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Concept

Pages in category "Concept"

The following 14 pages are in this category, out of 14 total.

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- [UserManual:Subpage](#)

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- [Manual:What is a wiki](#)
- [UserManual:What is a wiki](#)
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If you cannot find the answer you were looking for, you can post a question in our [community forum](#).



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Categories

A [quality version](#) of this page, [approved](#) on *27 April 2021*, was based off this revision.

You can assign several categories to a page. Categories can be organized as top categories with subcategories. Therefore, it is possible to create a tree structure and thus to build a hierarchical structure.

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What are categories?

Categories work like keywords or tags. Adding categories to a page makes it easier to find the page in the wiki. All pages of the same category are automatically shown on the corresponding category page. For each category that has not been assigned before, the wiki will automatically create a redlink. Once the page has been created by clicking on the redlink, all pages and subcategories are automatically listed on the category page.

Categories are usually created by users. However, in special cases, MediaWiki also assigns auto-generated categories (for example, pages with broken links).

Characteristics

- **Tagging:** Categories tag pages.
- **Multiple categories per page:** A page can be assigned to several categories.
- **Main categories:** Categories can be organized under main categories.
- **Independent of namespaces:** Categories are not contained in namespaces, but are shared wiki-wide.

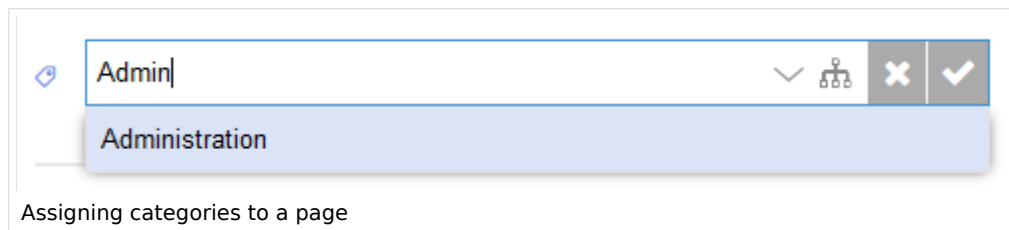
Create and assign categories

To create a category or assign a page to an existing category, there are multiple options:

1. In the title area (view mode)
2. Via the options menu in the visual editor (visual editing mode)
3. With Wikitext (source editing mode)
4. In the "Page Information" fyout of the quality management tools

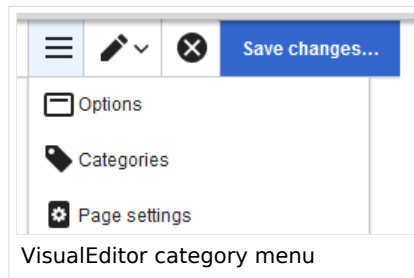
In the title section of the page

The [title section](#) contains the category assignment field. Any user with edit rights can click on the edit link to add or remove categories from the page. To view all existing categories with subcategories, you can click on the tree icon. Once you are done, the categories are confirmed with the check mark.



With Visual Editor

In the page options menu of [VisualEditor](#), you can access a Categories menu item. Here you can add and remove category assignments from the page and also add a sortkey to the category.



In Source code

To add a category in source code, the namespace Category is added before the page name.

```
[[Category:Sales]]
```

Note: On category pages, umlauts are generally sorted all the way to the back, e.g., "Märchen" after "Muh". You can therefore use the variable `{{DEFAULTSORT:sortkey}}` to specify an alternative title to be used for sorting (e.g., `{{DEFAULTSORT:Maerchen}}`).

Links to category pages

Links to a category require a colon **before** the namespace.

Example:

```
[[[:category:new_page]]]
```

If this colon is missing, the article will not be linked to the category page, but the article will be assigned to the corresponding category.

Displays of categories

You can view a list of all wiki categories on the page [Special:Categories](#).

On the page *Category:category_name*, you will find a list of all the pages and media associated with a particular category.

If you have accessed a previously unavailable (redlinked) category page, you can add a category description to the page. That way, users understand the purpose of the category.

Category manager

The easiest way to manage categories and sub-categories is with the Category manager page (`Special:Category_manager`). You can navigate to the [Category manager](#) via Global actions.

Related info

- [Category Manager](#)
- <https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Categories>

Magic words

A [quality version](#) of this page, [approved](#) on *23 November 2020*, was based off this revision.

A "magic word" is a string of text that is recognized by the MediaWiki software. It triggers the software to return the value of a function, such as dates, website statistics or page names.

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Types of magic words

- **Behavior switch** (or "Double underscore"): `__TOC__`
- **Variable**: `{{FULLPAGENAME}}`
- **Tag**: `<gallery>`
- **Parser function**: `{{#ifeq:x|y|true|false}}`

The 4 types of MagicWords

Behavior switch

Characteristics of a behavior switch

- **Purpose**: controls the layout or behavior of the page
- **Syntax**: `__NOTOC__`

Description

A behavior switch includes or omits certain elements of the page. It is also known as "double underscore". Behavior switches can be put anywhere in the source code of the designated page (usually at the end of the page). The behavior switch `__TOC__` produces as output the table of contents exactly where it was inserted on the page.===

Variable

Characteristics of a variable

- **Purpose**: returns information about the page, wiki, or date
- **Syntax**: `{{PAGENAME}}`

Description

Variables contain (simple) dynamic data. If a template name conflicts with a variable, the variable is used. For example, you have the variable `{{PAGENAME}}`. In that case, you have to transclude the template with the same name as `{{Template:PAGENAME}}`.

