


**Imagine a world in
which every single
person on the
planet is given
free access to the
sum of all human
knowledge.**

Jimmy Wales



Welcome to
Wikipedia 

تخيل عالمًا يمكن
فيه لكل فرد
مطالعة مجموع
معارف البشرية
كلها.

جيمي ويلز

magi
which
erso
lane
ree a
um o
now
Jimmy Wales

Imagine um
mundo em que
cada pessoa no
planeta tenha livre
acesso à soma de
todo o
conhecimento
humano.

Jimmy Wales

Tänk dig en
värld där varje människa
på den här planeten
får fri tillgång till
människlighetens
samlade kunskap.

Jimmy Wales, Wikipedias grundare

Պատկերացրու
աշխարհը, որում
մարդկության ողջ
գիտելիքները ազատ
հասանելի են
յուրաքանչյուրին

Զիմմի Ուելս

مرحبا بك في
ويكيبيديا



Bem
Wi

Kcpzeld el azt a
világot, ahol minden
szabadon hozzáférhető
emberi tudás
' szesscgchez

Wikipedi

Wyobraźmy sobie
świat, w którym
każdy człowiek ma
dostęp do sumy
ludzkiej wiedzy.

Jimmy Wales

”תארו לעצמכם עולם, שבו לכל
אדם ואדם יש גישה חופשית לסך
כל הידע האנושי”

- ג'ימי וילס, מייסד ויקיפדיה

Imaginez un
monde où chaque
être humain
aurait accès
à la somme
de la connaissance
humaine.

Immagina un
mondo in cui ogni
persona possa
avere libero
accesso all'intero
patrimonio della
conoscenza
umana.

Jimmy Wales

ne sur la
e aurait
ent accès
talité du
humain.

dir a la suma
t el
xement humà.

Witamy w
Wikipedii



זוכים הבאים
ויקיפדיה

Bienvenue sur
Wikipédia

Benvinguts a la
Viquipèdia

Editing Wikipedia



**A guide to improving content
on the online encyclopedia**

I've been a Wikipedian since 2004. I contribute because I like helping to create a free, reliable reference work for the entire world. I'm happy to help you learn how to contribute, too, so you can add your knowledge and make Wikipedia better.



Editing with VisualEditor

With VisualEditor, you can see what your changes will look like as you edit, so you can focus on the content. Just click on the parts you want to change and start editing.

Editing toolbar

In edit mode, the toolbar lets you add formatting, references, images, and special page elements called templates (such as the infoboxes at the beginning of many articles). When you are finished editing, press the "Save page" button.

Lead section

The first sentence provides a definition of the topic, and the lead section goes on to summarize the key points covered in the article. This is the only section without a heading.

Images

Freely licensed images and other media files can be added to Wikipedia articles from Wikimedia Commons.

Citations

Inline citations in the body of the article are used to show where the information in each part of the text came from. The citation details appear as footnotes at the end.

Templates

Reusable pieces called templates are used to format information in standard ways, and to insert things like the banners that alert readers to problems with an article.

Body of the article

Headings — and sometimes sub-headings — break the article up into sections, and are used to generate the table of contents. Each section usually covers some significant aspect of the topic, so that readers can jump right to the information they are looking for.

Appendices and footnotes

After the main body of an article come sections with additional information, such as related Wikipedia articles ("See also"), footnotes with details on the sources used ("References"), and a list of other websites readers could turn to for more information ("External links").

The screenshot shows the VisualEditor interface for editing a Wikipedia article titled "Encyclopedia". The interface is divided into several sections:

- Lead section:** The first paragraph of the article, which defines an encyclopedia and its history.
- Images:** A section for adding images, currently showing a thumbnail of a book.
- Citations:** A section for adding references, currently showing a list of references.
- Templates:** A section for adding templates, currently showing a list of templates.
- Body of the article:** The main body of the article, which is currently empty.
- Appendices and footnotes:** A section for adding footnotes and external links, currently showing a list of footnotes and external links.

Editing with wiki markup

Wiki markup is the original form of editing Wikipedia articles (and on some browsers, it will be the only form available). It gives you precise control over the content and appearance of the page, once you understand how it works. Some of the underlying wiki markup for an article is pictured below. See how many of the corresponding elements you can find in the VisualEditor illustration.

