# 1.    How do I edit a page?

*Main page: [Wikipedia:Contributing to Wikipedia](#)*

Editing most Wikipedia pages is easy, simply click the "Edit" tab at the top of a Wikipedia page (or on a [section-edit link](#)). This will take you to a new page with a [text box](#) containing the editable text of the page you were viewing. In this box, you can type in the text that you want to add using [wiki markup](#) to format text and add other elements like images and tables. If you don't want to learn the wiki markup syntax, you can enable the [VisualEditor](#) (but you must be registered), which allows you to edit pages in a user-friendly way. When you have finished editing, you should write a short [edit summary](#) in the small field below the edit-box describing your changes.

# 2.    How do I create a new page?

You are required to have a Wikipedia account to create a new article—you can [register here](#).
For creating a new article, see [Help:Your first article](#) and [Wikipedia:Article development](#); and you may wish to try the [Article wizard](#). For creating a new page in your userspace, see [How do I create a user subpage?](#); or use the [Article wizard](#), which has an option for that. Make sure that it is backed up by [reliable sources](#) and it is [notable](#).

# 3.    Why was my article deleted?

*Further information: [Wikipedia:Why was the page I created deleted?](#)*

If you look at the address where your page was, it should have a red box above it that shows the user who deleted it (in the form "Username ( talk | contribs)") and their reason (which appears in italics). If the reason is not helpful, or you disagree with it, you can click on the "talk" link to send them a message and ask.

# 4.    How do I change the name of an article?

You can [move](#) the article using the "move" button (you can see it by clicking the downward-pointing arrow to the right of the "edit" button). In order to do this, you must have an account that has reached [autoconfirmed](#) status, meaning it must be at least four days old and have made at least ten edits. If you are not an autoconfirmed user, the move is controversial, or the page you wish to rename is [move-protected](#), visit [Wikipedia:Requested moves](#). You may also [request](#) to have an admin grant you confirmed status if you are a [legitimate alternative account](#) of an autoconfirmed user.

# 5.    How do I change my username/delete my account?

To change your username, see [Wikipedia:Changing username](#).
An account cannot be deleted. If an account was deleted, the edits made by the user could not be properly attributed. You can, however, [courtesy vanish](#), and request that your userpage be deleted by adding the code `{{db-user}}` to the top of the page.

# 6.    How do I cite Wikipedia?

See [Wikipedia:Citing Wikipedia](#) for details.

# 7.    Who writes the articles on Wikipedia?

If your purpose is to cite Wikipedia, see the question above.
Almost all articles on Wikipedia are written by multiple editors, not just one. If you click on the "[View history](#)" tab at the top of an article, a list will be displayed of all the contributors to the article and when their contribution(s) was made. A more comprehensive history can be accessed in the "Page statistics" which can be found in the External tools of the "View history" tab. See [Who writes Wikipedia](#) for further details.

# 8. Can I rely on Wikipedia for advice on medical, legal, financial, safety, and other critical issues?

In a word, no. If you need specific advice (for example, medical, legal, financial or risk management), please seek a professional who is licensed or knowledgeable in that area. Wikipedia cannot guarantee the validity of the information found here. The content of any given article may recently have been changed, vandalized or altered by someone whose opinion does not correspond with the state of knowledge in the relevant fields.
See Wikipedia:General disclaimer for more cautionary information.

# 9. Who owns Wikipedia?

See who owns Wikipedia for details.

# 10. Why am I having trouble logging in?

See Help:Logging in for details.

# 11. How can I contact Wikipedia?

See Wikipedia:Contact us for information.

# 12. What is Wikipedia?

*Further information: Wikipedia:Purpose*

Wikipedia is an online free-content encyclopedia that you can edit and contribute to. Wikipedia co-founder Jimmy Wales has described Wikipedia as "an effort to create and distribute a free encyclopedia of the highest possible quality to every single person on the planet in their own language." Wikipedia exists to bring knowledge to everyone who seeks it.

# 13. Who owns Wikipedia?

Wikipedia's tech framework is supported by the Wikimedia Foundation, which also supports Wikipedia's sister projects, including Wiktionary, Wikibooks, and others, and owns all of their domain names. Previously, the site was hosted on the servers of Bomis, a company mostly owned by Jimmy Wales. With the announcement of the Wikimedia Foundation on June 20, 2003, the ownership of all domain names was transferred to the Foundation. The site is run by the community of Wikipedians guided by the five pillars.

The articles hosted on this site have been edited by many people, each of whom has (by editing the article) agreed to release their contributions under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license. As such, the articles are free content and may be reproduced freely under this license.
See Wikipedia:Copyrights and Wikipedia:Readers' FAQ for information on how you can use Wikipedia content.

By law, contributions are still owned by the people who donated them. These people are not bound by the license and can use their property in the way they like. However, media with multiple authors require permission from every contributor to use them differently from the terms of the Wikipedia license.

