

General error messages

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General error messages

Use this page to identify a loading, empty, connection, or request-error message and choose the next action.

Overview

Loading messages mean that the screen is waiting for a request to finish. Empty messages mean that the request completed without matching articles. A connection message describes the current sign-in connection state. A request error is shown when a request returns error data for the screen to display.

If you need to...	Go to
Tell a loading message from an empty result or request error	Identify the message and its condition
Prepare the route and account details before interpreting a message	Before you start
Respond to a message after a request	Respond to a loading or error message
Continue with article discovery	Discover articles
Read an article	Read an article
Create or edit an article	Create an article or Edit an article
View or follow a profile	View a profile or Follow an author
Update account settings	Update your settings
Review broader remedies	Common issues and solutions

Before you start

Before interpreting a message, know which route you opened, whether you are signed in, and which profile, article, tag, or feed you requested. The message belongs to that request context.

Have this ready	Why it matters	Where it applies
The opened page	The same message text can belong to a profile, feed, or article surface.	The page you opened
The profile name	The profile request uses it to load the profile.	The profile page
The article	The article and editor requests use it to identify the article.	The article page or editor
The tag name	The feed request uses it to filter the article list.	The tag feed
Your sign-in state	The header shows <code>Connecting...</code> only for a signed-out user while authentication is unavailable.	Signed-out header
The request you just submitted	Login, registration, settings, article, comment, and comment-deletion requests place their returned messages in the relevant error surface.	The form or article action you used

Identify the message and its condition

Read the message first, then compare the screen state with the condition in the table. An empty result means the request finished and returned no matching articles; it is different from a list that is still loading.

What you see	Condition	What it tells you
<code>Loading profile...</code>	The profile is not loaded and no profile error is present.	The profile request is still in progress.
<code>This profile could not be loaded. Please try again later.</code>	The profile has a profile error.	The profile request reached its error state.
<code>Loading articles...</code>	The article list is loading.	The article-list request is still in progress.
<code>No articles are here... yet.</code>	The list is no longer loading and contains zero articles.	The request completed with no matching articles.
<code>Your feed is empty.</code>	The following feed is not loading and contains zero articles.	The following feed has no articles to display.

What you see	Condition	What it tells you
Go to the Global Feed	The following feed is empty.	The page offers a route to the global feed.
Connecting...	Authentication is unavailable while the user is signed out.	The header is showing the connection state.

When a request is rejected, the error list shows the validation messages returned for that request. The list is used on login, registration, settings, article editing, comment entry, and comment deletion surfaces.

A rejected request can place API validation messages in the error list.

Respond to a loading or error message

Use this procedure after a request leaves a loading state, shows a fixed message, or displays returned request errors.

Prerequisites

- Know the route and request that produced the message.
- Have the profile username, article slug, tag, or account details required by that request.

Steps

1. Read the visible message and match it to the condition in the table above.
2. If the message is Loading profile... or Loading articles..., wait for the request to finish before choosing an outcome.
3. If the following feed shows Your feed is empty., select **Go to the Global Feed** to open the global feed.
4. Return to the screen where you submitted the request, correct the relevant fields, and submit the request again.

Request	Fields to review	Submit control
Sign in	Email, Password	Sign in

Request	Fields to review	Submit control
Sign up	Username, Email, Password	Sign up
Update settings	URL of profile picture, Your username, Short bio about you, Email, Password	Update Settings
Publish or edit an article	Article Title, What's this article about?, Write your article (in markdown), Enter tags	Publish Article
Post a comment	Write a comment...	Post Comment

5. Choose the action for the message that remains on screen.

If you see	Action
This profile could not be loaded. Please try again later.	Return to the profile page and request the profile again.
No articles are here... yet.	Change the feed or tag name to look for a different article set.
Connecting...	Check the header again after the connection state changes; continue when Connecting... is no longer displayed.

Result: The screen shows the state for the request you selected, or the relevant feed, profile, or form is open for the next action.

Know what happens next

After a successful request, the affected screen clears its request errors or proceeds to the next screen.

After a failed request, the screen keeps the returned messages in its error surface when that surface is available.

Request or load	Result after success	Result after failure
Login or registration	The authentication store records the returned user and the form proceeds to its destination.	Returned errors appear in the form's error list.
Settings update	The settings errors clear and the screen goes to the profile route.	Returned errors appear above the settings form.

Request or load	Result after success	Result after failure
Article publish or edit	The screen goes to the article route for the returned article.	Returned errors appear above the editor.
Profile load	The profile is displayed.	After the retry sequence, the profile error message appears and the profile is cleared.
Article-list load	The article list leaves loading and displays articles or an empty-list message.	The list remains in its loading state.
Follow or unfollow	The profile is replaced with the returned profile.	The profile stays unchanged and no error message is displayed.
Article or comment fetch	The article or comments are loaded into the article page.	The article page has no dedicated fetch-error message.

For a request that has no dedicated message, continue from the screen state that remains visible. Use

[Common issues and solutions](#) for broader remedies. Continue with [Update your settings](#), [Create an article](#), [Edit an article](#), [View a profile](#), or [Read an article](#) when that task owns the next action.