Missing Formatting Tools in the WordPress Editor: Top Toolbar, the Classic Editor, Cache and Plugins

WordPress Guides · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/wordpress-editor-toolbar-missing/

Short answer It is usually a setting, not a fault. In the block editor open the options menu (⋮) at the top right, check **Top toolbar**, and make sure **Distraction free** is off. In the Classic Editor click **Toolbar Toggle** to show the second row. If that fails: a private browser window, then deactivating plugins one by one.

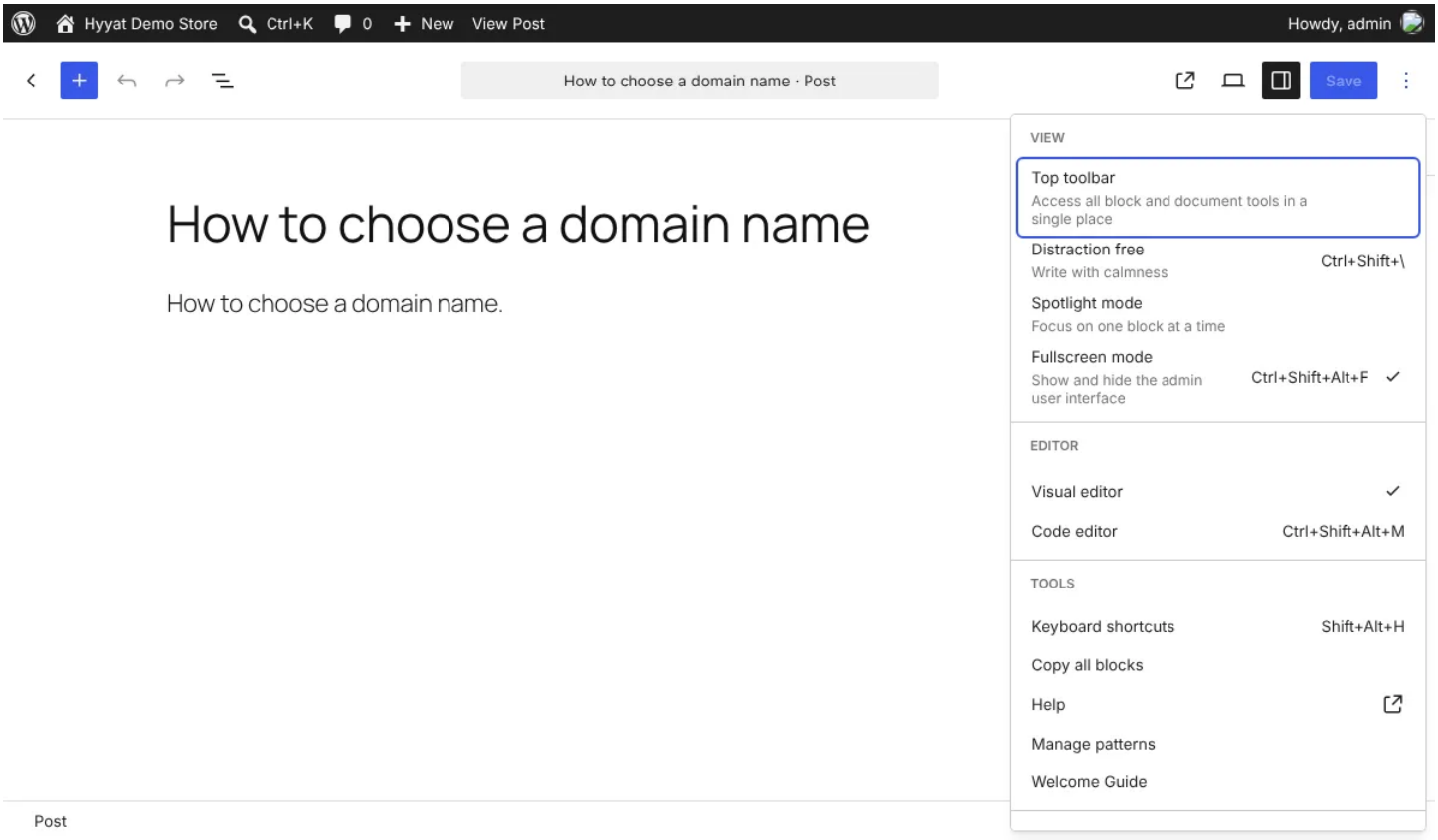
Embedded media: https://www.hyyat.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/hyyat-wp-toolbar-en.mp4?_=1

This worries writers a lot: you open the editor and the bold, link and heading buttons are gone. The good news is that most of the time a display option was changed by a stray click.

First: which editor are you using?

If you see	It is	Where the tools are
A blue + button and a clean white page	The block editor (the default)	Above the block you are typing in, or in the top bar
A text box with buttons on top and Visual and Text tabs	The Classic Editor plugin	A row of buttons above the box, and a second row via Toolbar Toggle

The block editor



1. **Click inside a paragraph** formatting tools only show when the cursor is in a block.
2. **Open the options menu (⋮)** at the top right of the editor.
3. **Top toolbar** turn it on to fix the tools at the top of the screen instead of above the block.
4. **Distraction free** if it is on, it hides the bars; turn it off.
5. **Visual editor** make sure it is selected, not Code editor.

The Classic Editor

- Click **Toolbar Toggle** (the last button on the first row) to show the second row: headings, underline, colour and clear formatting.
- Make sure you are on the **Visual** tab, not **Text**.
- If your profile (**Users › Profile**) shows **Disable the visual editor when writing**, make sure it is unticked.

If the tools still do not come back

1. **Private window** open the dashboard in a private window. If the tools appear, clear cache and cookies in your usual browser.
2. **Browser extensions** ad blockers or translation tools can break the editor’s scripts. Try another browser.
3. **WordPress plugins** deactivate the last plugin you installed, then the rest one by one. To disable them all: disabling plugins.
4. **The theme** switch to a default theme briefly to see whether the theme is the cause.
5. **Update** update WordPress and plugins; some conflicts are fixed in newer versions.

A common mistake: Clearing the browser cache while still writing in WordPress. Save the draft first; you may have to log in again.
Still stuck? Open the browser console (F12, then Console), copy the first red error and send it in a support ticket; it gets to the cause faster.

Looking for hosting built for WordPress? See Hyyat Host WordPress hosting.

Our customers asked

I want the old editor instead of blocks
Install the official Classic Editor plugin from the WordPress directory; the old editor returns for all posts.

The tools appear over my text and cover it
Turn on Top toolbar in the options menu to fix them at the top.

Are missing tools a sign of a hack?
Rarely. But if odd ads or redirects appear too, see cleaning a hacked site.

The tools are missing for one user only
The setting is per account. Check that user’s profile or options menu from their account.

Need this service from Hyyat Host?Our team handles it for you, with support replying to tickets within 24 hours at most.
WordPress HostingWordPress design