

Copyright and Free licenses Tutorial



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Do we really need to talk about copyright and licenses?

It sounds... super-boring...



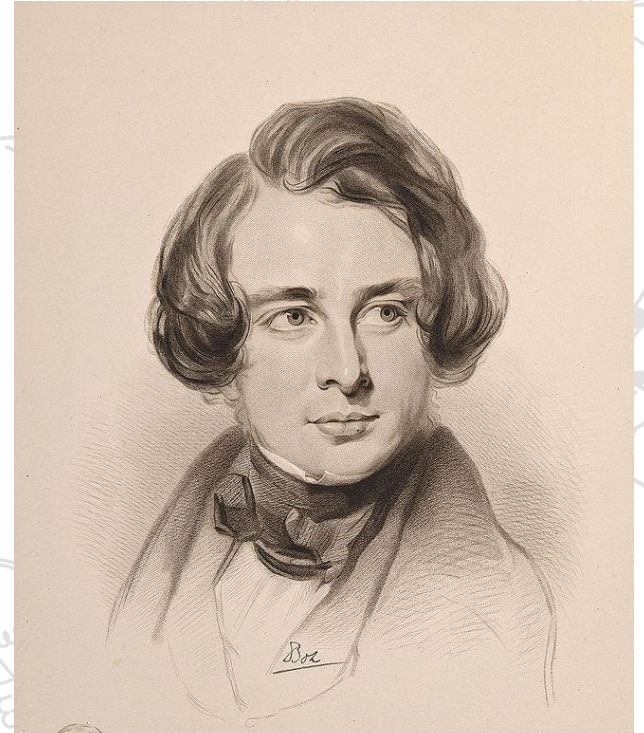
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Yes.
We really, really do!
But why?

Poor Charles Dickens...

- Charles Dickens was a very popular English author.
 - Little Nell's fate
- So popular, other publishers just took his works and printed their own editions of them and sold them for profit with Dickens not receiving a penny.



Charles Dickens, 1842.
Author unknown, public domain.

Solomon Babalola's *The Content and Form of Yoruba Ijala*

- Long out of print, won't be printed again. Available in rare-book shops for ~\$100. (\$0 of which would go to the estate of Babalola, since they're used copies)
- There is no other way to access this knowledge, except (some) university libraries.

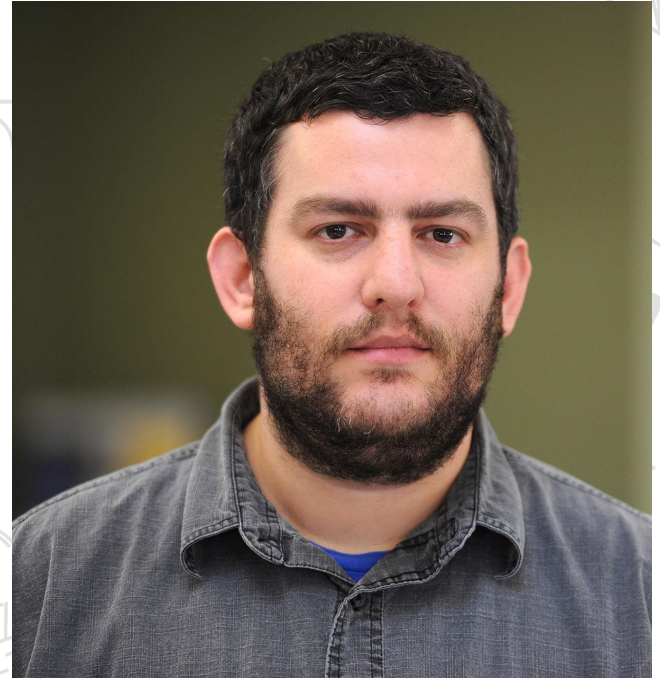
Zoe's music

- Zoe is a musician. She wants as many people as possible to listen to her music. She is not counting on getting rich off her music.
- But if it turns out a *lot* of people love her music, she would like the opportunity to sell her music, and to avoid having others sell it for profit!



