



## **The Handbook**

### **Codex**

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Customizing the Read More](http://codex.wordpress.org/Customizing_the_Read_More)

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## Customizing the Read More

If you have set your WordPress site to display post excerpts on the front or home page, you will want visitors to click on the title or a link to encourage them to continue reading your post or article, right? WordPress makes this technique easy, and customizable.

### *The Excerpt Basics*

Excerpts show up on WordPress through two methods. One, by replacing the template tag `the_content()` with `the_excerpt()`. Then the explicit **excerpt** you have entered in the [Administration](#) > [Write](#) > [Post](#) SubPanel will appear or the first 120 words of the post. Users can then click on the title to continue reading more as you have enticed them with your summary introduction.

The most commonly used method is to keep `the_content()` template tag and insert a quicktag called **more** into your post at your desired "cut-off" point.

The [quicktags](#) are the little buttons found above the editing window in your [Administration](#) > [Write](#) > [Post](#) SubPanel. They include **bold**, *italic*, links, and others, and the famous **more**. Put your cursor where you want to end the excerpted content of your post and click the **more** quicktag button. It will insert a code at that point that looks like this:

```
and I told him that he should get moving or I'd be  
on him like a limpet. He looked at me with shock on  
his face and said<!--more-->
```

The rest of the post continues, but when viewed on the non-single/non-permalink web page such as archives, categories, front page, and searches, the post is shown as an excerpt to the **more** point.

### *Read More Techniques*

The parameters within the template tag `the_content()` are as follows:

```
<?php the_content('more_link_text', strip_teaser, 'more_file'); ?>
```

The **more\_link\_text** sets the link text like "Read More". The second one, **strip\_teaser**, sets whether or not the "more" link should be hidden (TRUE) or displayed (FALSE). The default is FALSE, which shows the link text. The last one, **more\_file**, sets the link to the file that the "Read More" should link to, if you want it to be different. By default, it links to the current post file.

To remove the teaser:

- Change `the_content()` ; in your `index.php` to (i.e., the second parameter controls this):

```
the_content('', 'FALSE', '');>
```

- Include `<!--noteaaser-->` in the post text, immediately after the `<!--more-->`.

## Link Jumps to More or Top of Page

By default, when you click on the **Read More** link, the web page loads and then "jumps" to the spot where the `<!--more-->` tag is set in the post. If you do not want that "jump", you can change the default function of how this works by editing the following line in `wp-includes/template-functions-post.php` (**NOTE:** When you upgrade WordPress, this file will be replaced so make a note of the change so you can change it again after upgrading.):

```
$output .= ' <a href="'. get_permalink()  
. "#more-$id\">$more_link_text</a>";
```

to

```
$output .= ' <a href="'. get_permalink()  
. "\">$more_link_text</a>";
```

or

```
$output .= ' <a href="'. get_permalink()  
. "'>$more_link_text</a>';
```

## Designing the More Tag

Seeing that you know how it works, now look at how we can make this little invitation to continue reading your post be more inviting.

By design, `the_content()` tag includes a parameter for formatting the `<!--more-->` content and look, which creates a link to "continue reading" the full post.

By default, it looks like this:

and I told him that he should get moving or I'd be on him like a limpet. He looked at me with shock on his face and said [more...](#)

If you want to change the words from *more....* to something else, just type in the new words into the tag:

```
<?php the_content('Read on...'); ?>
```

Or get more sophisticated and make it fun:

```
<?php the_content('...on the edge of your seat? Click  
here to solve the mystery.');
```

You can style the text in the tag, too.

```
<?php the_content('<span class="moretext">...on the edge of  
your seat? Click here to solve the mystery.</span>');
```

Then set the `moretext` class in your `style.css` style sheet to whatever you want. Here is an example of the style which features bold, italic text that is slightly smaller than the

default text and uses the `font-variant: small-caps` to force the text into small capital letters. :

and I told him that he should get moving or I'd be on him like a limpet. He looked at me with shock on his face and said [...\*ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT?\*](#)  
[\*CLICK HERE TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY.\*](#)

Some people do not want the text and prefer to use an extended character or [HTML character entity](#) to move the reader on to the full post.

```
<?php the_content('&raquo; &raquo; &raquo; &raquo;'); ?>
```

Would look like this:

and I told him that he should get moving or I'd be on him like a limpet. He looked at me with shock on his face and said [» » » »](#)

There is another parameter in `the_content()` template tag which will include the title of the post in the **more** text. Through the use of [the\\_title\(\)](#) tag, the title of the article is included:

```
<?php the_content("...continue reading the story  
called " . the_title(' ', ' ', false)); ?>
```

and I told him that he should get moving or I'd be on him like a limpet. He looked at me with shock on his face and said [...continue reading the story  
called A Tale That Must Be Told](#)

## Adding An Image

The design possibilities with CSS are practically unlimited, and WordPress allows you to use images in many of their [Template Tags](#), including the `more` tag. To add an image, there are two ways to do it. Begin with the most simple -- listing it in `the_content()` template tag.

This examples features the image of a leaf after the "Read More" text.

```
<?php the_content('Read More...'); ?>
```

Notice that the code uses an `ALT` and `TITLE` in the image tag. This is in compliance with accessibility and web standards, since the image is both an image and a link. Here is what it might look like.

and I told him that he should get moving or I'd be on him like a limpet. He

looked at me with shock on his face and said [Read More...](#)



You could even add a style to the image and `more` tag, as mentioned above, to style it even more. To use the image without the "Read More" text, just delete the text.

The second example uses the CSS background image. We have described how to use style classes in the above examples. This is a little trickier. The container's style must be set to allow the background image to show out from behind the text. If you were to use the above example as a background image, the `style.css` style sheet for this might look like this:

```
.moretext {  
  width: 100px;  
  height: 45px;  
  background:url(/images/leaf.gif) no-repeat right middle;  
  padding: 10px 50px 15px 5px}
```

The 50px padding against the right margin should make sure the text is pushed over away from the image as to not overlap it. The height ensures that the container will expand wide enough so the image is visible within the container, since a background image isn't "really there" and can not push against the container's borders. You may have to experiment with this to fit the size and shape of your own image.

You have gotten the basics. From here, it is up to your imagination.