Getting Started with Google Reader



Google Reader constantly checks your favorite websites with feeds, including news sites, blogs, and podcasts, for new content. Whether a site updates daily or monthly, you won't miss a thing. In order to use Google Reader, you will need a Google account or a Gmail account.

Google Reader is particularly good (it's an aggregator, not a podcatcher), if you use multiple machines (home and work) or shared machines where you might not want to/be able to download files directly.

You can get started at http://reader.google.com.



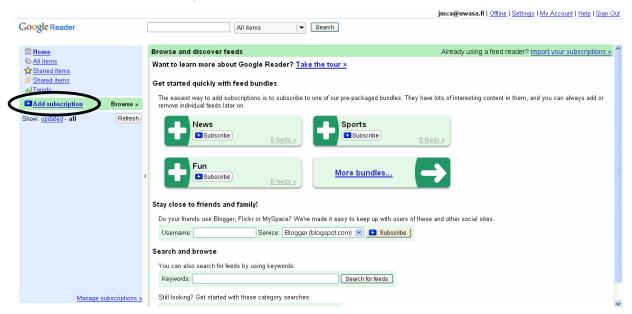
Sign in with your Google account or your Gmail account.

The first time you visit, you'll see this screen (below). Click on Get started by adding subscriptions (circled).



Google Reader has lots of prepared bundles of feeds, but we're going to be brave and add our own feeds one by one!! Click on +Add subscription (circled) on the left side of your screen.

Let's try to subscribe to a text-based feed first. (Scroll down to page five to see how we can subscribe to an audio feed.)

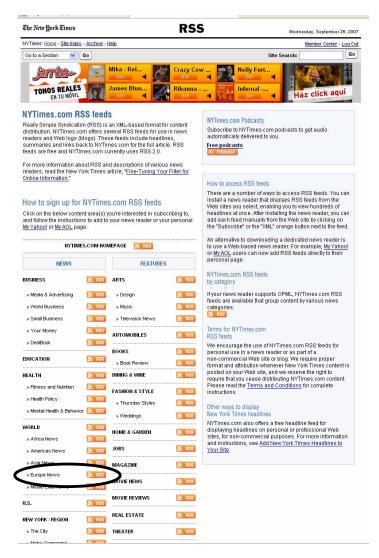


I searched for 'New York Times' and got results for breaking news, world news, and multimedia all combined into one feed. I'm not sure I want to get so many articles, though. Let's say I'm just interested in International News stories from the New York Times. I can go to the New York Times website (www.nytimes.com) and get a more specific feed.

Be sure to open the New York Times in a new Window or Tab so that you can easily go back to Google Reader!



At the bottom of the New York Times website, I found this symbol and clicked on it.

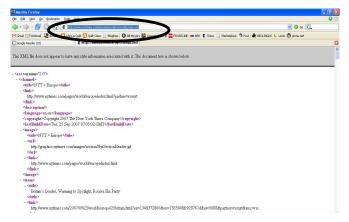


It takes me to a great page explaining how to use all of their rss feeds.

I scrolled down a bit and found the World Section.

Let's subscribe to the stories about Europe (circled).

When we click on the orange RSS button next to Europe News, we get a scary looking page:



Don't worry!

Copy everything in the address bar (circled and highlighted in blue to the left). You can do this several ways:

- highlight it and then click on COPY under the EDIT menu
- highlight it and then right click and choose COPY
- highlight it and click on CONTROL and the letter C on your keyboard

Now we're going to PASTE this into Google Reader in the same place where we originally searched for the New York Times.



Now you have subscribed to your first feed!!

You can explore Google Reader a bit more now, sorting your feed(s) by date, viewing them in expanded or list view, organizing feeds into folders, etc.

Now let's try adding an audio feed to Google Reader

On the NPR (National Public Radio – <u>www.npr.org</u>) website, the rss feed button is blue (circled below).





When you've subscribed to an audio rss feed (like one from NPR) in an aggregator (like Google Reader), remember that the audio files will not download automatically onto your computer. (If you want audio files to download automatically, you need to use a podcatcher like iTunes or Juice.) From your reader, you can click and get directly to the site where you can stream and/or download the program or audio segment. You can click on the title of the segment or on the >> button (both circled below) to get to the original site.

