

How to Send Mail in Linux

This wikiHow teaches you some basic ways to send email on your Linux desktop system. If you're using a desktop version of Linux like Debian or Ubuntu, the operating system comes with a built-in graphical mail app called Thunderbird. If you...

Method 1 of 3:

Using the Thunderbird Mail Client

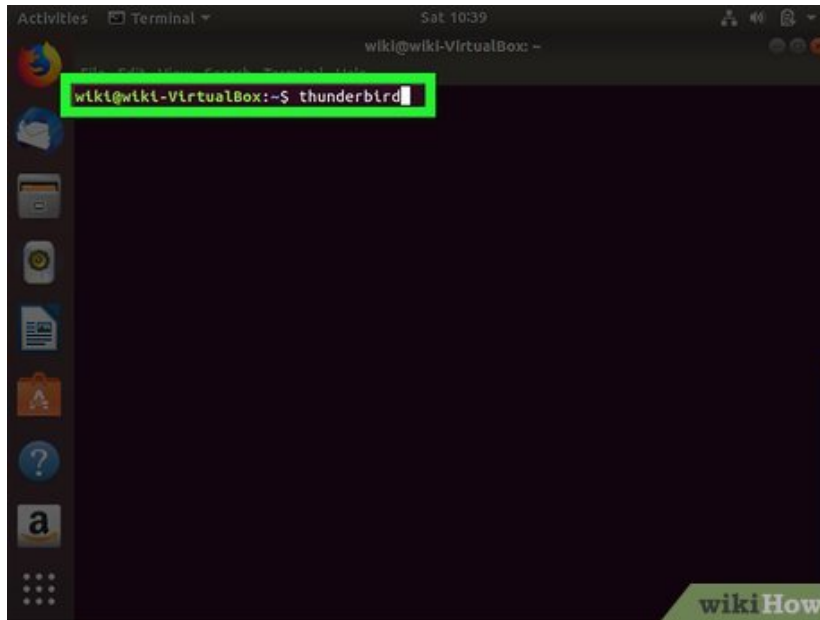
1.

```
wiki@wiki-VirtualBox:~$ sudo apt-get update
Hit:1 http://ph.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic InRelease
Hit:2 http://ph.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates InRelease
Hit:3 http://ph.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-backports InRelease
Hit:4 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security InRelease
wiki@wiki-VirtualBox:~$ sudo apt-get install thunderbird
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
thunderbird is already the newest version (1:60.9.0+build1-0ubuntu0.18.04.1).
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
  libllvm7 linux-headers-4.18.0-15
  linux-headers-4.18.0-15-generic
  linux-image-4.18.0-15-generic
  linux-modules-4.18.0-15-generic
  linux-modules-extra-4.18.0-15-generic
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 59 not upgraded.
wiki@wiki-VirtualBox:~$ thunderbird
1573608402665 addons.xpi WARN Can't get modified time of /us
```

Install Thunderbird. Most desktop versions of Linux, including Debian and Ubuntu, come with Thunderbird as the default mail client. It's still a good idea to make sure you have the latest package. Follow these steps to get the latest version:^[1]

1. Press `Ctrl + Alt + T` to open a terminal window.
2. Type `sudo apt-get update` and press `?Enter`.
3. Enter your root password when prompted.
4. Type `sudo apt-get install thunderbird` and press `?Enter`.
5. Follow any on-screen instructions.

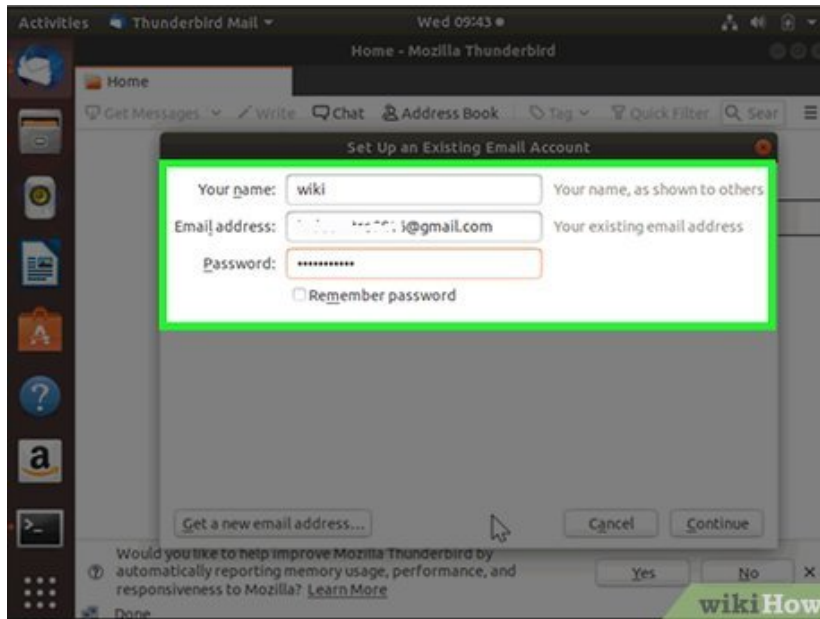
2.



Type **thunderbird** at the prompt and press **Enter**. This opens Thunderbird to a welcome screen.