Asaf's photos

- Asaf is not a professional photographer; no artistic ambitions or intents to profit.
- He's happy to share [his photos](#) with the world, and for them to be used for any purpose.
- He'd like to get credit (mention).



Let's design solutions! [7 min]

How might we create optimal conditions for these different creators, and maximize the public benefit?

Supporting:

- Dickens's right to earn a living with his art
- The public interest in affordable access to Babalola's study of a non-mainstream topic
- Zoe's wish to gain an audience, but not lose the chance to monetize her art
- Asaf's wish to share with the public, but get credit for his work.



(exercise based on idea by Krzysztof Machocki,
User:Halibutt, may he rest in peace)

**What did you come
up with?**

Traditional copyright

**Literally: the right to
copy a work.**

**Prohibited except by
explicit, negotiated
license.**



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**Copyright is a legal tool to
guarantee creative people
the chance to benefit
from their own work.**

Copyright protects authors by controlling reproduction and distribution



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That sounds... fair!

**Sure, it's fair that
creators benefit from
their own works.
But there are
complications:**



**1. The duration of
copyright is very
long. Most often, way
too long for the
original purpose.**



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**2. The terms of
copyright are very
restrictive. They
prevent re-use that
we should want.**

Okay, let's dig in!

**Copyright is
property.
It can be sold,
donated(?), and
inherited**



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**Copyright is abstract. It
relates to the creative work
it has little to do with
physical representations**



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Sometimes copyright is transferred to an org. the creator works for. This happens by contract.

copyright expires!
Works whose copyright
expired become
public domain
(in most countries)

**Public domain works
belong to everyone!
You and I and everyone
else can do anything
with them.**

Awesome!
**So, when does
copyright expire?**

It's complicated...
and varies by country
and medium.

**Since Wikimedia is
hosted in the United
States, US law matters:**

And unfortunately, it's
particularly complicated.

**If you need to
determine whether a
work is public domain
or not, carefully consult
this documentation:**

[\[\[en:WP:PD\]\]](#)



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But broadly, and for recent decades, it's rarely less than 70 years after the death of the author

70 years *post mortem auctoris* is also the rule in most other [\[\[Berne Convention\]\]](#) signatories.

See [\[\[c:COM:CRT\]\]](#)



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Commons:Copyright rules by territory

From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository

(Redirected from [Commons:CRT](#))
[Wikidata item not found.](#)

Shortcut: COM:CRT

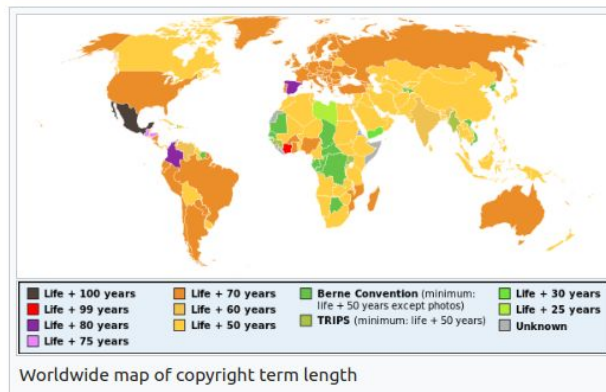
Laws about copyright **differ from country to country**. Images uploaded to Commons, unless uploaded from the United States, involve the interaction of two or more copyright jurisdictions. The laws of individual countries differ especially in the following points:

- The time for which a copyright applies. In most countries, copyright on works published during the author's lifetime expires 50 or 70 years after the death of the author (p.m.a.).
- Status of works of the government. In many (but not all) countries, documents published by the government for official use are in the public domain.
- Material applicable for copyright. In some jurisdictions, pictures of artistic work like architecture, sculptures, clothing etc. can not be used freely without the consent of the creator of the original artwork.

Almost all countries in the world are party to the *Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works* (see [here](#) for the text). Following this convention, countries enforce copyrights from other countries, according to certain rules.

Full details for each country or territory are covered below. Some countries also have individual pages (highlighted in bold), which you can reach directly from the summary table below.

