

Learning Curve

A year of blogging and I'm still learning



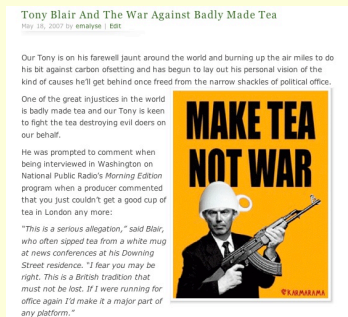
A year of consistent blogging has taught me a few things that I'd like to share with anyone who might be interested.

- Include pictures -it's visual shorthand
- Include links to wikipedia and source material where needed
- Respond to blog comments -I feel it adds a human feel to the blog
- Break down long posts into headed paragraphs and always edit as much as you can.
- Personal posts add a human element and can be infrequent and measured in how much they reveal.
- Social networking and bookmarking sites compliment a blog.
- Blog titles matter
- Tags matter
- Offer email subscription

- Personal comments on current affairs can get you a voice in the established old media.
- If you can't find time or inspiration to post then link to items of interest
- If work or illness takes you away from blogging then have a reserve of posts that can be scheduled to appear during your absence.
- Translation options though not perfect will be used.
- It sounds obvious but write about what interests you
- Don't censor criticism but do implement a comprehensive anti spam policy with blocked keywords and blacklists.
- Protect your privacy - I don't give out my address, full name or real name of my partner, parents, friends etc.Or a photo for that matter but that's just me.

Blog Tools

- [Mac OS X](#)
- [Ubuntu](#)
- [Google Docs](#)
- [Gimpshop](#)
- [Songbird](#)
- [Seashore](#)
- [Flauntr](#)
- [Flock](#)
- [Firefox](#)
- [Google Reader](#)
- [Netvibes](#)
- [Pageflakes](#)
- [Letterpop](#)
- [Mpeg steamclip](#)
- [Audacity](#)
- [AAC+ encoding](#)



- Have an about page that states the aim of your blog, any comment policy and background info on your blog.
- Don't overdo widgets but do have navigation links
- A random post link helps readers discover previously over looked posts (as does linking to relevant older posts)