

Help: Your first article

"WP:1ST" and "WP:FIRST" redirect here. For other uses, see [Wikipedia:1st \(disambiguation\)](#).

Writing an article

Learn how you can create a Wikipedia article.

This page in a nutshell:



- The topic of the article *must* be notable: it *must* have in-depth coverage in reliable sources that are independent of the topic.
- If you are connected to the topic, don't write about it. Find another topic instead.
- Make sure there isn't already an article about the topic.
- The article you write *must* include citations to the sources you used.
- Use your own words to write the article; you *must not* copy from sources word-for-word.
- Don't use large language models (LLMs) or generative AI.

Welcome to Wikipedia! Creating a new article is one of many ways to contribute to the encyclopedia, but can be difficult for new editors. We recommend looking at our introductory tutorials or contributing to Wikipedia to learn the basics about editing first. Working on existing articles is a great way to learn Wikipedia's protocols and style conventions; see the Task Center or your homepage for articles that need your assistance and tasks you can help out with.

Before creating your first article, it's highly recommended to practice in your sandbox. Choose a topic supported by reliable, independent sources. Write in a neutral tone, avoid promotional language, and make sure all the information in the article is supported by your sources. Don't use large language models to write your articles either. If you're unsure, the Article Wizard can help guide you step-by-step through the process. Don't worry if it's not perfect—every experienced editor started with their first try!

Once you are familiar with the basics of Wikipedia editing, this page will guide you through the process of creating **your first article**! Specifically, you will learn how to:

- **Determine** whether Wikipedia should have a new article on the given subject
- **Identify and use** reliable sources to support assertions in the article
- **Create** a draft of the article
- **Submit** the draft for publication into the encyclopedia itself

New here?

Creating an article is **one of the more difficult tasks** on Wikipedia, and you'll have a higher chance of success if you **help out with other tasks** first to learn more about how Wikipedia works. You can always come back to create an article later; there is no rush!

Article creation

Introductory

[Getting started with Wikipedia](#)

The basics

Further information: [Wikipedia:Simplified ruleset](#), [Wikipedia:Reliable sources](#), [Wikipedia:Verifiability](#), [Wikipedia:Citing sources](#), and [Help:Find sources](#)

All new articles start by researching a topic using **high-quality, published sources**. Even if you're an expert on a topic, you can't just write what you know off the top of your head; published sources are needed. High-quality sources include **books** by reputable publishers, **respected newspapers**, peer-reviewed scientific and **academic journals**, and other sources with a **reputation for fact-checking and accuracy**. This may include some high-quality websites, but excludes personal and company websites, [blogs](#), [social media](#), and any site where [the public can contribute](#), like forums and even Wikipedia itself.

We *summarize* such high-quality, published sources in Wikipedia articles. That is all we do! Please make sure that everything you write on Wikipedia is based on such sources, and be sure to include [inline citations](#) along with the content you write. While [primary sources](#) can be used, they should be used sparingly and carefully, usually only to support basic facts. Primary sources do not contribute to establishing notability.

Before you start writing

Are you connected to the article topic?

Further information: [Wikipedia:Plain and simple conflict of interest guide](#) and [Wikipedia:Paid-contribution disclosure](#)

If you have a personal or professional relationship with what you want to write about, it is best if you do not create the new article yourself. Editing with a [conflict of interest](#), regardless of whether you feel you can do so neutrally, gives the appearance of bias and undermines public confidence in Wikipedia. If you create an article despite your conflict of interest, you *must* [disclose your relationship](#) and make sure that it is reviewed by another editor by submitting it via [Articles for creation](#). If you have a *financial* conflict of interest in the topic (for example if you have been paid to edit it) you *must* make the required [paid-contribution disclosure](#) and abide by the community's [restrictions on paid editing](#).

Search for an existing article

Further information: [Help:Searching](#)

The English Wikipedia already has 7.2 million articles. Before creating a new one, try to make sure there is not already an article (or a Draft in development) on the same topic, perhaps under a different spelling, or even a different name.

[Article wizard](#)

[Your first article](#)

Suggested articles

[Most-wanted articles](#)

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Concepts and guidelines

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Meta tools and groups

[WikiProject: Articles for creation](#)

[Special:NewPages](#)

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[New pages patrol](#)

[New articles by topic](#)

[Recent additions](#) (DYK)

Search for articles (or drafts) that already exist:
Note: Articles are in "Main" space, and drafts are in "Draft" space.

If you're sure that there is no article or draft available for your topic, then there is just one big task to do before you start writing your first article: you have to **gather sources about the topic** to **establish its notability**.

Gather sources

Further information: [Help:Find sources](#)

As described above in § The basics, Wikipedia articles are written based on published sources. If you need some help finding sources, see [this helpful guide](#).

For some common sources, you may find [these assessments](#) by the Wikipedia community helpful. Please note these assessments certainly do not list all possible sources: if a source is not listed, that only means the community hasn't evaluated it yet. If a source meets the [reliable source](#) criteria, you are welcome to use it. If you have questions, please do ask at the [Teahouse](#).

Notability – should this topic have an article?