↓ [Skip to summary table](#) ↓



Exceptions to copyright

Some things aren't copyrightable:

e.g. facts; statistics; simple
geometric shapes
(They don't meet the
"threshold of originality")



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Fair use:

US copyright law includes a "fair use" clause, explicitly permitting copying/using copyrighted works for certain specific purposes or in certain ways



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Fair use:

Not-for-profit "educational use" and "research purposes" are considered fair use. As is criticism, satire, parody, and more.

The fair use must be limited in scope (e.g. quoting a line is okay, reproducing a whole song is not)



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See [\[\[Fair use\]\]](#)

De minimis:

A legal doctrine designed to
keep life sane for lawyers. :)

"The law does not handle trifles"

Insignificant use of copyrighted
material may be *de minimis*



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De minimis:

e.g. photo of a person, who happens to wear a T-shirt with a copyrighted design



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De minimis:

Questions to ask yourself:

- Does the copyrighted material change the work in a substantial manner?

Would the work be different if the material were removed?
If no to both, it's possible it falls under de minimis.



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De minimis example #2

a photo of the riverside in Paris, with a few copyrighted buildings in the background.

Wait, what?



by Zinneke [CC BY-SA 3.0](#), from Wikimedia Commons

These are modern buildings, so no doubt still copyrighted. But they are not shown in any detail, and the view would be largely the same with a different large building, so: **de minimis**.

Buildings have
copyright?
Well, the design of
the buildings has
copyright (owned by
the architect(s))

Freedom of Panorama

FoP is an exception to copyright permitting photography of three-dimensional objects permanently on public display (buildings, statues, fountains, etc.)

Freedom of Panorama

Many countries recognize FoP (Most of the EU, Nigeria). Some don't (France, Italy, Ghana, South Africa).

No FoP in France?

Are you seriously telling me I can't take a photo of the Eiffel Tower? Eh, it depends: its design is no longer copyrighted, so you can, during the day; but at night, the artistic lighting is creative, and has copyright.



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Freedom of Panorama

Don't tourists violate copyright all the time by taking pictures in the city in France or Ghana?

They do!



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Copyright is complicated!

It sure is!

**Okay, clearly copyright is
not a good-enough
solution!**



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Free licenses to the rescue!

What is a free license?

A free license is a set of terms guaranteeing certain freedoms to the user

It is an alternative to traditional copyright

Free licenses aim to best enable sharing, rather than control re-use



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**If you are creating materials
and want to share with
others, you have options!**

By selecting an explicit license in advance, you inform the public what uses of your work are acceptable. Re-use can then happen smoothly.



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Creative Commons is an organization that made clear, easy-to-use licenses.

All of them permit cost-free re-use; not requiring contact with the creator.



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Use it however you want, but
attribute my work to me.



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Use it however you want, just
like the public domain.



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Free license!

**Useful for where 'public domain'
is not recognized legally.**

**For Wikimedia purposes,
only free licenses matter:**

CC0, CC-by, CC-by-sa

Re-using freely-licensed media

**So, when something
is freely-licensed, I
can just take it and
use it, right?**



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No.
You can take it, but
you have to respect
the license terms.

**So if I take a photo from
Wikipedia, I can add:**

Credit: Wikipedia

Right?



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Wrong.

**But I saw such
attribution in
newspapers and major
Web sites!**

True, you did. I saw it too.

**It's still
wrong.**

**"Wikipedia" didn't take
that photo. A person
did, and they deserve
credit.**

If you are creating materials reusing the work(s) of other people (or institutions), you have to check how you should attribute authors and licenses.

Classification and licenses [[edit](#)]

By freedom [[edit](#)]

- Agreement, which is related to the [public domain](#)
 - [Creative Commons CC0](#)
 - [WTFPL](#)
 - [Unlicense](#)
 - [Public Domain Dedication and License \(PDDL\)](#)^[4]
- [Permissive licenses](#)
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 - [MIT License](#)
 - [Mozilla Public License \(file-based permissive copyleft\)](#)
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 - [Common Development and Distribution License](#)
 - [GFDL \(without invariant sections\)](#)
 - [Free Art License](#)

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- [Open Content](#)
 - [Open Content License](#)
 - [Open Publication License](#)
- [Free content licenses](#)
 - [Definition of Free Cultural Works](#)
- [Open-source hardware licenses](#)
- [Database licenses \(Creative Commons v4 and Open Database Licence\)](#)
- [Open patent licenses](#)

By authors [[edit](#)]

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 - [Open Database License \(ODC-ODbL\)](#)

**Aaaargh! That looks
so complicated!**

**What do I actually
need to do?**



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Say, you want some nice pictures and you happen to know that there is a photo contest by Wikimedians called [Wiki Loves Africa](#).

