



## **The Handbook**

### **Codex**

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Linking Posts Pages and Categories](http://codex.wordpress.org/Linking_Posts_Pages_and_Categories)

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# Linking Posts Pages and Categories

There are two ways to link to content pages in WordPress. One uses permalinks and one does not. The method that does not use permalinks works regardless of whether permalinks are enabled for your site.

## ***Linking Without Using Permalinks***

If you are not using Permalinks, how do you link to your pages, posts, and categories?

Using the numeric values found in the *ID* column of the Posts, Categories, and Pages [Administration](#), you can create links as follows.

### **Posts**

To link to a Post, find the *ID* of the target post on the Posts administration panel, and insert it in place of the '123' in this link:

```
<a href="index.php?p=123">post title</a>
```

### **Categories**

To link to a Category, find the *ID* of the target Category on the Categories administration panel, and insert it in place of the '7' in this link:

```
<a href="index.php?cat=7">category title</a>
```

### **Pages**

To link to a Page, find the *ID* of the target Page on the Pages administration panel, and insert it in place of the '42' in this link:

```
<a href="index.php?page_id=42">Page title</a>
```

### **Links On External Sites**

If you are providing a link to your site from outside of your site, be sure to specify a full URL to the correct location:

```
<a href="http://example.com/index.php?p=123">post title</a>
```

If you have installed WordPress to a subfolder, such as `wordpress`, don't forget to add the folder to the link URL:

```
<a href="http://example.com/wordpress/index.php?p=123">post title</a>
```

## ***Linking Using Permalinks***

If you are using permalinks, you can use all of the above non-permalink techniques, which will work with permalinks enabled or not. If you have enabled permalinks, you have a few additional options for providing links that readers of your site will find a bit more user-friendly than the cryptic numbers.

The complexity of the URL depends on the complexity of your permalink configuration. If your permalink configuration (set on the [Options > Permalinks](#) Administration Panel) contains many [Structure Tags](#), then the URL will be more difficult to construct.

### **Posts**

For posts, replace each Structure Tag in your permalink structure with the data appropriate to a post to construct a URL for that post. For example, if the permalink structure is:

```
/index.php/archives/%year%/%monthnum%/%day%/%postname%/
```

Replacing the Structure Tags with appropriate values may produce a URL that looks like this:

```
<a href="/index.php/archives/2005/04/22/my-sample-post/">My Sample Post</a>
```

To obtain an accurate URL for a post it may be easier to navigate to the post within the WordPress blog and then copy the URL from one of the blog links that WordPress generates.

Review the information at [Using Permalinks](#) for more details on constructing URLs for individual posts.

### **Categories**

To produce a link to a Category using permalinks, obtain the Category Base value from the [Options > Permalinks](#) Administration Panel, and append the category name to the end.

For example, to link to the category "testing" when the Category Base is "/index.php/categories", use the following link:

```
<a href="/index.php/categories/testing/">category link</a>
```

You can specify a link to a subcategory by using the subcategory directly (as above), or by specifying all parent categories before the category in the URL, like this:

```
<a href="/index.php/categories/parent_category/sub_category/">subcategory link</a>
```

### **Pages**

Pages have a hierarchy like Categories, and can have parents. If a Page is at the root level of the hierarchy, you can specify just the Page's "page slug" after the static part of your permalink structure:

```
<a href="/index.php/a-test-page">a test page</a>
```

Once again, the best way to verify that this is the correct URL is to navigate to the target Page on the blog and compare the URL to the one you want to use in the link.

## Links on External Sites

Permalink structures should begin with a slash, meaning that they are anchored at the root of the site's URL. You should be able to prepent the protocol and server name to any link that begins with a slash to build a successful full URL.

For example, this category link:

```
<a href="/index.php/categories/parent_category/sub_category/">subcategory link</a>
```

Becomes this category link using a full URL:

```
<a href="http://example.com/index.php/categories/parent_category/sub_category/">subcategory link</a>
```

## Combining Links with Template Tags

You can customize your links in the header, footer, or sidebar to be combinations of link types. This example features links to two categories, the main index page, a post, a static page, and uses the Pages template tag.

Note carefully that the `wp_list_pages()` template tag generates it's own List Item (LI) so it doesn't need to be wrapped in a LI tag. This template tag is also set to list only the parent Pages and not their subPages or "children".

```
<ul id="linklist">
<li>
<?php _e('Check It Out'); ?>
<ul id="pageslist">
<li>
<a title="Home Page" href="index.php">Home</a>
</li>
<li>
<a title="Blog" href="index.php?cat=7">Blog</a>
</li>
<li>
<a title="Life Story" href="index.php?p=12">My Life Story</a>
</li>
<?php wp_list_pages('exclude=4&depth=1&sort_column=menu_order&title_li='); ?>
<li>
<a title="Links and Resources" href="index.php?cat=33">Links</a>
</li>
<li>
<a title="Site Map" href="sitemap.php">Site Map</a>
</li>
</ul>
</li>
</ul>
```

Using such a customized list, you can also add CSS classes to change the look of each of

the links, or style the entire section. It's up to you.

## ***Absolute versus Relative Links***

**Absolute** links define *absolutely* where to find the target of the link.

**Relative** links define the location of another document *in relation* to the current document.

### **Absolute Link Examples**

Full URIs of the form `http://example.com/wordpress/index.php` are absolute links.

Absolute links can also point to your own server. When doing so, you may safely omit the `http://domain.com` prefix, and link to the target with a full path:

`/wordpress/index.php`

The leading slash means "At the very top of this domain is a directory named *wordpress*, and inside this directory is a file named *index.php*".

A document at

`http://example.com/wordpress/index.php`

contains a link of the form

`/wordpress/index.php`

The link above, when clicked, will take the viewer to

`http://example.com/wordpress/index.php`

### **Relative Link Examples**

Relative links **do not** start with a slash:

`wordpress/index.php`

The lack of a leading slash means "Inside the current directory is a sub-directory named *wordpress*, and inside that directory is a file named *index.php*".

A document at

`http://example.com/wordpress/index.php`

contains a link of the form

`wordpress/index.php`

The link above, when clicked, will take the viewer to

`http://example.com/wordpress/wordpress/index.php`

For more information on absolute and relative links, see the [WebReference Tutorial on Absolute and Relative Links](http://www.webreference.com/html/tutorial2/3.html) (<http://www.webreference.com/html/tutorial2/3.html>).

## ***Dynamic Linking in Templates***

Whether you use permalinks or not, in templates you can link to pages or posts dynamically by referring to its unique numerical ID (seen in several pages in the admin interface) with `<a href="<?php echo get_permalink(ID); ?>">This is a link</a>`. (as shown in [Template\\_Tags/get\\_permalink](#))

This is a convenient way to create page menus as you can later change page slugs without breaking links, as IDs will stay the same. However, this might increase database queries.

Dynamic page menus can also be created by utilizing [Template\\_Tags/wp\\_list\\_pages](#) child\_of parameter or some of the many available plugins.

## ***Resources***

- [Editing Posts Plugins - Link Plugins](#)