duolingo

Guide for leaders in education

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What is Duolingo?

Duolingo is the world's largest online language learning platform. We use science and adaptive learning techniques to make the language learning experience more fun and effective, and we're completely free. Our apps were recognized as Apple's iPhone App of the Year of 2013 as well as Google Play's Best of the Best of 2013 and 2014.

It was created by crowdsourcing pioneer Luis von Ahn, PhD, and Severin Hacker, PhD. With over 100 million learners, Duolingo has organically become the most popular way to learn languages online in only a few years.

In an independent study, professors from the City University of New York (CUNY) and the University of South Carolina found that when using Duolingo for 34 hours, students learn the equivalent of one university semester of language instruction.

Now the biggest online language learning platform in the world is developing tools created especially for language educators. Duolingo for Schools is still quickly evolving based on constant testing and feedback from teachers, administrators, language learning experts, professors, parents, and students—and we are creating more exclusive features designed to engage and excite.

This guide is an introduction to Duolingo and Duolingo for Schools. Please visit our website if you need more information: schools.duolingo.com.

Happy learning!

How does Duolingo work?

Duolingo turns language learning into a game to make it more fun and effective. Students can learn languages for free while earning points for correct answers, racing against the clock, and leveling up. Our bite-sized, personalized lessons help students retain the content taught, and an independent study* has shown that 34 hours of Duolingo is comparable to taking a language class at a university for 1 semester.
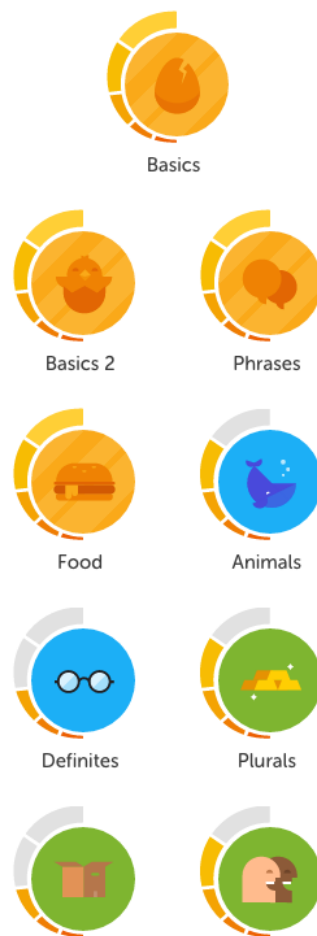
Skill Tree

Every language has a skill tree that maps out your course. You begin learning the basics and as you progress the skills build on each other and become more complex.

Smart-paced

As you successfully progress through the tree, you unlock the next lessons and units. You won't advance unless you've mastered the previous skills. The goal is to get through all the lessons and skills in the tree (and master a language!).

Swedish skills
LEVEL 13

Lingot store

Basics

Basics 2   Phrases

Food   Animals

Definites   Plurals

Keeping students motivated

Motivation is essential to learning. Duolingo has a variety of features, designed to keep learners interested. Everyone is different, and we kept that in mind. Here are some motivational features that you might encounter:

Points

Get XP as you progress through the lessons

Leaderboards

A friendly competition with learning buddies

Gold

Refresh your knowledge and keep your tree golden

Checkpoint

Quick placement tests puts you where you need to be

Encouragement

Automatic teacher practice reminder on student's sidebar

Lingots

Earn virtual gems to spend on cool bonuses

Streak

Counts how many days in a row you practice

Fluency Score

Uses lesson data to measure language learning

Trophy

The satisfaction of reaching a learning goal

From learning to teaching

In just a few years, Duolingo has become the most popular platform to learn a new language. Educators, parents and students were using the apps and website at home and in their classrooms to make the learning experience more fun and effective. We decided it was time to create a way for educators to integrate Duolingo into their classrooms more seamlessly, which is how Duolingo for Schools came to be.

duolingo

👥 Merge classrooms   💬 Discuss   🌐 Help   ⚙ Privacy settings   MrAbacaxi ⌄

Mr Abacaxi's classrooms

Create another classroom

My Family
5 students

Inglês III
English
9 students

Online Summer Camp...
Portuguese
7 students

Homeschool
German
3 students

Business Spanish
Spanish
+5
19 students

Business
0 students

Norwegian Fun Club
Norwegian (Bokmål)
1 student

Extra Curricular Group
French
7 students

Easy classroom ideas

OFFER "DUOLINGO TIME" AS A REWARD

If you have students who have done well or in case you need a go-to activity for students who have finished their other work early.