**The contest is organised by
Wikimedians, and the
photos are on Commons, so
we can be fairly sure the
pictures from it are under a
free license :)**



wiki loves africa



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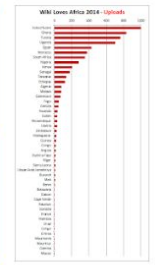


Step 1
take photos

Step 2
select the best

Step 3
create an account

Step 4
upload the photos



WIKI LOVES AFRICA: CUISINE
SHARE YOUR AFRICAN CUISINE WITH THE WORLD VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS AND WIN PRIZES!

WIKI LOVES AFRICA 2014 is an annual contest that encourages people from across Africa to create, photograph, share and edit Wikipedia Commons for you to win prizes and other Wikimedia awards. The theme for the 2014 photo contest is CUISINE. Join and share your photos and recipes about your culture. All will be judged between April 8-24. Go to [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wiki_Loves_Africa_2014](#)



WIKI LOVES



wiki loves africa - Google x Person 1

https://www.google.co.il/search?biw=1218&bih=655&tbm=isch&sa=1&ei=YAj2Wv3yDoPikgWGxbn4BQ&q=wiki+loves+africa&oq=wiki+loves+africa&gs_l=img.3.0...

Commons:Wiki Loves Africa - Wikim...

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 2015: Cultural Fashion and Adornment[edit]. Wiki Loves Africa ...

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5616 × 3744 - Images may be subject to copyright

System tray area containing icons for network, volume, and language (ENG), along with a clock showing 00:22 on 12.05.2018.

I WIKI



This is an image of Cultural Fashion or Adornment from

Zuraj studio - Own work

[More details](#)

CC BY-SA 4.0

**So, if I want to re-use
this picture..**



Minimal attribution:

By Zuraj studio, CC BY-SA 4.0

Attribution with author, license source site:

By Zuraj studio [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>)], from Wikimedia Commons

Ideal attribution (author, license and link to the source file):

By Zuraj studio [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>)], from Wikimedia Commons. Link to the file: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ak55-Busy_afternoon.jpg

For example, you want to create a presentation about African continent. You should not just take and insert any picture you want in your presentation. You need to check if there is an author mentioned, and if the author has specified how the work can be used.



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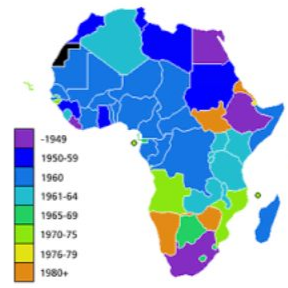
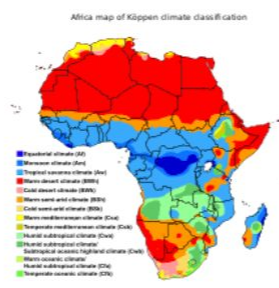
Africa

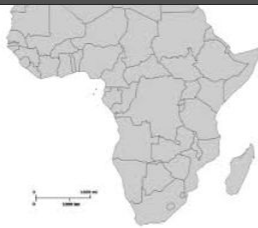


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- germany





220 x 208 - Images may be subject to copyright

Africa - Wikipedia

Wikipedia

Political map of Africa

Visit

Share

Related images:

A grid of eight small thumbnail images showing different maps of Africa, including political, physical, and thematic maps. The last thumbnail in the bottom right corner contains the text 'View more'.

Get help - Send feedback



Africa map of Köppen climate classification



Oh, we are lucky! Right? The picture is from Wikipedia! We can just take it!

