

# Wikipedia



WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

## Writing your first article



### Clitheroe

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### 1. A wikipedia edit

A wikipedia edit has three parts

- Writing an interesting fact
- Saying where that fact can be found (a reference)
- Leaving an edit summary to tell your co-writers what you have just done (edit summary)

A wikipedia article can be as simple as you like (a stub), or a major piece of referenced writing. You are seriously advised to start by correcting a few errors in existing articles- to pick up the style.

## 2. Welcome to Wikipedia

Wikipedia is used by everyone on this planet-- and several more too.

Everyone can edit wikipedia. Every edit is monitored to some extent.

Every lecturer in the world tells his students not to use Wikipedia because everyone can edit it- but every lecturer in the world uses it to prepare his lectures and course notes.

Wikipedia is fun- and the social life is good too.

Wikipedia is the product- Wikimedia is the organisation/legal entity-Mediawiki is the software

## Fighting the vandals

All of us maintain watchlists, and check for silly edits which we delete these immediately- often leaving a friendly message suggesting the child tries to do some serious editing.

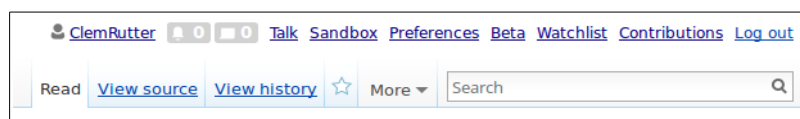
A group of volunteers monitors all new articles- they look for has made the edit, how many edits they have made before, and try to find out a bit about the editor. They look for links and references. If the tentative new article looks dodgy then they just delete it. This is a bear trap for new editors-so it is best to create a little history and street-cred before attempting your first new article.

## 3. Registering

Wikipedia is another web application, so registering and logging on is similar to all other sites.

Choose a user name- try to be a bit serious here. If you want to remain anonymous- and have no other ideas. Try a street name where you have lived- followed by a number say a bus route.

Password don't need to be too secure- there's no money involved here.



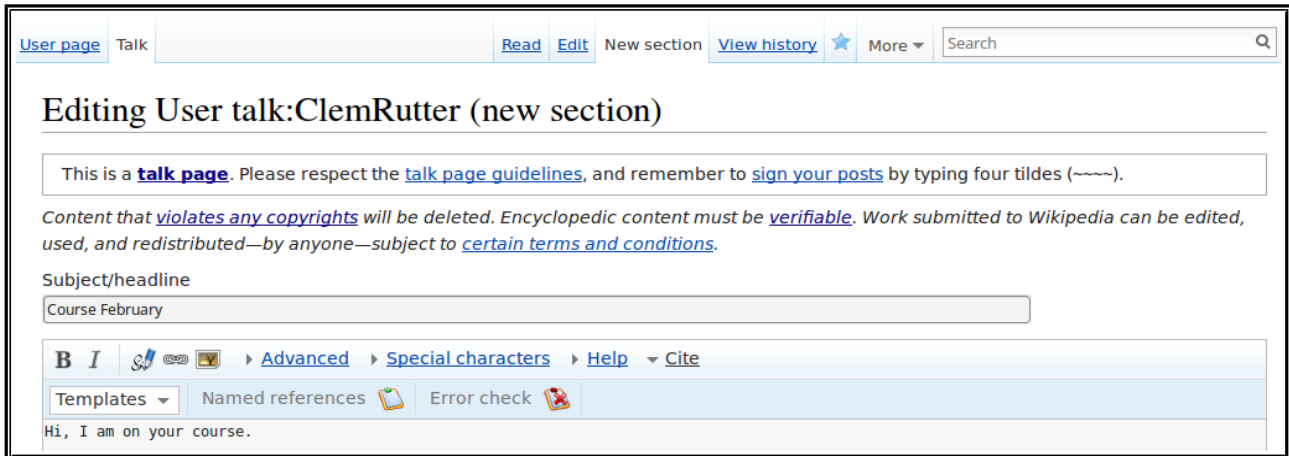
You are now a wikipedian.

Log on, look at the screen.

Look at the top- there is your name, - two icons and seven options.