Parser Function

Characteristics of a parser function

- **Purpose**: simple "programming language" for page content (mainly in templates)
- **Syntax**: `{{#if:{{{field|}}} | {{{field|}}} | N/A }}`

Description

Parser functions are similar to variables, but take one or more parameters.Example:

```
{{#ifeq:{{{type}}}|warning  
|This is a warning!  
|  
}}
```

They are used for simple logic only, since they are hard to read and to maintain on a larger scale. If complex logic is required, consider Lua scripts in the "Module" namespace (mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:Scribunto) and invoke using `{{#invoke:...}}`

Parser functions can also be "tag-like", e.g. `{{#ask:...}}` from SemanticMediaWiki. For more information, refer to the MediaWiki help pages mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Extension:ParserFunctions and mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Magic_words#Parser_functions.

Tag

Characteristics of a tag

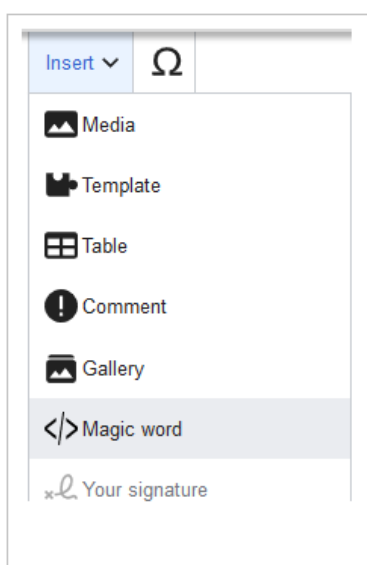
- **Purpose:** often used for custom development to process dynamic content
- **Syntax:** `<smartlist />`

Description

Tags are implemented in PHP as part of a MediaWiki extension. Tags with "bs:" prefix come from BlueSpice (see [Reference:BlueSpiceTagSearch](#)). All others come from MediaWiki or from third-party extensions, e.g. the extension [SyntaxHighlight](#).

How to add a magic word

Magic words are inserted directly in the source code. Some frequently used magic words can also be added directly with the VisualEditor *Insert > Magic word* menu item:



Related info

- mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Magic_words
- [Extension:BlueSpiceInsertMagic](#)

Manual:Namespace

A [quality version](#) of this page, [approved](#) on *5 March 2021*, was based off this revision.

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What is a namespace?

A **namespace** defines an area in a wiki. You can recognize a namespace by the namespace prefix in the page title:

```
<namespace>:Page title
```

In a wiki, you will find predefined namespaces. In addition, wiki administrators can create custom namespaces as needed.

There are certain aspects of namespaces that are important to consider before creating a namespace. It is therefore important to understand the characteristics of namespaces and the reasons for using a custom namespace.

Characteristics of a namespace

- **Rights management** : Each namespace can contain its own user rights/roles assignments. However, we recommend flat user hierarchies for wikis.
- **Search function** : Search can be limited to individual namespaces.
- **Design** : Namespaces can be styled differently.
- **Flat structure** :Namespaces cannot contain other namespaces
- **One namespace per page** : The same page name in a different namespace creates a new page.
- **Special namespaces:**
 - Main (Pages) - No namespace prefix in page titles
 - Special pages (Special)
 - Images (File)
 - Documents (Media)
 - Discussions (Talk)

Reasons for using namespaces

- **Rights management:** To assign different user permissions to separate content. For example, a company's HR department can use its own namespace to grant only Human Resources personnel access to the pages in that namespace. Here, rights management is the main reason for creating namespaces. However, flat hierarchies are recommended for wikis.
- **Search function:** To exclude pages and files from the [search](#).
- **Design:** To format pages in different wiki areas differently.

We often use the example of cupboards to make clear the principle of namespaces. There are shelves and everyone can look at them and work on something. There are glass cupboards with a lock that you can look into, but only some people have the key to change the contents. Then there are closed wooden cabinets with locks and only selected people can look inside and work in them. And each of these cupboards can look differently.

Note: While users cannot view the pages or files in a namespace for which they have no access rights, they will still see the pages and files listed on the wiki's special pages. They will also see the page names in the search results if the namespace has not been excluded from the search.

