

## Facebook Freebies

Written by Marcia Humphrey  
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Lately I have noticed that my email inbox is flooded with mail from retailers offering extra special deals if I “become a fan” on Facebook. At first, I was against the idea of having these new “friends,” but now I am starting to see it in a new light. Many of the social networking sites offer fun freebies and discounts on their products. I can’t resist the temptation of a fantastic deal dangling before my eyes (the latest one offered “new fans” a chance to win a free iPad). Are you making the most of Facebook , Twitter, Groupon, and other social media sites? If not, let’s get started today.

Did You Know that there are local daily deals available at sites such as [www.groupon.com](http://www.groupon.com) ? Deals are automatically accessible through your email, Facebook, or Twitter and can feature savings on anything from salon services to dental care to hotel packages. If you refer a friend, it will earn you \$10 in Groupon bucks.

Did You Know you could score travel deals by following your favorite airline on Twitter? You might be able to save up to 50% during last minute sales that last a few hours. In addition, you can be among the first to know about customer-friendly company upgrades. For instance, via Twitter, Southwest Air just announced that they have sixty –five WiFi-enabled aircraft. Go to [w ww.Southwestairlines.com](http://www.Southwestairlines.com)

. These days, most company websites invite you to become a Facebook Fan or join them on Twitter. It’s free and easy.

Did You Know that by becoming a Facebook fan of a restaurant like Olive Garden you may have an opportunity to get food freebies? I just became a fan and entered a drawing for dinner and a movie for two. (A couple of years ago I won \$500 gift card in a similar drawing.)

The pace at which technology continues to change amazes me and I definitely don’t want to be behind. Most importantly, I don’t want to miss a great deal (I don’t want you to miss it either)! What about you? Even if you are not yet ready to accept my “friend request” on Facebook or to tweet on Twitter (I haven’t tweeted yet either), start out simply by taking advantage of free memberships offered at your favorite retailers’ website, Groupon, and work your way up to the others. Delightful deals can be found all over the web. Enjoy!

*Marcia Humphrey is an interior decorator and home stager who specializes in achieving high style at low costs. A native of Michigan, she and her husband, Lonnie, have three children.*