



The Handbook

Codex

http://codex.wordpress.org/Using_Images

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Using Images

A picture says more than a thousand words.

WordPress makes it easy for you to add images to your WordPress site. You can upload them directly from within WordPress by using the built-in file uploading utility at [Manage > Files](#) in the [Administration Panels](#). Or you could use any [FTP Client](#) software to upload many images to your WordPress site.

The [Quicktag buttons](#) feature an **image** link, making it easy to link to images from within your post as you write it.

Unfortunately, while WordPress makes it easy to add images, it doesn't provide a utility for resizing or creating thumbnails. There are many [WordPress Plugins](#) to choose from that will add such functionality to your WordPress site. They are found in the [Image Plugins List](#). There are also [photo galleries](#) and browsers that will increase your image usage.

And if you choose to let the images speak for you, consider creating a [PhotoBlog or Gallery](#).

Images Resources for Wordpress

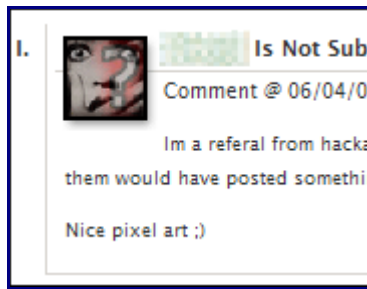


Example of images in background, sidebar, blockquote, and post


There are a variety of [WordPress Image Plugins](#) which add image functionality, utilities, and galleries to your website. Some run from within WordPress while others stand alongside.

You can also add images to your WordPress site through the use of [template tags](#), plugins, and in the style sheet of your [Theme](#). For example, you can add images to your:

- [Categories](#)
- [Comments with Gravatars](#)
- [Graphics Symbols](#)
- [Header](#)
- [Headings](#)
- [Smilies](#)



Gravatar used in Comments

- [Sidebar](#)
- Footer
- [Lists](#)
- [Menus](#)
- Between posts
- Between lists
- [Graphics in Feeds](#) 
- [Links and Blogrolls](#)
- [Next and Previous Links](#)
- [Template Tags - Many feature image parameters](#)

Using Images in Posts

Images can be used in a variety of methods in your WordPress posts and Pages. They can be a major subject, or a referenced detail that enhances the information or story. The first thing you should consider is the "look" of the images on your page. Not what the images are of, but the general look of how they flow and interact with the rest of the content on your page. [Wrapping Text Around Images](#) helps you to begin to understand how images interact with the text around them, changing the margins, padding and borders around the images within the content. It will also help you understand how to create captions under your images.

The next thing to consider is the size of the images. There are two ways of actually **sizing** an images. It is either the size that it is, or a thumbnail link which, when clicked, takes the user to a new page with an enlarged image of the graphic.

Image Size and Quality

The size and quality of an image for use on a web page is determined by a variety of things.

Physical Size

The physical size of an image is based upon two things: The size of the image on the screen and the file size. Generally, the file size is treated as a different issue.

File Size

This is the size of the file on your hard drive or server.

Resolution

Resolution refers to the number of pixels in an image. Resolution is sometimes identified by the width and height of the image as well as the total number of pixels in the image.

File Type

There are basically X image types popularly found on the Internet: `jpeg`, `gif`, and `png`.

The **physical size** of the image is information we need to know in order to determine how much "space" will the image occupy on a web page. If your WordPress Theme features a fixed width content area of 600 pixels and the image you want to use is 800, the image will push the sidebar and layout of your web page around, messing up your design. Images within that 600 pixel width need to be restricted to that maximum width in order to protect the layout of your page. It's up to you to determine what size they should be from there, matching the image to your overall layout and styles.

File size dictates the time it takes to load your page, the larger the file size, often increased because of a high **image resolution** quality, the longer it will take to load. People often don't have the patience to wait through long web page loads, so keeping your file sizes low speeds up your web page access times. Typically, large high quality images should be kept between 100K and 60K. Smaller images should be closer to 30K and lower.

The **resolution** of the image dictates its clarity. The higher the resolution, though, the larger the file size, so you have to make a compromise between quality and file size.

Luckily, the various file types most commonly used on the Internet have *compression* features. When you save the file as one of these types, it condenses or *compresses* the data information in the image file. Internet browsers can *decompress* this information to display the image on the screen. Some graphic software programs allow you to set the compression rate to control the quality of the image (and file size) at the time you save it. Depending upon your use of the images on your site, you may have to experiment with this to get the right ratio that keeps the resolution quality good while maintaining a small file size.

Resizing Images

Not all graphic software packages allow you to resize images, though most should. Check your graphics software table of contents or index for *resize*, *size*, *transform*, *reduce*, or *enlarge*, all synonyms for the for the same thing. If they don't have the feature, you may have to find different software.

The process of resizing images is fairly simple. There are usually two methods.

You can resize an image through the use of tools provided which allow you to manually shift the edges of an image to deform or resize the image. The best way is to grab a corner, not the edge, to resize the image. The corner "handle" will usually resize the image maintaining the overall height-width ratio. Check your manual for specific instructions.

