

# Video Sites Revolution



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## **Just What Are Online Video Sites?**

If you spend time on the Internet, I'm sure you're familiar with what a Online Video Site is, but for those who may be new to this term or are just getting familiar with the Internet, we're going to explain it to you.

An online video site is a website that displays video content and allows visitors to view these videos. Most of these allow visitors to view their videos for free, but there are some that will require payment. The ones that usually require a fee are normally going to be rebroadcasts of popular television shows or perhaps music videos.

There are many online video sites with varying degrees of content. You'll find some video websites will focus on a specific topic, but most will have a wide variety of topics. Most online video sites will have videos that focus on pets, home and family, business, traveling and entertainment, just to name a few. In most cases these videos are likely to be homemade videos.

Being able to watch videos is only one of things that make online video websites so appealing. The other thing that makes them so popular is they also give Internet users the ability to create, upload, and share their own videos. For many people this is the best part of online video websites.

Lots of people love to create their own videos, but without online video websites many people would not have a place to upload or share their videos for others to see. Just as with viewing videos, most online video websites allow Internet users to share their own videos free of charge.

If want to learn more about “online video websites”, your best bet is to do an Internet search. The search results will give you links to a wide variety of online video websites. No doubt your search is likely to pull up the YouTube and Google video sites. While they are not the only video sites that you’ll find online, they are by far, considered to be the most popular.

## **YOUTUBE**

You may have even heard about YouTube in the news. YouTube has grown tremendously in popularity this past year and that popularity is, due the fact that it is free to you use. You can view a wide collection of videos online and many of these videos may include how-to videos, personal videos, comedy skits, and unscripted recordings. At YouTube, you can easily view all of these videos without having to pay a dime. YouTube also allows you the option to create, upload, and share your own videos, if you want to try your hand at it.

## **GOOGLE VIDEO**

While Google Video may not be talked about as much as YouTube, its popularity is rapidly growing. You’ll find that the Google Video site also has a collection of videos that can be viewed free of charge.

The vast majority of these free videos are made by your everyday internet users, just like yourself, so don’t feel like you have to be a pro to make your own video to share with others.

In addition to the free videos, there are also videos that can be purchased, for a small fee. These types of videos will often be things like popular and newly released music videos. Just like YouTube, the Google Video site also gives Internet users the option of creating and sharing their own videos.

If you have some time to kill and are looking for a way to entertain yourself online, you may want to give online video websites a try and see what they have to offer. With so many videos to choose from you are bound find something that interest you or maybe get some ideas on creating your own online videos.

Now that we've covered the basics of the free online video sites, in the next chapter we'll discuss the paid online video sites.

## **Paid Online Video Sites**

Everyday, millions of Americans spend time searching the Internet looking for games to play, music to listen to, or videos to watch. We do love our entertainment don't we! Sure there is plenty of free entertainment that can be found on the Internet but there are other ways that will require you to pay a small fee. In regards to watching videos online, these websites are commonly referred to as "paid online video websites".

A lot of Internet users will use the paid video sites, but there are a lot of others who feel they shouldn't have to pay. If you are one of those people and you have no intention of changing your mind, then paid online video websites may not be the right choice for you. However, you should keep in mind that you could be missing out on some of the fun, and other unique entertainment options that are not available on the free video sites.

Before you decide if a paid video site is worth the cost, you'll need to take what that particular paid video website has to offer and if it's something that interests you. You'll find a large number of popular video sites will operate differently. For example, a lot of websites will charge a monthly subscription fee, while others a pay per view/video fee for videos that you want to watch or download.

### **MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION PLAN**

If you are going to be a frequent online video viewer, you'll want to opt for a monthly subscription plan, as it will save you money in the

long run. The monthly subscription plan should enable to you download and view as many movies as you want.

## **PAY PER VIDEO PLAN**

If you are one of those people who only want to occasionally view or download an online video, then you'll want to choose the 'pay per video' plan.

If you listen to the news or spend time on the Internet, I'm sure you've heard of iTunes. iTunes is one of the most popular online video websites that has a pay-as-you-go setup is known as iTunes. The nice thing about these types of paid online video websites is that you don't have to pay for all of your videos. There is a good chance that you will also get access to a number of different free videos, from the same website.

## **HOW TO PAY**

Now that you've found the type of online paid video site that's right for you, you will need a way to pay for them. The vast majority of online websites only accept credit cards or debit cards. In order to use a debit card, it will need to be one with the logo of a credit card company on it. That credit card logo is what will make the online processing of payments possible.

Although most online video sites will require credit or debit cards, there are now quite a few paid video sites that are now starting to

accept PayPal as a form of payment. PayPal has become one of the most popular online payment processors in recent years.