USE AS A GAME

How about a race against the clock? Or a friendly team competition? Play is an important part of learning, and a great motivator!

USE AS A REINFORCEMENT TOOL

If you have one student or a whole class struggling with something specific, such as verbs, consider assigning them a Duolingo skill.

USE AS A WARM-UP

Use those 5 minutes that often get wasted when students are setting up to warm up those language skills.

ASSIGN AS HOMEWORK

If your students have internet access outside of the classroom and are fond of screens, assign some Duolingo as homework.

EXTRA CREDIT

Not everyone has easy access to Duolingo from home. Why not reward extra credits to students who practice in their own time?

SUMMER AND WINTER BREAK

Help your students keep those skills sharp during big school breaks by developing a Duolingo summer/winter program. How about a Virtual Summer Camp? Even a simple goal can do wonders!

Getting the most out of Duolingo

When you take an educator's expertise, care, presence, and attention and combine it with Duolingo's portable, data-driven language learning experience, you get a powerful combination that will boost any student's foreign language skills. Take full advantage of Duolingo. Join a community of educators and share ideas and stories.

Discuss with educators
We have an Educators' Forum where you can exchange lesson ideas and stories with other teachers. Access it by clicking "Discuss" on your Duolingo for Schools dashboard.

new

Create assignments
After setting up your classroom on schools.duolingo.com, create assignments and keep track of who is completing them and who needs a nudge. Assignments can be skill or point based.

Assessing student progress
Measure student achievement and dedication your way! Duolingo provides data such as points earned, assignments completed, course tree overview, and streak days. All you have to do is choose the metric that matches your needs.

How do you use Duolingo? Share your ideas with us!
Email us at teachers@duolingo.com

Quick Guides

If you want to be an innovator in your school, district, or community—why not start immediately? Just sign up and you'll be good to go! It's free and easy. Use these Quick Guides to get started, or visit schools.duolingo.com/help for more assistance.

Setting up a classroom

1. Visit the website schools.duolingo.com and click on "Get Started."
2. You will see an empty dashboard. Click on "Create Classroom."
3. Type a name for your first classroom and select the language you are teaching.
4. You will see a square, labeled with the name you just created. Click on it.

Adding students to your classroom

1. Select "Invite Students" to generate a link to join your Duolingo classroom.
2. Students will show up in your classroom when they accept your invitation.
3. The student should click on the link sent by the teacher. It should be in their email.
4. The student will see a pop-up notification, and should click on the "Continue" button.
5. Congratulations! Your students are ready to start learning!
6. To edit their sharing options, students can go to their Settings on the blue bar on top.
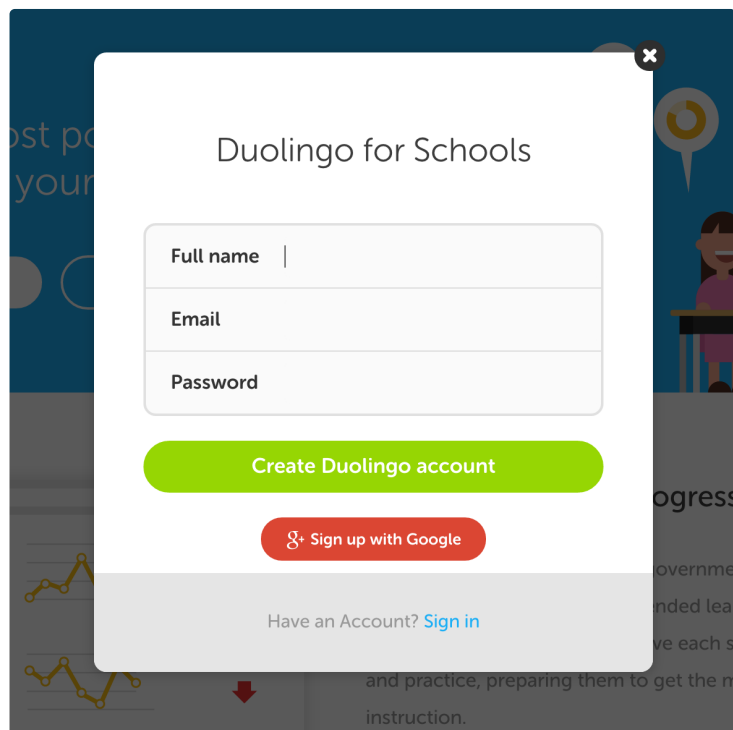7. All students need to do is select "Progress Sharing" to change their Schools settings.