# 14. Who is responsible for the articles on Wikipedia?

You are! Editing is a collaborative effort. Millions of people have contributed information to this project, and anyone can do so, including you. All you need is to know how to edit a page, and have some encyclopedic knowledge that you would like to share. The encyclopedia provides users with a certain amount of freedom.

You can learn who is responsible for the most recent versions of any given page by clicking on the "View history" link. If you spot an error in the latest revision of an article, you are highly encouraged to be bold and correct it. This practice is one of the basic review mechanisms that maintains the reliability of the encyclopedia. As a result, Wikipedia has become one of the most extensive information libraries available on the Internet.

If you are uncertain, or find the wording confusing, quote the material on the associated talk page and leave a question for the next person. This helps reduce errors, inaccuracies, or misleading wording more quickly and is highly appreciated by the community.

## 15. How can I contact the project?

See Wikipedia:Contact us for important links and e-mail addresses.

Given the massively collaborative nature of the project, there is no single point of contact. If you send an e-mail to an individual board or staff member, they will likely just forward it to the group of Wikipedia volunteers who answer reader inquiries. You can reach those volunteers yourself, by e-mailing info-en@ wikimedia.org.

Alternatively, if you wish to suggest improvements to a specific article, you can do so via its talk page. Use the *talk* tab at the top of each article to get to its talk page.

## 16. Should I create an account? Can't I just edit articles anonymously?

Editors with user names enjoy several benefits. Among them is the positive reputation that goes with quality work. Wikipedians with an established history are respected especially with regard to neutralizing article disputes. In addition, Wikipedians sometimes find collaborating with unregistered users frustrating, because it is more difficult to contact them with questions, concerns, or suggestions. This is not to say there is a Wikipedia hierarchy *per se*. Although there are editors with administrative abilities (see Wikipedia:Administrators), these are approved by the community.

Wikipedians with user names are *more* anonymous than contributors that do not log in. While anyone can see the IP address of a user who did not log in when they edited, only a few especially trusted people, checkusers, are able to view the IP address of a logged-in user, and this is rarely done. If you are concerned about privacy and anonymity, you may prefer to create a user name for yourself in order to hide your IP address.

But editing as an unregistered user is acceptable. Many valuable contributors have made this choice. That said, you will not be able to create or rename pages without a user name. Some pages are also protected from editing by unregistered users in order to prevent vandalism.

## 17. How do you know if information is correct?

*Further information: Wikipedia:Replies to common objections*

Given that anyone can edit any article, it is, of course, possible for biased, out-of-date, or incorrect information to be posted. However, because there are so many people reading the articles and monitoring contributions, incorrect information is usually corrected quickly. The overall accuracy of the encyclopedia is improving all the time. You are encouraged to help by correcting articles, validating content, and providing useful references.

## 18. How do you prevent people from ruining articles?

*All* changes to a page are registered in a "page history", so any defacement can be replaced by an older version of the page by reverting it. And, in general, recent changes to Wikipedia are automatically listed on a special page for that purpose.

Some bots automatically reverse obvious defacement immediately. Moreover, there are hundreds of people who spend a little time each day watching the list of recent changes on Wikipedia (see Wikipedia:Recent changes patrol). Any user interested in a particular page can add it to a personal watchlist, which shows when a page is updated and gives the user a chance to check that update. Readers who pass by can correct vandalism or erroneous information.

The popular pages, which are the most likely to be defaced, are also those that receive the most attention from editors and readers.

To stem a recurrent problem, an article can be temporarily protected from editing and/or user names and IP addresses can be blocked from editing.

## 19. This website seems to be violating Wikipedia's copyright. Do you guys know about this?

All text on Wikipedia is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution/Share-Alike License](#) (CC-BY-SA), and in most cases, also the [GNU Free Documentation License](#) (GFDL). Over 100 sites using Wikipedia for content have been identified, and categorized by their degree of compliance, at [Wikipedia:CC-BY-SA Compliance](#) and [Wikipedia:GFDL Compliance](#). [Wikipedia:Mirrors and forks](#) has more information, including what to do if someone is violating the CC-BY-SA license or the GFDL.

## 20. Which wiki software does Wikipedia run on?

Wikipedia and the other Wikimedia projects use the [MediaWiki](#) software to facilitate collaborative editing and storage of page histories.

For more information on MediaWiki, see:

- the [MediaWiki](#) article, and
- the [MediaWiki web site](#).
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## 21. What if two people edit the same article at the same time?

That will cause an [edit conflict](#).

## 22. How big is Wikipedia?

*Further information: [Wikipedia:Size comparisons](#)*

Wikipedia currently has 6,769,324 articles in total in the English version alone.

In a past comparison of encyclopedias, Wikipedia had about 1,400,000 articles with 340 million words in total, the [Encyclopædia Britannica](#) had about 85,000 articles with 55 million words in total, and Microsoft's [Encarta](#) had about 63,000 articles and 40 million words in total.