

*This is a copy of the master help page at Meta*

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## Wikitext markup -- making your page look the way you want

### Basic text formatting

What it looks like	What you type
You can <i>emphasize text</i> by putting two apostrophes on each side. Three apostrophes will emphasize it <b>strongly</b> . Five apostrophes is <i><b>even stronger</b></i> .	You can <code>'emphasize text'</code> by putting two apostrophes on each side. Three apostrophes will emphasize it <code>'''strongly'''</code> . Five apostrophes is <code>''''even stronger''''</code> .
A single newline has no effect on the layout.  But an empty line starts a new paragraph.	A single newline has no effect on the layout.  But an empty line starts a new paragraph.
You can break lines without starting a new paragraph. Please use this sparingly.	You can break lines <code>&lt;br&gt;</code> without starting a new paragraph. <code>&lt;br&gt;</code> Please use this sparingly.
You should "sign" your comments on talk pages:  Three tildes gives your user name: <u>Karl Wick</u> Four tildes give your user name plus date/time: <u>Karl Wick</u> 07:46, 27 November 2005 (UTC) Five tildes gives the date/time alone: 07:46, 27 November 2005 (UTC)	You should "sign" your comments on talk pages: : Three tildes gives your user name: ~~~ : Four tildes give your user name plus date/time: ~~~~ : Five tildes gives the date/time alone: ~~~~~
You can use <b>HTML tags</b> , too, if you want. Some useful ways to use HTML:	You can use <code>&lt;b&gt;HTML tags&lt;/b&gt;</code> , too, if you want. Some useful ways to use HTML:  Put text in a <code>&lt;tt&gt;typewriter font&lt;/tt&gt;</code> . The same font is generally used for

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<p>Put text in a typewriter font. The same font is generally used for computer code.</p> <p><del>Strike out</del> or <u>underline</u> text, or write it in small caps.</p> <p>Superscripts and subscripts: <math>x^2</math>, <math>x_2</math></p> <p>Invisible comments that only appear while editing the page. Comments should usually go on the talk page, though.</p>	<pre>&lt;code&gt;computer code&lt;/code&gt;. &lt;del&gt;Strike out&lt;/del&gt; or &lt;u&gt;underline&lt;/u&gt; text, or write it &lt;span style="font-variant:small-caps"&gt; in small caps&lt;/span&gt;.  Superscripts and subscripts: x&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;, x&lt;sub&gt;2&lt;/sub&gt;  Invisible comments that only appear while editing the page. &lt;!-- Note to editors: blah blah blah. --&gt; Comments should usually go on the talk page, though.</pre>
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For a list of HTML tags that are allowed, see [HTML in wikitext](#). However, you should avoid HTML in favor of Wiki markup whenever possible.

## Organizing your writing

What it looks like	What you type
<p><u>Section headings</u></p> <p>Headings organize your writing into sections. The Wiki software can automatically generate a <a href="#">table of contents</a> from them.</p> <p><b>Subsection</b></p> <p>Using more equals signs creates a subsection.</p> <p><b>A smaller subsection</b></p> <p>Don't skip levels, like from two to four equals signs. Start with two equals signs; don't use single equals signs.</p>	<pre>== Section headings ==  Headings organize your writing into sections. The Wiki software can automatically generate a table of contents from them.  === Subsection ===  Using more equals signs creates a subsection.  ==== A smaller subsection ====  Don't skip levels, like from two to four equals signs. Start with two equals signs; don't use single equals signs.</pre>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Unordered <u>lists</u></i> are easy to do: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Start every line with a star.</li> <li>◇ More stars indicate a deeper level.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<pre>* ''Unordered lists'' are easy to do: ** Start every line with a star. *** More stars indicate a deeper level. *A newline *in a list marks the end of the list. *Of course you can start again.</pre>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A newline</li> <li>• in a list</li> </ul> <p>marks the end of the list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of course you can start again.</li> </ul>	
<p>1. Numbered lists are also good:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Very organized</li> <li>2. Easy to follow</li> </ol> <p>A newline marks the end of the list.</p> <p>1. New numbering starts with 1.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">But doing this or this to indent or putting code like this</p> <p>2. Doesn't mark the end</p>	<pre># Numbered lists are also good: ## Very organized ## Easy to follow A newline marks the end of the list. #New numbering starts with 1. #:But doing this #::or this #:::to indent #:&lt;&lt;nowiki /&gt;pre&gt;or putting code like this&lt;&lt;nowiki /&gt;/pre&gt; #Doesn't mark the end</pre>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You can even do mixed lists</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. and nest them             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ or break lines in lists.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<pre>* You can even do mixed lists *# and nest them ** or break lines&lt;br&gt;in lists.</pre>
<p>Another kind of list is a <b>definition list</b>:</p> <p>word</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">definition of the word</p> <p>longer phrase</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">phrase defined</p>	<pre>Another kind of list is a '''definition list''': ; word : definition of the word ; longer phrase : phrase defined</pre>
<p>A colon indents a line or paragraph.</p> <p>A newline after that starts a new paragraph.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This is often used for discussion on <u>Talk pages</u>.</p>	<pre>:A colon indents a line or paragraph. A newline after that starts a new paragraph. ::This is often used for discussion on talk pages.</pre>
<p>You can make <u>horizontal dividing lines</u> to separate text.</p>	<p>You can make horizontal dividing lines to separate text.</p> <pre>----</pre>