Need more guidance? Keep reading for illustrated versions of these instructions.
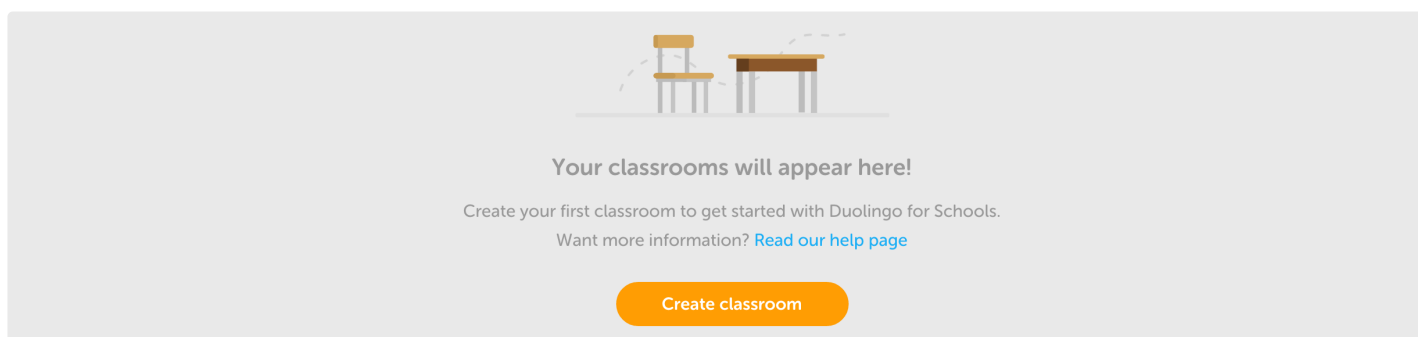
Setting up a classroom

ILLUSTRATED GUIDE

01   Visit the website schools.duolingo.com and click on "Get Started."

Duolingo for Schools

Full name |

Email

Password

Create Duolingo account

8+ **Sign up with Google**
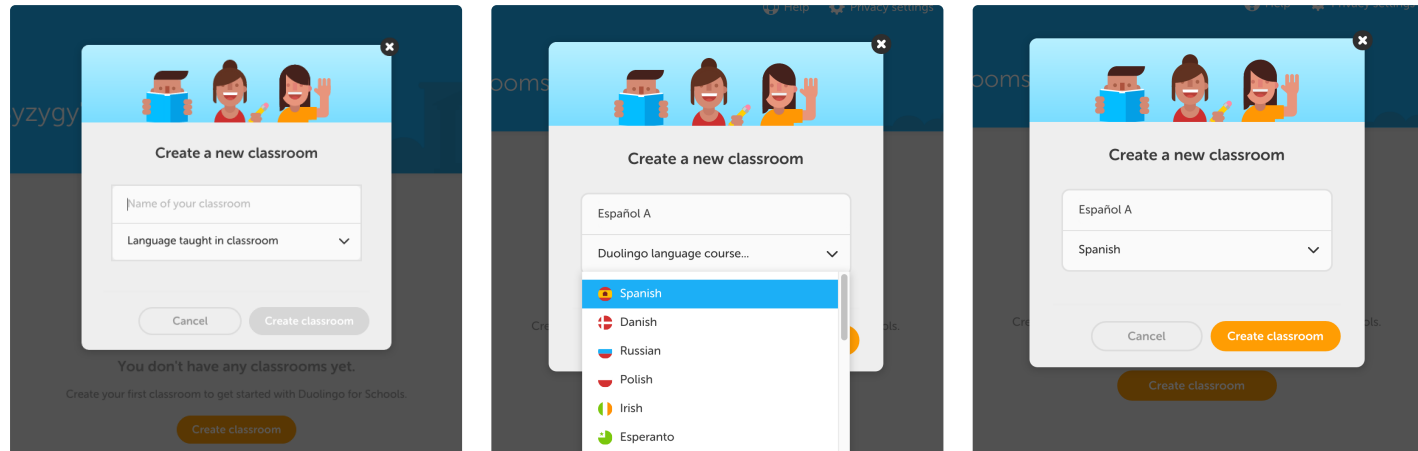
Have an Account? **Sign in**