Main page: [Wikipedia:Notability](#)

Your topic *must* meet Wikipedia's criteria for having an article, which we call "notability". If there are multiple published [reliable sources](#) about a topic, then it may be notable. A topic is not notable if there aren't sufficient reliable sources about it. (**Important:** unreliable ones like [blogs](#), [social media](#), and [websites anyone can edit](#) don't count!) The [general notability guideline](#) gives more details on how to tell if a topic is notable or not. If you're not sure if your topic is notable, ask for help at the [Teahouse](#).

A notable topic is one that has **multiple** reliable sources that each meet **all three** of the following criteria:

- **Secondary.** A [secondary source](#) provides thought and reflection based on primary sources, generally at least one step removed from a topic. It contains *analysis, evaluation, interpretation, or synthesis* of the facts, evidence, concepts, and ideas taken from [primary sources](#).
- **Independent** of the subject. This means that nobody involved in writing or publishing the source has a financial or other connection to the subject. A source is **not independent** of the subject if **any** of the following are true:
 - if the subject paid for it, including all forms of [sponsored content](#),
 - if the content within the source originates from the subject, including most [interviews](#) and all [press releases](#), even if published by a third party (sometimes called "[churnalism](#)"), or

Notability
General notability guideline
Subject-specific guidelines
Academics Astronomical objects Books · Events · Films Geographic features Music · Numbers Organizations and companies People · Species Sports and athletes Web content
See also
Notability essays Guide to deletion Common deletion outcomes Why was my article deleted?

- it was published by the subject itself, on behalf of the subject, or by someone related to the subject.
- **Significant coverage.** The sources must discuss your subject in depth, in multiple paragraphs. Trivial mentions, such as one or two sentences or the appearance of your subject in a table or list, are not enough to help establish notability. The special notability guideline for businesses has lots of good examples of what is considered significant and trivial.

⚠ If your topic is not notable, stop here and find a new one. Non-notable topics do not qualify for a separate article. Consider expanding a relevant existing article related to the topic or selecting a new topic. If you are stuck, ask for guidance at the Teahouse.

Look at similar articles

See also: *Help:Introduction to the Manual of Style*

It's a good idea to look at several existing Wikipedia articles on subjects similar to yours to see how such articles are formatted. The quality of our existing articles varies and lower-quality articles should not be used as a model. The Talk page of the article may have a quality rating in the shaded box at the top. If an article has been assessed as **B-class**, or as a **Good Article** or **Featured Article**, it is safe to use as an organizational template for your article. You can also consult Wikipedia's Manual of Style for guidance on how to structure an article.

Writing your draft

Further information: *Wikipedia:Writing better articles*

Once you've verified that there § isn't already an article out there about your topic, § gathered your sources, and § established notability, you're ready to start writing!

What editing tool to use

Further information: *Help:Introduction*, *Help:Wikitext*, and *Help:VisualEditor*

Wikipedia provides various editing tools, and you have a choice of what tool best suits your needs:

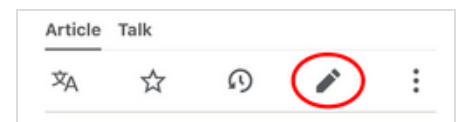
- Source editor – edits the wikitext of the article, which uses some special characters, like adding [[square brackets]] to create a link to another page, or asterisks to make bullet points.
- Visual Editor – a tool similar to a word processor, for editing articles without the need to understand any special codes or markup.

Visual Editor is the default. To switch your default editing interface, select an option from the "Editing mode" menu in your preferences.

Users of mobile devices are automatically redirected to the official mobile version of Wikipedia. If you don't want to use the mobile version, tap the Desktop link at the bottom of any page to switch to the desktop version.



Edit tab in desktop view



Edit pencil in mobile view

Where to start writing

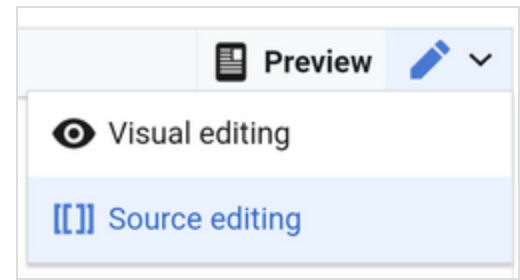
Further information: [Wikipedia:Drafts](#) and [Wikipedia:About the sandbox](#)

Where will you develop your draft? You have several options:

- in "[Draftspace](#)" – this is a special area of Wikipedia dedicated to creating new articles, and is a good choice because other editors can find your draft here and help out.
- in your [sandbox](#) – this is a page you can always easily find, by tapping the user icon in the top right corner to show the menu linking your sandbox. Downside: you can only create one article at a time there, and it's not so easy for other editors to find.
- in a [user subpage](#). You can find more information about subpages [here](#).

The easiest way is with the Article Wizard, which will create your article in Draft space and guide you through the steps of creating a draft.

Create your draft with the Article Wizard!



