Wikipedia 2

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Theme
• How to create and edit Wikipedia articles

Where
• You can use this information to edit and create articles in
  • Wikipedia
  • The sister projects of Wikipedia such as Wikiversity
  • Other sites that use the free MediaWiki software such as
    • wikieducator.org
    • wiki.services.openoffice.org

Edit an Article
• Click on Edit this Page
  • Works for all types of pages e.g. Discussion pages
• Click on Edit beside a section heading to just edit that section

Create an Article
• Read the article WP:First on creating your first article
  1. Click on a red link in an article
  2. On the main page, in the Special pages dropdown menu,
    • Select Wanted pages and click the Go button.
    • Select one of the red links
  3. In the search box
    • Enter the name of a missing article
    • Select the Go button
    • Select the red link to create the article

Edit Web Page
• Notifications – optional
• Text box – contains existing contents or is empty for new articles
• Edit Summary text box
  • Enter a short description of your change
• This is a minor edit checkbox
  • Allows user to filter out minor edits when reviewing changes
• Watch this page checkbox
  • Adds the page to your watchlist
• Save page button (Alt+Shift+S)
  • Saves the edited page, which is immediately available to all users
• Show preview button (Alt+Shift+P)
  • Shows how the modified page will look without changing the database
• Show changes button (Alt+Shift+V)
- Lists the changes that you have made to the article
- **Cancel** hyperlink
  - Returns you to the article page without making any changes
- **Editing help** hyperlink
  - Opens the Wikipedia cheatsheet of formatting codes in a new tab in your browser
- **Insert** dropdown menu
  - Lets you insert symbols and characters for other alphabets at the cursor position in the main text box
- List of templates transcluded in the article
  - See **WP:Trans**
  - Each template has a
  - **View** hyperlink to see the template
  - **Edit** hyperlink to edit the template
  - **Source** hyperlink to see the source code if the template is protected
- List of hidden categories for the article
  - These do not appear on the article page
- Warning
  - "If you do not want your writing to be edited, used and redistributed at will, then do not submit it here."

**Editing the Article**

- You can
  - work within the main text box on the edit page
  - copy and paste the article into a word processor

**Language**

- The Wikipedia convention is that an article should be in just one flavour (or flavor) of English
- Spell checking on the edit page depends on your web browser
  - IE does not spell check
  - Firefox has an optional Canadian English dictionary
  - Chrome does not have a Canadian English dictionary
- You can add words to your web browser's dictionary

**Sandbox**

- The sandbox is an area where you can create a temporary page for experimentation.
- You can play in the sandbox without making any permanent changes to Wikipedia.
- See **wp:sandbox**.
- You can also create a subpage to your user page for experimentation.

**Paragra**

- Ordinary paragraph breaks are ignored.
- A blank line or a line starting with a formatting character is required to start a new paragraph
- e.g.
  - This is a paragraph that contains several line breaks. It is formatted as a single paragraph.
This is a second paragraph.

- becomes
  This is a paragraph that contains several line breaks. It is formatted as a single paragraph.

This is a second paragraph.

**Retaining Line Breaks**

- To retain the line breaks (e.g. for poetry)
  - Start each line with a space or
  - Delineate the text with `<poem></poem>`
  - e.g.
    `<poem>
      In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
      A stately pleasure dome decree.
    </poem>`

**Headings**

- Section headings are delimited by multiple equal signs (=),
- The number of equal signs gives the heading levels.
- Headings start with the level 2 since the level 1 headings are too large.
- The headings are automatically numbered.
- By default, the Table of Contents is inserted before the first heading.
- e.g.
  ```
  ==Section Heading==
  ===Subsection Heading===
  ```
  becomes
  1. Section Heading
     1.1 Subsection Heading

**Character Formatting**

- Single quotes (') are used to format characters.
  - " -> *italics*
  - "" -> **bold**
  - """ -> **bold and italics**
- e.g.
  - The "subject" of an article in the first sentence is made bold.
  - Becomes
  - The **subject** of an article in the first sentence is made bold.

**Small Text**

- To use small text in the captions of images delineated with `<small></small>`
- e.g.
  ```
  <small>Caption of an image.</small>
  ```
  becomes
  Caption of an image.

