

Introduction

Tablets provide easy access to the web. This document will introduce you to key aspects of browsing the web: using a web browser, exploring websites and their unique features, using a search engine, and looking up your browsing history.

What is a web browser?

A web browser is software designed to browse the World Wide Web (www). You can use it to search for and access information available on the Internet. In short, a web browser retrieves information (text, images, videos) from a web server and displays it on your computer or mobile device.

Adapted from [Termium Plus](#), the [Grand Dictionnaire Terminologique](#) and the [Mozilla Foundation](#).

What browser should I use?

You can choose between several web browsers. But Android tablets and smartphones are Google products. That's why they use Google Chrome as their default browser.



Mozilla Firefox



Ghostery



Google Chrome

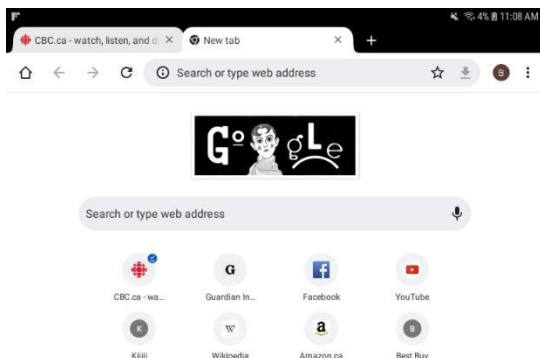


Opera

You can use the browser of your choice on any device. Many of them are free, but they need to be installed.

A range of choices are available. Some browsers focus on privacy protection (like Ghostery and Mozilla Firefox), whereas others aim to optimize navigation (like Opera).

Components of the Chrome Browser Interface



You interact with the features on the **Chrome** browser in the same way as in **Settings**.

In other words, you move around the application by tapping different words and icons. Information will be presented in the form of a tree menu.



The browser's **Home** icon is a lot like your tablet's **Home** button. Tapping it will take you to the browser's home page.



By tapping the **Back** arrow, you can return to the last page you visited. That's why you need to visit more than one page before this button becomes active. As for the **Forward** arrow, it takes you to the next page in your browsing sequence.



The **Refresh** icon lets you see the most recent version of a web page. It can be useful for displaying new notifications on a social network or the latest updates on a news site. The word "reload" is sometimes used as a synonym for "refresh."



The **Address Bar** or **Search Bar** is located at the top of the screen, in the centre of the page. We'll explain how it works below.



You can bookmark a page by tapping the **Star** icon. **Bookmarks** are useful for remembering web pages you want to visit again. They keep track of the location of your favourite pages.



The three little dots at the top of the screen provide quick and convenient access to useful features on **Chrome**. For example, you can use the **Chrome Menu** to open a new tab, bookmark a page or search within a page.



This feature lets you open a new web page in a different tab. You can keep several pages open in the background.



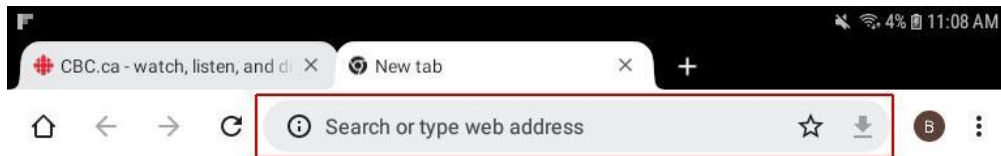
This feature lets you close a web page that is open in one of your tabs.

What is a website?



A website is a set of interconnected web pages that share the same web address. For example, the CBC has a website with pages corresponding to different sections of the site. You can read articles, watch videos or listen to radio programs.

What is an address bar?



The **Address Bar** is a text box you can use in two ways:

- By entering the address of a website you want to visit, just as you would go to a street address when visiting someone.
- By entering a keyword to search for related information or for the address of a site (if you don't already know it).

What is a web address (URL)?


<https://www.cbc.ca/>

HTTPS is the protocol (language) used to encode the site's information.

The website's title is also called its domain name.

The site's extension will be in the form of either:

- A two-letter code corresponding to a country or territory (e.g., ".qc.ca", ".fr").
- A generic extension (e.g., ".com", ".org", ".net", ".info").

After entering the URL in the **Address Bar**, you need to tap your tablet's **Enter** key  to display the corresponding website.

To learn more, watch the workshop titled *How to Browse the Web*. It's available at the following address: <https://alphanumerique.ca/espace-public/ressources/comment-naviguer-sur-internet/>

What is a search engine?



A search engine helps you find information or a website using one or more keywords. It will list search results in order of relevance. A search engine is a bit like a librarian who helps you pick out a single book from a huge collection. The **Chrome** web browser lets you enter a keyword directly in the **Address Bar** and access the Google search engine from there.

