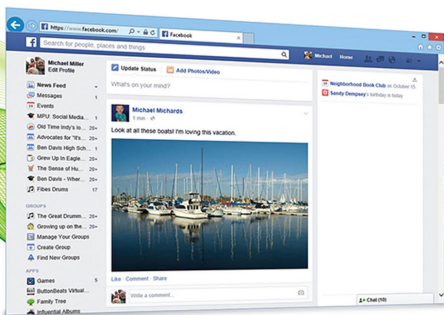


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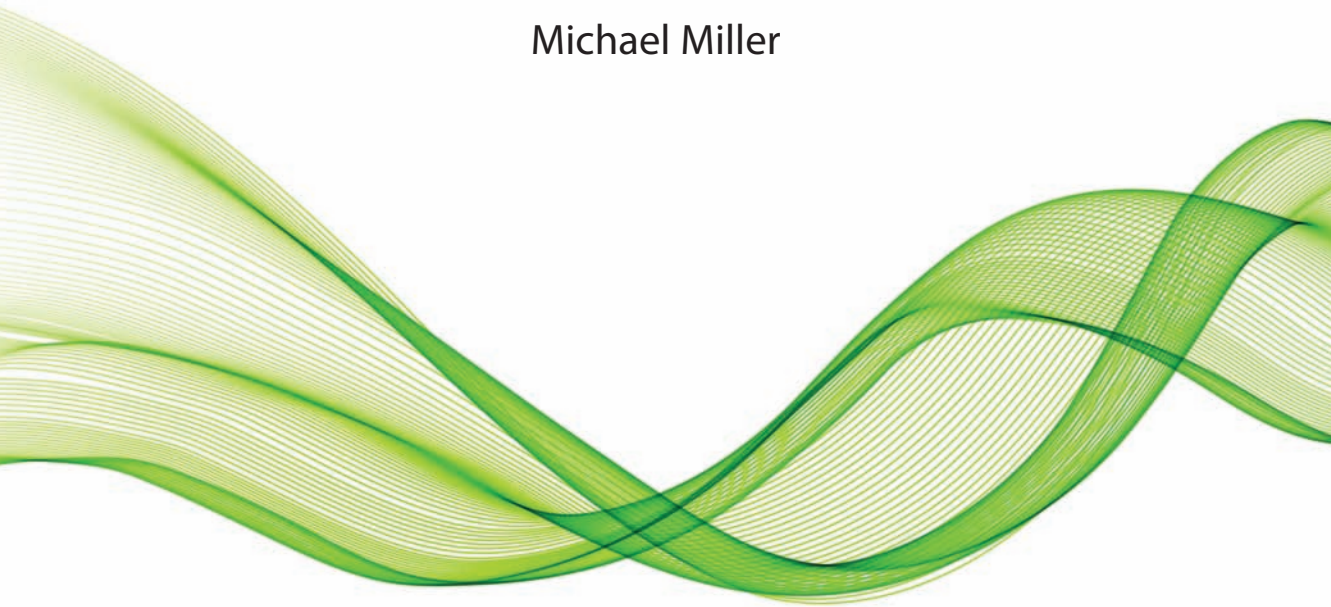


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About the Author

Michael Miller is a prolific and popular writer of more than 150 non-fiction books, known for his ability to explain complex topics to everyday readers. He writes about a variety of topics, including technology, business, and music. His best-selling books for Que include *My Windows 8.1 Computer for Seniors*, *Facebook for Grown-Ups*, *Easy Facebook*, *Easy Computer Basics*, *Computer Basics: Absolute Beginner's Guide*, and *My Pinterest*. Worldwide, his books have sold more than 1 million copies.

Find out more at the author's website: www.millerwriter.com

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Dedication

To my grandkids, who make my life fun and meaningful—Collin, Alethia, Hayley, Judah, and Lael.

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About AARP and AARP TEK

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into *real possibilities*™, strengthens communities, and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities, and protection from financial abuse. Learn more at aarp.org.

