

Adding Images to Articles

Finding images

Images used in Wikipedia articles are stored on Wikimedia Commons, which contains millions of photos and other media files that are available for use on Wikipedia and beyond. To illustrate an article, you can:

- Use an image that is already on Commons, or
- Upload a new public domain or freely-licensed image to Commons

Commons may already have the perfect image for you. Do some searches on commons.wikimedia.org to see if it has what you need. Browsing related Wikipedia articles can also be a good way to find relevant images.

You can upload a new image to Commons if:

- It has been released under a Wikipedia-compatible license, or
- If it is in the public domain (which is the case with many U.S. Federal Government works, as well images first published before 1923), or
- If you made it yourself and it isn't based on another copyrighted work.

To upload:

1. Go to commons.wikimedia.org
2. Click “Upload file” in the left sidebar (in the “Participate” section)
3. The Upload Wizard will walk you through uploading and describing the file.

In general, Wikipedia only uses freely-licensed or public domain images. See the page [\[\[Wikipedia:Non-free content\]\]](#) for limited exceptions where non-free images can be used.

Wikicode for images

Once your file is on Commons, you can insert it into an article using its file name (which begins “File:” and ends with an image extension like “.jpg”).

The basic code for adding an image is:

```
[[ File:Example file.jpg | thumb | This is the caption.]]
```

Add the image code above the paragraph where you want the image to appear.

Image captions should be concise, descriptive, and relevant to the accompanying article text. The “thumb” parameter is displaying the image in the standard Wikipedia format (at a default size, with a small border and a caption beneath).

For more advanced image display options (such as changing the size or location of the image) see the page [\[\[Wikipedia:Picture tutorial\]\]](#).