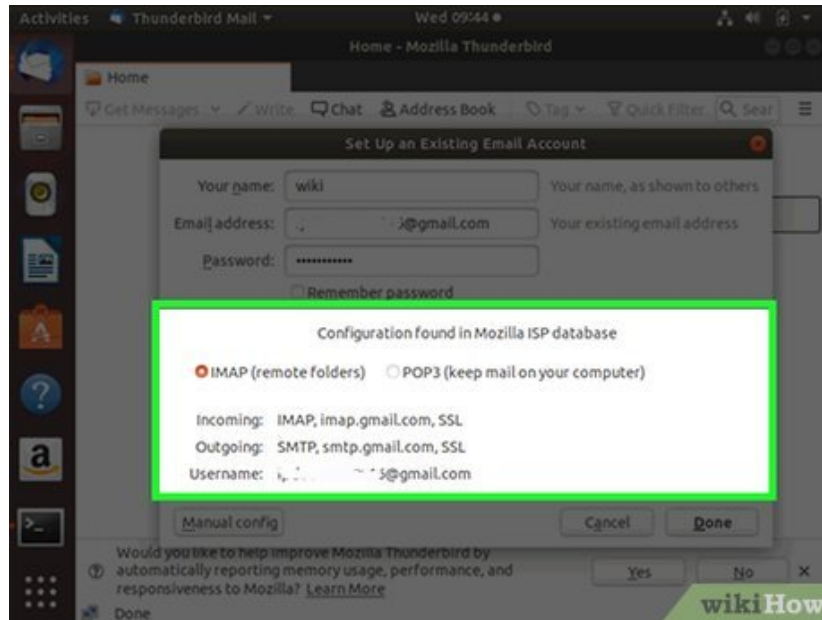
1. If you see an envelope icon on your desktop, you can usually click that to open Thunderbird as well.

3.



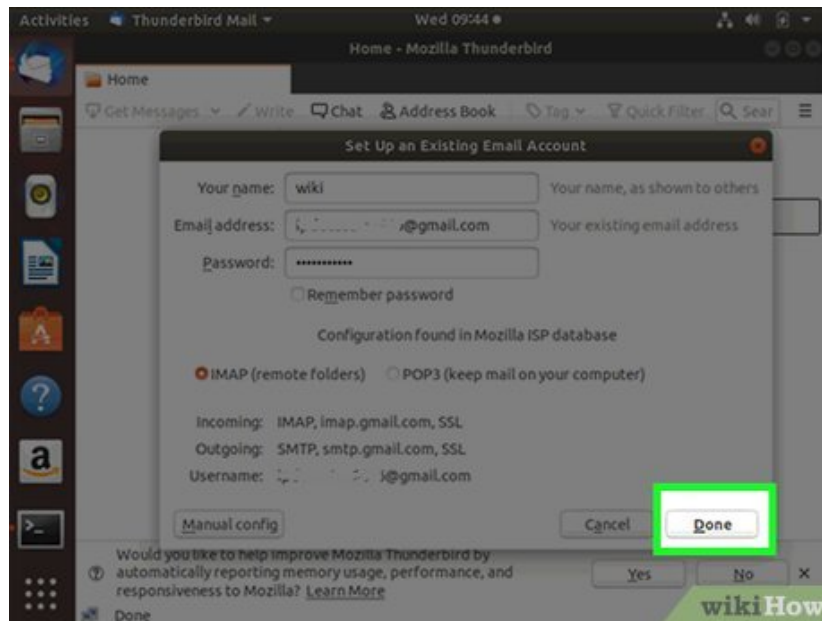
Enter your email information and click **Continue**. You'll have to provide your name, email address, and email password. Thunderbird will then check its database to see if it can automatically locate the correct server settings for your email provider.

4.



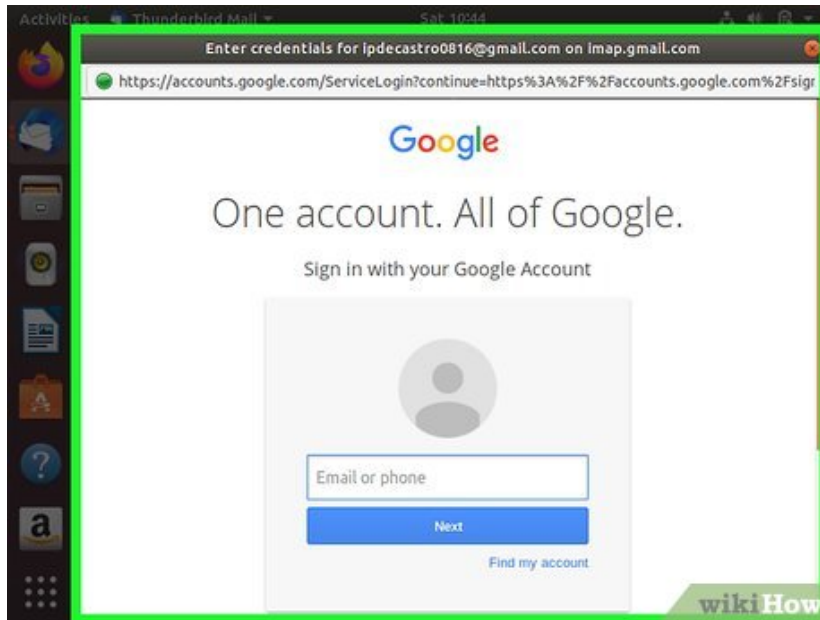
Review the suggested email settings and enter your own if necessary. If you're using a popular email service like Gmail, Thunderbird will usually display the correct settings. If not, click the **Manual config** button and enter the settings manually.