The AARP TEK (Technology Education & Knowledge) program aims to accelerate AARP's mission of turning dreams into *real possibilities*™ by providing step-by-step lessons in a variety of formats to accommodate different learning styles, levels of experience, and interests. Expertly guided hands-on workshops delivered in communities nationwide help instill confidence and enrich lives of the 50+ by equipping them with skills for staying connected to the people and passions in their lives. Lessons are taught on touchscreen tablets and smartphones—common tools for connection, education, entertainment, and productivity. For self-paced lessons, videos, articles, and other resources, visit aarptek.org.

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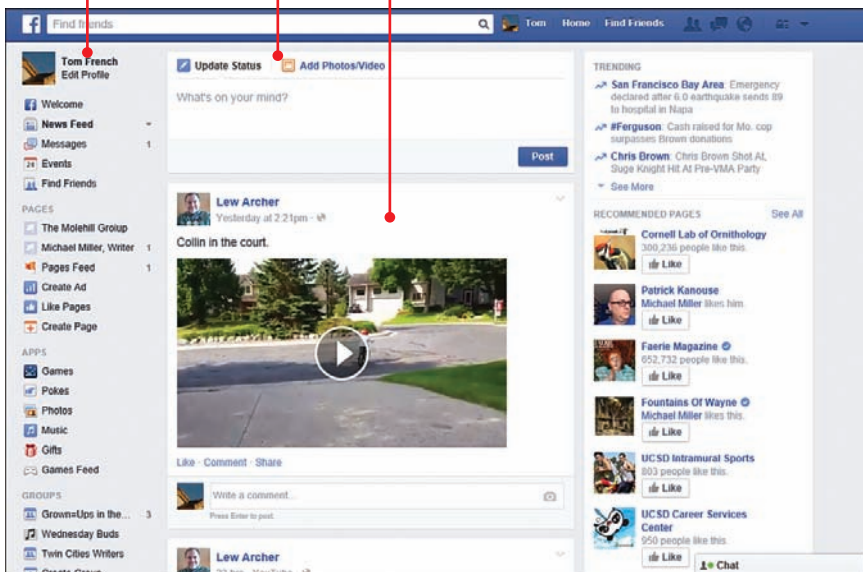
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Navigation sidebar

News Feed

Status update



In this chapter, you discover how to read and respond to your friends' status updates in your Facebook News Feed.

- Viewing Updates in the News Feed
- Viewing Status Updates
- Responding to Status Updates

3

Discovering What Your Friends and Family Are Up To

After you've added someone to your Facebook friends list, you'll be kept up to date on what that person is doing and thinking. Everything that person posts to Facebook—text updates, photos, videos, you name it—automatically appears in your News Feed.

Viewing Updates in the News Feed

Facebook's News Feed is where you keep abreast of what all your friends are up to. When a person posts a status update to Facebook, it appears in your personal News Feed.

Display the News Feed

You can easily get to the News Feed from anywhere on the Facebook site, using the ever-present toolbar at the top of every Facebook page.

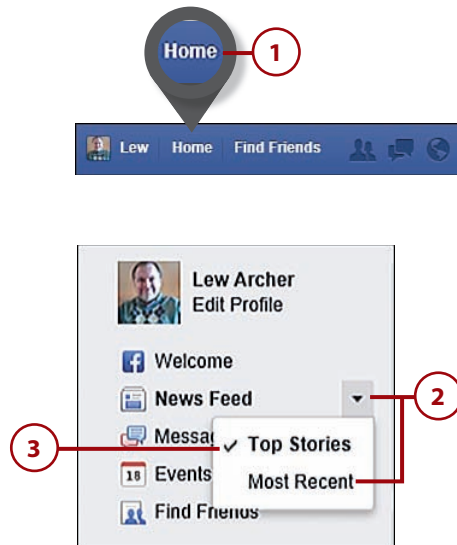
- 1 From the Facebook toolbar, click the Home button.
- 2 The News Feed displays in the center of the page. Note that in the navigation sidebar (left-side menu), the top item, News Feed, is selected. If you later choose to display other content (by clicking an item in the sidebar), you can return to the News Feed by clicking News Feed in the sidebar.
- 3 The News Feed lists what Facebook deems to be your most relevant or interesting posts at the top. Scroll down to view additional posts.



Display Most Recent Posts

By default, your News Feed displays what Facebook calls your Top Stories. These may not actually be the items you're most interested in, or even the most recent posts from your friends. You can, however, change the News Feed to display your friends' most recent posts.