PayPal's popularity has grown because it is known for being a safe way to electronically transfer your money. You can open a PayPal account for free; so, if you don't have a credit card, but still want to watch videos online, you may find PayPal to be your best choice. You can get a PayPal account at [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com).

For the most part you will find most paid online websites only charge for their most popular videos, such as music videos and television show reruns, and you may still have a difficulty paying this expense. If this happens to be the case for you, you will want to look into free online video websites.

These free online video sites can be found all over the Internet. Unfortunately, the downside to them, is that the quality of most free videos is not as good as the ones that charge a fee. However if you do not mind sacrificing quality for a few dollars, then you may be satisfied with what most free online video websites can offer you.



## **Why YouTube is So Popular**

If you enjoy searching the Internet for your entertainment needs, then there is a good chance that have already discovered YouTube. Maybe you're already even an active member of the YouTube community, as millions of Internet users are.

With so many people being a member or a regular visitor of YouTube, there are many people who may wonder what exactly it is that makes YouTube so popular. If you happen to be one of those people, you will want to read on to see just why it is so popular.

Probably one of the biggest reasons YouTube is so popular is because there is so much you can do on their website. For example, if you're seeking entertainment, you can select from a wide and varied assortment videos, so you're bound to find something you like.

If you don't want to just be a spectator at YouTube, you may decide to even make your own video. When you register with YouTube you can post an unlimited number of videos at their website. So if you have a desire to create a video blog, tape a comedy skit, how to video or any other kind of videos, it's easy to do. Just keep it clean, this isn't a porn site.

Another one of the many reasons why YouTube is so popular is because it's free to use. Any Internet user can simply visit the YouTube website and start viewing videos. Although it is advised that you register for a free YouTube account, it isn't a requirement to watch YouTube videos. However, if you want to be able to rate videos, leave

comments or upload your own videos to YouTube, you'll need to register for an account with YouTube.

## **UPLOADING VIDEOS TO YOUTUBE**

If you're wondering if you have the skills to upload videos to YouTube, you don't have to worry, it's actually pretty easy. This is another one of the many reasons why YouTube is so popular. Even if you only have minimal computer experience you can still make and share your videos on YouTube.

To get started, all you will really need is a video recording device, such as a cell phone that comes with video recording capabilities, a camcorder, or a webcam. These days most computers already have some form of movie editing software programs installed, but you'll only need to use movie-editing software if you feel you need to edit your video before sharing it with the YouTube community.

When you're ready to upload your videos, you just need to follow YouTube's uploading instructions and your videos should be available for viewing in just a matter of minutes.

## **VIEWING YOUTUBE VIDEOS**

As mentioned above, if you just want to watch videos on YouTube, you'll have an unlimited number of YouTube videos to choose from. This is yet another example of the many reasons why YouTube is so popular. Regardless of your interest, be it romance, comedy, or educational videos, you're sure to find whatever you are looking for on YouTube.

Some of the most popular YouTube videos will include video blogs and comedy skits. Finding videos to watch is easy as well. YouTube allows you to browse through all of their videos by viewing the categories and finding something that interest you or you can perform a search on the site to find something in particular.

If you are interested in online videos and haven't yet checked out YouTube you really should give it a go. If you visit YouTube you are most likely going to like what you see. YouTube must be doing something right, because they have millions of visitors that come back frequently.

## **Using Online Video Websites as a Business Tool**

If you're a small business owner you're always looking for ways to expand your business. If this applies to you, you most likely would do just about anything in your power to improve your business, especially if you sell a particular product or service. While working to grow their businesses, many business owners will spend thousands, if not millions, of dollars in advertising cost. What if I told you there was a free way that you could promote your business?

Many business owners are a bit skeptical about a free way to promote your business. Many business owners believe that there is no such thing. If by chance they do believe it, there are many who would still automatically assume that it would be a wasted effort. One can hardly blame them for feeling this way as many free advertising methods can be deemed time consuming and not worth the effort, however using the Internet and free online video websites is one they should try.

If you're already an avid Internet user, most likely you are already fully aware of what free online video websites are and what they do. If not, you will want to learn. As we've been discussing a free online video websites is a website that will allow Internet users to watch and upload videos that are hosted on their website, free of charge. Depending on the type of business you own and operate, you may very well be able to use these websites to your advantage.

When it comes to using free online video websites to your advantage, you will want get familiar with the websites that are currently available. You can easily do this by performing a standard Internet

search. Your search should produce a fairly large number of results, including Google Video and YouTube.

