

Blog Startup Checklist * * * * *

It's a **BIG** undertaking to launch a blog. From **web domains** to **blog design**, there are many steps ~ both **big** and **small**~ that need to be taken **BEFORE** you can hit "publish" on that first post. That's why **The SITS Girls** and Amy from **Counting My Kisses** put together a **checklist** for you to use as a **startup guide!**

- _____ 1} Determine what blogging platform you'll be using:
 - a. Blogger, WordPress, TypePad, Tumblr, etc.
- _____ 2} Choose a name for your blog:
 - a. Make it something **concise** and **easy** to remember.
- _____ 3} Reserve/purchase your domain name.
- _____ 4} Determine what you want to do with your blog design.
 - a. Free themes from **Blogger & Wordpress**.
 - b. Customized blog design {hire a designer}.
- _____ 5} Write, write, **WRITE!** A few key things to focus on:
 - a. Your **ABOUT** page: Who are you and what is your blog all about?
 - b. Your **CONTACT** page: How can readers get in touch with you?
{Email, Facebook, Twitter, etc.}
 - c. **Blog posts**: You'll want a handful of posts ready for when your site goes live.
 - d. **Pictures/videos**: Helps your readers connect with you personally.
- _____ 6} **Social media**
 - a. **Join Twitter**; link to your site's **ABOUT** page.
 - b. Create a **Facebook Fan page**; ask your friends to "like" it.
 - c. **Join Google+**; create a Google+ page for yourself.
 - d. Link all **social media accounts** to your blog's **homepage**.
- _____ 7} **Create an RSS feed**.
 - a. **Feedburner** is free & easy to set up.
 - b. Include a "subscribe here" link on your homepage.
- _____ 8} **Promote**.
 - a. **Share** your blog posts on various **social media platforms**.
 - b. Get **engaged** in blogging **communities** like **The SITS Girls!**

Most importantly: **stick with it!** It's a lot of **work** to start a blog, but it's also incredibly **gratifying** to **create** something that reflects who **you** are to the world. **Good luck!**