**Join a hangout**

There are plenty of ways to find out who’s hanging out. And, joining a hangout that's already going on is easy.

* You can check the left side of your Home page to see hangouts that you've been invited to. Simply click the **Hang out** button next to an invite to join. If you don’t see a Hangout invite in the home page, you can open Hangouts on the left side toolbar.



* Your friends may also send you the URL to a hangout in which case you can copy and paste the URL into your browser or simply click the URL link. If you initiate the Hangout, it’s a good practice to copy the URL in your search bar and paste it into an email to invite someone to a Hangout. Since some computers are more finicky than others, this is just a good backup plan for the hangout.



* Since no one likes hanging out alone, it’s likely that when someone starts a hangout, they may select a group to notify. The person that initiates the Hangout would have placed you into one of their Circles to invite you to the Hangout. If you are in this group, you'll get notified in the Google your Gmail account and on your Google + homepage. If you've been individually added to the hangout and you can chat with the person, you'll get a chat notification. (To avoid unwanted notifications, Google doesn’t send chat notifications to circles with more than 25 members).

When you enter a hangout, you'll see the current participants, broken down according to who is in your circles and who isn't. This way you don't have to hang out with anyone you don't like, or don't know.