

Our **free, easy-to-use licenses** provide a simple, standardized way to give the public permission to share and use your creative work — on conditions of your choosing. CC licenses let you easily change your copyright terms from “all rights reserved” to “some rights reserved.”

Creative Commons licenses are not an alternative to copyright. By default, copyright allows only limited reuses without your permission. CC licenses let you grant additional permissions to the public, allowing reuse on the terms best suited to your needs while reserving some rights for yourself.

We’ve collaborated with copyright experts around the world to ensure that our licenses work globally.

If you are looking for content that you can freely and legally use, there is a wealth of CC-licensed creativity available to you. There are hundreds of millions of works—from songs and videos to scientific and academic material—available to the public for free and legal use under the terms of our licenses, with more being contributed every day.

## What Is Creative Commons?

Creative Commons is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting an open and accessible Internet that is enriched with free knowledge and creative resources for people around the world to use, share, and cultivate.

Our easy-to-use licenses provide a simple, standardized way to give the public permission to share and use your creative work — on conditions of your choice. CC licenses let you change your copyright terms from the default of “all rights reserved” to “some rights reserved.”

Millions of people use CC licenses on some of the world’s most popular platforms for user-generated content. When you use a CC license to share your photos, videos, or blog, your creation joins a globally accessible pool of resources that includes the work of artists, educators, scientists, and governments.



Creative Commons has waived all copyright and related or neighboring rights to this guide using the CC0 Public Domain Dedication.



Creative Commons makes sharing easy

# Six licenses for sharing your work



The internet makes it easy for people to share and build on each other's creations. But sometimes the law makes it hard.

Whenever you snap a photograph, record a song, publish an article, or put your original writing online, that work is automatically considered "all rights reserved" in the eyes of copyright law.

In many cases, that means that other people can't reuse or remix your work without asking for your permission first.

But what if you *want* others to reuse your work?

If you want to give people the right to share, use, and even build upon a work you've created, consider publishing under a Creative Commons license.

A CC license lets you decide which rights you'd like to keep, and it clearly conveys to those using your work how they're permitted to use it without asking you in advance.

## Step 1: Choose License Features

Publishing under a Creative Commons license is easy. First, choose the conditions that you want to apply to your work.



### Attribution

All CC licenses require that others who use your work in any way must give you credit the way you request, but not in a way that suggests you endorse them or their use. If they want to use your work without giving you credit or for endorsement purposes, they must get your permission first.



### ShareAlike

You let others copy, distribute, display, perform, and modify your work, as long as they distribute any modified work on the same terms. If they want to distribute modified works under other terms, they must get your permission first.



### NoDerivs

You let others copy, distribute, display, and perform only original copies of your work. If they want to modify your work, they must get your permission first.



### NonCommercial

You let others copy, distribute, display, perform, and (unless you have chosen NoDerivs) modify and use your work for any purpose other than commercially unless they get your permission first.

## Step 2: Get a License

Based on your choices, you will get a license that clearly indicates how other people may use your creative work.



**Attribution**  
CC BY



**Attribution — ShareAlike**  
CC BY-SA



**Attribution — NoDerivs**  
CC BY-ND



**Attribution — NonCommercial**  
CC BY-NC



**Attribution — NonCommercial — ShareAlike**  
CC BY-NC-SA



**Attribution — NonCommercial — NoDerivs**  
CC BY-NC-ND