## **VIEW RULES AND RESTRICTIONS**

You'll want to examine the rules and be aware of any restrictions before making and uploading your video. For the most part, you'll find that most video websites do not have any rules or restrictions concerning the use of online videos to promote your business; however, you will still want to make sure that your video is tactfully done. Take a look at some of the other videos already there that are promoting their business to help get some ideas.

## **VIDEO MAKING TIPS**

If you are an online business owner, especially one that sells a specific product, you could make a video showcasing your product. For example, if your specialty is photo buttons, you may want to display your samples or even go over the process of making them. It may also be a good idea to mention the overall cost of photo buttons and how they are used. If your product would make a great gift, you should mention that. When making your video, be sure to refrain from making your video seem like spam. Although you will most likely want to mention the price, you want to refrain from promoting your business too much. Then at the end of your video, you may want to offer directions on how to make a purchase or get more information.

While its true products are the easiest to showcase in an online video, you can also use your video to help promote a particular service that you sell. For example, if you offer assistance to those that are in debt, you will want to provide an overview of what debt is, how it hurts us, and how help can be obtained.

Since you would just be giving general information on debt this is a great way to keep your video from appearing too pushy or too much like a commercial. As we mentioned above, you may also want to include information on your business at the end of your video. You may be surprised at how this can increase the number of clients you get, especially if you provide a service that is in demand.

## **Alternatives to YouTube and Google**

When most people think of online video websites, the first ones that usually come to mind are YouTube or Google Video. These 2 online video sites are known as two of the most popular online video websites. While they are great sites to use, they are not the only sites that offer online video services. If you are looking for other online video websites alternatives, you will find that there is actually quite a few to choose from.

If you want to find alternatives to Google Video or YouTube a standard Internet search is the best way to find other online video websites. In addition to being linked to those websites, you may also find online discussions that are centered on online video websites. If you have the time to read these discussion boards, it's a good idea to do so. These online discussion boards can often give you some great tips and advice as to which online video websites are worth your time and which ones are not.

### **VIMEO**

When performing a standard Internet search, your search results will likely include Vimeo. Vimeo is an online video website that is well known throughout the Internet community. With Vimeo you can easily view a collection of a variety of online videos. Their program is free to use, but I'd still recommend that you register with them. When you register with them, it will make it easier for you to search for and find the videos that you want to watch. In addition to watching videos, you can also create, upload, and share your own. They also allow you

the options of only allowing certain people to see your video or open it to the public.

## **VIDEOEGG**

Your search may also turn up an online video website that is named Videoegg. Videoegg is another popular online video website. This site makes it easy to upload and share your videos with others. They will require you download an application to use for uploading your videos. This application embeds a browser plugin that allows you to use drop-n-drag functions to make it easy to upload your video files.

## **SHARKLE**

Another free online video website is Sharkle. You will find a collection of online videos at their website, similar to the ones that can be found on YouTube or Google Video. At Sharkle, you can watch a number of different videos without having to register, but registering will give you access to other member benefits. Some of these benefits include the ability to rate and leave comments for videos that you have viewed, as well as upload your own videos.

While these are only a small sampling of some of the other alternative online vide sites, you can see, YouTube or Google Video are not your only options when it comes to watching online videos.

Your search should turn up a number of other online video sites besides the ones we've already mentioned. Many online video sites post videos on a wide range of different topics, subjects, and issues.



If you are looking for online video websites with a particular theme, you should be able to find them online just by searching the Internet. You may need to alter your search phrase a bit, but it is possible to find them. There are many popular online video websites that exist for those who love pets, religion, or love politics just to name a few.

Each site can vary on their rules, restrictions, features and services so just be sure to abide by their terms when using their site. Some online video sites may not allow you to create, upload, and share your own videos, but you should be able to watch online videos on a wide variety of different websites, including the ones mentioned above.

## **Parents Please Monitor Your Child's Use of Online Video Websites**

In recent years, we have seen a lot more focus has been placed on Internet safety, especially for children. Many parents, as well as teachers, politicians, and police officers, are concerned with the people who come into contact with children online, especially predators.

Regardless of whether your child is still considered young in age or if they are teenager, there is a very good chance that they will be using the Internet. Much of this concerned focus has been on the monitoring of online chat rooms and social networking sites. However, as a parent, you should also be concerned with online video websites.

As you should be aware of now, online video websites, such as YouTube or Google Video, are known as websites that allow internet users to view many of the videos that are hosted on their site for free. What many parents may not be aware of is that Internet users can also make, upload, and share their own videos. If your child is doing this, you will want to know as they could be inadvertently putting themselves at risk.

You may not think that your child making a video is a cause for concern, and maybe it's not but you need to see any videos they create before allowing them to upload it. Many parents are unaware of the types of videos that can be found online.