When accessing the website and clicking on "Get Started," you should see a pop-up window asking you to create an account. Type your full name and choose an email account that we can use to send forgotten passwords and optional weekly summaries to. Remember students will be able to see this email address. You can change all this information in your settings later. Choose a password.

If you already have a Duolingo account, you can click on "Sign in" instead of "Get Started."

02   You will see an empty dashboard. Click on "Create Classroom."

Your classrooms will appear here!

Create your first classroom to get started with Duolingo for Schools.
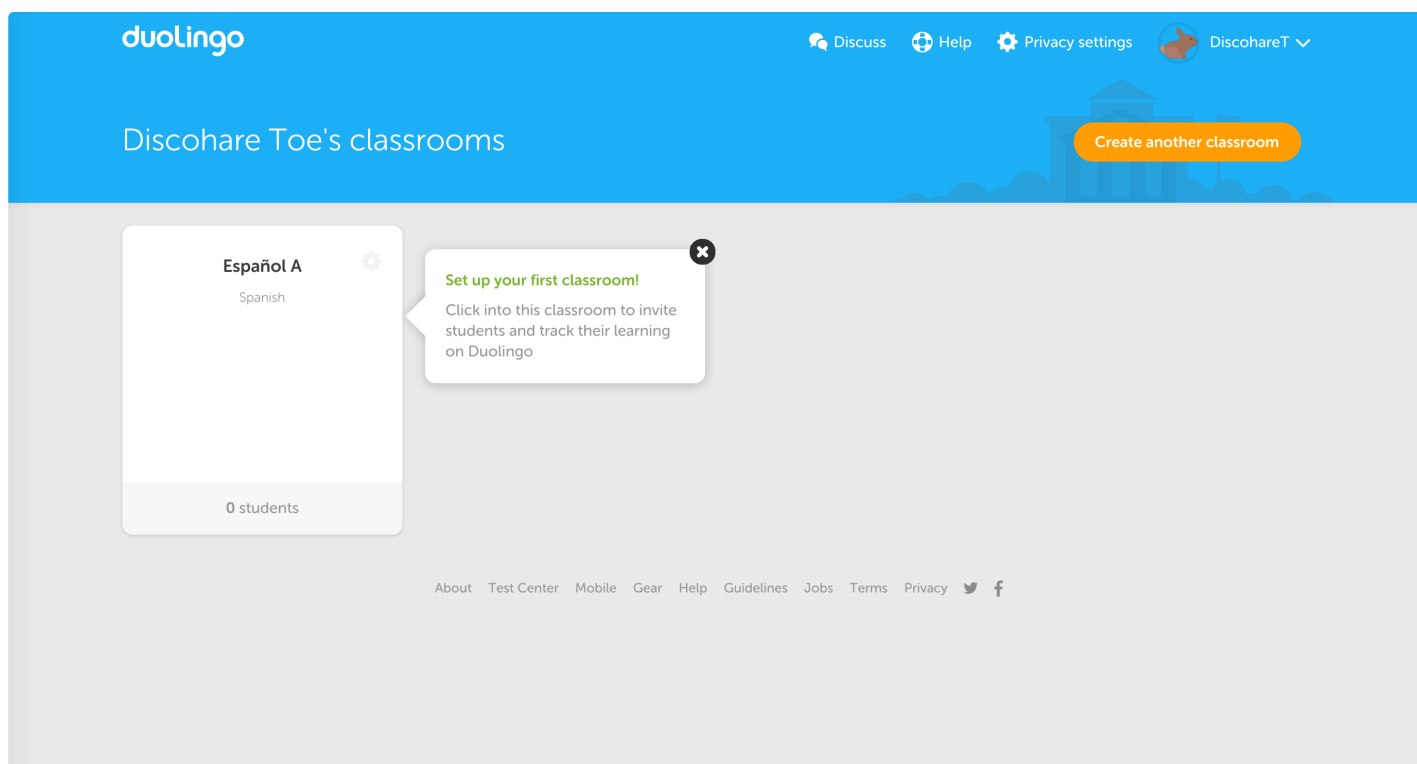Want more information? Read our help page