5.



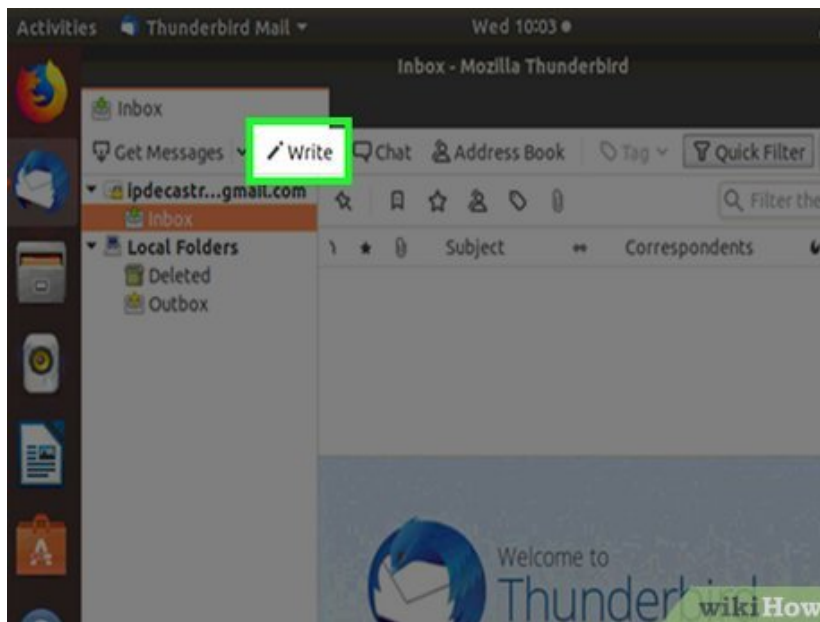
Click **Done**. It's at the bottom-right corner of the window. This saves your mail settings.

6.



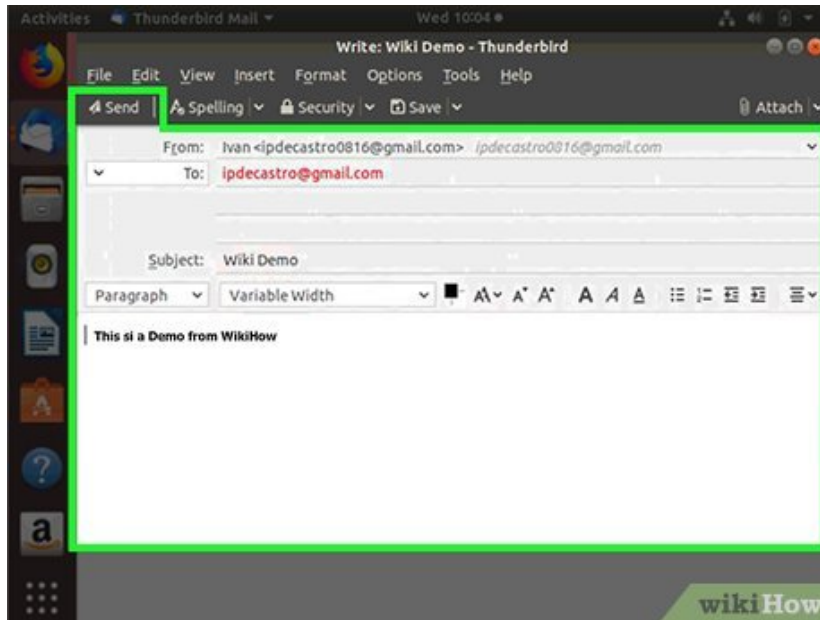
Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the setup. Depending on your mail provider, you may be asked to sign in.^[2]

7.



Click the **Write button to compose a new message.** This opens a blank email message.

8.

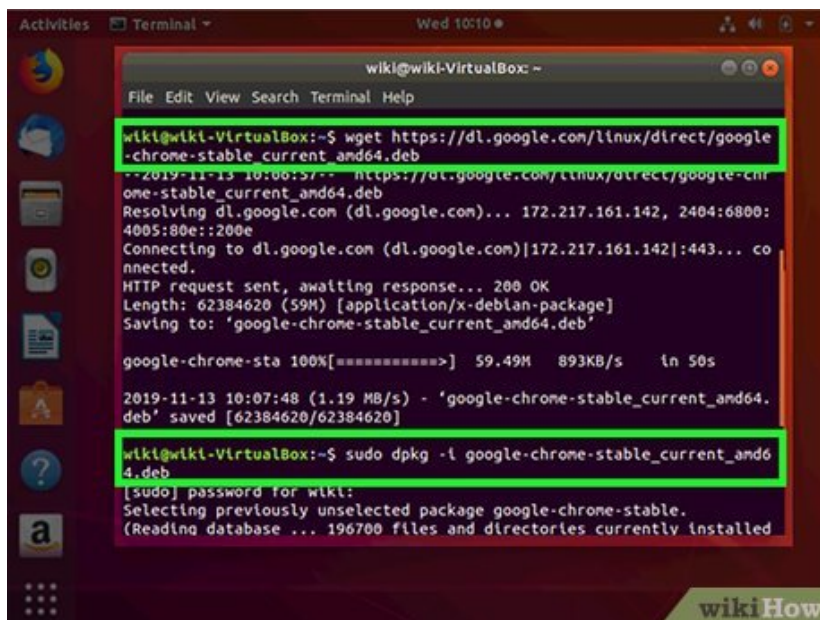


Write your message and click **Send**. Your message will be sent to the recipient.