BlueSpice standard namespaces

BlueSpice uses, among others, the 15 standard and the two so-called pseudo namespaces from MediaWiki:

ID	Namespace	Function
	Media	Pseudo-namespace for uploaded images and files. Will be replaced by path of the files.
	special	Pseudo-namespace for special pages.
0	(pages)	These are given without a prefix.
1	Talk	talk page. Is created in addition to each article (also in the following namespaces) to speak about its contents. Additional tab (+).
2	User	User page. Will be created for every logged in user.
3	User talk	Cf. talk
4	[Wiki-Name]	Information about the wiki or the current project. Here: BlueSpice.
5	[Wiki-Name] _Talk	Cf. talk
6	Image	Description of a picture and other files. Is automatically supplemented with version information and information about the occurrence of the file
7	File_Talk	Cf. talk
8	MediaWiki	system messages. A complete list can be found under Special: AllMessages. Can only be changed by registered users.
9	MediaWiki_Talk	Cf. talk
10	Template	Templates can be integrated into other pages.
11	Template_talk	Cf. talk
12	Help	Help pages describe how to perform actions in the wiki. No clear separation from the [wiki name] namespace.

ID	Namespace	Function
13	Help_talk	Cf. talk
14	Category	Pages can be assigned to categories, which are then accessible in this namespace.
15	Category_talk	Cf. talk

Standard namespace: A page is assigned to the "Main" namespace, as long as no other namespace is specified.

Pseudo namespaces: The two pseudo namespaces (Media, Special) are used like normal namespaces, but you cannot edit them or add pages to them.

Most pages in the namespaces are created automatically:

- Special pages are generated by the system during installation.
- Media and image pages are created during file upload.
- User pages are created whenever a user acts on the wiki.
- Discussion pages are also created with the corresponding pages.

This leaves only the default namespaces (*Main*), *[wiki name]*, *Template*, *Help* and *Category* namespaces where pages can be freely created.

Note: In the default MediaWiki, the names of these areas are "hard-coded". This means that they have been set in the source code of the MediaWiki and cannot be changed by users.

Accessing pages in a namespace

To access or create a page in a specific namespace, its name is simply placed in front of the page title and separated by a colon:

```
[[Setup:Installation|]]
```

In the example, the pipe symbol (straight line) was also added. It has the effect that the namespace won't be displayed for the link label.

If you provide a namespace that is not known to the wiki, the page is created in the standard namespace Main. The portion of the reference specified as the namespace is then added to the title of the item instead and is not recognized as a namespace label.

Creating a new namespace

You can create additional namespaces by using the Namespace manager under Global actions > Management > [Namespace manager](#). The menu item "Category manager" loads the page `Special:NamespaceManager`.

Organizing content without namespaces

If you simply want to group pages in your wiki without the need for controlling access rights, you can use the syntax of the namespaces to **simulate a namespace in the namespace Main**. Simply prefix the pages that belong to a group with a name and a colon. If no namespace with this name exists, the prefix simply becomes part of the page name.

That way, it is possible to use pages with the same name in the main namespace and thus let different groups work on content "sets". Since these own "namespace" prefixes are part of the page name, you can now display all pages in a simulated namespace by searching for the prefix in the search field.

Since you can also organize pages with categories and subpages, you should start by planning how you would like to organize the content in your wiki.

After installing your wiki, you can visualize this with the BlueSpice draw.io Plugin directly in your wiki and discuss it with your team.

Viewing all pages of a namespace

You can view all pages in a namespace:

1. Go to the Special page "All Pages"
2. Leave the input field empty
3. Select a namespace from the Namespace drop-down menu
4. Click "Go"

Related info

- [Namespace CSS manager](#)
- [Namespace manager](#)

Manual:Subpage

A [quality version](#) of this page, [approved](#) on *9 September 2021*, was based off this revision.

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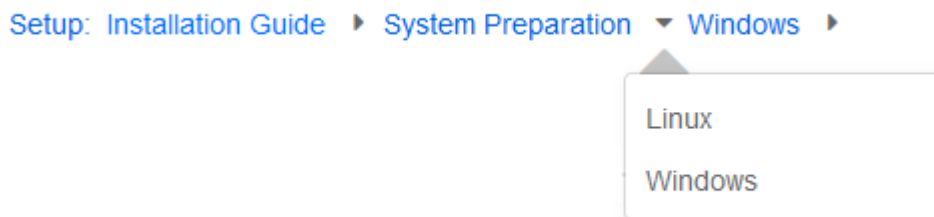
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What is a subpage?

To structure wiki content, you can create subpages for a page. This is useful if you have a larger topic and you want to break this topic down into manageable chunks of information. For example, if you have a page about a car, you could have subpages about major car components such as Brakes and Transmission. Subpages can have subpages of their own.

Subpages are automatically displayed in the breadcrumb navigation of the page:



Characteristics of a subpage

- **Syntax-based:** A slash in the page title creates a subpage (e.g., `Installation Guide/System Preparation`).
- **Navigation:** A subpage creates navigation points (breadcrumb).
- **Hierarchy:** Enables "strongly associated" page hierarchies.
- **Language versions:** Management of language versions of a page.

Unterseiten-Syntax

empty app.diagrams.net chart

Creating a subpage

To create a subpage, it is simply appended to the page name with a slash without spaces. Subpages can in turn have subpages:

```
Installation Guide/System Preparation
Installation Guide/System Preparation/Windows
Installation Guide/System Preparation Windows/IIS
```

Note: Since MediaWiki interprets slashes as subpages, you should not use slashes in page names.

