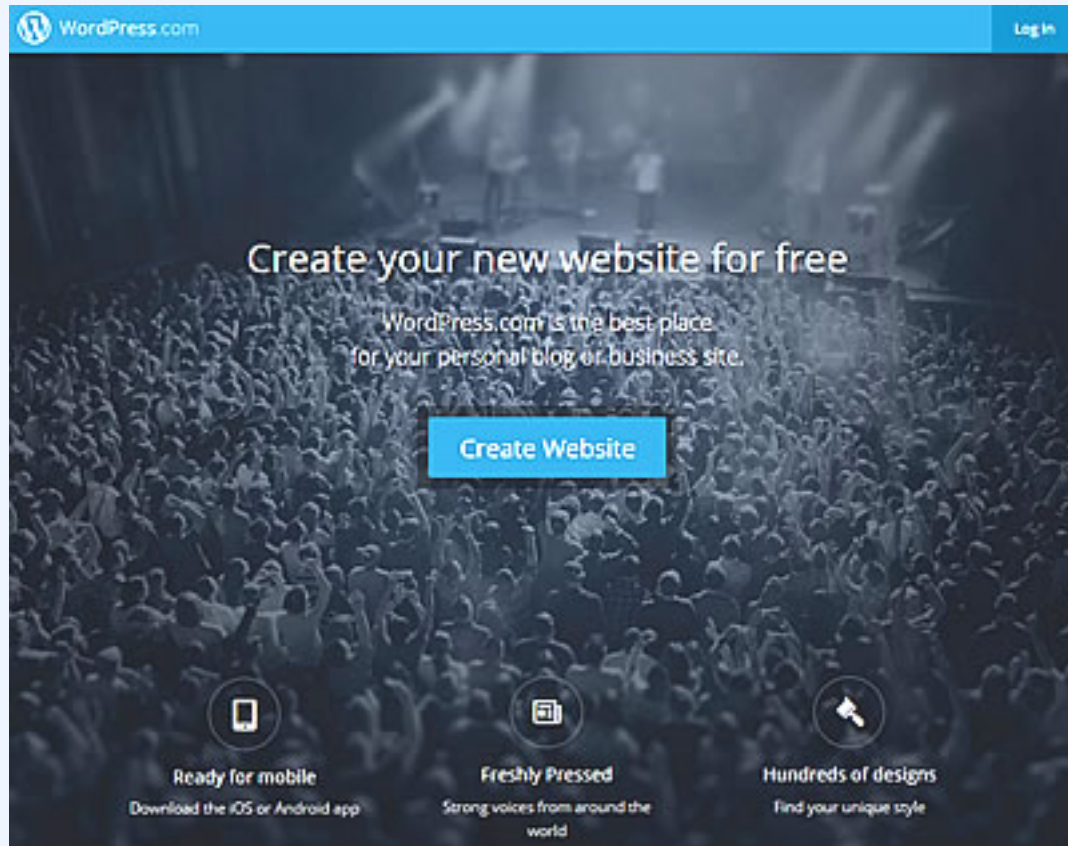**Setting Up Your Wordpress Account**

Navigate to www.wordpress.**com**. Remember that www.wordpress.**org** is the self-hosting option, so if you see the prompt to download that program, you've ended up at the wrong site.
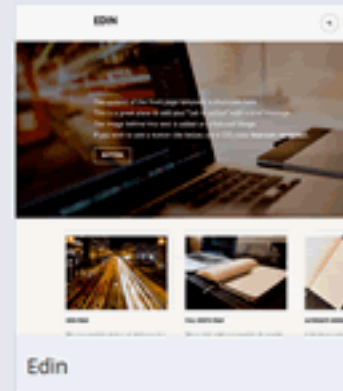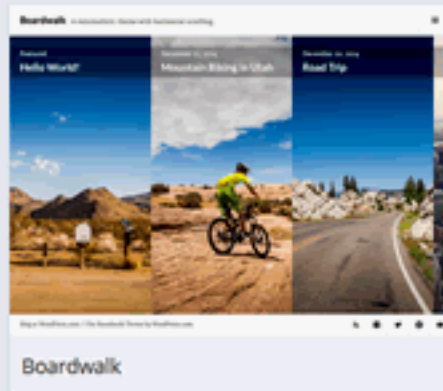

Getting Started at WordPress.com

Click the **Create Website** button. You'll see a screen like this.

WordPress Signup step 1

In WordPress, a *theme* is a skin for your website or blog. We're going to select our theme later, so please click the **Skip** button below the rows of themes.

Step 2 asks you to choose a *domain name*, also known as a *site address*—it's what visitors will type into their browsers to find your site.

The site address must be unique. If it's already been selected, you can't use it, and WordPress will suggest a different domain. If you like the suggestion, click the **Select** button next to Free. Or you can try something else by typing it into the first field next to the search symbol.

Let's find a domain.

Choose a custom domain, or a free .wordpress.com address.