Method 2 of 3:

Using Web-Based Email

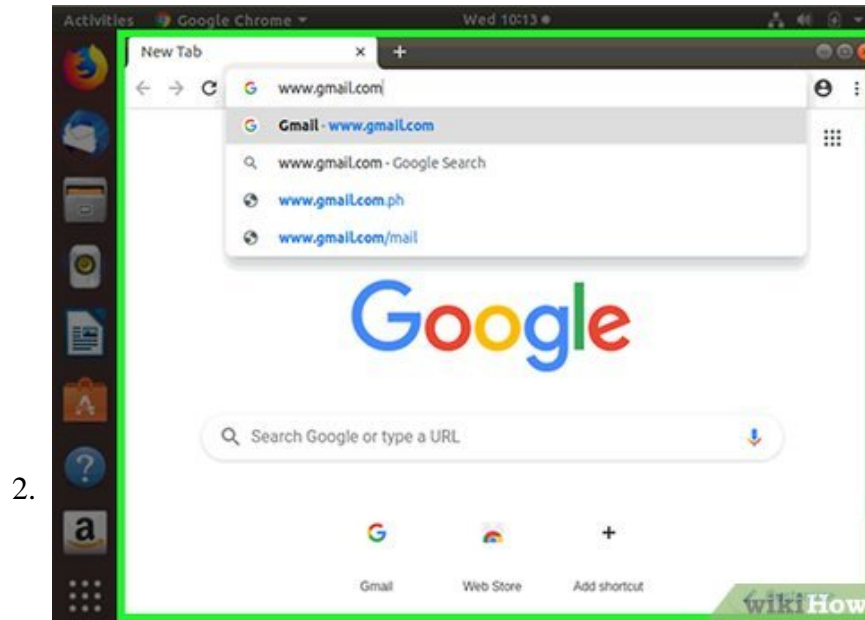
1.



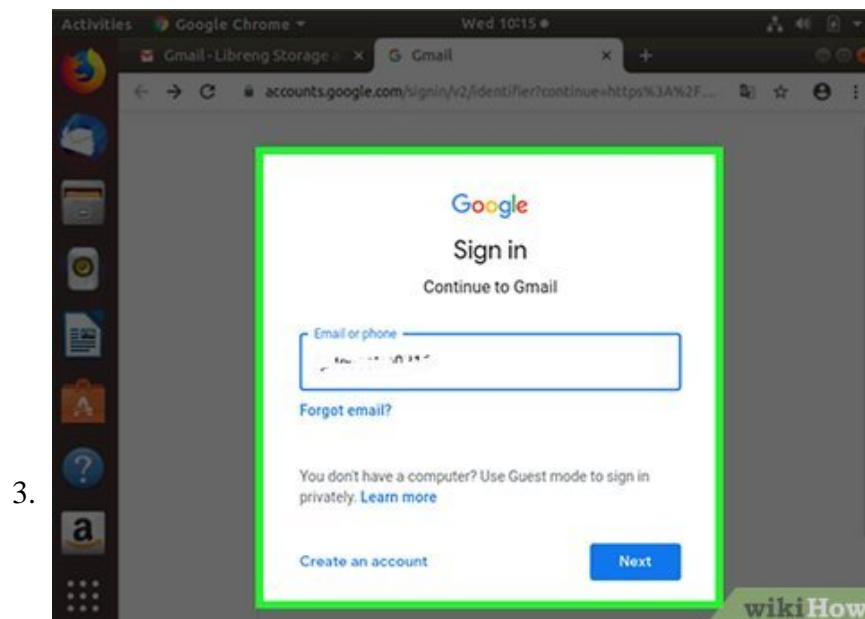
Open your web browser. As long as you have internet access and a web browser, you can use any number of free web-based email services to send and receive email on Linux. Depending on your distribution, you should have a web browser already installed. If you don't see Firefox, Chrome, Konqueror, GNOME Web, or another browser on the system, you can follow these steps to install Chrome now:^[3]

1. Press **Ctrl + Alt + T** to open a terminal window.

2. Type `wget https://dl.google.com/linux/direct/google-chrome-stable_current_amd64.deb` and press `?Enter`.
3. Type `sudo dpkg -i google-chrome-stable_current_amd64.deb` and press `?Enter`.
4. Enter your root password and press `?Enter`.
5. Once Chrome is installed, type `google-chrome` at the prompt and press `?Enter` to launch it.

