Quick Start Guide to Slack

Overview

Slack is a tool for teams to connect and share information.

What are Channels?

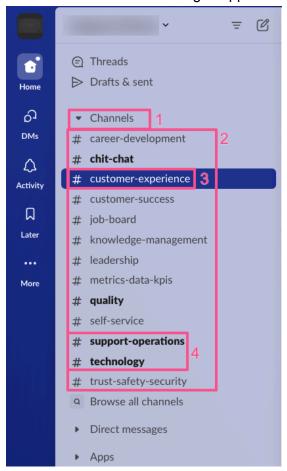
Channels are spaces dedicated to a topic or project, and may be public or private.

- **Public** channels can be viewed and joined by anyone in the workspace. Messages and files shared in public channels appear in search for everyone in the workspace.
- **Private** channels can only be accessed by a teammate after someone who is already a member of the channel has invited them. Messages and files shared in private channels only appear in search for members of the channel.

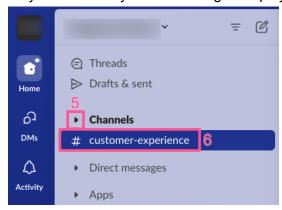
How to use Channels

- 1. Channels menu is in the left sidebar
- 2. Your channels list appears when maximized
- 3. The channel you are currently viewing is highlighted

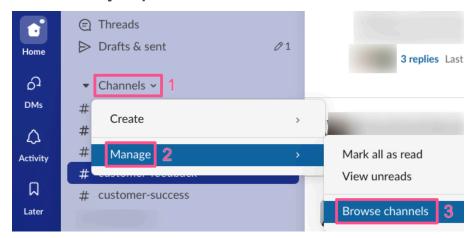
4. Channels with unread messages appear bold



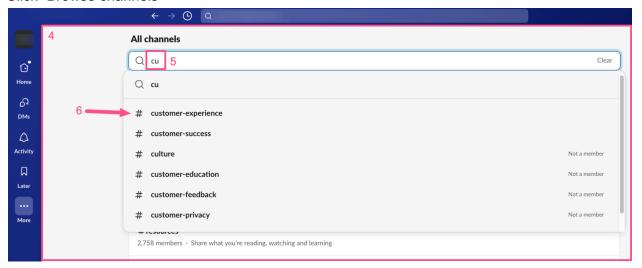
- 5. Minimize or maximize "Channels" by clicking the arrow
- 6. Only the channel you are viewing is displayed when minimized



How to search and join public channels



- 1. Click "Channels"
- 2. Click "Manage"
- 3. Click "Browse channels"



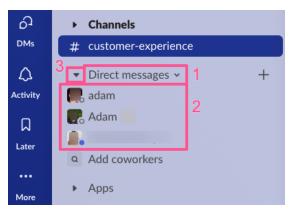
- 4. A list of public channels will open
- 5. Type a few letters in the search bar
- 6. Click a channel name to join

What are Messages?

Messages are conversations within Slack. Messages occur in channels or **direct messages** (**DMs**), which can include up to 9 people.

How to use Messages

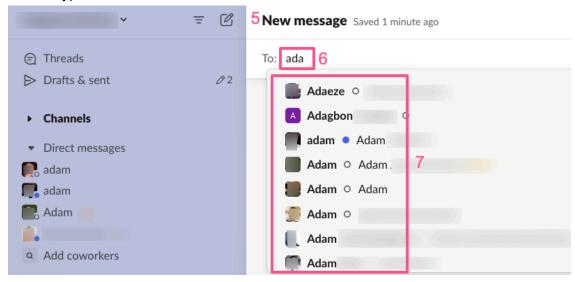
- 1. Direct messages menu is in the left sidebar
- 2. Conversations are listed with most recent on top by default
- 3. Minimize or maximize "Direct messages" by clicking the arrow



4. Hover your mouse over "Direct messages" until you see "+" sign, then click "+"



- 5. A "New message" page will open
- 6. To the right of the "To:" field is a search bar
- 7. Type a few letters of a name to view results