Editing interface selector

How to create content

Further information: [Help:Editing](#), [WP:Neutral point of view](#), and [WP:Verifiability](#)

Writing a Wikipedia article:

- Summarize the most important things your sources say.
 - Don't copy wording from your sources; instead, summarize the ideas in the source using your own words. Summarization is more than just [changing a few words around](#) here and there.
 - Only add information [supported by your sources](#). Don't add from [your own knowledge](#) or expertise.
- Make sure you [show all major viewpoints](#) fairly. Do not cover [fringe](#) views or those held only by a tiny minority.
- Don't [take sides](#) or use [promotional language](#).
- Write in a professional tone; avoid [loaded language](#).
- Add [citations](#) as you go. This is much easier than [writing first and trying to remember later](#) where you found each piece of information.
- You don't have to write the article all at once! Save your progress frequently, with an appropriate [edit summary](#). The **Publish** button saves your progress.
- You can [add images](#), [templates](#) like an [infobox](#) at the top, or a [stub](#) at the bottom, and [categories](#) to your article.
- Don't use [large language models](#) ("AI") like [ChatGPT](#) to generate article content. These often produce inaccurate text and sometimes make up fake sources and references. It is much better to write the article completely yourself, so that you can be confident in what it says. Remember, you are responsible for the content you add.
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Citing sources

Further information: [Wikipedia:Citing sources](#), [Help:Find sources](#), [Help:Referencing for beginners](#), and [Help:Introduction to referencing with VisualEditor](#)

Sources are the published books, academic articles, reputable magazines and newspapers, and other locations where you find the information you will be writing about. You will need to find sources before you start writing, because all content in articles at Wikipedia must be **verifiable**—that is, backed up by **reliable sources**.



The best way to demonstrate verifiability is by creating a citation to a reliable source that you found, and embedding it in-line as you write your article.

The best sources tend to have some form of editorial oversight and a reputation for fact-checking and accuracy. Some websites are reliable; many are not. If you're not sure about the reliability of a website, you can read what editors think about them. It's okay to use non-English sources, offline sources, and subscription-only or fee-based sources, as long as they are reliable.

Dos and don'ts

Main pages: [Wikipedia:What Wikipedia is not](#) and [Wikipedia:Avoiding common mistakes](#)

Here are some "Do"s and "Don't"s, to highlight some of the most important points about writing your first article:

Great ways to contribute	Things to avoid
▪ Do make sure that the topic you write about is notable; articles about non-notable topics get deleted. ▪ Do include citations to independent, reliable sources for all assertions of fact. ▪ Do add content that has a neutral point of view, and fairly represents the majority of the sources. ▪ Do exercise caution when editing articles about living people. Negative or critical content must be impeccably sourced to highly reliable sources. ▪ Do ask for help at the Teahouse, the Help desk, or check these help links.	▪ Don't engage in original research or personal essays. ▪ Don't copy copyrighted material into articles. ▪ Don't speculate about events in the future. ▪ Don't write an article only to define a word; Wikipedia is not a dictionary. Try Wiktionary instead. ▪ Don't write an article if you have a conflict of interest because of a personal or professional connection to the topic of the article. ▪ Don't use large language models (LLMs) to write original content.

Publish your draft

When your draft is ready, you have two options for publishing it: you can do so directly yourself, or ask another editor to review it first. If you don't have an account, if your account is not yet confirmed, or if you have a conflict of interest with the article topic, you will have to ask for a review. Otherwise, the choice is up to you. In either case, you should take some time to double-check that the draft is ready first.

Pre-publication checks

Take another look at your draft to see if it meets the criteria required for a Wikipedia article. Make sure that:

- The first sentence defines the article topic, and tells the reader who or what the subject is in plain English.
- There are citations to reliable sources in the article (most reviewers look for at least three sources).
 - Some specific types of information **require** inline citations, namely: direct quotations, and any contentious material about living persons (negative, positive, or neutral).
- The article is written from a neutral point of view.
- Any controversial claims about living people are impeccably sourced.

Ask for a review

Further information: [Wikipedia:Articles for creation](#)

If you think your article is ready, you can submit it for review by an experienced editor by clicking the **Submit the draft for review!** button at the top of your draft. If the button isn't there, you can instead add `{{subst:submit}}` to the top of the draft. A reviewer will then look at your draft and either publish it or give you feedback on how to improve it. You may continue to edit the page, even while waiting for a review. This may take some time (maybe weeks); please have patience, we are all volunteers.

Congratulations!

Congratulations, you've created your first article! We have some suggested next steps at [Help:After your first article](#), but do pat yourself on the back. Not many people have successfully created an article on Wikipedia!

Help is available!

- One of the best places to ask for assistance is at the [Teahouse](#), which is dedicated to answering newer editors' questions.
- Contact your Wikipedia mentor (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Homepage#growthexperiments-homepage-module-mentorship>) – they are there to answer your questions!
- For a list of informative, instructional and supportive pages, see the [Help directory](#). More can be found at the [request directory](#).
- . A volunteer will visit you there shortly!
- Alternatively, you can ask a question via the #help channel at [Wikipedia:Discord](#) or [IRC](#) chat at the [#wikipedia-en-help](#) [connect](#) channel.
- Wiki Education offers a [library of training modules](#) for new Wikipedia editors and students.

Basic information on Wikipedia - (Search)