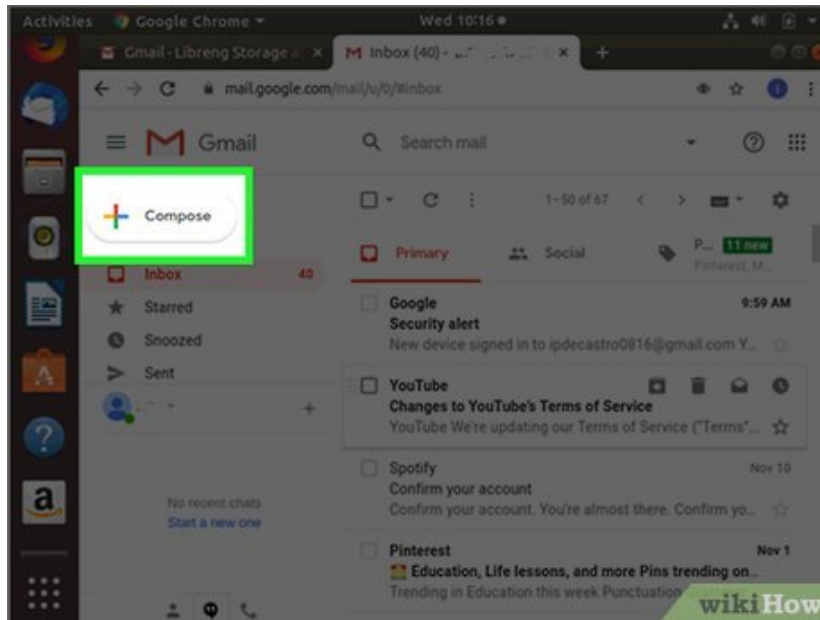


Visit the website of any web-based email service. Some popular free options are Gmail, Outlook.com, and Yahoo Mail.



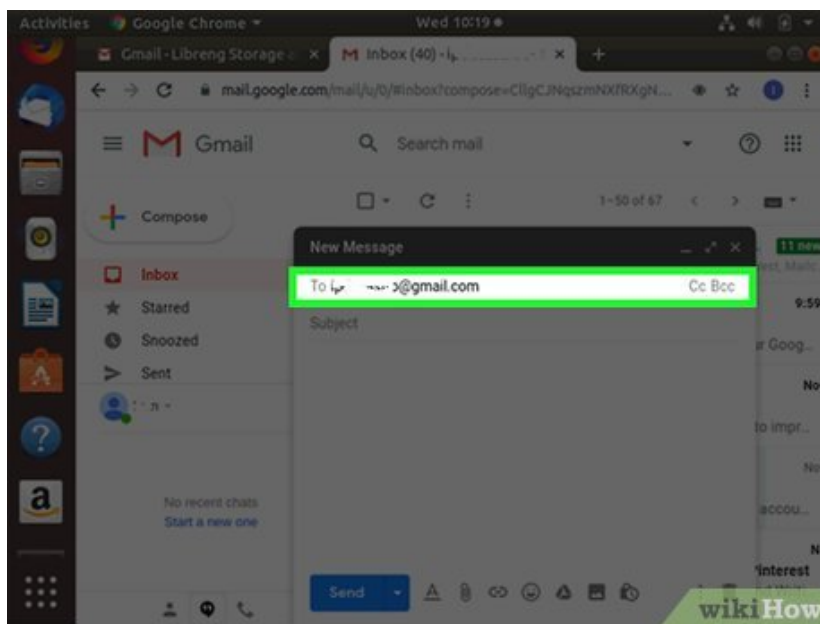
Sign in or create an account. You can create a brand new account or use an existing one, it's up to you. Once you're logged in or signed up, you'll be brought to your inbox.

4.



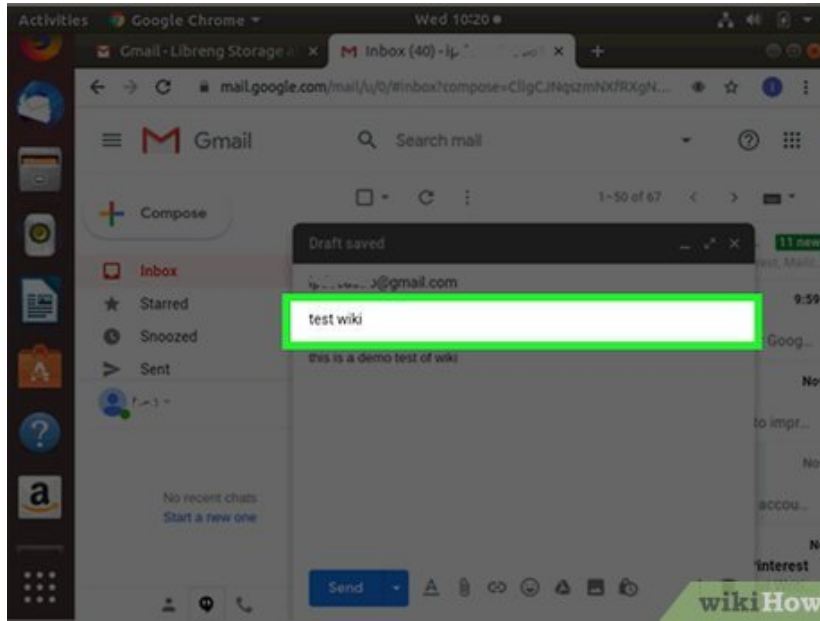
Click the **Compose** or **New Message** button. The name and location of this button varies, but it'll usually have an icon of a pencil, sheet of paper, or a plus (+) symbol.