The other method involves simply specifying the image's final size. The advanced graphics programs allow you to set it by exact dimensions or a percentage of reduction or enlargement.

After resizing the image, the image may be smaller, but it may also be slightly out of focus. You can sharpen the focus of the small image by using the **sharpen** feature in your software.

When you have fine-tuned your small sized image or new thumbnail, export the image as a `jpg`, `gif`, or `png`.

Styling Images

Images can have borders, frames, [captions](#), and be styled in many different ways. There are basically two ways to style an image on your site. You can style it from within the style sheet or *inline* on a specific image.

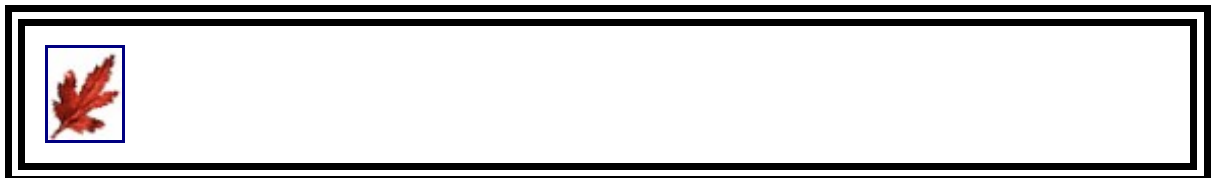
Styling All Images

Styling your images from within the `style.css` of your [WordPress Theme](#) can cover the styling for every image on your site, or specific images.



To style every image on your site to look a particular way, look for or add the CSS selector for the `img` tag. Then add your styles to the tag. For instance, let's say that you want a black border around all of your images and you want space between the border and the image, as well as the appropriate spacing around the image and the text.

```
img {  
    margin: 5px;  
    padding: 10px;  
    border: solid black 1px  
}
```



Maybe you want something a little more dramatic. You can change the border thickness and set it to a "double" line. And maybe you really want to isolate your image from the rest of the text, so you increase the margin around the image.

```
img {  
    margin: 20px;  
    padding: 10px;  
    border: double black 1px  
}
```

Styling Some Images

You can add to your style sheet a specific style for certain images. If you have already styled all of your images, you must make sure you specify every style declaration or attribute specified in the `img` tag style in order to override that attribute. If you do not change the margin, then it will remain the same in the new style. This is called the [CSS Parent/Child Relationship](#).



Let's say you would like to have some images in your posts filed in the category of Nature have a nice green background. The rest of the images should look the same, just the ones you add in your Nature category. You simply add a `class` to your style sheet and each image within that category.

To make it easy to remember, we'll call our `class` "nature". We want to have a very dark green thick border and a medium green background around the image to highlight it.

```
.nature img {  
    margin: 20px;  
    padding: 20px;  
    border:solid #003300 4px;  
    background: #006600;  
}
```

On each of the images within that category, you would simply add the `class` for "nature":

```

```

If you need more styles for different images, you can create more of them as needed.

Styling One or Two Images Inline



There are times when you just want one or two images on your site to look different from the rest. This technique is called **inline styles**. It applies the CSS styles directly to the image itself.

For example, say you want to have an image isolated against a back background to call attention to it.

```

```

This is not a technique to use on every image. It is to be used on occasional images that need a "little something special."

Creating Thumbnails



Example of a Thumbnail - click photo

Thumbnails are smaller versions of an image, like a photograph, which, when clicked, opens the image in the window displayed at full size. WordPress currently doesn't automatically create thumbnails, though there are a variety of [plugins and add ons](#) that will allow you to do this. Let's look at how to do this manually.

Create two copies of the same picture. One at the size you would like to see when enlarged. Remember this will open in a blank window and it should be the appropriate width and file size for a web page. The second copy is a smaller version of the same image. For information on resizing your images, see the above section.

Let's call these two images `image.jpg` and `imagesm.jpg`.

The smaller image needs to sit in a link inside of your post. You can enter the information manually, or use the Quicktag buttons to build your link to the larger image and link to the smaller image.

- Using the Quicktags, click the **LINK** button.
- Enter the address (URL) of the larger image, such as `/images/image.jpg`, into the popup window.
- Click OKAY.
- In the Write Post panel, notice that the Quicktag button has now changed to **/LINK**.
- Click the **IMAGE** button.
- In the popup window, enter the URL of the smaller image, such as `/images/imagesm.jpg`.
- Click OKAY.
- In the next popup window, enter a description of the image.
- Click OKAY.
- Click the **/LINK** to close the hyperlink tag.

You will have created a link around the smaller image. It should look something like this:

```
...remember seeing balloons at the circus
<a href="/images/image.jpg">

</a>and they were so colorful.....
```

Notice we've added `class="right"` to the image tag. Using the styles from the article on [Wrapping Text Around Images](#), we've floated the smaller image to the right in our content, allowing the text to wrap around the image.

Your thumbnail is complete. Save the post and view it. Click on the linked image and it will open to be viewed as a larger version of itself.

Image Resources

- [Image Plugins](#)
- [WordPress Design and Layout](#)
- [Photoblogs and Galleries](#)