While some online video websites prohibit videos that have pornographic materials, other than that, they're little restrictions in

place. For example, there are some Internet users who have decided to use online videos websites as if they were dating websites. Is your teenager possibly one of them? If so you need to know.

## **EDUCATING YOUR CHILD ABOUT ONLINE SAFETY**

One of the first things that you should do is talk to your child about online video websites. Even though you may not want to alert them to these websites, there is a good chance that they already know about them. It may be a good idea to ask your child whether or not they have made their own online videos and if so ask to see the content of those videos.

When it comes to getting information from your child, especially teenagers, there is a good chance that you may not get an accurate or true response. So, if you know your child is making use of online video websites, you may want to find their video or videos on your own. You can do this by visiting popular video websites, such as Google Video or YouTube, and performing a search. You may want to try searching for your child's name, the town in which you reside in, or any screen names that they may have used. If your child has indeed posted an online video, there is a good chance that you will be able to find it.

Regardless of whether or not you find an online video that your child has made, it is important that you discuss your safety concerns with them. If you agree and allow your child to view online videos or make their own, you need make them aware of the consequences.

## **ONLINE SAFETY TIPS**

It's important to let your child know how to stay safe online, especially when making their own videos to share with other Internet users. Let them know it is not safe to include personal information about themselves, such as their full name, their telephone number, and their address. Be sure to emphasize the fact that online video websites are viewed by millions of people and many predators now use the Internet to find their victims. This means that their video will likely get watched by thousands of people who they don't even know.

If you have concerns with the way your child is or may be using an online video website, you may want to take swift action. That action could involve having the websites blocked or just monitoring them. As we previously mentioned, you have the ability to decide what is or isn't appropriate for your children.

However, it is also important to note that not all online sites are a bad thing. In fact a number of fun and educational videos can also be found online. If you plan on monitoring your child's use of online video websites, you are encouraged to take a look the sites with them so you are aware of places they are visiting.

## **Rating The Videos You Have Viewed**

As the growth and popularity of the Internet continues to rise, so does the number of activities that you can participate in online. For example you can shop, play games, listen to music, and even watch videos. If you are relatively inexpensive way to enjoy the Internet, you should checkout online video websites.

You will find that not all online video websites are the same, but there is something that you will find similar between them all. That is the ability to rate videos that you have viewed.

### **RATING SYSTEMS**

Rating systems have been in place for many years and are used to track what TV watchers like to view and what shoppers like to buy. Now, thanks to online video websites, especially those that allow you to rate their videos, you can also make your views known online.

Unfortunately, not everyone takes advantage of these rating systems, even though they should. This is largely due in part to the fact that many internet users don't think that it is worth the time to rate the online videos that they have just finished watching. You may be wondering why does it matter if I rate a video or not?

Well maybe the best reason for rating the videos that you viewed online is that it may make the video owner feel proud, especially if they are just your average person who is just experimenting with a camera.

Amateurs are not the only ones who appreciate feedback, even professional video makers, such as the ones who make music videos, want to hear feedback on their work. With an online rating system, this could be done in as little as a few seconds. Just depending on the online video website in question, you should be able to quickly rate a video, literally without even having to think about much about it.

It is also a good idea to rate the videos that you have watched online, especially if you really enjoyed them. Just as we previously mentioned, a lot of people make their own videos. These videos are often considered homemade movies because they are often made from home and with common camera equipment.

While many people may make an online video, there are many who will decide not to make another if they don't know if people liked it or not. By giving the online video you watched a positive rating, you will be letting the owner know that you liked their work. If they get enough positive responses, they will feel encouraged and there is a good chance that they will continue to make videos; thereby providing you with more entertainment.

In addition to stating what you liked or disliked on an online video, it's important that you rate the videos that you watch online. The order of those rankings is often a result of viewer ratings. This means that if you do take the time, which should only be a few seconds, to rate an online video, you could be helping to make that video more popular. Many online video websites display their top ranking videos right on

their main page. Just think how that would make you feel if it was your video!

It isn't amazing what a few seconds of your time and a simple mouse click can do? I'm sure you can now easily recognize the number of benefits to ranking online videos, especially ones that you enjoyed viewing.

## **Online Video Sites Resources**

To help save you some searching time we've included some links to help you find some of the wide variety of online sites available for music and video.

<http://web2.econsultant.com/videos-hosting-sharing-searching-services.html>

<http://mashable.com/2007/06/27/video-toolbox/>

<http://www.funsites.com/ar-movie.html>

<http://www.traexs.com/>

<http://mashable.com/2007/07/06/online-music/>

<http://www.youtube-video.net/>

<http://uncutvideo.aol.com/Main.do?sem=1&ncid=AOLCVD0017000000001>

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