You'll need to tap the **Enter** key  to submit your search.


Once the results appear, you can view them by scrolling down the page. To open a web page, simply tap the corresponding result with your fingertip!

To learn more, watch the workshop titled *How to Search the Web*. It's available at the following address: <https://alphanumerique.ca/espace-public/ressources/comment-faire-une-recherche-sur-internet-2/>

How do you interact with a website?

Examples taken from **The Guardian** (www.theguardian.com) and **CBC** (www.cbc.ca).

MENU

The site's **Menu** lets you choose where you want to go. You'll often find it at the top of a web page. It might also be hidden in the form of a drop-down menu. 




Visible



Drop-Down



To save space, tablet applications often use drop-down menus. Look for one of the following:

- An icon that looks like a hamburger (three horizontal lines on top of one another). 
- A vertical arrow.  **Culture**
- A horizontal arrow. **Ottawa** 



The menu options appear when you tap the icon or the arrow.

To close the menu, simply tap the icon or the arrow a second time.



SEARCH BAR

To find the search bar, look for the **Magnifying Glass** icon. This feature lets you quickly search the content of a website using a keyword. Here's how to display the search bar:

1. Tap the **Magnifying Glass** icon.
2. Both the **Search Bar** and the **Keyboard** will appear.
3. Enter your keyword and tap the **Enter** key.

TEXT AND HYPERLINKS

Bringing the supply chain home

According to a report from [Thomas Insights](#), a firm that helps companies track down suppliers of the components they need, [83 per cent of North American manufacturers](#) are looking for ways to source their inputs from closer to home, compared to 54 per cent in 2020.

"Nobody ever understood what a supply chain was until the pandemic," Pat Campbell said in a few minutes snatched away from helping to run a [week-long Supply Chain Canada conference](#) that ended Friday. Campbell, whose duties included booking speakers for the conference, lives and breathes supply chains but said most people were like her grandchildren and really didn't get it.

- [Lingering global supply-chain challenges resulting in months-long wait for appliances](#)

"I used to say that it was from the time the farmer picked the tomato in the field and puts it on the truck to go to market to the time my grandchildren pick up the bottle of ketchup off the retail store shelf, everything that happens along that path is part of the supply chain," said Campbell.

Websites are full of textual information. A news site like CBC provides a good example.

When browsing the web, you can also visit pages on other sites by opening **hyperlinks** (also just called "links"). They're shortcuts to related information or sources. Linked text is normally underlined and displayed in blue.


Alongside an article, you'll often see suggestions for other content on the same site that is related to what you're reading.

INTERACTIVE MEDIA

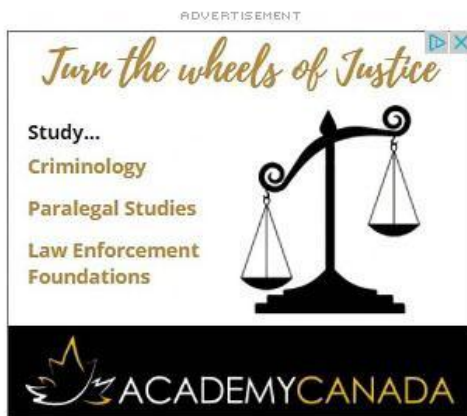
WATCH | A surge in imports is straining Canada's supply chain:




Hundreds of empty shipping containers are stacked in Vancouver's port and it's straining the supply chain because there's a larger demand for imports to Canada than exports. The backlog is hurting truckers and could mean longer waits and higher prices for consumers. 2:31


Many websites also contain videos and other media files. The **Play** icon  tells you that it's not a static image, that it's a file you can play.

ADS




You'll see ads displayed on most websites. The CBC is no exception!

The **Sideways Triangle**  lets you flag an ad that you find inappropriate, that appears too often, that you want to hide or that you don't find relevant.

The  icon lets you close the ad. If you tap an ad with your finger, you'll be redirected to the advertiser's website.

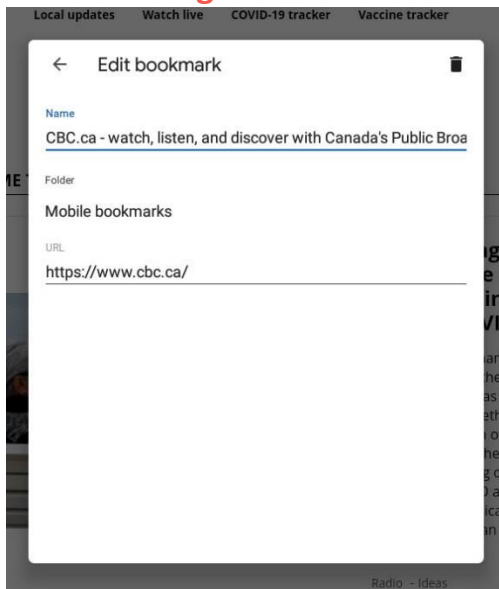
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Scroll to the bottom of a page to see the footer. There, you'll find additional information about the site, such as accessibility information, answers to frequently asked questions, the terms of use and the last modified date.

