SHARE YOUR

knowledge

People just like you craft Wikipedia, one edit at a time.

Wikipedia is the world's largest encyclopaedia. Anyone can contribute to Wikipedia, making it a unique project. Take a look at an article listed at enwp.org/P:FC to see examples of Wikipedia's best work.

Let's get started!
In order to create an article you need to register an account on Wikipedia. It's quick and anonymous and opens up many other features for you.

Use enwp.org/Special:UserLogin to sign up.

Editors review new content introduced to Wikipedia. Therefore, it's important to start strong.

All articles need to be **verifiable, neutral, encyclopaedic and your own work.**

Keep reading for advice on creating articles.

By the numbers:

Articles   **4.3 million**

Edits   **651 million**

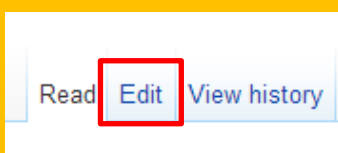Active editors   **130,000**

Wikipedia is the 6th **most popular website** in the world

Research shows that only between **9 and 13%** of people editing Wikipedia are women.

This means certain topics are under-represented. We need to close the gender gap!

WikiWomen's Collaborative is a group aimed at encouraging more women to contribute to Wikipedia – meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiWomen's_Collaborative

You can do it!

Read Edit View history

You can edit almost any page. Just click the 'edit' button at the top, make your change in the box full of text, and click 'Save page'. Go ahead and try it yourself!

If you create an account, you can change you preferences so that editing is more like using a word processor. Log in and click 'preferences' in the top-right corner of your browser. Click on the 'editing' tab and at the bottom is a check box labelled 'Enable VisualEditor'. Make sure it is ticked!

Questions and answers

What do I need to make an article?
If you want to create a completely new article, you need to register a Wikipedia account. You can start writing straight away! You need to write about a notable topic which has been covered in reliable sources like newspapers.

What if the topic I want to write about exists?
You can still contribute! Almost every article can be improved and you can help.

How do I make links and bold text?
Right above the edit box is a toolbar which will help you to format your article. Or you can use the visual editor as explained overleaf.

Where can I find sources?
Books, newspapers, and news sites are the most common sources used on Wikipedia. Sites such as BBC News are especially useful resources. Google Books has snippets of some books online, and Amazon sometimes provides a preview of its books.

What is there to be done?
Even with 4.3 million articles there's lots to be done! See bit.ly/1dID7qP for some ideas.

Avoiding common mistakes

- **Autobiographical articles**: One of the most common mistakes for newcomers is creating an encyclopaedia article about themselves. Wikipedia is an encyclopaedia, it is not expected to have a biographical article about every person who contributes.
- **Company articles**: It is often better not to write an article about the company you work for or own. Firstly, you may have problems writing from a neutral point of view, and secondly it may be that your article will quickly be deleted. If you company is notable, someone else will write about it.
- **Dictionary-type entries**: Wikipedia's editors take the stance that the site is not a dictionary. Each article should aim to cover its topic beyond a simple definition and teach something about greater context.

Making an article:

The help page for new contributors makes learning the ropes much easier. It's available at enwp.org/WP:NCHP

We have 4.3 million articles
It's possible we've already got an article on your topic. Use the search bar in the top right corner of any Wikipedia page to find out: try common misspelling and other names just in case. If you can't find it, continue to the next step. If you found it, you can still add to it.

We cover only certain topics
Wikipedia covers a lot more than a typical encyclopaedia, however it still has guidelines on what to include. Topics covered must be written about in *reliable* sources, like newspapers. Everything in an article needs to be verifiable, so include plenty of references.

We need your own work
Wikipedia is the *free* encyclopaedia – all of its content has a "copyleft" licence, which means it can be reused with attribution. Content from other sources is not compatible with this licence. Unless you're absolutely sure that it is licensed appropriately, your article must not be copied from an external sources. Write it yourself without paraphrasing.

We want to help
Just ask any editor for help on their "talk" page, go to enwp.org/WP:TEAHOUSE, or leave a message at enwp.org/WP:NCHC. You can also get feedback on your article from enwp.org/WP:FEED