

Introduction

This guide helps you add a button to your WordPress site that captures the current page URL, generates a short URL stored in WordPress, displays it in a visible input field, and allows copying. No external APIs are needed.

Step 1: Setup the Database Table

Add the following code to your theme's `functions.php` or a custom plugin:

```
function create_shorturl_table() {
    global $wpdb;
    $table_name = $wpdb->prefix . 'short_urls';
    $charset_collate = $wpdb->get_charset_collate();

    $sql = "CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS $table_name (
        id BIGINT(20) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,
        short_code VARCHAR(20) NOT NULL,
        long_url TEXT NOT NULL,
        created_at DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP,
        PRIMARY KEY (id),
        UNIQUE KEY short_code (short_code)
    ) $charset_collate;";

    require_once(ABSPATH . 'wp-admin/includes/upgrade.php');
    dbDelta($sql);
}
add_action('after_setup_theme', 'create_shorturl_table');
```

Step 2: Enable Redirects for Short URLs

Add this to `functions.php`:

```
function redirect_short_url() {
    if (isset($_GET['surl'])) {
        global $wpdb;
        $short_code = sanitize_text_field($_GET['surl']);
        $table_name = $wpdb->prefix . 'short_urls';

        $long_url = $wpdb->get_var($wpdb->prepare("SELECT long_url FROM
        $table_name WHERE short_code = %s", $short_code));
```

```

        if ($long_url) {
            wp_redirect($long_url, 301);
            exit;
        } else {
            wp_die('Invalid short URL');
        }
    }
}
add_action('template_redirect', 'redirect_short_url');

```

Step 3: Handle Short URL Generation (AJAX)

Add this PHP code to `functions.php`:

```

function generate_short_url() {
    if (!isset($_POST['long_url'])) wp_send_json_error('No URL provided');

    global $wpdb;
    $table_name = $wpdb->prefix . 'short_urls';
    $long_url = esc_url_raw($_POST['long_url']);

    $short_code = substr(md5(uniqid(rand(), true)), 0, 6);

    $wpdb->insert($table_name, [
        'short_code' => $short_code,
        'long_url'   => $long_url
    ]);

    $short_url = home_url('/?surl=' . $short_code);
    wp_send_json_success($short_url);
}
add_action('wp_ajax_generate_short_url', 'generate_short_url');
add_action('wp_ajax_nopriv_generate_short_url', 'generate_short_url');

```

Step 4: Front-End Button & Input

Paste this HTML + JS in Elementor HTML widget or Custom HTML block:

```

<div id="url-shortener-wrapper" style="max-width:400px;margin:20px auto;">
    <input type="text" id="short-url" placeholder="Your shortened URL will
    appear here" style="width:100%; padding:10px; margin-bottom:10px;" readonly>
    <button id="capture-and-shorten" style="padding:10px 20px; margin-bottom:
    10px;">Get Short URL</button>
    <button id="copy-short-url" style="padding:10px 20px;">Copy Short URL</

```

```

button>
</div>

<script>
document.addEventListener("DOMContentLoaded", function() {
    const captureBtn = document.getElementById("capture-and-shorten");
    const copyBtn = document.getElementById("copy-short-url");
    const shortUrlInput = document.getElementById("short-url");

    captureBtn.addEventListener("click", function() {
        const longUrl = window.location.href;
        shortUrlInput.value = "Generating...";

        const ajaxUrl = window.location.origin + "/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php";

        fetch(ajaxUrl, {
            method: "POST",
            headers: { "Content-Type": "application/x-www-form-urlencoded" },
            body: "action=generate_short_url&long_url=" +
encodeURIComponent(longUrl)
        })
        .then(res => res.json())
        .then(data => {
            if (data.success) shortUrlInput.value = data.data;
            else shortUrlInput.value = "Error generating short URL";
        })
        .catch(err => {
            shortUrlInput.value = "Error generating short URL";
            console.error(err);
        });
    });

    copyBtn.addEventListener("click", function() {
        if (shortUrlInput.value) {
            shortUrlInput.select();
            shortUrlInput.setSelectionRange(0, 99999);
            document.execCommand("copy");
            alert("Short URL copied to clipboard!");
        }
    });
});
</script>

```

Step 5: Optional Styling

```

#url-shortener-wrapper button {
    cursor: pointer;
    background-color: #0073aa;

```

```
color: #fff;
border: none;
border-radius: 5px;
}
#url-shortener-wrapper button:hover {
background-color: #005177;
}
```

How It Works

1. Click **Get Short URL** → captures current page URL → generates short URL → displays in input.
 2. Click **Copy Short URL** → copies URL to clipboard.
 3. Visiting the short URL redirects to the original page.
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Pro Tips

- Increase the `substr(md5(...), 0, 6)` length to 8+ for fewer collisions.
 - Use WordPress rewrite rules to make **pretty URLs** like `/abc123`.
 - Prevent duplicates in DB for cleaner URL management.
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End of Guide