Remembering the Websites You've Visited

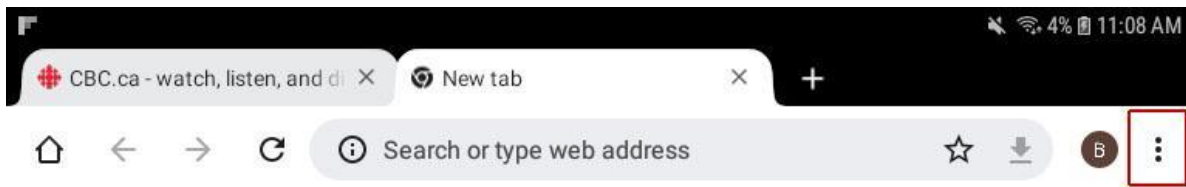


The easiest ways to remember a website are by bookmarking the address, by adding it to your browser's **Reading List** or by finding it in your **History**.

To bookmark a site, you simply need to tap the star icon  in the upper right corner of the **Address Bar**. The star will turn blue once the site has been bookmarked.

When you tap a blue star , a menu will appear with options for managing the information on the bookmarked site (e.g., its title).

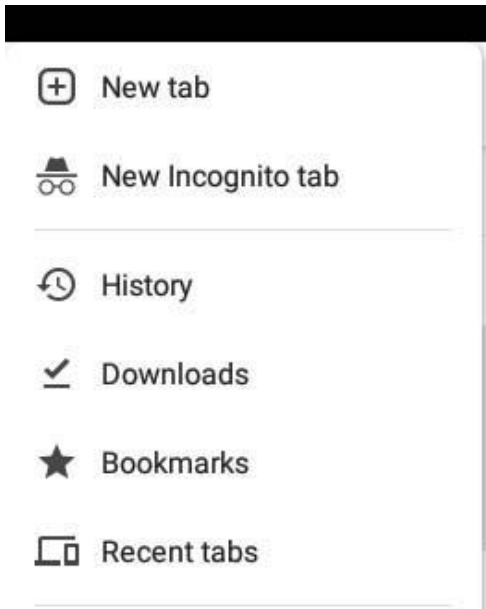
What options are in the Chrome Menu?



The **Chrome Menu** looks a lot like your tablet's **Settings**. And it works in much the same way. To start, tap the three little dots.

Then, select an option from the list.

Some Useful Menu Options



NEW TAB

You can open a new tab by tapping here or by tapping the **+** icon (as we saw earlier in the Chrome interface).

NEW INCOGNITO TAB

The sites you visit in an “incognito” (private) tab are not recorded in your **History**.

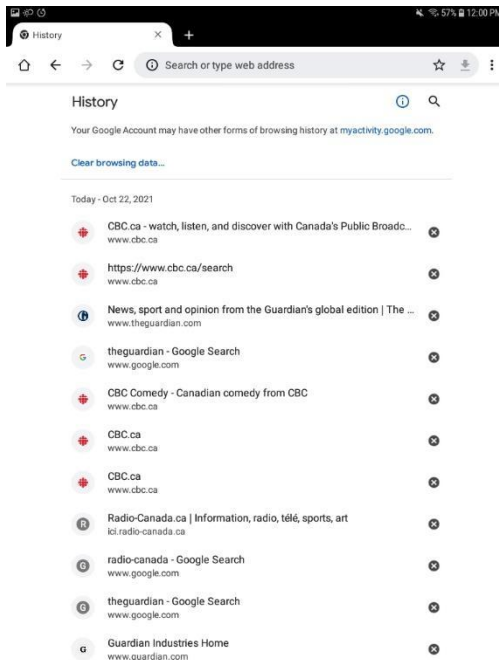
BOOKMARKS

Access your favourite websites here.

RECENT TABS AND HISTORY

These two features serve a similar purpose. They provide a list of the pages or tabs you’ve recently had open.

More on Your Browsing History



Your **History** records the addresses of all the websites you’ve visited recently. To access it, select the **History** option in the **Chrome Menu**.

To open one of the pages in the list, simply tap the corresponding link.

You can delete pages from your **History** by tapping the small gray **X** to the right of each address. And you can clear your entire **History** by selecting **Clear Browsing Data** at the top of the list.

Continue learning with alphanumeric.ca!