- 1 In the Facebook toolbar, click Home to display your home page and News Feed.
- 2 To display the most recent posts, move to the navigation sidebar, click the down arrow next to the News Feed item, and then click Most Recent.
- 3 To redisplay the most important posts, click the down arrow next to the News Feed item in the sidebar, and then click Top Stories.



>>>Go Further

TOP STORIES

By default, Facebook sorts the posts in your News Feed by importance—what it calls Top Stories. Facebook tries to determine what posts are most important to you, and puts them first in the feed.

The problem is, Facebook's idea of what's important might be different from what you think is important. Facebook's Top Stories sorting might actually bury posts from friends you really want to read—or not display them at all.

The solution to Facebook's arbitrary Top Stories sorting is to select the Most Recent feed. This sorts the updates in your feed in chronological order, putting the most recent posts at the top—period.

Viewing Status Updates

The News Feed consists of status updates made by your friends and by company and celebrity pages you've liked on Facebook. It also includes posts from Facebook groups you've joined, as well as the occasional advertisement.

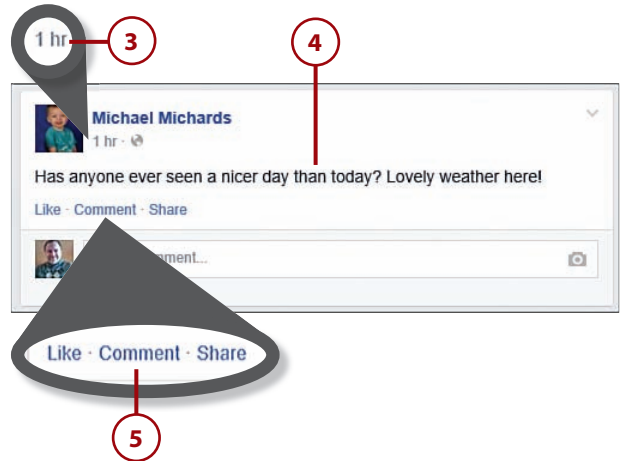
View a Status Update

Each status update in your News Feed consists of several distinct components.

- 1 The poster's profile picture appears in the top-left corner.
- 2 The poster's name appears at the top of the post, beside the profile picture. To view more information about this person, mouse over his or her name; to view the poster's Timeline page, click the person's name.



- 3 When the item was posted (how many minutes or hours or days ago) is displayed beneath the poster's name.
- 4 The content of the status update appears under the top portion of the post. This can include text, images, or a video.
- 5 Links to like, comment on, and share this post appear after the post content.



View Links to Web Pages

Many status updates include links to interesting web pages. You can click a link to view the web page posted by your friend.

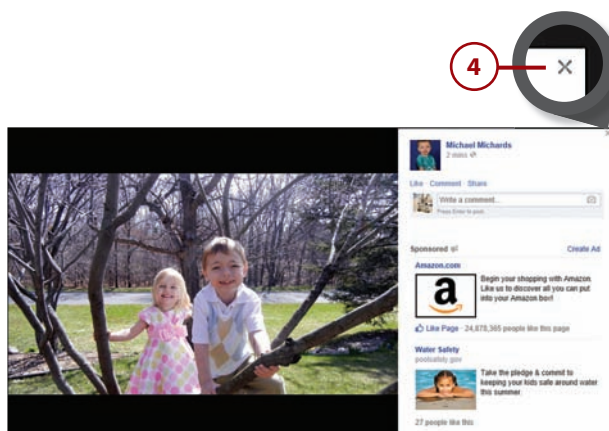
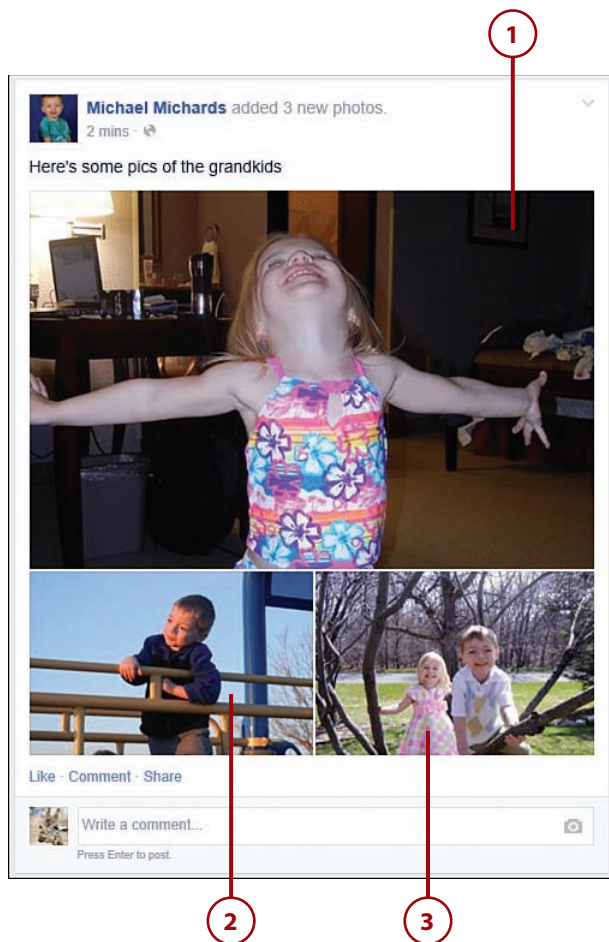
- 1 The title of the linked-to web page appears under the normal status update text. Click the title to display the linked-to web page in a new tab of your web browser.
- 2 Many links include images from the linked-to page, as well as a short description of the page's content.