## 4. First activity: Talk to me

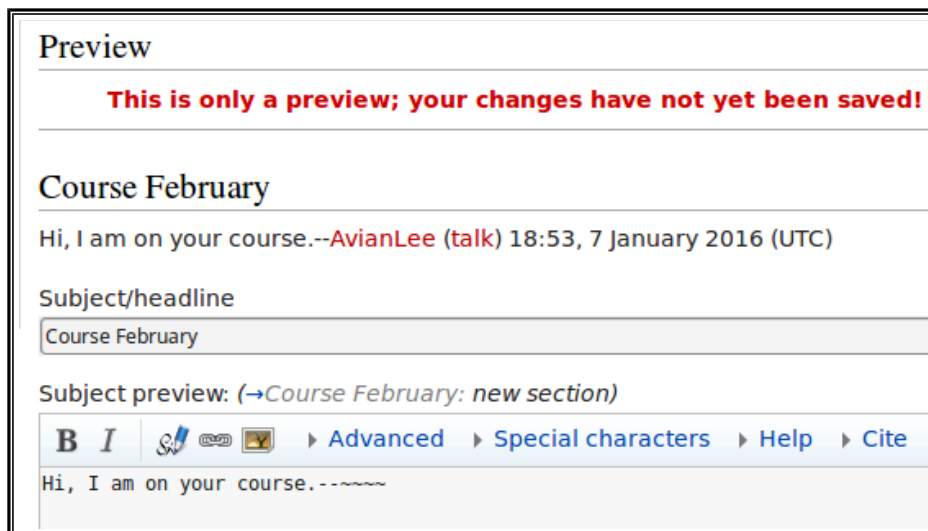
Type into the search box:- User talk:ClemRutter. Select new section and write me a message.



The screenshot shows the Wikipedia editing interface for the page "User talk:ClemRutter". The page title is "Editing User talk:ClemRutter (new section)". The main text area contains a warning: "This is a **talk page**. Please respect the [talk page guidelines](#), and remember to [sign your posts](#) by typing four tildes (~~~~). Content that [violates any copyrights](#) will be deleted. Encyclopedic content must be [verifiable](#). Work submitted to Wikipedia can be edited, used, and redistributed—by anyone—subject to [certain terms and conditions](#)." Below this is a "Subject/headline" field containing "Course February". The editing toolbar includes "B", "I", "Link", "Image", "Advanced", "Special characters", "Help", "Cite", "Templates", "Named references", and "Error check". The text area contains "Hi, I am on your course."

At this point I won't have a clue who has written it, so click on the pencil and a little wikicode is added. Yes, four tildes.

Preview it (down at the bottom) then save it. I now have your user name so I can write back



The screenshot shows the Wikipedia preview interface for the page "User talk:ClemRutter". The page title is "Preview". A red warning banner reads: "This is only a preview; your changes have not yet been saved!". Below this is the "Course February" section. The main text area contains "Hi, I am on your course.--AvianLee (talk) 18:53, 7 January 2016 (UTC)". Below this is the "Subject/headline" field containing "Course February". The "Subject preview" is "(→Course February: new section)". The editing toolbar includes "B", "I", "Link", "Image", "Advanced", "Special characters", "Help", "Cite". The text area contains "Hi, I am on your course.~~~~"

## 5. Second activity: Your user page

Your user page is yours- click on your name- click on edit- type this,

```
My name is XXXXXX, I live in South Lancashire. I am new to wikipedia and am attending a course tutored by [[User:ClemRutter]] at XXXXXX. My interests are in the field of XXXXXX, I hope today to start an article on YYYYYY.
```

In the edit summary write:

```
Starting a new page introducing myself.
```

Click Preview, and then click save.

Quite simply this will tell the vandal patrol that you are are a serious new contributor. This is a user page so you don't need to add a reference!

### Adding to the user page

Click on your user name- click on edit- type this,

```
{{guideline list}}
```

Click Preview, and then click save. You have copied in (transcluded) a list of useful links.

Click again on your user name- click on edit- type this,

```
[[User:XXXXXX]]
[[User talk:XXXXXX]]
[[User:XXXXXX/Sandbox]]
[[Special:Contributions/XXXXXXXX]]
```

Click Preview,.it is all bunched up, try adding an extra line between them and they will align, preview and then try the three changes below. Previewing each time

```
: [[User:XXXXXX]]
: [[User talk:XXXXXX]]
: [[User:XXXXXX/Sandbox]]
: [[Special:Contributions/XXXXXXXX]]
```

This shows you how to indent the line. The next gives you bullet points

```
* [[User:XXXXXX]]
* [[User talk:XXXXXX]]
* [[User:XXXXXX/Sandbox]]
* [[Special:Contributions/XXXXXXXX]]
```

This important as it introduces the |(pipe) character. The bit before the pipe gives us the link address and the bit after the pipe is what the reader sees.

```
* [[User:XXXXXX|This page]]
* [[User talk:XXXXXX|My talk page]]
* [[User:XXXXXX/Sandbox|My sandbox]]
* [[Special:Contributions/XXXXXX|My contributions]]
```

In the edit summary write- adding links, preview and save. We now have a useful user page with links to important pages that we will often use.