Africa - Google Search x Africa - Wikipedia x Africa - Wikipedia x

Secure | https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa

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Africa

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For other uses, see [Africa \(disambiguation\)](#).

Africa is the world's second largest and second most-populous [continent](#) (the first being [Asia](#) in both categories). At about 30.3 million km² (11.7 million square miles) including adjacent islands, it covers 6% of [Earth's](#) total surface area and 20% of its total land area.^[3] With 1.2 billion people^[1] as of 2016, it accounts for about 16% of the world's [human population](#). The continent is surrounded by the [Mediterranean Sea](#) to the north, the [Isthmus of Suez](#) and the [Red Sea](#) to the northeast, the [Indian Ocean](#) to the southeast and the [Atlantic Ocean](#) to the west. The continent includes [Madagascar](#) and various [archipelagos](#). It contains 54 [fully recognised sovereign states \(countries\)](#), nine [territories](#) and two *de facto* independent [states with limited or no recognition](#).^[4] The majority of the continent and its countries are in the [Northern Hemisphere](#), with a substantial portion and number of countries in the [Southern Hemisphere](#).

Africa's average population is the youngest amongst all the continents,^{[5][6]} the [median](#) age in 2012 was 19.7, when the worldwide median age was 30.4.^[7] [Algeria](#) is Africa's largest country by area, and [Nigeria](#) is its largest by population. Africa, particularly central [Eastern Africa](#), is widely accepted as the place of origin of humans and

Africa

No, not so simple. Pictures used in Wikipedia may be under a different license. Or even copyrighted. Let's check.



Political map of Africa

 [More details](#)

What exactly does it mean?

Let's click on the "More details" button.

File:African continent-en.svg



From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository

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If you scroll down, you will see more information, especially this:

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- **to share** – to copy, distribute and transmit the work
- **to remix** – to adapt the work

Under the following conditions:

- **attribution** – You must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work).
- **share alike** – If you alter, transform, or build upon this work, you may distribute the resulting work only under the same or similar license to this one.



**That basically means that
you have rights:**

- you may share it;**
- you may modify it.**

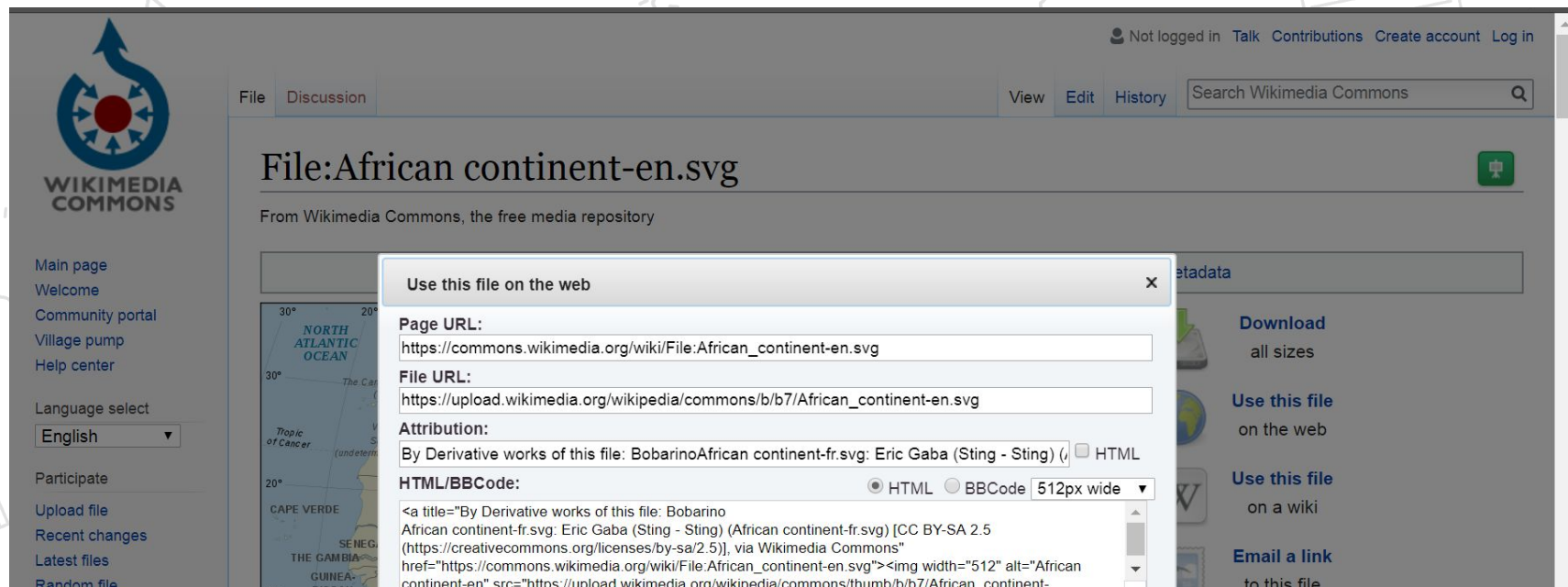
And you also have obligations:

- you have to attribute the author (in the way they wanted it);**
- you have to share your work under the same license.**



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Click the “Use this file” button:



The image shows a screenshot of the Wikimedia Commons website. The main page displays the file 'File:African continent-en.svg'. A dialog box titled 'Use this file on the web' is open, showing the following information:

- Page URL:** https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:African_continent-en.svg
- File URL:** https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b7/African_continent-en.svg
- Attribution:** By Derivative works of this file: BobarinoAfrican continent-fr.svg: Eric Gaba (Sting - Sting) (HTML)
- HTML/BBCode:** HTML BBCode 512px wide

The dialog box also contains a preview of the HTML code for the image, which includes the title, attribution, and the image source URL.

Political map of the African continent as in 2011



By Bobarino. Derivative works of this file: African continent-fr.svg: Eric Gaba (Sting - Sting) (African continent-fr.svg) [CC BY-SA 2.5 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5>)], via Wikimedia Commons

We got the part about attribution, but that is a lot of text. What exactly is here?

The picture we used is based on another work:

Description	<p>English: Map of the African continent as in 2011-07.</p> <p>Français : Carte en anglais du continent africain tel qu'en 07/2011.</p> <p>Lambert azimuthal equal-area projection, WGS84 datum, standard meridian: 15°E, standard parallel: 0° Scale: 1:15,000,000 (accuracy: 3,75 km)</p>
Date	6 December 2008, 08:34 (UTC), updated 2011-07
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• African continent-fr.svg
Author	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Derivative works of this file: Bobarino• African continent-fr.svg: Eric Gaba (Sting - Sting)

- So we basically have two authors:**
- **Eric Gaba (Sting - Sting) has created [African continent-fr.svg](https://www.africancontinent-fr.svg)**
 - **Bobarino, who took the map and translated it into English**

If we now (for the sake of clarity) go to the original file in French, we shall get this text:

By Eric Gaba (Sting - Sting) [GFDL

(<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>), CC-BY-SA-3.0

(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>) or CC BY-SA 2.5

(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/>), via Wikimedia

Commons



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The file even mentions how the author want us to distribute the work:

Author Eric Gaba (Sting - Sting)

Permission
(Reusing this file)

Attribution and Share-Alike required

Any use of this map can be made as long as you credit me (Eric Gaba – [Wikimedia Commons user: Sting](#)) as the author and distribute the copies and derivative works under the same license(s) that the one(s) stated below. A [message](#) with a reply address would also be greatly appreciated.

Are there any tools to make it easier?

Yes!

Lizenzhinweisgenerator



Bless you!

Um, what?

Oh, pardon my German.

The Attribution Generator!

Attribution Generator

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How does it work?

Web address of a Wikimedia Commons image or a Wikipedia article.

Let's go!

