the event—a description, directions, time and date, photos—and require invites to RSVP.

Unfriend/Defriend: This is when—either by your choice or the other party's choice—a Facebook friendship ends. This is the act of removing or blocking a one-time Facebook friend. Note: The former friend will not be notified that this has happened.

App: These are online tools and games available through Facebook, often built by people and companies who do not work for Facebook, called third-party apps. Most are free but some require giving the app permission to access your personal Facebook data.

Life event: A new feature of "Timeline," this is a way to let your friends know about important events that happened before you joined Facebook or events you had otherwise not noted on Facebook, including a marriage, graduation, promotion, etc.

Activity log: This is an index of every action you have ever made on Facebook that is visible to your friends. (I.e., it will show that you changed your Facebook photo, but not that you changed your Facebook password.)

"It's Complicated": This is a way to indicate an ambiguous relationship status made popular by Facebook.