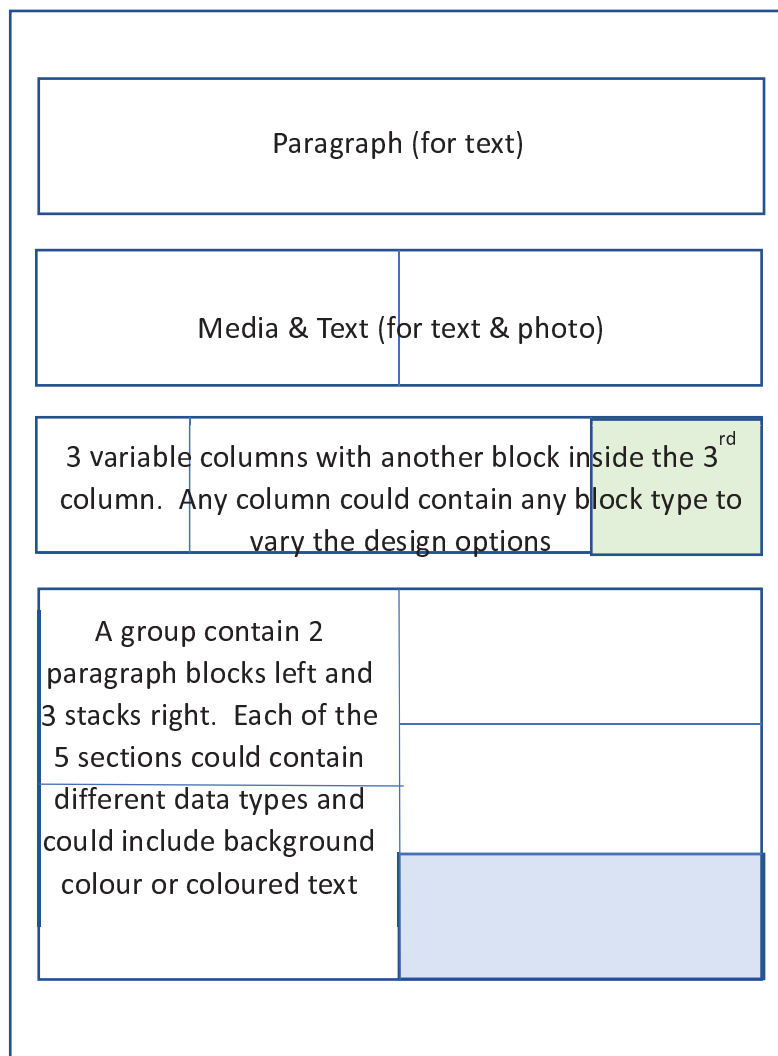


More Block Practice

There are very many different types of blocks available in WordPress and this workbook could be ten times longer than it is now and we still wouldn't have tried all of them.



You have probably realised by now that u3a SiteWorks webpages are created using blocks. On the left is a representation of a page. At the top of this page you can see a paragraph block and a media and text block. You have already been working with these. There are many other stand-alone blocks but you can combine blocks to be much more creative and achieve different layouts.

You are going to be trying some of these in this section but the graphic left is to show you the concepts without the distraction of data. You can see familiar blocks used but grouped inside another block.

You're already familiar with colourising text and backgrounds from your earlier work so in this section we can look at how some can be used in the real world.

Before creating this workbook for you I spent time talking to Pioneers, Migrators, and others who have used WordPress for a long time and one of the questions I asked was about which blocks they used most often, found most useful, and liked the best. My plan was to include the top 6-8 in this workbook but instead you've got 14 although there are many more that were suggested but are not included. As I reviewed the suggestions there were some blocks that had to be included but the others in this section all had special merits to improve appearance or to create a big visual impact so I have included them for you.

In the appendices you will find a selection of u3a sites to look at that use a variety of blocks, often very creatively. That will give you the opportunity to see

the ones we discuss below in action but hopefully will also enthuse and inspire you to create fantastic websites in the coming weeks.

You really do know quite a lot about blocks now so this whole section should be fairly easy for you.

Navigate to the Training page of your training demo site. This page has been created for you to practice on. Go into edit mode in your preferred way. Follow the instructions below for each block and create each one in turn on that Training page. Use your own text and media as needed as I have done for each example. (n.b. To speed up the process I simply copied and pasted text from my current Site Builder website and used media already in the library.) The purpose of this section is to practice creating different blocks, not to create a beautiful page.

Paragraph

You have seen the use of paragraphs several times before. This is one of the simplest blocks and is widely used. Create a text block and place it directly below the yellow block. Add some text and you'll get something like what you see below.



This is a simple paragraph block where we can place text such as ... Day visits have included Scampston Hall near Malton with its regency country house, Capability Brown gardens and Piet Oudolf designed walled gardens, Saltaire and the model village, Wakefield (The Hepworth), Gibside, The Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough, Christopher Dresser, his design and Linthorpe Pottery, Leonardo da Vinci at the Laing Gallery and the Old Gardens and the apple trees in Durham City.