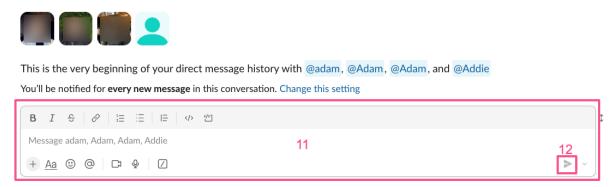


- 8. Click a name to add them to the DM
- 9. Click more names for a group DM
- 10. Click "X" next to a name to remove it



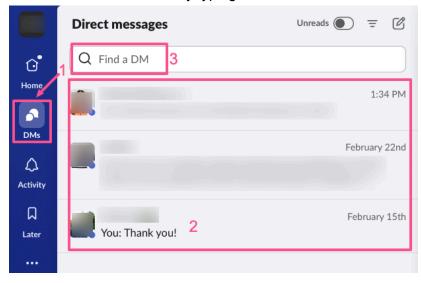
11. Compose your message at the bottom

12. Click the arrow on the right to send



How to browse your direct messages

- 1. Click "DMs" in the left menu
- 2. Recent DMs appear in the panel
- 3. Search for a conversation by typing a few letters of the name

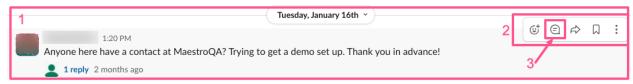


What are Threads?

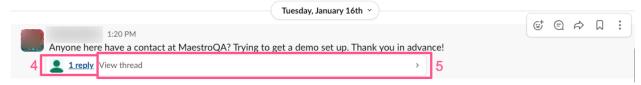
Threads keep conversations organized by spinning off a string of replies within a message, providing space to discuss a topic without overwhelming the channel.

How to use Threads

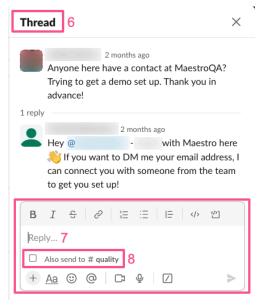
- 1. Hover over a message
- 2. A menu will appear on the right
- 3. Click "Reply in thread"



- 4. If a thread was already started, hover over "1 reply"
- 5. The date will change to "View thread"

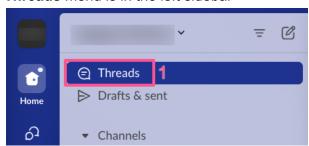


- 6. Click "View thread" to open it in the right panel
- 7. There you can reply at the bottom
- 8. The "Also send to #" box should only be checked when a message is relevant outside of the thread

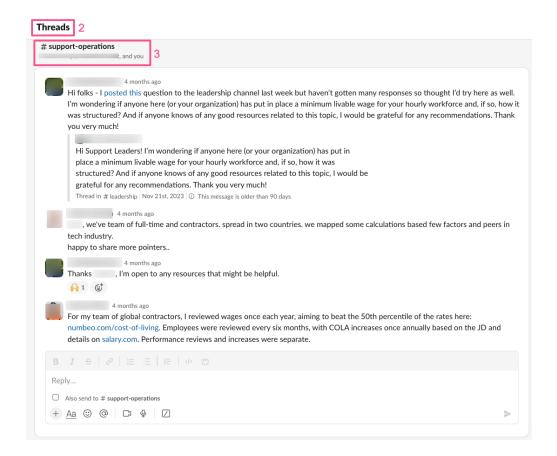


How to view all your threads

1. Threads menu is in the left sidebar



- 2. Click "Threads" to open a page of threads you participated in
- 3. Channel and participants are listed on top



Best Practices & Tips

- Companies that value transparency mainly use public channels, with private channels only for confidential projects or teams such as Human Resources.
- Threads are useful, but when you have a new topic to discuss, be sure to start a new message.
- To mention a person, type "@" followed by their name. To mention a channel, type "#" followed by the channel name.
- Emojis are more than fun, and show the writer that you read their message!