View Photos

It's common for Facebook users to post photos they've taken with their smartphones or digital cameras. These photos appear as part of the status update.

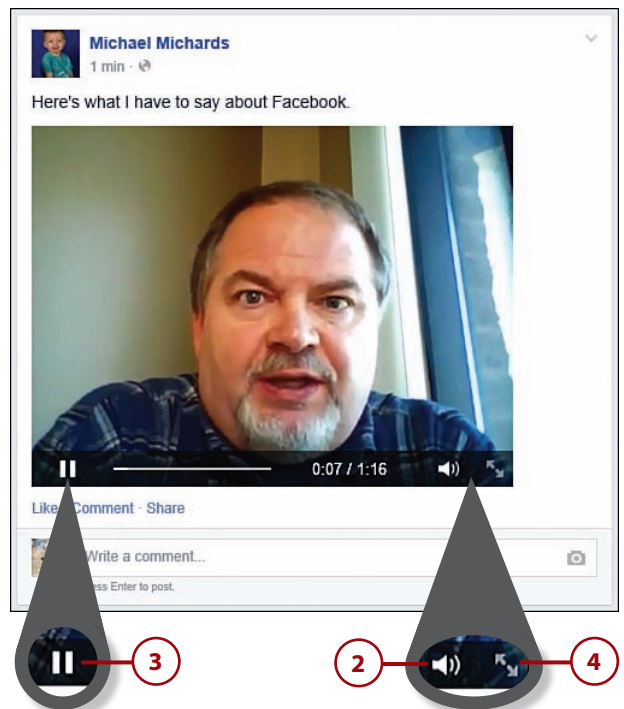
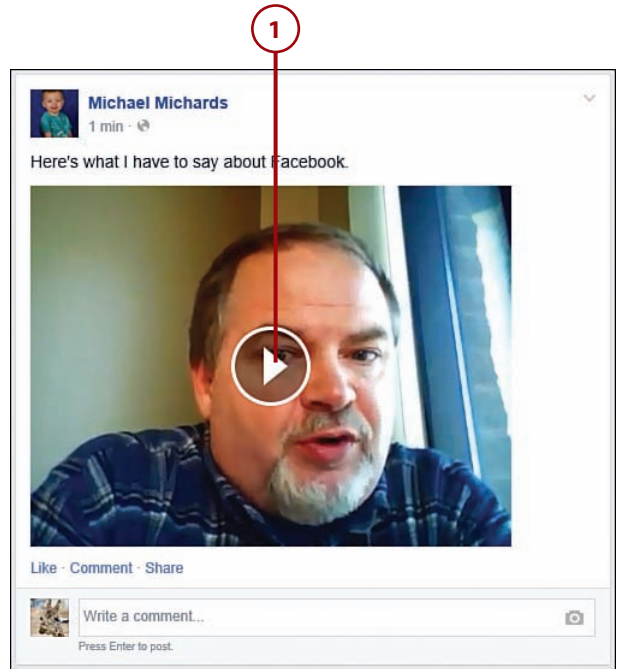
- 1 The photo appears in the body of the status update.
- 2 If more than one photo is posted, they may appear in a tiled collage or in side-scrolling display.
- 3 To view a larger version of any picture, click the photo in the post.
- 4 This displays the photo within its own *lightbox*—a special window superimposed over the News Feed. To close the photo lightbox, click the X in the upper-right corner.