1. `<[[File:Brockhaus Lexikon.jpg|thumb|Brockhaus Encyclopedia]]>`

2. `<As an "encyclopedia" (also spelled "encyclopaedia" or "encyclopedy") is a type of [[reference work]] - a [[compendium]] holding a summary of [[information]] from either all branches of [[knowledge]] or a particular branch of knowledge. <ref>"Encyclopedia" in [[Glossary of Library Terms, Riverside City College, Digital Library Learning Resource Center. Accessed 2007-10-17. </ref> Encyclopedias are divided into [[article (publishing)|article]]s or entries, which are`

3. `<Encyclopedias have existed for around 2,000 years; the oldest still in existence, "[[Hesiodus Historiam]]", was written ca. AD 77 by [[Pindar the Elder]]. The modern encyclopedia evolved out of dictionaries around the 17th century. Historically, some encyclopedias were contained in one [[volume]], but some, such as the "[[Encyclopedia Britannica]]" or the world's largest "[[Encyclopædia Universalis|Encyclopædia Universalis]]", became huge multi-volume works. Some modern encyclopedias, such as [[Wikipedia]], are electronic and are often freely available.`

4. `<The modern encyclopedia was developed from the [[dictionary]] in the 18th century. Historically, both encyclopedias and dictionaries have been researched and written by well-educated, well-informed content [[experts]]. But they are significantly different in structure. A dictionary is a linguistic work which primarily focuses on alphabetical listing`

5. `<Four major elements define an encyclopedia: its subject matter, its scope, its method of organization, and its method of production. Encyclopedias can be general, containing articles on topics in every field (the English-language "Encyclopedia Britannica" and German "[[Brockhaus Enzyklopädie|Brockhaus]]" are well-known examples). General encyclopedias often contain guides on how to do a variety of things, as well as embedded dictionaries and [[glossaries]].<[[citation needed]]>`

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Image

Double square brackets around the title of a photo from Wikimedia Commons will insert the image. Pipes separate optional parameters to control how the image is displayed. The most common way is with two parameters: the word "thumb" to use the standard thumbnail format, and a descriptive caption that appears beneath the image. `[[File:Example.jpg|thumb|caption]]`

Bold

Three single quotation marks before and after a string of text makes that text bold. The article's subject is usually bolded in the first sentence. `'''bold text'''`

Citation

Opening and closing ref tags are used to cite a source. An automatically-numbered superscript appears at the location of the ref tags, and the content appears as a footnote in the references section. `<ref> citation text </ref>`

Internal link

Double square brackets around a term create a link to the article of that name. Adding a pipe and another string of text before the closing square brackets changes the link text. `[[article title|text]]`

Italic

Two single quotation marks begin and end a segment of italic text. `''italic text''`

Heading

A pair of double equals signs mark a line as a heading. Triple equals signs make a sub-heading. `<=<Heading=>`

Template

Double braces are used for templates, which are reusable page elements that serve many purposes. The first item after the opening braces is the template's name. Pipes separate the parameters, which are additional inputs that can change the way the template works or what it displays. `{{template name|parameter}}`

References

The references tag, or an equivalent template, sets the location where the footnotes show up — typically in a "Notes" or "References" section. `<references />`

External link

A single square bracket, followed by a URL, a space, label text, and a closing square bracket makes a normal hyperlink. Typically, they are only used in footnotes or an "External links" section. `[http://www.example.com text]`

Category

At the end of an article, double square brackets around a string that starts with Category: adds an article to the specified category. Categories organize Wikipedia articles into related sets. `[[Category:Something]]`

Preparing to edit

Anyone can edit Wikipedia, but there are some basic rules. Here are some of the most important ones to follow as you start editing:

Neutral point of view

Everything on Wikipedia must be written from a neutral point of view. Articles must not take sides, but instead should describe — accurately and without bias — all the significant viewpoints on the topic published in reliable sources. Argumentation or advocacy does not belong in Wikipedia articles.

No original research

Simply put, Wikipedia is not a place to publish original ideas. Rather, you should summarize what others have published in reliable sources about the topic. Articles may not contain any new analysis, and they should not synthesize published materials to reach broader conclusions beyond what the individual sources say.

Copyright and plagiarism

Since all contributions are freely licensed, no editor owns any article; all of your contributions can and will be edited and redistributed. Except for brief quotations, copying content from copyrighted sources onto Wikipedia is not allowed. Whether direct copying or close paraphrasing, plagiarism and copyright violation are disruptive and time-consuming for volunteers to clean up. It's important that all content you contribute to Wikipedia is written in your own words. (Public domain and freely licensed content may also be added to Wikipedia as long as it is properly attributed.)

Reliable sources

Information in Wikipedia needs to be verifiable, based on reliable published sources. You should include citations for the information you add to the encyclopedia, so that others can check it for themselves. The most reliable sources for Wikipedia are third-party sources with a reputation for fact-checking, such as books published by academic presses, peer-reviewed academic journals, and international newspapers. You should be using sources that represent significant viewpoints, rather than one-off studies or fringe work. Try to find the best and most reliable sources available on the topic.