5.



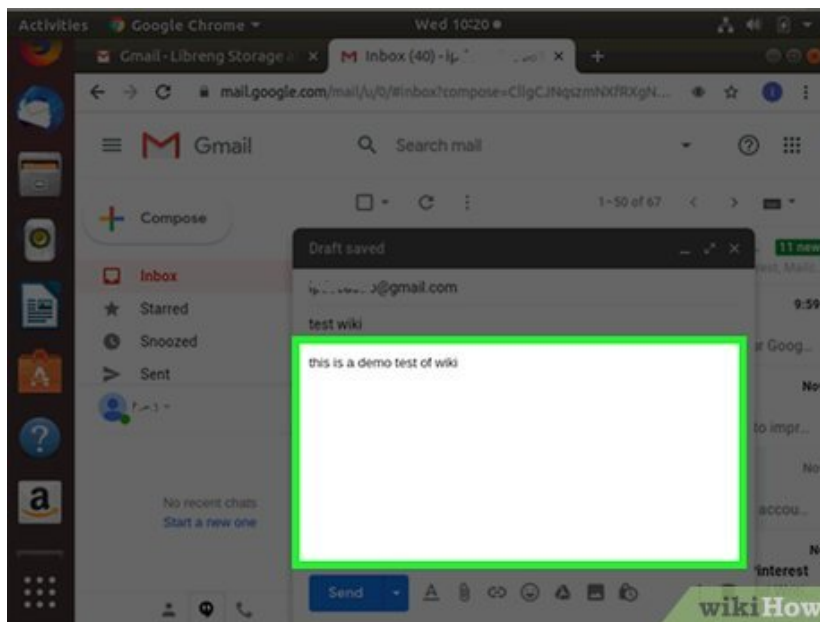
Enter the recipient's email address into the "To" field. This is the email address of the person you're sending a message to.

6.



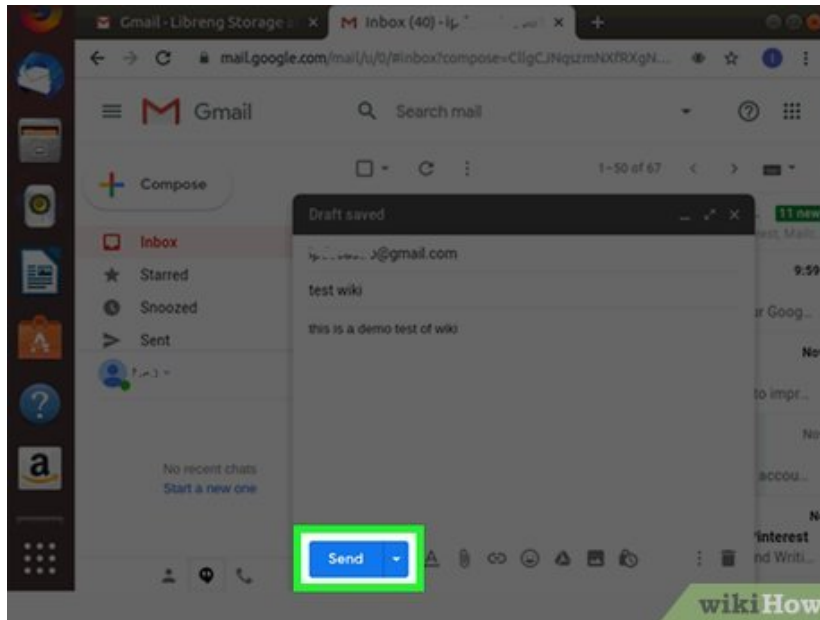
Type a message subject. The "Subject" field is optional but recommended. Messages with blank subjects are sometimes routed to peoples' spam folders.

7.



Type the message. The message should be typed into the largest part of the new message window.

8.

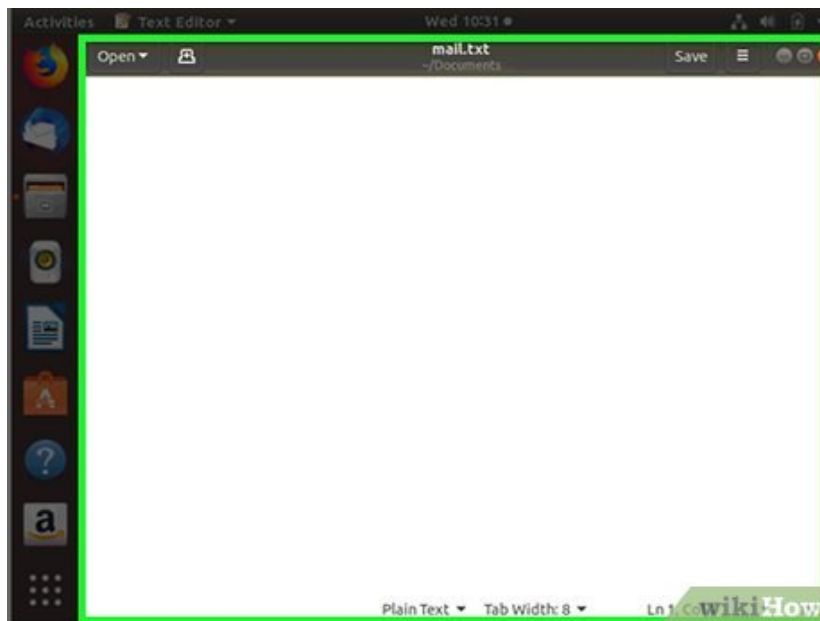


Click the **Send** button. The name and location of this button varies, but you'll usually see a paper airplane icon on or near it. This sends the message to the recipient.

