

Follow an author

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Following an author lets you manage your relationship with another author's profile from the

Profile route. The author's username appears in the profile header beside the `Follow` or

`Unfollow` control.

If you need to...	Go to
Open an author's profile	View a profile
Follow or unfollow the author	Follow the procedure below .
Change your own profile settings	Update your settings

Before you start

The Profile page must load a profile for an author other than the signed-in user. The page loads

the profile before it presents the profile content. The following state records whether you already

follow that author and determines whether `Follow` or `Unfollow` appears.

Prerequisites

- You know which author's profile to open.
- You are signed in before selecting `Follow`. The follow handler returns without sending the request when the user is not authenticated.
- The profile belongs to another user. Your own profile presents **Edit Profile Settings** instead

of the `Follow` or `Unfollow` controls in the profile header.

When these conditions are met, open the author's profile.

Open an author's profile

An author's profile is the Profile page identified by the author's username.

Steps

1. Follow [View a profile](#) to open the author's Profile page.

Result: The author's profile page is open, with the author's username beside the

`Follow` or

`Unfollow` control in the profile header.

Recognize the Follow or Unfollow controls

The `Follow` or `Unfollow` control appears in the profile header beside the author's username and

profile information. Use the label shown there to choose the action.

The profile's following state is...	The control label is...
<code>false</code>	<code>Follow</code>
<code>true</code>	<code>Unfollow</code>

Use the label shown in the profile header in the next procedure.

Follow or unfollow the author

Use this procedure when the author's Profile page is open and you can identify whether `Follow` or

`Unfollow` appears in the profile header.

Prerequisites

- The author's profile is loaded.
- The profile belongs to another user.

Steps

1. Select **Follow** or **Unfollow** according to the profile state.

If the profile state is...	Select...
false	Follow
true	Unfollow

Result: After the request succeeds, the Profile page displays the refreshed profile data and the profile's current following state.

Choose the action for the current state

The profile state determines whether you follow an author, unfollow an author, or manage your own profile settings.

Prerequisites

- The Profile page has loaded the profile username.

Steps

1. Choose the action that matches the profile you opened.

If you opened...	Select...
Another user's profile that you do not follow	Follow
Another user's profile that you already follow	Unfollow
Your own profile	Edit Profile Settings

Result: The Profile page shows the action for the profile's current state. If the action does not complete, use the guidance in the next section.

When the action does not complete

The Profile page uses a loading message while the profile is being fetched and a separate message when the profile cannot be loaded. If a follow or unfollow request fails, the profile stays as it was and no error message appears.

What you see	What to do
Loading profile...	Wait for the profile to finish loading.
This profile could not be loaded. Please try again later.	Try opening the author's Profile page again later.
The profile stays unchanged after selecting Follow or Unfollow	Select Follow or Unfollow again when the profile is available.

What to do next

After you finish the follow decision, continue from the author's Profile page. For changes to your own profile, go to [Update your settings](#).