🔍 **petstogo9010**

petstogo9010.wordpress.com	Free	Select
petstorun9010.com	$18.00 /year	Select

Choose a domain and click **Select**

The domain you receive will include "wordpress" before the .com suffix. If you prefer, you can pay $18 annually for a standard domain name, without the "wordpress." But please don't do that now: You'll have plenty of time to select a standard domain name, if you choose.

Step 3 of 4

Pick a plan that's right for you.

Not sure which plan to choose? Take a look at our plan comparison chart.

OUR MOST POPULAR PLAN

Free	Premium	Business
Just get started	Supercharge your site	Take it to the next le
Free	$99	$299
for life	per year	per year
Get a free blog and begin your way to publishing your first post in less than five minutes.	Your own domain name, powerful customization options, and lots of space for audio and video.	Everything included with Premium, as well as live support, and unlimited a to our premium themes.
Learn more	Learn more	Learn more
Select Free Plan	Upgrade Now	Upgrade Now

Choose the free plan

On the next screen, you'll see that WordPress.com offers two levels of paid upgrades that add lots of extras. But again, please select the free plan for now. You can always change later on.

Step 4 will set up your account. (If you created a WordPress.com account in the past, you can use that. To create a second account, you'll need to supply a second email address.)

Create your account.

Your email address

Choose a username

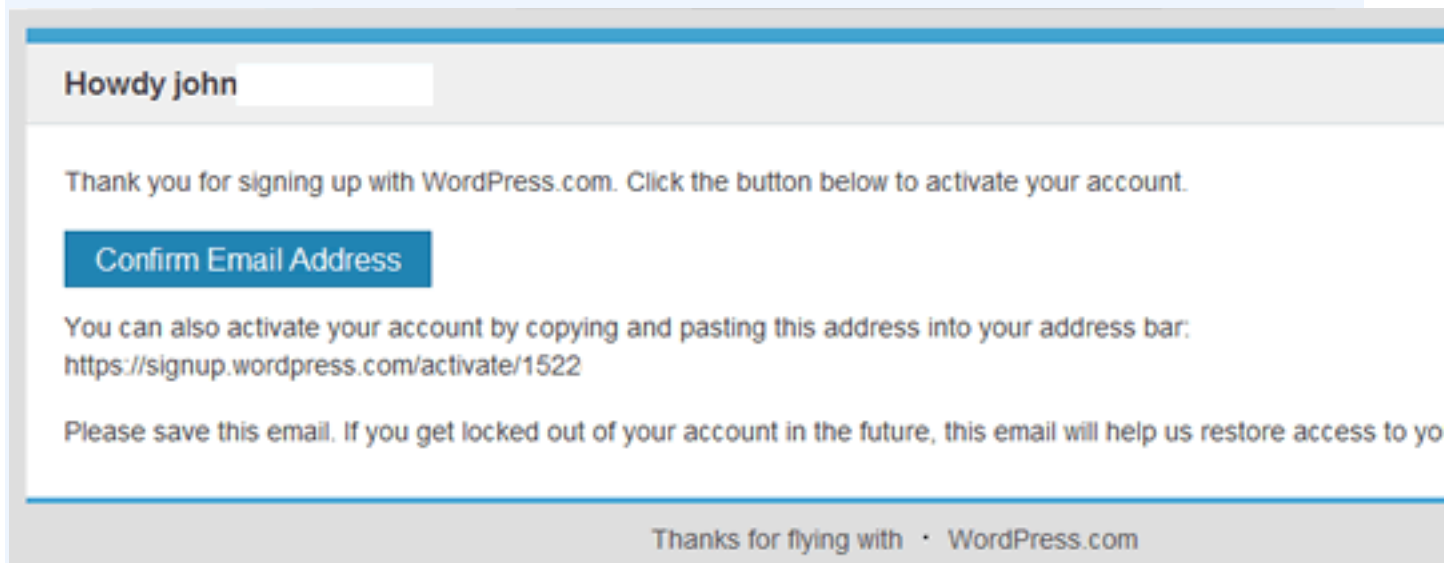**Choose a password**

Create My Account

Account creation screen

Add your *email address*. WordPress uses this to identify your account, so please provide an active address.

Like the site address you chose earlier, the *Username* must also be unique . . . so keep trying until WordPress accepts your choice.

Next, pick a *Password*, and make sure it's one that no one else can guess. You'll use the Username and Password to log into the WordPress Administration area, so please write them down and save them!

During the signup process. WordPress sent you a confirmation email. Keep your browser window open, go to your email account, and open the message. It should look like this:

Howdy john

Thank you for signing up with WordPress.com. Click the button below to activate your account.

Confirm Email Address

You can also activate your account by copying and pasting this address into your address bar:
https://signup.wordpress.com/activate/1522

Please save this email. If you get locked out of your account in the future, this email will help us restore access to yo

Thanks for flying with · WordPress.com

WordPress activation email

Click the **Confirm** button in the email. Then go back to your browser.