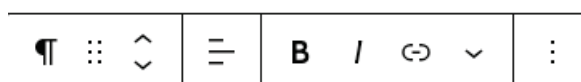
Heading

Headings can attract attention and you can add extra attention by making them bold, italic., etc. I made this one bold and italic simply to show you that you can. Your turn now to create a heading directly above the paragraph that you just created.

This is a Heading

This is a simple paragraph block where we can place text such as ... Day visits have included Scampston Hall near Malton with its regency country house, Capability Brown gardens and Piet Oudolf designed walled gardens, Saltaire and the model village, Wakefield (The Hepworth), Gibside, The Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough, Christopher Dresser, his design and Linthorpe Pottery, Leonardo da Vinci at the Laing Gallery and the Old Gardens and the apple trees in Durham City.

Bold and italic are invoked from the quick menu seen here when you click on a text-based block.



Image

The image block lets you insert an image from your Media Library, upload a new image, or insert an image from a URL. I've used a single image from the Media Library. Please can you now create an image block and place it below the paragraph that you created as you can see here.

This is a Heading

This is a simple paragraph block where we can place text such as ... Day visits have included Scampston Hall near Malton with its regency country house, Capability Brown gardens and Piet Oudolf designed walled gardens, Saltaire and the model village, Wakefield (The Hepworth), Gibside, The Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough, Christopher Dresser, his design and Linthorpe Pottery, Leonardo da Vinci at the Laing Gallery and the Old Gardens and the apple trees in Durham City.



Gallery

A gallery block lets you add multiple photos at a time and positions them for you as you can see below. I have chosen 5 photos. You create a gallery now of 2, 3, 4, or 6 photos and add it to your page directly below the large image you created. Compare my 5 photo gallery with whatever you have created and see how WordPress has adjusted the photo sizes to fit the space and be pleasing to the eye. Note that the photos are added left to right in the order that you select them.



Media and Text

You've seen this Media and Text block several times already. This time I created the media and text block and added the photo of a field of sheep. I was then prompted to add a block in the other half of the main block and chose paragraph but this could have been any text-type block. You have a go now and create a media and text block and position it below your gallery block.



As we walked along the bridleway on our monthly countryside walk this March we passed this field of sheep. They seemed happy to be in the open air with the spring sun on their backs.

Gutenslider

While we are in photo mode it's a good time to look at the Gutenslider block. You did see this on your training demo site Welcome page and it has been mentioned but not explained. This is a fabulous block that can really add impact to a page. It is very easy but very effective.

I added 5 photos in this Gutenslider block. You can see forward and back arrows on the left and right of this first photo so you can scroll through them but the exciting part is that in Site View (and on your live site) the scrolling takes place automatically at set intervals so you have moving images. This looks very professional. Sadly this is a pdf and you can't see the scrolling but if you go your training demo site Welcome page in Site View then you will be able to see how it works. There will be at least one example of this in the appendices as well as it really is fantastic and something we have never had before.

Your turn now. Please add your own Gutenslider block below your Media and Text block. Add at least 5 photos then view it in Site View.



Spacer

Spacer is another easy block that can be visually pleasing. It is a way of creating space between two blocks to improve the layout and make the page appear less 'busy'. I've inserted a spacer on my page between the Media and Text block and the Gutenslider block.

You have a go now and put a spacer between two of your blocks.



morning countryside walk. this morning we passed this field of sheep. They seemed happy to be in the open air with the spring sun on their backs.



Columns

You've seen columns before as well. Columns are a great way to display disparate information. When you insert a column you have a number of different options such as 2 or 3 columns the same size or 3 columns with the one in the middle larger than the outer two (as above), 4 columns, etc.. Each column space becomes a container for other blocks. Here I have an image, a paragraph, and another image but I could have had 2 paragraphs either side and Gutenslider in the middle. I could have had a list block with bullets, a "quote", an audio or video clip, an image, or any combination. Columns are a very effective way to make a page look great.



Our u3a offers many group events and activities. from dance to walking and Spanish classes to puzzle afternoons. Take a look at our group page and see what you could do.



You try it now and choose your column style and what you want to place in each section. Insert your column block below the Gutenslider block.

Tables

Another way to display information is in a table. When you choose the table block you can stipulate how many columns and rows to create. I chose 3 columns and 3 rows. When the table is inserted the 3 columns are the same size but the sizes change dynamically according to the content you add to them. You could display this information in columns without borders as per the column block we used before but displaying data such as this list looks better in a table with borders. You might notice that I have emboldened the headings on the first line. Please note that Tables should only be used for genuine tabular information and not as a means of laying out the page content (for which the layout blocks should be used).

Month	Venue/activity	Transport
March	Kiplin Hall tour and gardens	Car share
April	Lowther Castle gardens morning & Acorn Bank gardens afternoon	Coach

Garden Visits 2023

It's your turn again. Create a table of your choice and add data to it. Watch how the columns change depending on your data.