Welcome to your Second Life! This guide will help you get started fast, by explaining how to complete some of the most common tasks you’ll need to get the most out of your new Second Life. It might be helpful to print this guide for reference as you explore the World.

Mouse
You’ll use a mouse to click buttons, make selections, and interact with the Second Life Viewer interface.

Keyboard
You’ll use a keyboard to participate in text chats, IMs, for searching, and more. Lots of common tasks are easier once you learn keyboard shortcuts.

Mic/Headset
If you have a microphone and headphones (or speakers), you can participate in real-time voice conversations with other users.

Viewer Interface
This Quickstart Guide will teach you how to find and use the most important tools in the Second Life Viewer software.

Symbols used in this guide
- Right-click or Ctrl+click (On a Mac)
- Left-click

Keyboard key

For help setting up your mic and headset, see Panel 8.

Contextual menus
- (sit is selected)
- (Prefs. is selected)

Dropdown menus
- (sit is selected)
- (Prefs. is selected)

Interface button
1 Viewer interface overview

To access most of the features, tools and options in the Second Life Viewer, you’ll want to get comfortable finding your way around both the Top Menu Bar and the Bottom Toolbar.

2 Viewer contextual menus

As you explore the world of Second Life, you’ll encounter both people and objects to interact with. Many common actions and tools are accessed through contextual menus, which appear when you right-click on objects, yourself, or other users.
3 Moving
In Second Life, your avatar can walk, run, and even fly. If you prefer, you can also use an onscreen control panel to move around.

Walk
- Walk forward
- Turn left
- Turn right
- Walk back

To access the onscreen movement control panel:

- Click the Movement Controls button

Sit
When sitting, you must click Stand Up before you can move again or fly.

Fly
- Click Fly to begin flying, and Stop Flying to stop flying
- Page Up and Page Down keys allow you to adjust your altitude and land comfortably

4 Seeing
By default, you’ll see Second Life from just behind your avatar, but you can move and turn the camera around to look at whatever you like - including yourself.

- Use alt plus the arrow keys to move the camera around you
- Turn camera left
- Turn camera right
- Alt + click to focus the camera on a new point
- Press Esc to return the camera to its position directly behind you

5 Appearance
In Second Life, you can look like – and wear – anything you want. Edit your Appearance to adjust your physical features and body, and select clothing, outfits and costumes to wear from your Inventory. You can customize your appearance however you like, or buy pre-designed avatars and outfits that other Residents have made.

- Right-click an item in Inventory and choose Wear to put it on
- Manage your clothing and avatars through the Inventory

Free and paid avatars and outfits are available in stores.
To purchase, you’ll need Linden Dollars, which can be bought by clicking at the right of the Top Menu Bar.

To see a wide selection of items to purchase, visit XStreetSL.com
Set up for voice chat

1. Connect your microphone or headset via audio-in or USB
2. Open the Viewer preferences
3. Click Voice Chat
4. Make sure Enable voice chat is checked
5. Click Device Settings, then change both the input and output devices to your preferred microphone and speakers
6. If your mic is working, you will see green bars in the input level monitor
7. Click OK - when you start talking, you’ll see the voice indicator over your avatar’s head (see 6: Local chat & voice)

Tired of typing? To use the Voice features in Second Life, you’ll need to set up your microphone and headset. Just follow these simple steps, and you’ll be talking in no time.

Local chat & voice

Express yourself! You can talk to the people around you through text-based Local Chat. If you have a microphone, you can also speak out loud using inworld voice.

IMs & voice calls

Want to have a private conversation? Use instant messages or voice calls to talk to other users, no matter where they are in Second Life.

You can also IM users who aren’t nearby from your Friends list.
Make friends

Second Life is a lot more fun when you have friends to explore it with. When you meet interesting people, you can ask for permission to add them to your Friends list. Then, use the Friends list to see which friends are online, send them messages, view their profiles and more.

Location

The world of Second Life is gigantic, and getting bigger every day. If you want to visit a specific location, you can search for it on the Map. You can create and save Landmarks – bookmarks that will bring you back to specific locations. Use Landmarks to save time, and jump straight to your favorite places!

Teleport

You can Teleport to get from one location to another quickly. To invite a friend to your location, open your Friends list, and click Teleport

SLurl

(Second Life URL)

You can use SLurl to teleport to new locations. A SLurl is a web-based link to a location in Second Life. If you click a SLurl with Second Life open on your computer, you can immediately teleport to that location.
There's a lot to learn in Second Life, but you're never alone. If you have questions, need advice, or don't know what to do, help is always waiting for you. Visit the Support Portal at secondlife.com/support to get help now!

At secondlife.com/support, you will have access to the Knowledge Base, tickets, and Billing Support.

To find new activities, events and places to explore, visit: secondlife.com/showcase

Use the Search feature to search all of Second Life.

The Showcase tab displays interesting places and things going on in Second Life.

Narrow your search results using the tabs at the top of the search window to specifically search for events, places, people and more.
**Appendix: Keyboard Shortcuts**

### Movement
Guide your avatar’s movements in Second Life.

- Walk forward: **W** or ↑
- Walk backward: **S** or ↓
- Turn left: **A** or ←
- Turn right: **D** or →
- Run: Double-tap **W** or **S**
- Always run: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **R**
- Jump: **E** (Tap once)
- Toggle flying: **home**
- Fly up: Hold **E** or hold **up**
- Fly down: Hold **C** or hold **down**

### Communicate
Access and participate in text-based Local Chat and Instant Messages with other users.

- Show chat bar: **/** (if not displayed)
- Hide chat bar: **Esc** (if displayed)
- Friends: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **Shift** + **F**
- Local chat: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **H**
- Communicate: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **T**
- Look at last speaker: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **\**
- Gestures: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **G**

### General
Quick access to useful Second Life resources, interfaces and tools.

- Preferences: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **P**
- Help: **F1**
- Search: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **F**
- World map: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **M**
- Mini-map: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **Shift** + **M**
- Teleport home: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **Shift** + **H**
- Inventory: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **I**
- Build: **B**
- Upload image: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **U**
- Take snapshot: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **Shift** + **S**
- Snapshot to disk: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **Shift** + **D**
- Quit Second Life: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **Q**

### System
Basic system-wide functions that work in Second Life.

- Undo: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **Z**
- Redo: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **Y**
- Cut: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **X**
- Copy: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **C**
- Paste: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **V**
- Duplicate: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **D**
- Select all: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **A**
- Deselect: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **E**
- Close window: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **W**
- Close all windows: **Ctrl/Cmd** + **Shift** + **W**

**Key:**
- **Ctrl** = Ctrl on a PC; **Command** on a Mac
- **Alt** = Alt on a PC; **Option** on a Mac