Reasons for using subpages

Typical applications for subpages are:

- **To create modular pages:** For a larger topic, you can create a main page and link it to individual detail pages. The advantage is that the detail pages can then be specifically linked from other pages.
- **To maintain archives:** If the discussions on the user discussion page become too long, file them in a subpage.
- **To translate a page:** If the content of a page should be available in other languages. You can create a subpage in German for an English page, for example.
- **To document a template:** If you have a very complex template, you can document its functionality in subpages of the template.

Creating a list of subpages

To list the subpages of the current page, add the following tag to the source text of the page:

```
{{Special:PrefixIndex/{{FULLPAGENAME}}/}}
```

Example:

To display the subpages of the page *VisualEditor* in the namespace Manual without showing the namespace or the main page name in the results and without including redirected pages, the syntax is:

```
{{Special:PrefixIndex/Manual:VisualEditor/ |hideredirects=1 |stripprefix=1}}
```

Output:

- [Files](#)
- [Images](#)
- [Tables](#)
- [Tables/Examples](#)
- [Version comparison](#)

The correct display of the subpages is only visible in read-mode after saving the page. The list is displayed automatically in a multi-column layout and cannot be adjusted.

For more flexibility in the output of subpages, you can work with the [extension DPL 3](#) which is included in BlueSpice.

Related info

- <https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Subpages>
- [Creating page lists](#)

Wiki basics

A [quality version](#) of this page, [approved](#) on *28 July 2020*, was based off this revision.

The idea

A wiki is a web-based tool that allows people to easily add, modify, or delete the content of a web page simply by using a web browser.

Wikiwiki is Hawaiian and means *quick*. It describes the idea of creating and sharing content easily and, obviously, very quickly.

In public wikis such as Wikipedia, visitors don't even need a user account to make changes to a page that other people have created or edited before. Have you ever updated a Wikipedia page yourself? You should definitely try!



Wikiwiki Shuttle in Hawaii

Wikis use specialized wiki software and are often created in a very collaborative environment. The content is typically non-linear. In order to find relevant information, a powerful search function becomes very important. There are, however, many ways to organize a wiki so that users can navigate to content without relying only on the search function of their wiki.

History

The first wiki (named *WikiWikiWeb*) was invented by Ward Cunningham in 1995.

Cunningham became impatient with existing text processing programs and was looking for a new documentation system that was adapted to fit the needs of programmers. He wanted to develop a simple software that would allow programmers to work collaboratively on source code and to publish it immediately. Also, the new program should document all editing steps automatically to track all changes that have been made. In the end, the first wiki was put online and is still working.

Wikis are for good reasons a popular technology to this day and have become very mature and feature-rich. They are a great tool for collaborating on information of any kind.

Basic functions

Editing: Every wiki page has a clearly visible editing link or button. This should encourage page visitors to immediately contribute to the content if information is missing or simply wrong. Companies should be careful when limiting the edit options on a page – they will surely miss out on important knowledge transfer opportunities.

Linking: To make it easy for users to find related information, it is very easy to insert links anywhere in the wiki, even to a page that does not yet exist!

History: With the history function, it is possible to trace every change that anyone has ever made to a page. Losing versions of important content is a thing of the past.

Recent changes: All recent changes in the entire wiki are clearly visible. Nobody wastes any time looking for the most important and most up-to-date information.

Examples for public wikis

There are large and small wiki communities that use MediaWiki to collaborate. Some examples of public wikis:

- [Wikipedia](#): Free online encyclopedia
- [FileZilla Wiki](#): Help site of the popular FTP software
- [Joomla! Documentation](#): Help documentation of the popular CMS software
- [MoodleDocs](#): Documentation of the learning platform Moodle
- [Antwiki](#): Where ant scientists share their information

Literature

- Ebersbach, Anja, Glaser, Markus und Heigl, Richard (2007): *Wiki. Kooperation im Web*, 2. Aufl., Springer: Berlin, Heidelberg.
- Lange, Christoph (Hrsg.) (2006): *Wikis und Blogs - Planen, Einrichten, Verwalten*, Computer- und Literaturverlag.
- Leuf, Bo und Cunningham, Ward (2001): *The Wiki Way. Quick Collaboration on the Web*, Addison Wesley: Boston u. a.

The pages model

A [quality version](#) of this page, [approved](#) on *28 July 2020*, was based off this revision.

Each installed instance of a wiki is made up of different types of pages. Each page type serves a specific role in the wiki and, therefore, contains different elements which are described here.