Maxime Raynal from France, „Port and lighthouse overnight storm with lightning in Port-la-Nouvelle“, CC BY 2.0

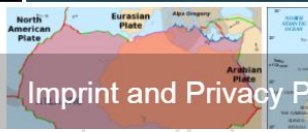
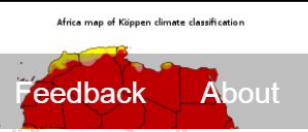
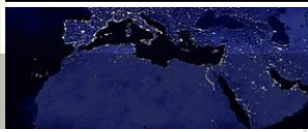
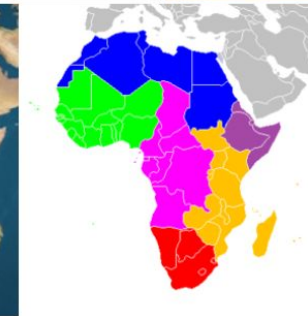
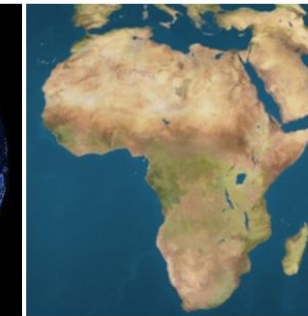
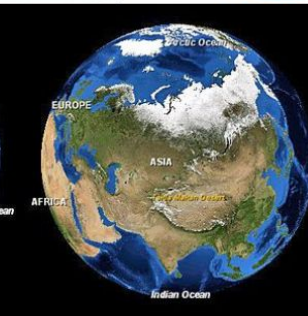
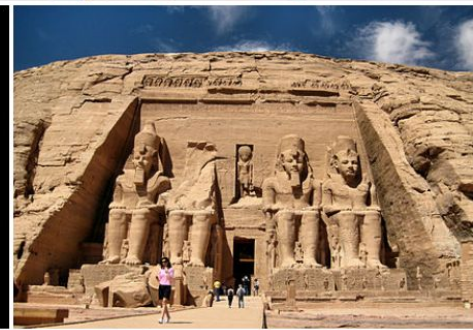
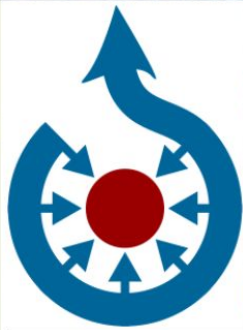
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How do you want to use the image?

- In a context, where you cannot use hyperlinks (e. g. print products, set of slides).
- Online.



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How do you want to use the image?

- In a context, where you cannot use hyperlinks (e. g. print products, set of slides).
- Online.

- Type of use
- Collection
- Adaptation
- Done

How do you want to publish the image?

- Combined with other works. 
- On its own.

- Type of use
- Collection
- Adaptation
- Done

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[\[\[c:User:Antanana/how_to_attribute_authors&licenses\]\]](#)

Copyright Exercises



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1. Copyrighted or not?

Determine whether each of the following described works is copyrighted or not:

- A book published 200 years ago
- A book published last year
- A book published 80 years ago
- A book published last year under a CC-by 4.0 license
- The sentence "Accra is the capital of Ghana"

2. License terms - CC-by-sa

Given a work licensed as CC-by-sa, can I do the following?

- Copy and re-publish it, attributing the author?
- Sell my copy?
- Modify it and distribute my modified copy?
- Modify it and sell my copy without also sharing it freely?

2. License terms - CC-by

Given a work licensed as CC-by, can I do the following?

- Copy and re-publish it, attributing the author?
- Re-publish it without attributing the author?
- Sell my copy?
- Modify it and distribute my modified copy?
- Modify it and sell my copy without also sharing it freely?

2. License terms - CC-by-nc-nd

Given a work licensed as CC-by-nc-nd, can I do the following?

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- Sell my copy?
- Modify it and distribute my modified copy?

2. License terms - CC0

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- Sell my copy?
- Modify it and distribute my modified copy?

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In conclusion...



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This is all so complicated!

Sometimes, yes. But there's help! Be sure, or ask for help

Copyright help: [\[\[c:COM:VPC\]\]](#)

General help: [\[\[c:COM:HD\]\]](#)

In conclusion, remember...

- Copyright and licensing are complex, and nuanced, but getting it right is essential for our work
- and...
- Nobody was born a copyright law expert
- It's a set of rules: it's learnable, and practice makes perfect
- You will make mistakes. It is generally enough to apologize, undo (delete/remove, or fix attribution), and do better next time.



THANK YOU

Keep in touch!

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