**Subscripts and Superscripts**

- Subscripts are delimited by `<sub></sub>`
• e.g. $H_{2}\text{O}$
  • Becomes $H_{2}O$
• Superscripts are delimited by $<sup></sup>$
  • e.g. $E=mc^{2}$
  • Becomes $E=mc^{2}$

**Special Characters**
• You can use the normal HTML tags for special characters
  • E.g. &cedil; produces a ç
  • &copy; produces a ©

**Article Links**
• Links to another article within Wikipedia are delineated with double square brackets [[article name]].
• You can create a link to an article that does not yet exist.
  • Shows as red.
• A pipe (|) is used to separate display text from the article name.
  • e.g. "Keifer Sutherland is a [[Canada|Canadian]] actor."
  • The text displays "Canadian" but it links to the article named "Canada".
• Article names are case sensitive except for the first character which is always assumed to be in upper case.
  • e.g. [[canada]] will link to the article named "Canada".
  • But "united kingdom" will not link to the article named "United Kingdom".
• If the article name contains an additional designation with brackets, the text within brackets does not appear.
  • e.g. [[John Smith (botanist)]] only displays "John Smith".
• If the article name contains a namespace prefix, the prefix does not appear.
  • e.g. [[Wikipedia: Village pump]] only displays "Village pump".

**Linking to a section**
• You can link to a section within an article by including the section name preceded by a number sign in the link.
  • e.g. [[Canada#Geography|geography of Canada]] links to the Geography section within the article on Canada and displays "geography of Canada".

**Linking to Articles in Other Languages**
• You can link to articles in the Wikipedias for other languages by including the language prefix followed by a colon.
  • e.g. [[de:Kanada]] links to the article on Canada in the German (Deutsch) Wikipedia.

**InterWiki Links**
• You can link to articles in any of Wikipedia's sister projects by including the project name as a prefix.
  • e.g. [[Wiktionary:de jure]] links to the article defining "de jure" in the Wiktionary dictionary.

**External Links**
• External links are bounded by single square brackets in the form [URL <display text>]
  • Note that there is a space between the URL and the display text
  • e.g. [http://www.cityofkingston.ca Kingston, Ontario website]
• Displays "Kingston, Ontario website" and links to the municipal website

Redircts
• Redirect articles automatically transfers searches under one name to an article with a different name,
  • e.g. A search for "sir john a macdonald" will be redirected to the article named "John A Macdonald".
• A line at the top of the page gives the name of the redirecting article. Clicking on that link displays the redirecting article.
• The redirecting article only contains
  • #REDIRECT [[article name]]
• Redirecting is necessary because
  • Most people will not capitalize words when searching for an article
  • There are multiple common names for a subject (e.g. Acronyms)

Lists
• Bulleted lists are prefixed with an asterisk (*).
  • E.g.
    * Item1
    * Item 2
    * Item 3
  • Becomes
    • Item 1
    • Item 2
    • Item 3
• Numbered lists are prefixed by a number sign (#).
  • Any line without the prefix restarts the numbering,
  • .e.g.
    # Item 1
    # Item 2
    # Item 3
  • Becomes
    1. Item 1
    2. Item 2
    3. Item 3
• Duplicate the leading character to create sublists
  • e.g.
    #Item 1
    ##Item 1.1
    ##Item 1.2
    #Item 2
  • Becomes
    1. Item 1
      1. Item 1.1
      2. Item 1.2
    2. Item 2
**Indenting Text**
- Leading colons (:) are used to indent a paragraph
- e.g.
  
  This is a paragraph.
  :This is an indented paragraph.
  ::This paragraph is indented further.
- Becomes
  
  This is a paragraph
  This is an indented paragraph
  This paragraph is indented further.

**Blockquote**
- Indents a section of text from both the left and right margins to separate, say, a quotation
- `<blockquote>quoted text</blockquote>`

**References**
- Use the tags `<ref>`/`</ref>` to insert a reference (footnote) at the appropriate position within the text
- The `{reflist}` tag generates the list of references under the section named References.
- See
  - WP:REFB – Referencing for beginners
  - WP:CQR – Citations Quick Reference
- You can name a reference so the same reference can be used in multiple places.

**Things to Do**
- When reading any article, if you see an error or omission, fix it.
- Check the discussion pages for topics in which you have a special interest or knowledge and join in.
- Check the Special Pages dropdown menu for articles that need attention. This lists:
  - Wanted articles
  - Short pages (stubs)
  - Long pages (>140K)
  - Etc.

**My Work**
- I specialize in fixing spelling and grammar errors.
- People who do such work are called wikielves.
- I use a Google search
  - "<term>" -talk: -user: -wiki/Wikipedia:
- I copy the article into a word processor (OpenOffice) so I can use its spelling and grammar checker.
- I started with the article "Commonly misspelled words" but articles containing one error often contain others and I have built up my own list.