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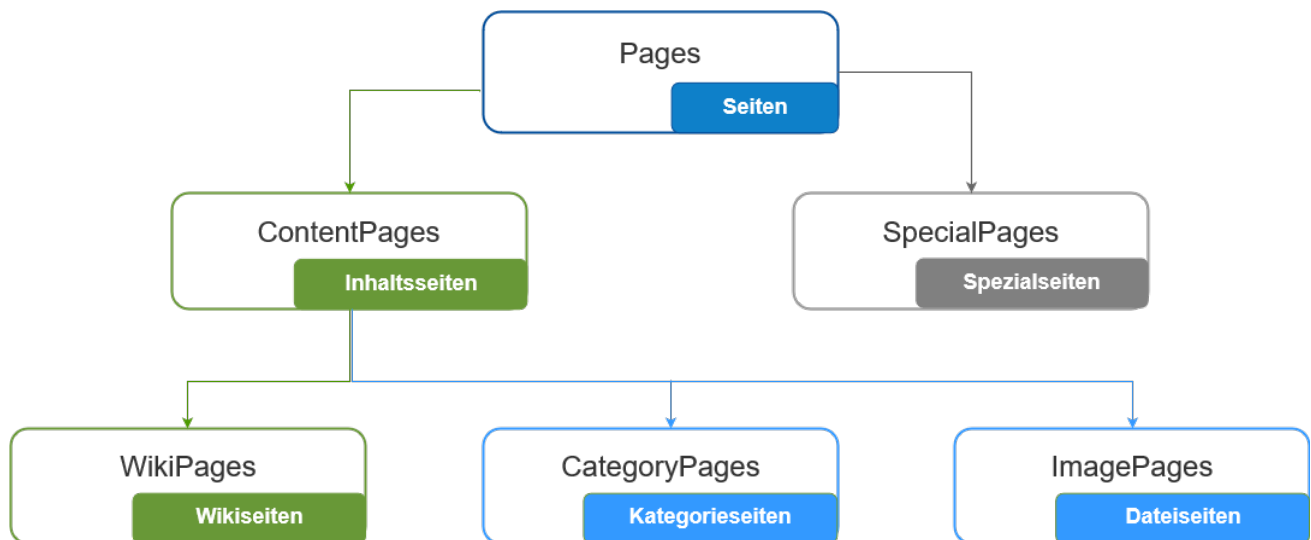
Wiki instance

A wiki instance has the following main characteristics:

- it has its own configuration
- it has its own data storage with
 - its own database (for pages, users, user<->groups, user settings, ...)
 - its own file repo (for uploaded files)
- it can be part of a wiki farm

Wiki pages

The pages modell



Content page

Content pages are all editable wiki pages. They can be **wiki pages** that are created by all users with the goal to share information on the wiki. **Category pages** are created when a page was added to a category and a user subsequently saves the necessary category page. A **file description page** is created when a file is uploaded to the wiki.

Wiki page

Wiki pages are the actual "content pages" that users create when they add information to a wiki. They can be "blank" at the beginning or based on a page template that already contains some content with a predefined structure.

Characteristics:

- content is added by users
- revisioned and has a version history

- has an associated "Talk" page

Special page

Each wiki contains a large number of special pages. These pages are built-in and not editable. All special pages are located in the pseudo-namespace "Special" and are listed on the page

`Special:SpecialPages` : Merkmale:

- automatically created content
- overview pages or administrative tools

Types of special pages:

- **Maintenance reports** (e.g., broken redirects, uncategorized pages, wanted pages)
- **Lists of pages** (e.g., all pages, categories, forms, templates, high-use pages)
- **User admin pages** (e.g., active users list, blocked users, user rights)
- **BlueSpice special pages** (e.g., category manager, namespace manager, privacy admin)
- and many others

If you want to create your own special page, you can find the necessary information at [Mediawiki.org](https://mediawiki.org).

Category page / file description page

To display all pages that share a category tag, a category page has to be created. Otherwise, users won't have a list of pages that are in a particular category.

When a file (e.g. image or PDF) is uploaded to the wiki, a corresponding description page is created. This page shows all necessary file information and provides access to important file management tools.

Characteristics:

- hybrid page between special and wiki page
- editable/deletable like a wiki page
- automatically generated content like a special page

Related info

- mediawiki.org/wiki/Manual:Special_pages

4.1 Categories

You can assign several categories to a page. Categories can be organized as top categories with subcategories. Therefore, it is possible to create a tree structure and thus to build a hierarchical structure.

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What are categories?

Categories work like keywords or tags. Adding categories to a page makes it easier to find the page in the wiki. All pages of the same category are automatically shown on the corresponding category page. For each category that has not been assigned before, the wiki will automatically create a redlink. Once the page has been created by clicking on the redlink, all pages and subcategories are automatically listed on the category page.

Categories are usually created by users. However, in special cases, MediaWiki also assigns auto-generated categories (for example, pages with broken links).

Characteristics

- **Tagging:** Categories tag pages.
- **Multiple categories per page:** A page can be assigned to several categories.
- **Main categories:** Categories can be organized under main categories.
- **Independent of namespaces:** Categories are not contained in namespaces, but are shared wiki-wide.

