There are a few different settings within Discord that we'd recommend changing or tweaking before you go any further.

* **Voice and video settings:** From here you can choose your microphone and headphone input and output as well as the volumes. It's a good idea to test these settings and volumes before you start.
* **Input mode:**As part of the voice and video settings, you'll find "voice activity" and "push to talk" as options under input mode. We'd highly recommend using push to talk. This requires a button press every time you talk, but you'll soon find out there's nothing worse than having a person on your voice chat server who has a mic that's constantly picking up their keyboard sounds, a fan whirr or a dog barking in the background. Don't be that person.
* **Overlay:**In the settings, you can adjust Discord so an overlay appears when you're playing to show you who's talking. It's good to know who you're chatting to when you're gaming. Especially if you want to make new friends.
* **Notifications:**Another thing to tweak is notification sounds. As default, Discord will make all sorts of noises when things happen, for example, if someone calls you or joins the channel. If you've set up push to talk, we'd recommend unticking PTT activate and PTT deactivate or you'll constantly hear beeps every time you press your key.

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**Chatting with friends**

Once you've added friends and got all the settings tweaked nicely, it's incredibly simple to get started chatting. Click on your friend on the left-hand side and you can send them messages, click to call them and video chat too.

Discord gives you plenty of ways to chat and communicate with your friends too. You can use simple text, emoticons and even add gifs. Discord also lets you share images, so you can send your pals screenshots of your winning games for them to admire.

The best way to enjoy Discord though is with servers.

POCKET-LINT/DISCORD

**What are Discord servers?**

Discord servers are free places where people can gather to chat about games or use voice channels to talk with friends as they play. You'll find there are all sorts of servers out there. Game developers, for example, often have servers running for their games so like-minded gamers can get together and discuss the game and make new friends too.

You will also find clans, communities and groups of people with their own Discord server that they might invite you to.