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Simple SEO Tips for Your Blog by [Joey Sloan](#)

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One of the big factors why WordPress is so popular as a Blogging platform is that it's largely search engine friendly right from the word go. But there are always things you can do to improve it and get yourself some higher rankings.

Before you even think about getting into SEO though, make sure you're focusing your posts and pages on the right keywords and phrases. What this means is choosing words that aren't too general. Key phrases consisting of one or two words will be very difficult to rank for, so go 'long tail' and find phrases which have lowest competition in relation to the number of searches and highest Keyword Research.

Moving on to the practicalities of how to SEO WordPress, the number one item is to login to your WordPress dashboard and change permalinks settings.

The default generates a post URL which is made up of a number string, and it doesn't reveal to the search engines what the theme of your post is about. What's needed is for the URL to be in the your site/post name format.

So, click 'Settings' in the left-hand menu, then 'Permalinks,' and under the 'Common Settings' heading, select 'Custom Structure' and type in `/%post name%/`. Lastly, don't forget to click 'Save Changes'.

There is a number of free plug-ins you can use to improve your blog SEO, and one of the most popular is the 'Word press SEO by Yeast.' To get it, click on 'Add New' under 'Plugins' in the dashboard menu. Then, you can either type in 'All In One SEO Pack' in the search box or click on 'Popular' and it should be right up there in the top returns.

Also, I strongly recommend getting the 'Google XML Sitemaps' plugin [if you use Yeast, then you will get it inbuilt facility], which will help the search engine spiders see the total structure of your site and index it more easily.

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