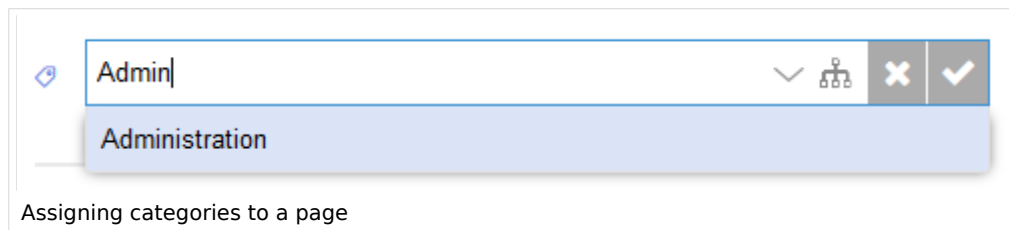
Create and assign categories

To create a category or assign a page to an existing category, there are multiple options:

1. In the title area (view mode)
2. Via the options menu in the visual editor (visual editing mode)
3. With Wikitext (source editing mode)
4. In the "Page Information" fyout of the quality management tools

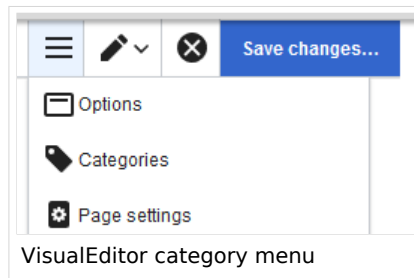
In the title section of the page

The [title section](#) contains the category assignment field. Any user with edit rights can click on the edit link to add or remove categories from the page. To view all existing categories with subcategories, you can click on the tree icon. Once you are done, the categories are confirmed with the check mark.



With Visual Editor

In the page options menu of [VisualEditor](#), you can access a Categories menu item. Here you can add and remove category assignments from the page and also add a sortkey to the category.



In Source code

To add a category in source code, the namespace Category is added before the page name.

```
[[Category:Sales]]
```

Note: On category pages, umlauts are generally sorted all the way to the back, e.g., "Märchen" after "Muh". You can therefore use the variable `{{DEFAULTSORT:sortkey}}` to specify an alternative title to be used for sorting (e.g., `{{DEFAULTSORT:Maerchen}}`).

Links to category pages

Links to a category require a colon **before** the namespace.

Example:

```
[[[:category:new_page]]]
```

If this colon is missing, the article will not be linked to the category page, but the article will be assigned to the corresponding category.

Displays of categories

You can view a list of all wiki categories on the page [Special:Categories](#).

On the page *Category:category_name*, you will find a list of all the pages and media associated with a particular category.

If you have accessed a previously unavailable (redlinked) category page, you can add a category description to the page. That way, users understand the purpose of the category.

Category manager

The easiest way to manage categories and sub-categories is with the Category manager page (`Special:Category_manager`). You can navigate to the [Category manager](#) via Global actions.

Related info

- [Category Manager](#)
- <https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Categories>

3.4 Magic words

A "magic word" is a string of text that is recognized by the MediaWiki software. It triggers the software to return the value of a function, such as dates, website statistics or page names.

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Types of magic words

- **Behavior switch** (or "Double underscore"): `__TOC__`
- **Variable**: `{{FULLPAGENAME}}`
- **Tag**: `<gallery>`
- **Parser function**: `{{#ifeq:x|y|true|false}}`

The 4 types of MagicWords

Behavior switch

Characteristics of a behavior switch

- **Purpose**: controls the layout or behavior of the page
- **Syntax**: `__NOTOC__`

Description

A behavior switch includes or omits certain elements of the page. It is also known as "double underscore". Behavior switches can be put anywhere in the source code of the designated page (usually at the end of the page). The behavior switch `__TOC__` produces as output the table of contents exactly where it was inserted on the page.===

Variable

Characteristics of a variable

- **Purpose**: returns information about the page, wiki, or date
- **Syntax**: `{{PAGENAME}}`

Description

Variables contain (simple) dynamic data. If a template name conflicts with a variable, the variable is used. For example, you have the variable `{{PAGENAME}}`. In that case, you have to transclude the template with the same name as `{{Template:PAGENAME}}`.

Parser Function

Characteristics of a parser function

- **Purpose**: simple "programming language" for page content (mainly in templates)
- **Syntax**: `{{#if:{{{field|}}} | {{{field|}}} | N/A }}`

Description

Parser functions are similar to variables, but take one or more parameters.Example:

```
{{#ifeq:{{{type}}}|warning  
|This is a warning!  
|  
}}
```

They are used for simple logic only, since they are hard to read and to maintain on a larger scale. If complex logic is required, consider Lua scripts in the "Module" namespace (mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:Scribunto) and invoke using `{{#invoke:...}}`

Parser functions can also be "tag-like", e.g. `{{#ask:...}}` from SemanticMediaWiki. For more information, refer to the MediaWiki help pages mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Extension:ParserFunctions and mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Magic_words#Parser_functions.

