Getting Started with Second Life

Go to www.secondlife.com and click on the orange “Join Now” button.

After the page loads, enter your personal information. Please be honest and use your real information.

Now is the time to choose your avatar’s (or your virtual self’s) name. This does not need to be your real name. Upper and lower case characters are important in this step.

To get started choose a first name. As mentioned above this can be any name. Some people choose names to represent the weather like Stormy and Sunny. Others choose names found in well know stories like Gandalf and Luke. Your imagination is your limitation.

After you choose a first name click Find Last Names. This will bring up a list of available last names for you to choose. Your first and last name represents a unique use name. No other person in the world has this username.
Be sure you can remember your avatar’s name because this will be your user or login name. Write this name down in a safe place.

You are not allowed to change the name once you have selected it. You can have additional avatars, but the name for this avatar will remain as you have chosen.

You can Google the potential last names and potential full names you are considering before you make your final decision. That way if you find something on the web that is not the image you want to portray, you can choose another name.

Next you will select a starting look for your avatar. Please select a picture from the choices at the bottom of this screen. This will be your avatar’s appearance and gender when you enter Second Life. Every aspect of your avatar’s appearance can be changed later from within Second Life.
The next screen contains the security details. Be sure that your security answer is something you can remember.

The security check may have capitals and spaces. Please be sure to copy the text exactly. Then click the orange “Create Account” button at the bottom.

When you see this window with your avatar’s photo, please close your browser and check your e-mail application for an email from Second Life.

You will receive an email from no-reply@secondlife.com that looks similar to the image at the right. Click the blue link to activate your account.

Congratulations you have activated your account! Now it is time to close your browser and open the Second Life viewer.
Go to [www.secondlife.com](http://www.secondlife.com) and click on the “Download Second Life” icon in the lower right corner of the browser window to download the Second Life Viewer.

From the Downloads Page, double check that you meet the system requirements by clicking on the “System Requirements” link. If so, click on the orange “Download Now” button.

The Second Life Viewer will download to your desktop. Double click on the “Second Life Installer” icon and follow the instructions to install the Viewer in your applications/programs folder. Once the Viewer is in the appropriate place, double click to launch and log in using your avatar’s name and the password you created while setting up your Second Life account.
When the Second Life viewer opens, you will see the log in screen. You will need to enter your avatar’s first and last names along with your password that you created when you set up your account. Click the blue “Log In” button.

Please read the Terms of Service, and the click the “I agree” check box. Then click the blue “Continue” button.
You will see a loading screen such as the one pictured on the right. It may take a few minutes to load.

Congratulations! You are now in Second Life! You may see a light grey cloud while your avatar is loading. This is normal and will disappear once your avatar has fully loaded or rezzed in.

This is the fully loaded (rezzed) avatar. You will arrive on Help Island and will be able to learn some of the basic controls for moving your avatar and exploring Second Life. Pressing F1 will bring up the Support Guide.