



Image via [Spy](#)

5 Things to Know Before You Stream

The viewer's first impression of you is everything. Even if you're not super confident in your streaming at first, don't let your viewers know that. You want to appear like you have it all together for the most part. Most Internet users are understanding when things mess up or don't go according to plan, but only to a point. If your first stream runs pretty smooth with only a few hiccups, most viewers will show you mercy. But remember, first impressions make lasting impressions, and you definitely want to spend the extra time making sure everything is ready to go beforehand. Here are the top 5 things you should know before you stream:

1. Explore different streaming platforms

Testing out multiple platforms is a good way to figure out what works best for your streaming style. Everyone has their own way of doing things, has their own ideas, and knows how they want their channel to run; research and try out all the different platforms like Facebook, Twitch, and Youtube to help you find the features you're looking for and the interface you like before committing to one. Having trouble choosing? [Here](#) is a good website that compares them for you.

2. Know your software and equipment

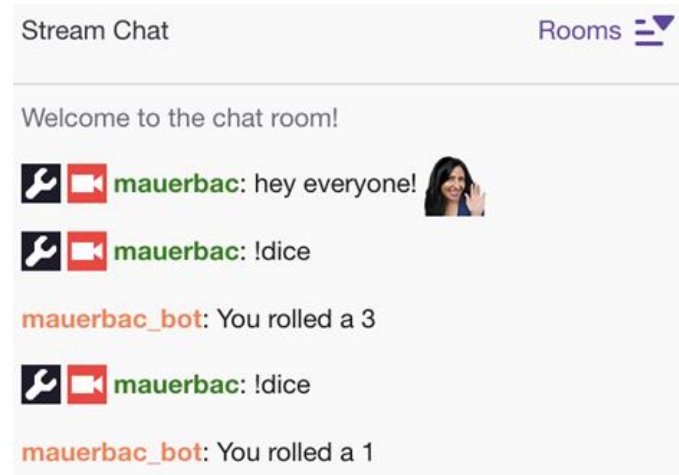
Being comfortable with your setup is so important. To have a more organized stream and overall channel, you should know your equipment like the back of your hand. Double check the functionality before you go live. Double check that your cameras, microphones, and monitors are all performing and syncing properly so they're ready for use. If everything is sound, then you should be ready for your first stream from a

technical standpoint. Check out this [beginner's checklist](#) for necessary equipment and what to know about it.

3. Create a bot

Bots are a multi-functional feature that can take some of the stress off of the streamer because it generates automatic responses in the chat. By creating certain commands, viewers are able to type a command and your bot will answer for you. For example, if you create a command for your age, anyone can type “!age” and they will get your auto-generated response from your bot. These come in handy when you’re in the middle of playing and can’t answer right away. You can also assign loyal viewers to be moderators since they can sort of take control of your chat, but bots have a much quicker response time.

Image via [Twitch Developers](#)



Here are some links to help:

[Creating a Nightbot](#)

[Creating a Bot on Facebook](#)

[Best Bots for Twitch](#)

4. Practice with a mock stream

Go live with no viewers but broadcast it as if it were a real stream; you can do this a few times if it makes you more comfortable with the process. This is a good way to familiarize yourself with the flow of the beginning and end of your stream; so, how you want to welcome viewers and jump into your game once they start coming in and then how you want to end it. Record a few mock streams and try out a couple different ways to welcome everyone, start your game, and signing off. Watch them back and figure out which ones sound the best and which ones transition the smoothest.

5. Have an online personality

Having a personality is one of the most important things; there's a lot more to streaming than just playing the game. Bringing humor, relatability, and a big personality to your stream will give you brownie points with your viewers. Being the best player doesn't always mean you'll have the most popular stream. Viewers are definitely there for the game, but they want to connect with the account owner too.

You should be chatting and providing commentary while you're playing. You can spark topics of conversation within your chat to connect not only you with your viewers, but your viewers with each other. Just be careful of the fine line between making your community feel comfortable and keeping it professional. Be open enough to create a chill space, but try to avoid crossing that line.

Something else you'll want to do is research the game(s) you plan on playing. Not only are the gaming skills you have important, but your viewers expect you to know a little bit about the game, too. They'll be looking to you for guidance and tips so they can play the games themselves, so make sure you're educated to a point so you can help them out. You'll also want to know what games are popular and what most viewers are watching online right now. Playing relevant games will boost your channel's popularity.