Create classroom

03 Type a name for your first classroom and select the language you are teaching.

When you are ready, click on "Create classroom."

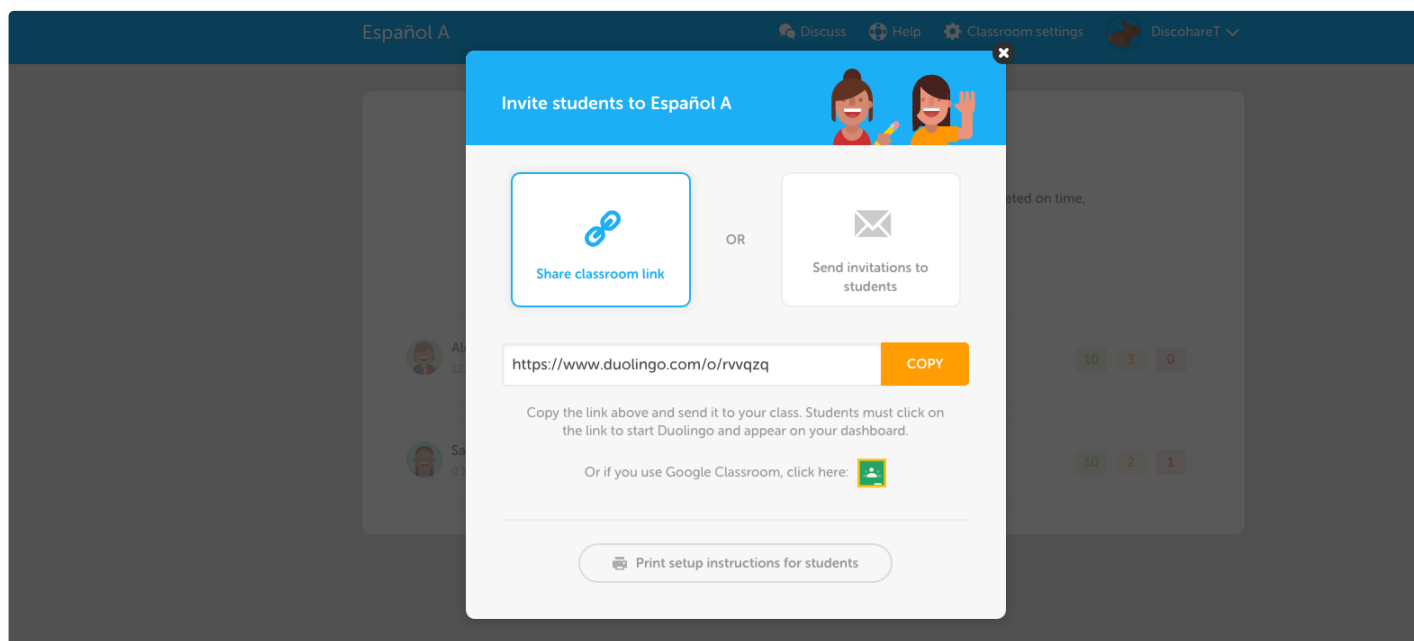**04** You will see a square, labeled with the name you just created. Click on it.

