


Newsgroups

1. A **newsgroup** is a way of discussing topics on the web or by email. An example is Google Groups  You just sign up to them.
2. A **newsgroup** is a public discussion forum. It can be a way of **posting** a comment or a question and hoping that someone, somewhere, will also want to comment or be able to answer the question. They are different to **message boards** in that they are not restricted to a particular website.
3. **Newsgroups** work in much the same way as **chatrooms** or **message boards** and hopefully a **thread** will develop in answer to your comment or question. They are not related to "News" in the normal sense.
4. Most Internet Service Providers will have a **newsgroup** to which you can subscribe. To read **newsgroups** you use special programs called newsreaders. Some email programs like Outlook Express let you access newsreaders. Sites such as Google Groups allow you to look without a newsreader.
5. Most **newsgroups** are related to a specific topic.
6. There are over a hundred thousand **newsgroups**, or **groups** for short, and many of them can be tracked using Usenet. Usenet is a world-wide distributed discussion system which gives access to different **newsgroups**.
7. **Newsgroups** are arranged into a hierarchy format e.g. alt.support.diet.low-fat where the first alt. means it **PTO**

could be about anything and then it is broken down further so you can find your own topic of interest.

Other examples are

rec. - recreation (games and hobbies)

soc. - social and cultural