Conflict of interest

If you have a conflict of interest about a particular topic — such as an employer or an organization you are a part of — you should avoid editing articles about it.

We've developed these policies and principles over the years so we can be sure that Wikipedia is as reliable and useful as possible.



What is encyclopedic style?

Writing in an encyclopedic style and a formal tone is important when adding new content to Wikipedia. Instead of essay-like, argumentative, or opinionated writing, Wikipedia articles should have a straightforward, just-the-facts style. Here are examples of the do's and don'ts of encyclopedic writing.

Inappropriate

Britannica and the Future of Encyclopedias

Encyclopædia Britannica, although a celebrated and historically significant encyclopedia, has little relevance in modern society. Instead, most experts agree that the future of the encyclopedia genre belongs to Wikipedia and other wiki encyclopedias — created by regular folks like you and me. Ironically, while it was a great influence on Jimmy Wales and the intrepid new generation of amateur encyclopedists who created — and continue to create — Wikipedia, *Britannica* in recent years has come to symbolize everything wrong about the old ways of creating and distributing knowledge: top-down control, unaccountable gatekeepers who decide what does and does not merit coverage, copyright restrictions and high prices that limit access to the wealthy, and — in its current online form — intrusive advertising that undercuts the reliability and usability of its content.

What to avoid:

Don't create new essay-like articles or sections.

Don't structure your writing as an argument.

Don't use "weasel words" (like "most experts agree" or "some people say").

Don't use colloquial language or slang.

Don't use "peacock terms" (like "great", "extraordinary", or "intrepid").

Don't inject personal opinion into the writing.

Don't use overly complex language and sentence structure.

Appropriate

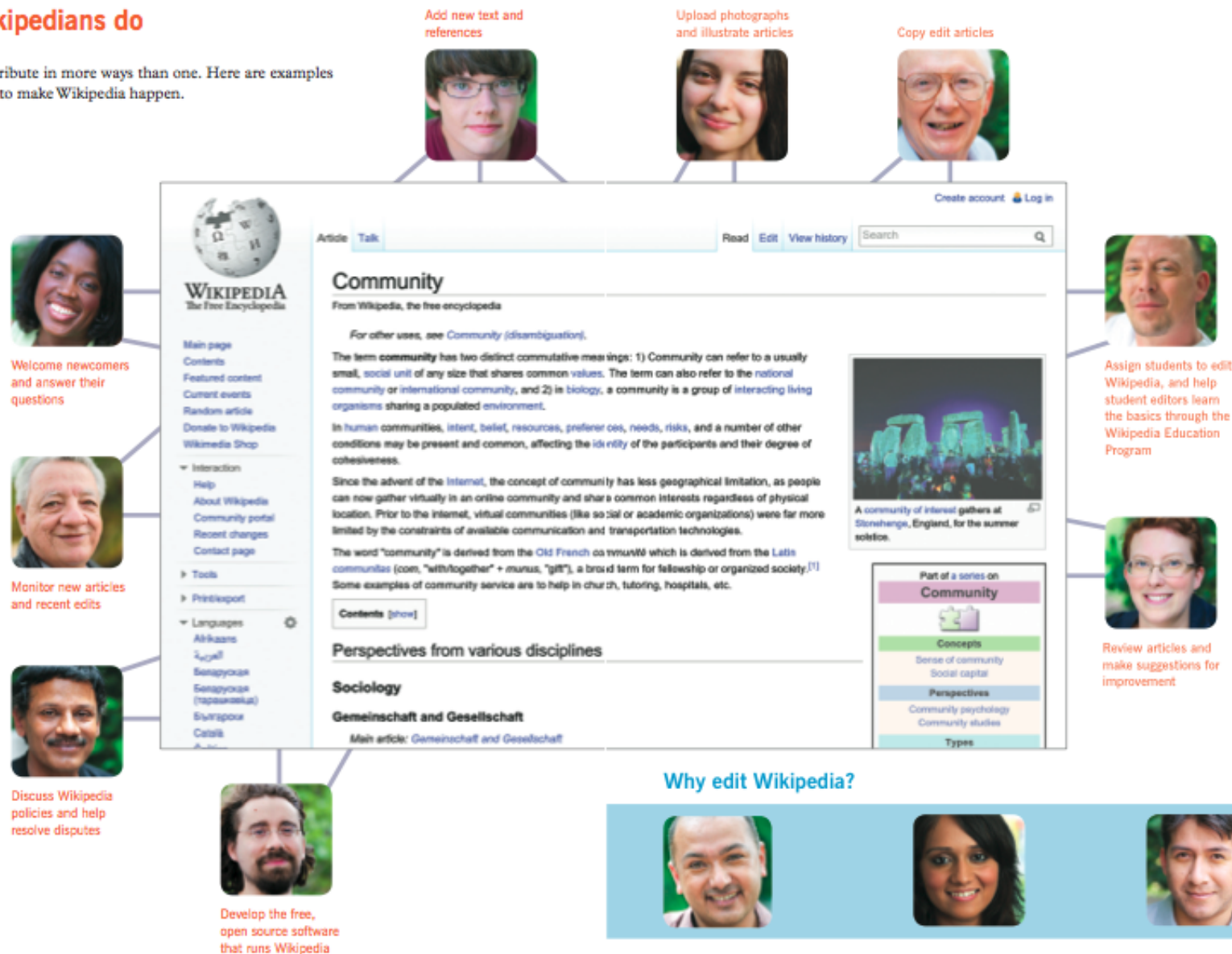
Since the early 1990s, the *Britannica* has faced new challenges from digital information sources. In rapidly changing fields such as science, technology, politics, culture, and modern history, the *Britannica* has struggled to stay up-to-date, a problem first analyzed systematically by its former editor Walter Yust.^[1] Although the *Britannica* is now available both in multimedia form and over the Internet, its preeminence is being challenged by other online encyclopedias, such as Wikipedia.^[2]