All your classrooms will appear here, each square displaying avatars of the students inside.
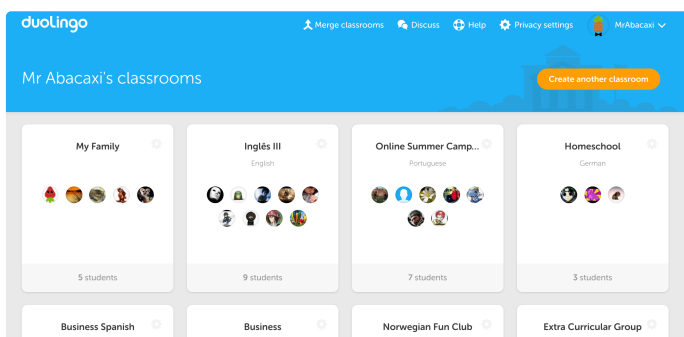
Adding students to your classroom
ILLUSTRATED GUIDE

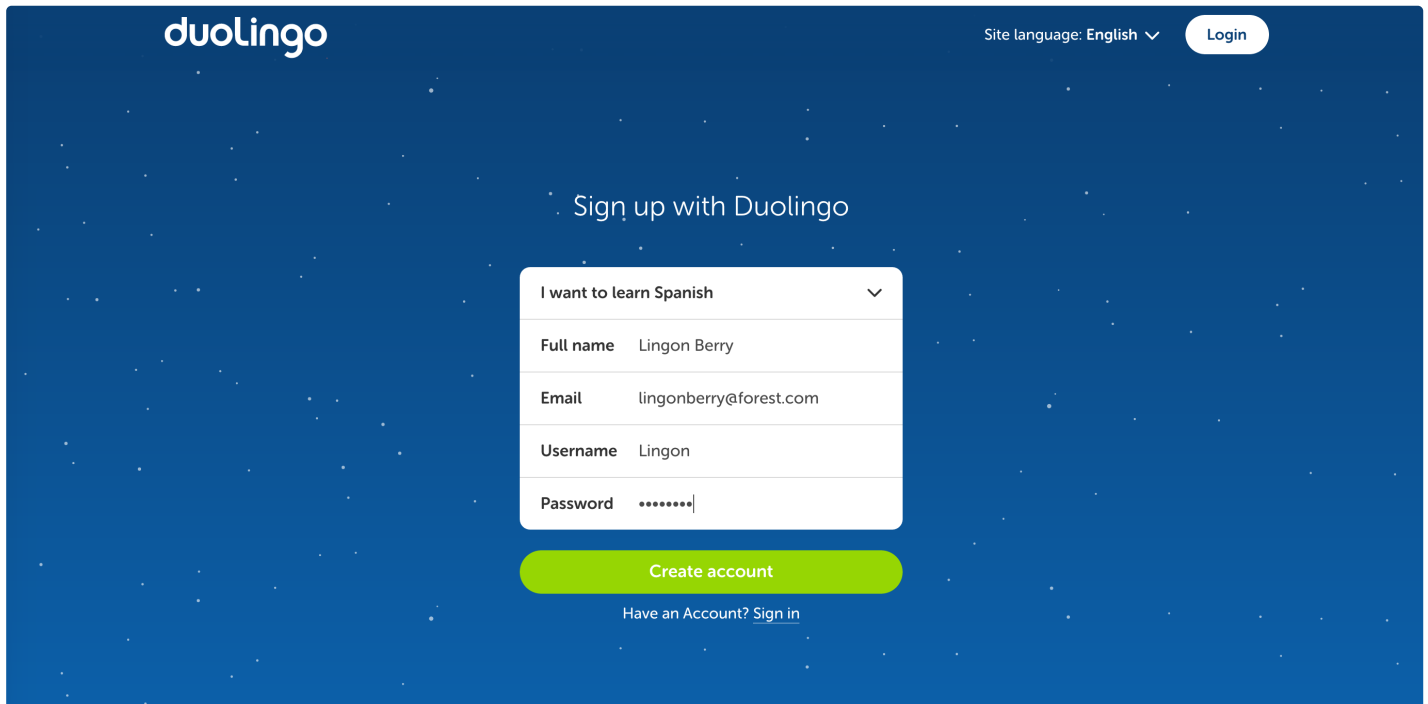**01**   Select "Invite Students" to generate a link to join your Duolingo classroom.

Copy the link and share it with all your students. If you have a list of student emails, you can click on "Send invitations to students" and paste them all there. When they click on the link, they will be taken to a place where they can create a Duolingo account. If they already have an account, they do not need to create a new one. Once they are logged in, they have to grant you permission to track them. They won't show up on your Schools dashboard until then.