View Videos

Many Facebook users post their own home movies so their friends can view them.

- 1 A thumbnail image from the video appears in the body of the status update, with a “play” arrow superimposed on top of the image. Many videos start playing automatically when the post is viewed. For those that don’t, click the image to play the video.
- 2 If the video plays with the sound muted, mouse over the video to display the playback controls and then click the Volume (speaker) button and adjust the volume.
- 3 To pause playback, mouse over the video and then click the Pause button.
- 4 To view the video full screen, click the full screen button.



Responding to Status Updates

Facebook is a social network, which means you can interact socially with the status updates your friends make. You can tell your friend you “like” a given post, you can comment on a post, and you can even share a post with other friends.

Like an Update

When you “like” a friend’s status update, you give it a virtual “thumbs up.” It’s like voting on a post; when you view a status update, you see the number of “likes” that post has received.

- 1 Click Like underneath the status update.
- 2 Other people who have liked this status update are listed under the post.

Dislike and Unlike

There is no corresponding “dislike” you can voice for posts you don’t really like. However, when you like a post, the Like link changes to an Unlike link. If you later change your mind about a post, just click the Unlike link and your “like” goes away.



Comment on an Update

Sometimes you want to comment on a given post, to share your thoughts about the post with your friend. You do this by leaving a public comment, which can then be seen by others viewing the original post.

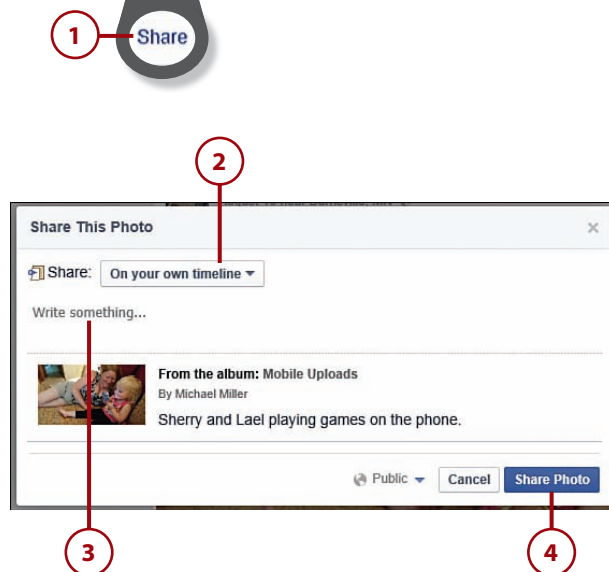
- 1 Although you can click the Comment link below the post, in most cases that isn't necessary. (You only need to click Comment if the Write a Comment box is not visible beneath the post.)
- 2 Type your comment into the Write a Comment box and press Enter.
- 3 Comments made by other users appear underneath the original post.



Share an Update

Occasionally, you'll find a status update that is interesting or intriguing enough you want to share it with all of your friends. You do this via Facebook's Share feature.

- 1 Click Share underneath the original post to display the Share This Status panel.
- 2 Click the Share button to display the list of options, and then select On Your Own Timeline to share it with your entire friends list. (This option is probably selected by default.)
- 3 Enter any comments you might have on this post into the Write Something area.
- 4 If you're sharing a text update, click the Share Status button. If you're sharing a photo, click the Share Photo button. If you're sharing a link to another web page, click the Share Link button.



>>> *Go Further*

SHARE PRIVATELY

If you'd rather share a post privately with selected friends, click the Share button and select In a Private Message. When the dialog box changes, enter the friends' names into the To section, write a short message, and then click the Share Status button.

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