

Choosing a theme



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What is a theme?

Terminology

Theme: controls the general look and feel of the site as a whole

Page Layout: is a pre-designed arrangement of blocks

Templates: controls the structure of pages or posts site wide and per page/post



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Browsing themes

- Look for visual appeal - this mostly applies to fonts and colors
- Filter by features - if you know you want specific features look for themes that offer them
- Keep in mind that there are multiple ways to achieve specific looks and some features are provided via blocks or plugins
- Understand that any theme can be customized



Customizing themes

- Customizer
- Site Editor
- Theme Options



Theme types

- Classic
- Hybrid
- Universal
- Full Site Editing

There are filters available for each of these types



Classic themes

- use the Customizer for most site-wide visual changes
- often have more than the normal options in the Customizer
- have been adapted to work with the Block Editor, but might have some feature gaps
- not compatible with the Site Editor
- have access to widgets and may include sidebar and/or footer widget areas
- have a “Try & Customize” option and preview option available in Classic View



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Hybrid themes

- built specifically for the Block Editor
- use the Customizer for most site-wide visual changes
- not compatible with the Site Editor
- have access to widgets and are more likely to only include a footer widget area
- do not have a “Try & Customize” option
- preview option available in Classic View



Universal themes

- have some options available in the Customizer
- are fully compatible with the Block Editor and the Site Editor
- do not have access to widgets
- do not have a “Try & Customize” option
- preview option available in Classic View



FSE themes

- are fully compatible with the Block Editor and with the Site Editor
- are best used when FSE is being fully embraced
- have very few default options available under the Customizer
- installed plugins may still utilize the Customizer for configurations and settings
- do not have access to widgets
- do not have a “Try & Customize” option
- preview option available in Classic View



Third party themes

- any theme not available in the WordPress.com repository
- require a plan upgrade that allows for installing themes
- support comes from the theme developer, not WordPress.com
- features and customization tools will vary



Switching themes

Best practice suggestions:



- Schedule a block of time dedicated to the project
- Make a list of the features/tools you're using
 - page builders, widgets, FSE, CSS
- Have an end goal vision
- Test themes and explore options before making changes
- Not all themes are created equal

<https://wordpress.tv/2022/04/15/fearless-theme-switching>



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Thank you for joining us!



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