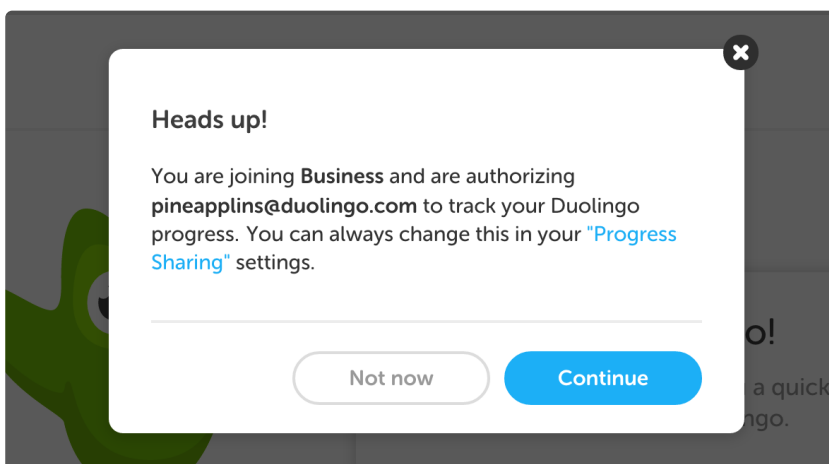**02**   Students will show up in your classroom when they accept your invitation.

Students will show up as soon as they create an account and give you permission to follow them. In order to create an account, they will need an email address.

03 The student should click on the link sent by the teacher. It should be in their email.
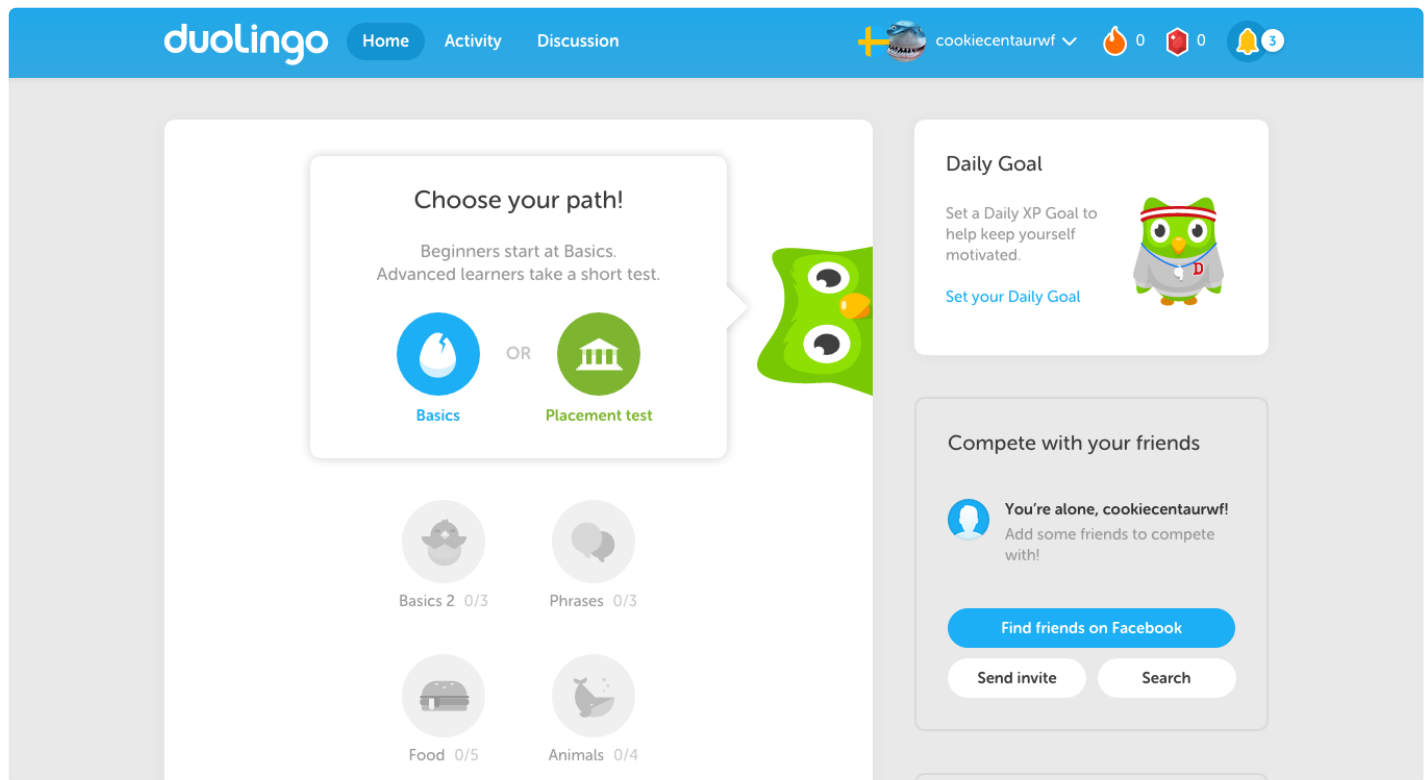