## 6. Third activity: Writing an article

This is the procedure for the wise and cautious. You will already have a title, and a couple of books or webpages you can use for references. On your user page there are links to a plethora of advice pages so:

- **Write a draft in your sandbox.** - all your own words and no cut & pastes from elsewhere!
- **Put in some references.** - we just say where others can find the facts- the software helps us!
- **Get someone to check it-** just send me message on my talk page or choose someone else!
- **Transfer it to main space-** that is a legal cut & paste job. Or use the `{{subst:submit}}` code.

### A look at the page structure.

Every article has different headings we can be very flexible. [[User:Moonraker]] has a very useful user page:with lots of links to pages he has created on every type of subject. Click and have a look how he did it.

A normal biography page will contain:

```
<!-- A summary called the lede or lead --->
==History==
===Early life===
===Working life===
===Legacy===
==Works==
==Exhibitions==
==See also==
==References==
;Footnotes
{{notelist}}
;Notes
{{reflist}}
;Bibliography
==External links==
[[Category:Artists from Greater Manchester]]
[[Category:Articles written at the XXXXX editathon]]
```

But we can start with almost no sections

```
Put in what you know- along with a reference to show where you can see that fact.
==See also==
==References==
;Notes
{{reflist}}
;Bibliography
==External links==
```

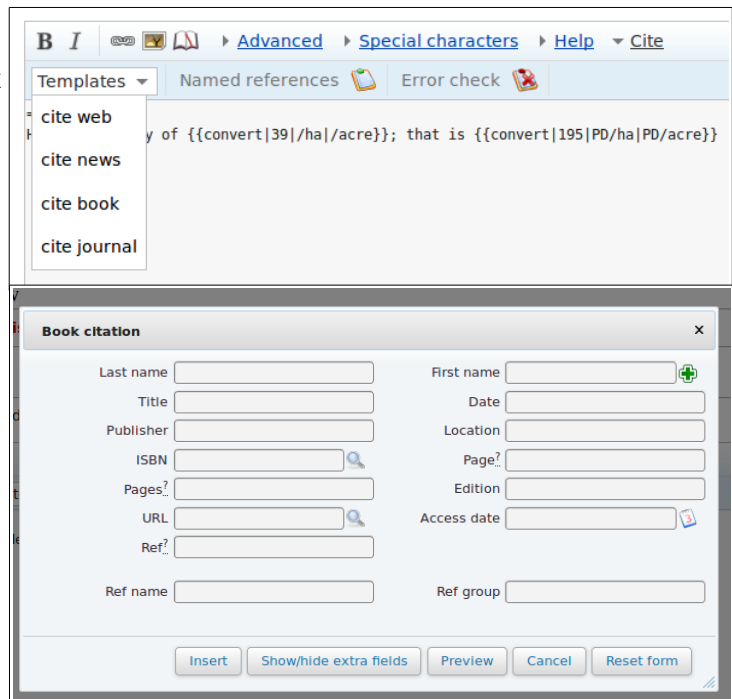
### Type in the facts

Type in the facts under the headings you have created. This takes time. You can do this bit off-line in notepad or gedit while commuting and copy and paste it into the editor when you are ready. As always preview, tidy it up a bit and save.

## A look at references

We need a reference for each paragraph. At the top of the editor there is a link cite which opens a new bar.

Click on Templates and select book. Just fill in the boxes- if you can fill in ISBN first you save yourself a lot of typing. Insert and preview- if it works great, if not, get someone else to fix it.



## Putting in links and images

Think of the reader- what links they may want. Go through the text converting words to **[[words]]** or to **[[an article name|what you want it to say]]**.

## A look at categories

Choose one from a similar article.

## The red link trick

So the article has been checked and you want to make it into a real page. There are three methods:

- At the top of the draft page, type

```
{{subst:submit}}  
==Title of page==
```

and it will (eventually) be done for you)

- Go to the search box and type in the **new articles title**. There will be no page- and Wikipedia will invite you to create one. Click the link and you have a blank canvas. You can safely copy the contents of your sandbox and paste it in and preview, tidy a little and save.
- The better method is to put a link to the imaginary page into some other page, preview and save. It will give you an ugly **redlink**. Click the link and you have a blank canvas. You can safely copy the contents of your sandbox and paste it in and preview, tidy a little and save.

Have fun, and you can start to improve other articles, look at other tricks and add more to your page.

This booklet was produced for training session  
for Disability Arts  
given by the Wikimedia Community  
at  
Goldsmiths College  
on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

A useful user page: **[[User: Moonraker]]** with lots of links  
{ {subst:submit} }



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