Do:

- Use plain language
- Be brief
- Cite sources to back up factual claims
- Attribute viewpoints to the people who hold them
- Avoid stating conclusions, except when attributed to a specific source

What Wikipedians do

Volunteers contribute in more ways than one. Here are examples of what it takes to make Wikipedia happen.



Why edit Wikipedia?



When I have kids, I want them to know Nepali's culture and our rich history, and to learn it in our own language — and Wikipedia is making that possible.



When I searched on Wikipedia, there was nothing. So I decided to write the article myself. To date, more than 18,000 people have read my article. Some have even added their own information and sources.



I learned to speak English by fighting vandalisms on Wikipedia.

More about English Wikipedia

Each language version of Wikipedia is different (although there is a lot in common across languages as well). These are some of the things specific to English Wikipedia that you may find useful.

Creating your first article

Starting a new article on English Wikipedia — and making sure it doesn't get deleted — can be tricky. For a detailed guide on creating your first article, see | *shortcut* [WP:FIRST](#).

Wikipedia Signpost

The *Signpost* | *shortcut* [WP:SIGNPOST](#) is a weekly community newspaper, covering Wikipedia-related news and research, important discussions, new Featured content, and more. You can even *subscribe* to have it delivered to your Talk page each week.

The Signpost

Uploading non-free images

In general, only freely licensed or public domain images can be used to illustrate Wikipedia articles, and these should be uploaded to Wikimedia Commons (commons.wikimedia.org). However, limited exceptions are allowed on English Wikipedia under the non-free content rules | *shortcut* [WP:NONFREE](#) for things like album covers. Non-free images uploaded to Wikipedia without a clear justification under the rules will be deleted.



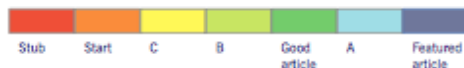
WikiProjects

WikiProjects are groups of contributors who have a common interest when it comes to editing Wikipedia. Browsing the existing WikiProjects | *shortcut* [WP:WIKIPROJECT](#) and joining ones that interest you can be a good way to find things you want to work on and connect with other Wikipedians.

WikiProjects Directory

Wikipedia 1.0 assessments

WikiProjects on English Wikipedia have a system for rating the quality and importance of articles, known as the Wikipedia 1.0 assessments | *shortcut* [WP:ASSESS](#). For quality, these ratings go from Stub (just the beginnings of an article) to Start to C-class to B-class, and then the formally reviewed ratings of Good article, A-class, and Featured article.



You can see the ratings for an article at the top of its Talk page, and most WikiProjects maintain a table showing how many articles related to that WikiProject have each rating. Browsing WikiProjects for Stub and Start articles is a good way to find new topics to work on.





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Localization guidelines (Bookshelf)/Editing Wikipedia

[< Localization guidelines \(Bookshelf\)](#)

For newcomers, figuring out how to edit Wikipedia can be challenging. Many new contributors like to have something to hold on to: printed guidance. That's the purpose of the *Editing Wikipedia* guide, which is primarily designed for use in outreach programs where newcomers are introduced to Wikipedia: workshops, non-Wikimedia conferences, edit-a-thons, education programs, and the like. The initial version is written in English and targeted for editing English Wikipedia, but it is designed to be localizable for other specific languages, geographies, and use cases.