Method 3 of 3:

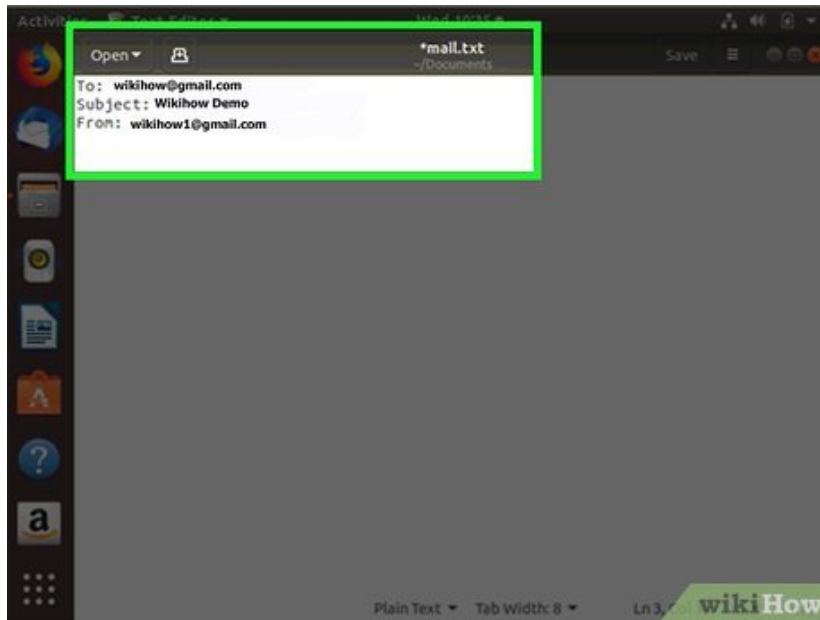
Using Sendmail at the Command Line

1.



Create a new blank text file in your favorite text editor. For example, if you like to use *vi*, type `vi mail.txt` at the command prompt and press `?Enter`. You can also use any graphical text editor you wish.

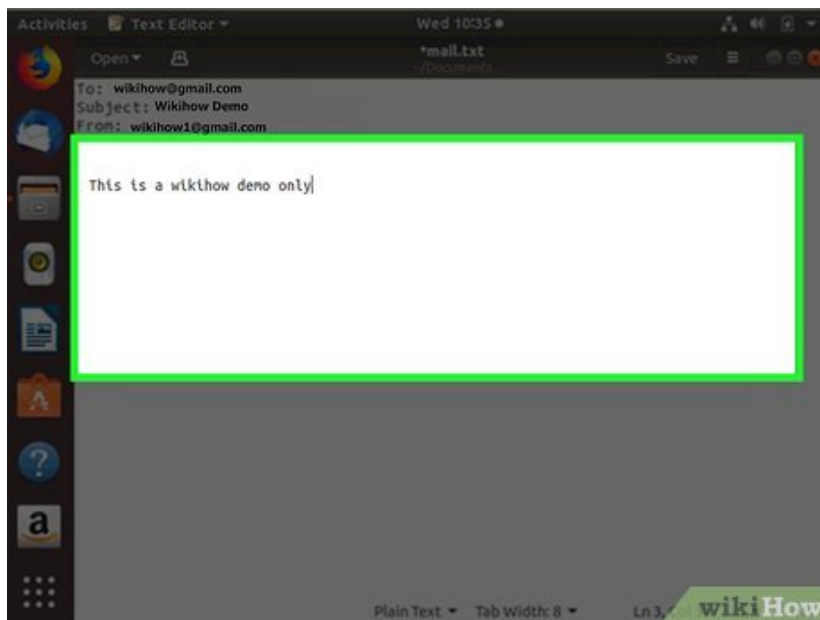
2.



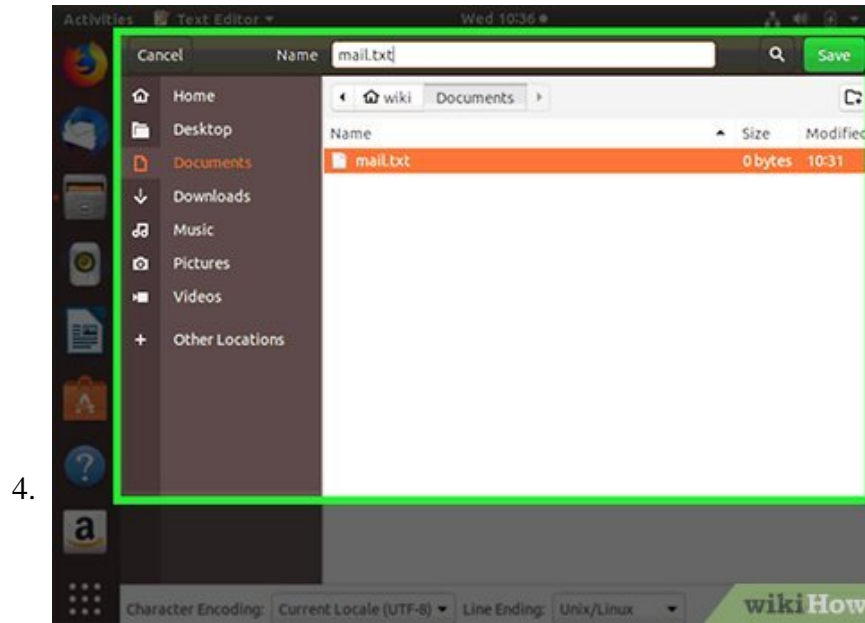
Type the email header. The header contains the recipient's email address, the message subject, and the sender's email address in a particular format. Enter the following information into the text file, each on its own line, but replace the italicized text with your own:

1. `To: recipient@recipient.com`
2. `Subject: This is the subject`
3. `From: youremailaddress@yourdomain.com`

3.

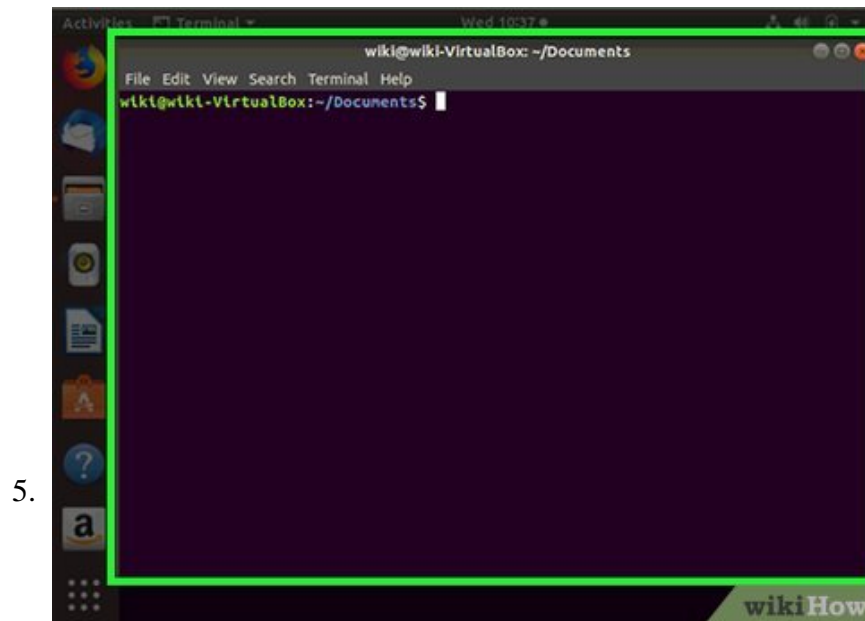


Type the content of the message on a new line. Once you're finished typing, move to the next step.



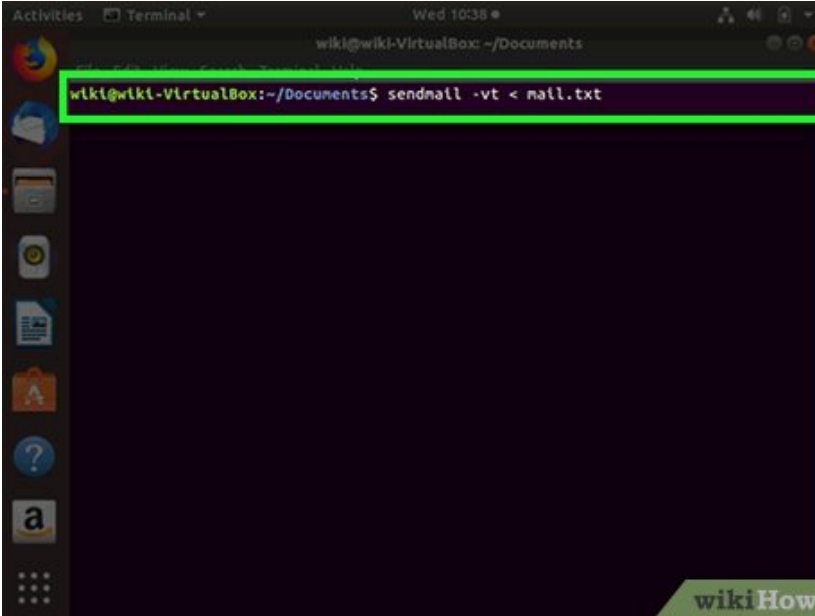
Save the text file. The steps to do this vary by text editor. If you're using *vi*, press `Esc` and then type `:wq!`.

1. If you haven't yet given the file a name, call it `mail.txt`.



Press `Ctrl+Alt+T` to open a terminal window. If you're logged in to the Linux system remotely you can skip this step.

6.

A screenshot of a Linux terminal window. The window title is "wiki@wiki-VirtualBox: ~/Documents". The terminal prompt is "wiki@wiki-VirtualBox:~/Documents\$". The command "sendmail -vt < mail.txt" is entered and highlighted with a green box. The terminal background is dark, and the text is white. A "wikiHow" logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the terminal window.

```
wiki@wiki-VirtualBox:~/Documents$ sendmail -vt < mail.txt
```

Type `sendmail -vt mail.txt` and press `Enter`. This sends the contents of your message to the recipient.

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