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 he 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
  - 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 withe 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

- e.g. H$_2$O
  - Becomes H$_2$O
- Superscripts are delimited by
  - e.g. E=mc^2
    - Becomes E=mc^2

Special Characters
- You can use the normal HTML tags for special characters
  - E,g. ¸ produces a ç
  - © 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 with 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 with in 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 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 (**De**utsch) 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

Redirects

- 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.