Tag

Characteristics of a tag

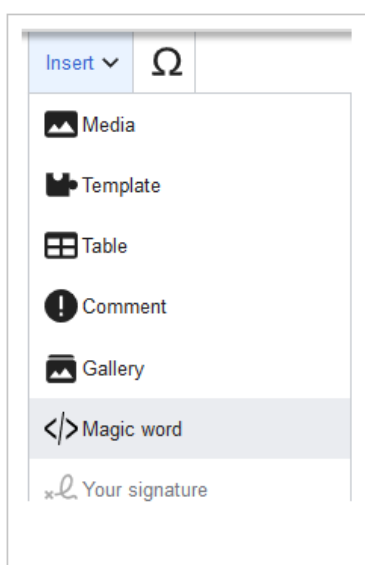
- **Purpose:** often used for custom development to process dynamic content
- **Syntax:** `<smartlist />`

Description

Tags are implemented in PHP as part of a MediaWiki extension. Tags with "bs:" prefix come from BlueSpice (see [Reference:BlueSpiceTagSearch](#)). All others come from MediaWiki or from third-party extensions, e.g. the extension [SyntaxHighlight](#).

How to add a magic word

Magic words are inserted directly in the source code. Some frequently used magic words can also be added directly with the VisualEditor *Insert > Magic word* menu item:



Related info

- mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Magic_words
- [Extension:BlueSpiceInsertMagic](#)

3.2 UserManual:Namespace

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5 Accessing pages in a namespace	35
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8 Viewing all pages of a namespace	36
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What is a namespace?

A **namespace** defines an area in a wiki. You can recognize a namespace by the namespace prefix in the page title:

```
<namespace>:Page title
```

In a wiki, you will find predefined namespaces. In addition, wiki administrators can create custom namespaces as needed.

There are certain aspects of namespaces that are important to consider before creating a namespace. It is therefore important to understand the characteristics of namespaces and the reasons for using a custom namespace.

Characteristics of a namespace

- **Rights management** : Each namespace can contain its own user rights/roles assignments. However, we recommend flat user hierarchies for wikis.
- **Search function** : Search can be limited to individual namespaces.
- **Design** : Namespaces can be styled differently.
- **Flat structure** :Namespaces cannot contain other namespaces
- **One namespace per page** : The same page name in a different namespace creates a new page.
- **Special namespaces:**
 - Main (Pages) - No namespace prefix in page titles
 - Special pages (Special)
 - Images (File)
 - Documents (Media)
 - Discussions (Talk)

Reasons for using namespaces

- **Rights management:** To assign different user permissions to separate content. For example, a company's HR department can use its own namespace to grant only Human Resources personnel access to the pages in that namespace. Here, rights management is the main reason for creating namespaces. However, flat hierarchies are recommended for wikis.
- **Search function:** To exclude pages and files from the [search](#).
- **Design:** To format pages in different wiki areas differently.

We often use the example of cupboards to make clear the principle of namespaces. There are shelves and everyone can look at them and work on something. There are glass cupboards with a lock that you can look into, but only some people have the key to change the contents. Then there are closed wooden cabinets with locks and only selected people can look inside and work in them. And each of these cupboards can look differently.

Note: While users cannot view the pages or files in a namespace for which they have no access rights, they will still see the pages and files listed on the wiki's special pages. They will also see the page names in the search results if the namespace has not been excluded from the search.

BlueSpice standard namespaces

BlueSpice uses, among others, the 15 standard and the two so-called pseudo namespaces from MediaWiki:

ID	Namespace	Function
	Media	Pseudo-namespaces for uploaded images and files. Will be replaced by path of the files.
	special	Pseudo-namespaces for special pages.
0	(pages)	These are given without a prefix.
1	Talk	talk page. Is created in addition to each article (also in the following namespaces) to speak about its contents. Additional tab (+).
2	User	User page. Will be created for every logged in user.
3	User talk	Cf. talk
4	[Wiki-Name]	Information about the wiki or the current project. Here: BlueSpice.
5	[Wiki-Name] _Talk	Cf. talk
6	Image	Description of a picture and other files. Is automatically supplemented with version information and information about the occurrence of the file
7	File_Talk	Cf. talk
8	MediaWiki	system messages. A complete list can be found under Special: AllMessages. Can only be changed by registered users.
9	MediaWiki_Talk	Cf. talk
10	Template	Templates can be integrated into other pages.
11	Template_talk	Cf. talk
12	Help	Help pages describe how to perform actions in the wiki. No clear separation from the [wiki name] namespace.

ID	Namespace	Function
13	Help_talk	Cf. talk
14	Category	Pages can be assigned to categories, which are then accessible in this namespace.
15	Category_talk	Cf. talk

Standard namespace: A page is assigned to the "Main" namespace, as long as no other namespace is specified.

Pseudo namespaces: The two pseudo namespaces (Media, Special) are used like normal namespaces, but you cannot edit them or add pages to them.

Most pages in the namespaces are created automatically:

- Special pages are generated by the system during installation.
- Media and image pages are created during file upload.
- User pages are created whenever a user acts on the wiki.
- Discussion pages are also created with the corresponding pages.

This leaves only the default namespaces (*Main*), *[wiki name]*, *Template*, *Help* and *Category* namespaces where pages can be freely created.