You'll see a Thank You screen featuring all kinds of offers. Since we'll be going over all this material, scroll all the way to the bottom of the screen, and click **Skip these steps**.
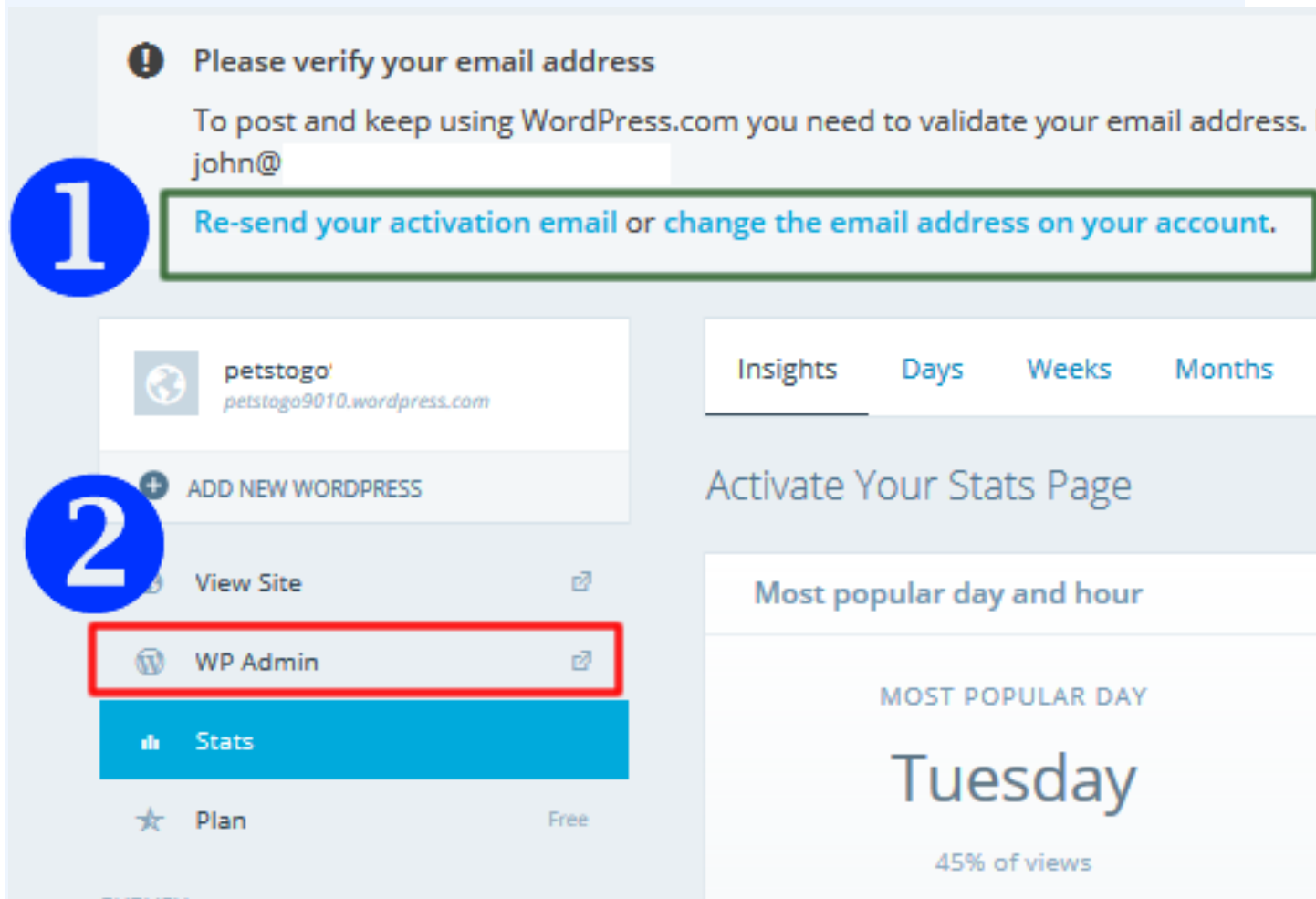
WordPress Thank You screen

(1) If you didn't get an email confirmation, click one of the links in the image below to re-send the activation letter or change the address.

(2) WordPress has added a new administrative interface, but it's very poorly designed. So we're going to use the traditional version. To get there, click **WP Admin** in the left column.

Important: If you don't have a **WP Admin** link on your screen, log out of WordPress.com. Then go to your browser's address window and enter this:

https://xxx.wordpress.com/wp-admin (be sure to replace the xxx with your real site address).

This will open the black and white screens of the classic WordPress administration area.
If you find that you're being redirected to the blue-and-white pages, please contact me in the Discussion Area. I'll give you instructions for using a script that will keep you in the classic admin area.

(1) Resend email option and (2) Click **WP Admin**

WP Admin takes you to the traditional WordPress administration area, where you'll be spending much of your time configuring and building the new website. The home page of the administration area is known as the *Dashboard*. To see the entire screen, click **Hide this screen** in the welcome message on the right.

You can close the WordPress window now.