The challenges of designing and publishing a guide that will work worldwide in multiple languages are enormous. What works for one group in one place is completely different for another group elsewhere. All we can do is try, keeping in mind the vision: to freely share in the sum of all knowledge. On the whole, the content is written to be applicable to most Wikipedias, even where the rules, expectations, and wiki configuration differ from English Wikipedia — but if you are localizing it, you should go over everything carefully and make whatever changes are appropriate for your language version. The brochure includes a page devoted specifically to things newcomers should know about English Wikipedia; this entire page should be re-written to cover the specifics of your language, and whatever is most important for newcomers on that Wikipedia to know.

The illustrations and examples of Wikipedia articles focus primarily on the theme of "encyclopedias", with screenshots of the article [Encyclopedia](#) and of a stub article on a specific historical encyclopedia ([Penny Cyclopaedia](#), with the example username that of an historical encyclopedist ([Ephraim Chambers](#))). These theme is likely to work well in many languages (with language-appropriate examples), although the theme can also be changed completely. Except for the example prose on writing in proper encyclopedic style, most of the text is not specific to this "encyclopedias" theme.

The booklet features 18 Wikipedians who express how and why contributing to Wikipedia is important to them. It also explains how to navigate Wikipedia, important principles and rules, and of course how to edit Wikipedia using VisualEditor and wiki markup. The featured Wikipedians' portraits — and their testimonials about why they edit — come from the ["Thank You All" 2012 annual fundraiser campaign](#) . Any or all of these can be replaced with editors who work on your local Wikipedia.

Editing Wikipedia is part of a suite of general guides for newcomers, all published with a common design style in a format that can be adapted as needed to work in your location; the others are [Illustrating Wikipedia: A guide to contributing content to Wikimedia Commons](#), and [Evaluating Wikipedia: Tracing the evolution and evaluating the quality of articles](#). The physical dimensions for print are for the standard **B5** paper size: approximately 7 x 10 inches (14 x 10 inches flat); 177 x 255 mm (354 x 255 flat). To modify it to A4 format, you can print the PDF at 116% . Additional details about the files, work process and ways you can localize the guide are given below.

[Sage Ross](#) and [LiAnna Davis](#) can provide help and advice for localization, and please let them know if you are creating a localized version even if you don't need any help.

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WIKISOURCE

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This page has been [proofread](#), but needs to be [validated](#).

¶

What is Wikipedia?

¶ Wikipedia—the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit—is one of the largest collaborative projects in history. With millions of articles and in hundreds of languages, Wikipedia is read by hundreds of millions of people on a regular basis.

¶ A lot of content already exists on Wikipedia, but many important topics have poor coverage and some have no article at all. Wikipedia relies on contributors like you to keep information current, expand short "stub" articles, and create new articles on topics not already covered in your language Wikipedia. Contributions you make to Wikipedia can enlighten hundreds, thousands, or even millions of people worldwide.

¶ When you make an edit to Wikipedia, you're joining a community of hundreds of thousands of people—Wikipedians—who have freely contributed their knowledge to Wikipedia. What Wikipedians are doing has the potential to change the world. But there's still a very long way to go before we collect the sum of all knowledge. That's why we need your help.



What you contribute to Wikipedia is free content and becomes part of the commons. It may be edited and reused by others under a free license.

Why edit Wikipedia?



What is Wikipedia?

Wikipedia — the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit — is one of the largest collaborative projects in history. With millions of articles and in hundreds of languages, Wikipedia is read by hundreds of millions of people on a regular basis.

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When you make an edit to Wikipedia, you're joining a community of hundreds of thousands of people — Wikipedians — who have freely contributed their knowledge to Wikipedia. What Wikipedians are doing has the potential to change the world. But there's still a very long way to go before we collect the sum of all knowledge. That's why we need your help.

What you contribute to Wikipedia is free content and becomes part of the commons. It may be edited and reused by others under a free license.



Why edit Wikipedia?



Editing Wikipedia



**A guide to improving content
on the online encyclopedia**

I've been a Wikipedian since 2004. I contribute because I like helping to create a free, reliable reference work for the entire world. I'm happy to help you learn how to contribute, too, so you can add your knowledge and make Wikipedia better.



PDF:

<http://education.wikimedia.org/welcometowikipedia>

Printed copies:

ldavis@wikimedia.org

or grab one at 6th floor
reception!