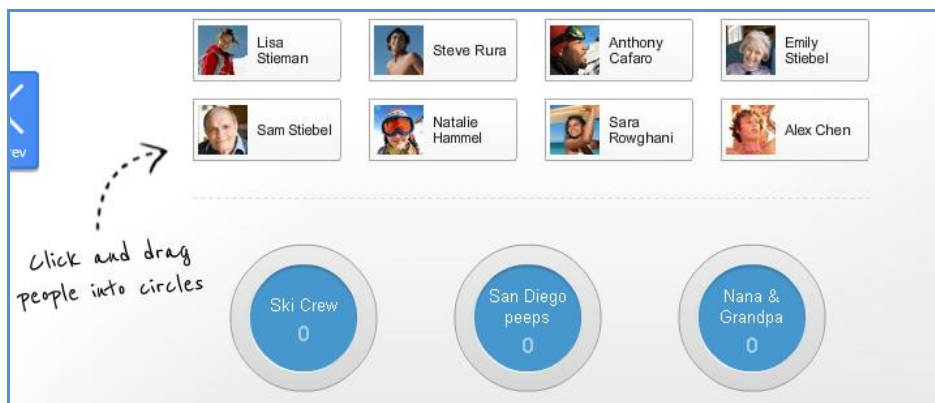


## Google +

Google have recently set up a social networking site called **Google+** (plus) where you can share news, upload video, photos and links. You can access it from the Google homepage by clicking on the **You+** tab on the menu. To join, you need to have a Google account e.g. Gmail address.

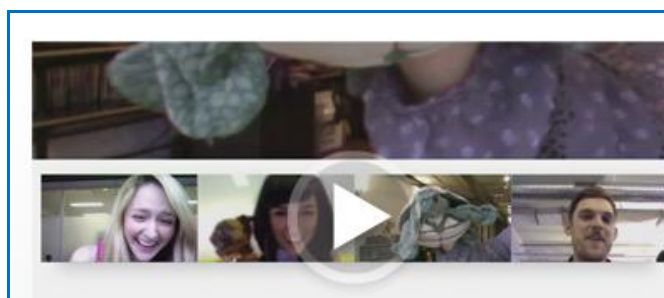
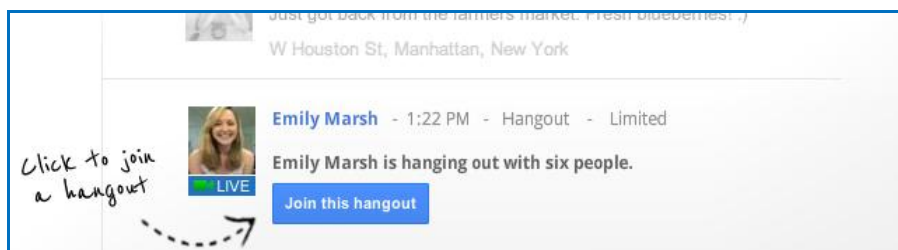
### Circles

Categorise your friends into groups called '**Circles**' so instead of all of your friends being able to see everything on your page, you can send relevant information to different circles of friends e.g. You might not want certain people to be able to see a relative's wedding pictures. Grouping people using circles makes it easier to maintain privacy. If you want only your family members to view certain information or photos, you can put your family members into one **Circle**, or if you are a member of a book club, you can add other members of the club to a **Circle** and share information within it.



### Hangouts

Hangouts are similar to using Skype. You can let specific friends (or entire circles) know you're hanging out and then see who drops by for a face to face chat or you can join a live hangout – you can chat face to face with up to 9 people at the same time



See who's in the hangout

## Search

What was that restaurant your friend was raving about last week? Who's got some good tips on ballroom dancing? What's it like to be at the World Cup?

Search brings you updates from your circles, news from around the web and public Google+ posts, giving you instant access to the topics you care about and the people who care about them along with you.

## Photos - Instant upload

With **Instant Upload**, your photos and videos upload themselves automatically to a private album on Google+. All you have to do is decide who to share them with.

## Messenger

Co-ordinating friends can be hard, especially if you're trying to text lots of people at once. Messenger brings all those separate conversations into one simple group chat, so everyone is on the same page with no hassle.



## Activity

### Browse Google+ features

- Step **1** Go to [www.google.ie](http://www.google.ie)
- Step **2** Click on the **+You** tab on the Google homepage
- Step **3** Scroll down the page to see the Google+ features
- Step **4** Click on **Find out more...** to find out more about a feature
- Step **5** Press the play video button to take a quick look at Google+

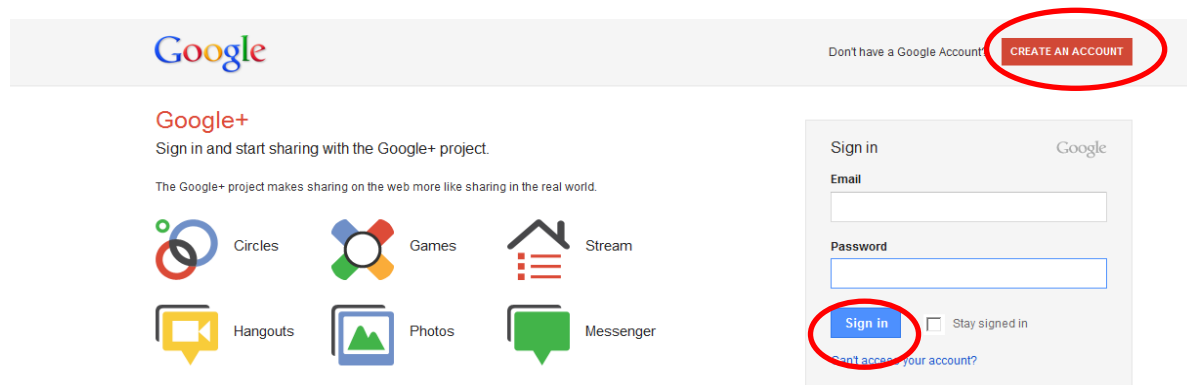
## Set up a Google+ account

To join any social network you will first need to create a “**profile**” – which is a personal account, where you give some basic information about yourself, for example, your profile user name, where you’re from and what music and interests you like. You can then decide whether you want to make your profile private or public. So, if you mark your profile ‘**private**’, nobody should be able to access any of your personal details unless you approve and add them to your friends list first.

**A word of Warning:** Be careful about how much personal information you put up online, e.g. don’t give out your house address or telephone number. Remember the Internet is a public resource. Only put up information you are comfortable with anyone seeing and prevent identity theft by limiting the amount of information you put online.

*To set up a Google+ account, you first need to have or create a Google account (e.g. Gmail)*

1. Click on the “+You” tab on the Google homepage to go to the sign in page
2. If you already have a Google account, you can sign into Google+ with your Gmail address and password
3. If you don’t have a Google account, click on “create an account” and fill out the form with your details. Then go back to the sign in page, and sign in with your email address and password.



4. Once you have signed in you can create your profile
5. When your profile is completed, you can start inviting your friends to join you on Google+ and begin creating circles of friends and using all the other features of Google+