They will be taken to www.duolingo.com—the student will need to follow the instructions and create a Duolingo account. It's quick and easy—all they need is an email address. If they already have a Duolingo account, select "Login" on the top right and use that information to access the account.

04 The student will see a pop-up notification, and should click on the "Continue" button.
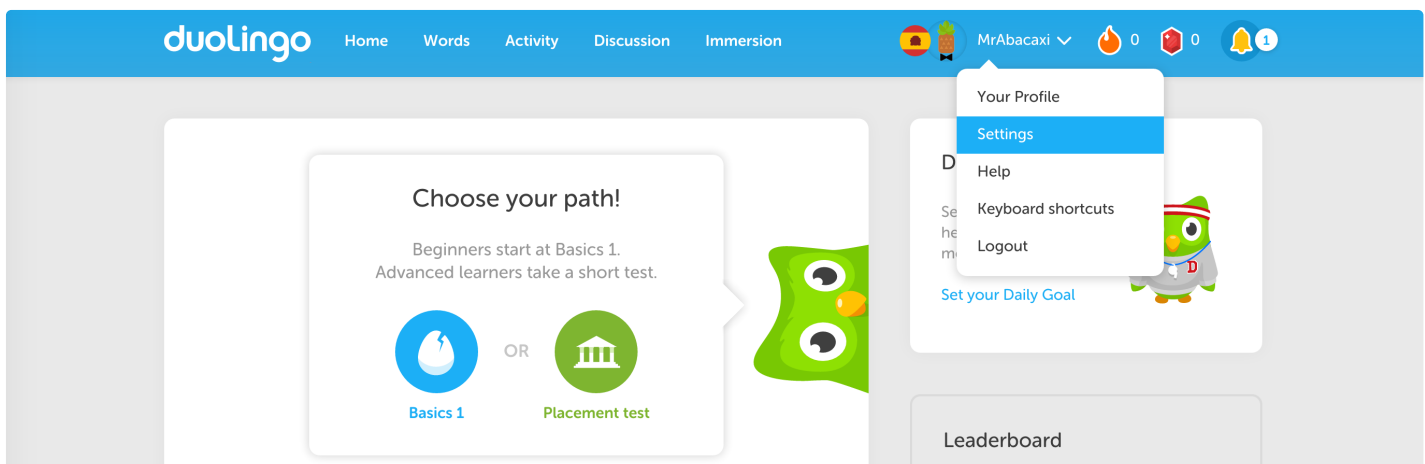

If they select "Not now" instead, they will not join the classroom they were invited to. This can be changed later. On the window where you can see all your classes, you can click on the little gear icon on each classroom square to change its settings. ⚙

Congratulations! Your students are ready to start learning!

You can ask them to take a Placement test to find out where they should begin.

To edit their sharing options, students can go to their Settings on the blue bar on top.

All students need to do is select "Progress Sharing" to change their Schools settings.

Here, students can:

1. See who is following their progress.
2. Leave a classroom and stop sharing progress with that observer by clicking the "Remove" button.
3. Join someone's classroom by typing in their email under "Join a classroom."
4. Add another parent or teacher; or join an additional classroom.
5. Invite a tutor or parent to receive email updates, even without them having a Duolingo account.

Happy teaching!

Instructors can use privacy settings to control students' access to social features and exposure to certain words. Did we mention it's also 100% free?

duolingo | for schools