<p>But you should usually use sections instead, so that they go in the table of contents.</p>	<p>But you should usually use sections instead, so that they go in the table of contents.</p>
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## Links

You will often want to make clickable *links* to other pages.

What it looks like	What you type
<p>Here's a link to a page named <u>Official position</u>. You can even say <u>official positions</u> and the link will show up correctly.</p> <p>You can put formatting around a link. Example: <i>Wikipedia</i>.</p> <p>The <i>first letter</i> will automatically be capitalized, so <u>wikipedia</u> goes to the same place as <u>Wikipedia</u>. Capitalization matters after the first letter.</p> <p><u>The weather in London</u> is a page that doesn't exist yet. You can create it by clicking on the link.</p>	<p>Here's a link to a page named <code>[[Official position]]</code>. You can even say <code>[[official position]]s</code> and the link will show up correctly.</p> <p>You can put formatting around a link. Example: <code>'[[Wikipedia]]'</code>.</p> <p>The <code>'first letter'</code> will automatically be capitalized, so <code>[[wikipedia]]</code> is the same as <code>[[Wikipedia]]</code>. Capitalization matters after the first letter.</p> <p><code>[[The weather in London]]</code> is a page that doesn't exist yet. You can create it by clicking on the link.</p>
<p>You can link to a page section by its title:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>List of cities by country#Morocco</u>.</li> <li>• <u>List of cities by country#Sealand</u>.</li> </ul> <p>If multiple sections have the same title, add a number. <u>#Example section 3</u> goes to the third section named "Example section".</p>	<p>You can link to a page section by its title:</p> <pre>*[[List of cities by country#Morocco]]. *[[List of cities by country#Sealand]].</pre> <p>If multiple sections have the same title, add a number. <code>[[#Example section 3]]</code> goes to the third section named "Example section".</p>
<p>You can make a link point to a different place with a <u>piped link</u>. Put the link target first, then the pipe character " ", then the link text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>About Links</u></li> <li>• <u>Cities in Morocco</u></li> </ul>	<p>You can make a link point to a different place with a <code>[[Help:Piped link piped link]]</code>. Put the link target first, then the pipe character " ", then the link text.</p> <pre>*[[Help:Link About Links]] *[[List of cities by country#Morocco  Cities in Morocco]]</pre>
<p>You can make an external link just by typing a URL:</p>	<p>You can make an external link just by typing a URL: <code>http://www.nupedia.com</code></p>

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<p><a href="http://www.nupedia.com">http://www.nupedia.com</a></p> <p>You can give it a title: <a href="#">Nupedia</a></p> <p>Or leave the title blank: <code>[1]</code></p>	<p>You can give it a title:  <code>[http://www.nupedia.com Nupedia]</code></p> <p>Or leave the title blank:  <code>[http://www.nupedia.com]</code></p>
<p>You can <b>redirect</b> the user to another page with a special link. For example, you might want to redirect <a href="#">USA</a> to <a href="#">United States</a>.</p>	<p><code>#REDIRECT [[United States]]</code></p>
<p><b>Category links</b> don't show up, but add the page to a category.</p> <p>Add an extra colon to actually link to the category: <a href="#">Category:English documentation</a></p>	<p>Category links don't show up, but add the page to a category. <code>[[Category:Documentation]]</code></p> <p>Add an extra colon to actually link to the category:</p>
<p>The Wiki reformats linked dates to match the reader's date preferences. These three dates will show up the same if you choose a format in your <a href="#">Preferences</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">July 20, 1969</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">20 July 1969</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">1969-07-20</a></li> </ul>	<p>The Wiki reformats linked dates to match the reader's date preferences. These three dates will show up the same if you choose a format in your <code>[[Special:Preferences ]]</code>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <code>[[July 20]], [[1969]]</code></li> <li>* <code>[[20 July]] [[1969]]</code></li> <li>* <code>[[1969]]-[[07-20]]</code></li> </ul>

## Just show what I typed

A few different kinds of formatting will tell the Wiki to display things as you typed them.

What it looks like	What you type
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## More information

- [wikipedia:Wikipedia:Cheatsheet](#)
- [wikipedia:Help:Wiki markup](#)
- [wikipedia::Category:Wikipedia text help](#)
- [Help:Contents of MediaWiki](#)