# Block Editor

**Today's to-do list**
We will look at the Block or Gutenberg Editor, the inbuilt page builder system in WordPress.

**Learning objectives:**
By the end of this session, you will
Understand how the Bock Editor works
Choose blocks to identify their uses
Create a page using the Block Editor.

**So what is it?**
**The WordPress block editor or Gutenberg blocks is the built-in page editor in a standard WordPress site.** Introduced with Version 5 it revolutionised how people used WordPress and opened the up to a whole new audience of users. The block editor allows you to create interesting, functional, media-rich pages without the need for complex themes, coding and additional plugins.

**Each block is a pre-designed content element that can be added by drag and drop easily into any layout. You can add text, images, videos, galleries and more.**

All you need to do is create or edit your page and start to add your blocks. You can drag and drop any of the blocks into your page. Click on the block to start editing it. You can upload content, add text and format the block to suit your design.

**There are also built-in collections of pre-arranged blocks called Patterns that you can drag and drop into your page to create pages more easily.** There is a whole library of Patterns that you can choose from that allow you to add headlines, calls to actions, gallery and text.

You can easily re-arrange your page layout by simply moving the element up and down the page.

**Let's log in to our site and take a look at the different blocks what they do and how to format them.**

Create a new page and give it a title.
On a fresh page, you will automatically get 'Type to choose a block' with a little black + next to it.
Click on the + and the search box will appear. The first six blocks are the most used or the ones you have used most recently. Click on Browse all blocks to pull up the full window of what is available.

The Blocks list is split into three sections.
Blocks that contain the full list of all the standard blocks available
Patterns that will show any blocks you have created and saved and all the pre-designed ones that are available to you.

Media which shows you all the media you have saved in your image library and the Openverse which is an open library of content that gives you access to over 600 million public domain images and audio files that you can use in your layouts.

The blocks section which is where we are going to start is split up into sections.
**Text** to add our standard text elements
**Media** adds our image-related blocks plus video and audio
**Design** adds extras like page breaks, columns to format our content, spacers and separators
**Widgets** allow you to drop WordPress elements into the layout like category lists, and custom HTML if you need to add code along with search boxes and social icons.
**Theme** will be slightly different depending on the theme you have installed. This lets you add navigation bars, logos, login areas and usual WordPress functionality.
**Embeds** let you add audio elements, social media streams and videos.
Once you start adding extra plugins to your site their blocks may appear at the bottom of the list if they are available.

Let's start playing with some of the blocks and how to edit them. I want you to add a paragraph block and type a bit of random text into it. We now get the format box above our block. We can move the block up and down with the arrows, and drag the block around the page with the 6 dots. Set the text orientation with the paragraph icon, and add bold and italics and text links. The down arrow also lets us add additional text formatting like subscript code and footnotes.

The three dots at the end allow you to copy, duplicate and delete. This is also how you can save an element to your patterns to use it elsewhere.
We also have our Post Window on the right-hand side of the screen. This allows us to change the text colour and background and set a default text size. We can add padding to our text and set anchors if the text is going to be used in a navigation.

**Activity One**
I would like you to add the following blocks to your page and format them to look like the examples on the screen.

*Text block* – you can use the text below to copy and paste in. Set the size to 20/normal and the colour to dark green.

*A table* - with two columns and four rows. Set the background to pale blue. Add the text as the example on the screen.

A *Media and Text* box – Add the block and select an image from the Openverse. Drag and drag your image into the media box and give it a title.

*Columns*– select 50/50, add two image boxes and add the images from Openverse

Once you have added these items publish your page. Spend a bit of time exploring some of the other blocks and what they can do.

Time for this activity 60 minutes.

**Activity two**
Now you have an idea of how the basic blocks work, I would like you to create a page that looks like the one on screen. The text is in your workbook and you can source whatever images you like from Openverse.
You have the rest of the session to create your page.  If you finish and have time left over you can add extra elements to your page.

**Coming up soon to extend these skills**
Tomorrow we will carry on with our block editor and create some more complex pages.

**Don't forget**
Make sure you complete today's exercises, you will be adding to this site over the next couple of weeks. Links to download a copy of today's notes and slides are at the bottom of today's session page.

Today's session page in your learner dashboard has a useful links document that will cover all the tools, resources and articles we have discussed in the session and some useful guides and articles to take you further.

Make sure you revisit your FABs and set yourself some goals specific to today's session.

**Extra help**
If you need any help with anything from today's session, feel free to message me in the WhatsApp group. If you have any other issues or problems related to the course or the tools speak to Andrew and Irfana, they are here to help you.

**Up next**
See you tomorrow for more Block Editor and adding more functionality.