

Follow a user

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Follow a user

A **Profile** page identifies a user and lists that user's articles. Use it to review basic information and change whether you follow them.

Follow another user

The follow task belongs on the **Profile** page, alongside the user's basic information and article lists.

If you need to...	Go to
Open an existing user's profile	View a profile
Read the user's posts or favorites	View My Posts and Favorited Posts
Follow or unfollow the user	Before you start, then Follow or unfollow the user
Change your own profile settings	Update settings
Sign in before changing the relationship	Sign in

Before you start

Prerequisites

- Know the username for the profile you want to open.
- Open a profile that has loaded before selecting **Follow** or **Unfollow** .
- Sign in before following or unfollowing a user.

Open the user's **Profile** page using their username. If you select **Follow** or **Unfollow** while you are not signed in, the application takes you to [Sign in](#) instead of calling the follow or unfollow operation.

Find and open the profile

Use this task to open an existing user's profile. The profile route accepts the username as its parameter; creating a user is a separate task.

Steps

1. Open the Profile route for the user whose username you want to view.

Result: The user's profile page opens when the profile data is available.

Read the profile header

The profile header is the area that identifies the user before you change the following relationship.

Information	What appears on the page
Profile image	The user's image, with a default image applied when needed
Username	The user's username
Bio	The user's biography, or an empty area when no biography is available

The article area provides two destinations:

If you need to...	Select
Read articles created by the user	My Posts
Read articles the user has favorited	Favorited Posts

For another user's profile, **Follow** or **Unfollow** appears in the header. For your own profile, **Edit Profile Settings** appears instead and opens [Update settings](#).

Follow or unfollow the user

Use this procedure when the profile header shows **Follow** or **Unfollow** for another user.

Prerequisites

- The user's profile is open and its profile information is visible.
- You are signed in.

Steps

1. Select the control that matches the relationship you want:

If the control says...	Select it to...
Follow	Follow the displayed user
Unfollow	Stop following the displayed user

Result: The profile page receives the profile returned by the selected follow or unfollow operation.

Handle the profile and authentication branches

The available action depends on whose profile you opened and whether you already follow that user.

What you see	What to do	Outcome
Follow	Select the button	The follow operation is used for the displayed user
Unfollow	Select the button	The unfollow operation is used for the displayed user
Edit Profile Settings	Select the link	Update settings opens for your own profile
Follow or Unfollow while you are not signed in	Select the button	Sign in opens and the follow or unfollow operation is skipped

Steps

1. Select the button in the row that matches what you see in the profile header.

Result: The selected **Follow** or **Unfollow** action runs, **Edit Profile Settings** opens settings, or [Sign in](#) opens sign-in.

When the profile cannot load

The page lists a profile-load fallback when the profile request fails. A server-provided profile error can also appear in the page's error list.

What you see	What it means	What to do
Failed to load profile	The profile request returned without a usable profile error list	Read the displayed message
Each value in <code>`error.errors`</code>	The profile request returned a server-provided profile error	Read the displayed message
No follow or unfollow success message	The page does not display a success message for that relationship operation	Check the profile header for the returned profile state
No follow or unfollow error message	The page does not display a relationship-specific error message	Check the profile header for the returned profile state

After either relationship request, the page clears the submitting state on success or error. On success, it uses the returned profile; it does not display a follow or unfollow error message.

Know what happens next

After a successful relationship operation, the profile page receives the returned profile and updates its profile value. The next destination depends on the branch you took.

After this branch...	Continue at...
You opened your own profile	Update settings through Edit Profile Settings
You are not signed in when you select Follow or Unfollow	Sign in
You followed or unfollowed another user	View a profile or return to the profile's article list

Prerequisites

- The relationship operation has returned the profile page to its normal state.

Steps

- Select the next destination in the row that matches the branch you took.

Result: The destination named in the selected row opens, or the profile's article list is available again.