Note: In the default MediaWiki, the names of these areas are "hard-coded". This means that they have been set in the source code of the MediaWiki and cannot be changed by users.

Accessing pages in a namespace

To access or create a page in a specific namespace, its name is simply placed in front of the page title and separated by a colon:

```
[[Setup:Installation|]]
```

In the example, the pipe symbol (straight line) was also added. It has the effect that the namespace won't be displayed for the link label.

If you provide a namespace that is not known to the wiki, the page is created in the standard namespace Main. The portion of the reference specified as the namespace is then added to the title of the item instead and is not recognized as a namespace label.

Creating a new namespace

You can create additional namespaces by using the Namespace manager under Global actions > Management > [Namespace manager](#). The menu item "Category manager" loads the page `Special:NamespaceManager`.

Organizing content without namespaces

If you simply want to group pages in your wiki without the need for controlling access rights, you can use the syntax of the namespaces to **simulate a namespace in the namespace Main**. Simply prefix the pages that belong to a group with a name and a colon. If no namespace with this name exists, the prefix simply becomes part of the page name.

That way, it is possible to use pages with the same name in the main namespace and thus let different groups work on content "sets". Since these own "namespace" prefixes are part of the page name, you can now display all pages in a simulated namespace by searching for the prefix in the search field.

Since you can also organize pages with categories and subpages, you should start by planning how you would like to organize the content in your wiki.

After installing your wiki, you can visualize this with the BlueSpice draw.io Plugin directly in your wiki and discuss it with your team.

Viewing all pages of a namespace

You can view all pages in a namespace:

1. Go to the Special page "All Pages"
2. Leave the input field empty
3. Select a namespace from the Namespace drop-down menu
4. Click "Go"

Related info

- [Namespace CSS manager](#)
- [Namespace manager](#)

4.2 UserManual:Subpage

Contents

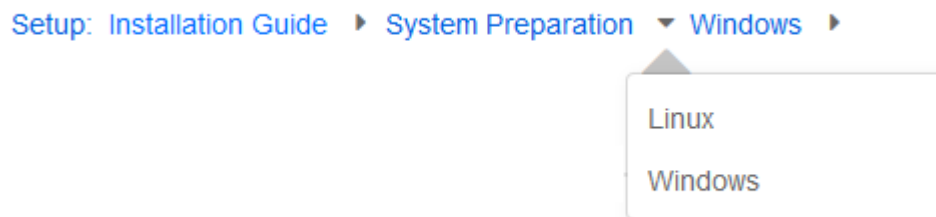
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---	--------------------	----

What is a subpage?

To structure wiki content, you can create subpages for a page. This is useful if you have a larger topic and you want to break this topic down into manageable chunks of information. For example, if you have a page about a car, you could have subpages about major car components such as Brakes and Transmission. Subpages can have subpages of their own.

Subpages are automatically displayed in the breadcrumb navigation of the page:



Characteristics of a subpage

- **Syntax-based:** A slash in the page title creates a subpage (e.g., `Installation Guide/System Preparation`).
- **Navigation:** A subpage creates navigation points (breadcrumb).
- **Hierarchy:** Enables "strongly associated" page hierarchies.
- **Language versions:** Management of language versions of a page.

Unterseiten-Syntax

empty app.diagrams.net chart

Creating a subpage

To create a subpage, it is simply appended to the page name with a slash without spaces. Subpages can in turn have subpages:

```
Installation Guide/System Preparation
Installation Guide/System Preparation/Windows
Installation Guide/System Preparation Windows/IIS
```

Note: Since MediaWiki interprets slashes as subpages, you should not use slashes in page names.

Reasons for using subpages

Typical applications for subpages are:

- **To create modular pages:** For a larger topic, you can create a main page and link it to individual detail pages. The advantage is that the detail pages can then be specifically linked from other pages.
- **To maintain archives:** If the discussions on the user discussion page become too long, file them in a subpage.
- **To translate a page:** If the content of a page should be available in other languages. You can create a subpage in German for an English page, for example.
- **To document a template:** If you have a very complex template, you can document its functionality in subpages of the template.

Creating a list of subpages

To list the subpages of the current page, add the following tag to the source text of the page:

```
{{Special:PrefixIndex/{{FULLPAGENAME}}/}}
```

Example:

To display the subpages of the page *VisualEditor* in the namespace Manual without showing the namespace or the main page name in the results and without including redirected pages, the syntax is:

```
{{Special:PrefixIndex/Manual:VisualEditor/ |hideredirects=1 |stripprefix=1}}
```

Output:

- [Files](#)
- [Images](#)
- [Tables](#)
- [Tables/Examples](#)
- [Version comparison](#)

The correct display of the subpages is only visible in read-mode after saving the page. The list is displayed automatically in a multi-column layout and cannot be adjusted.

For more flexibility in the output of subpages, you can work with the [extension DPL 3](#) which is included in BlueSpice.

Related info

- <https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Help:Subpages>
- [Creating page lists](#)

1.1 Wiki basics

The idea

A wiki is a web-based tool that allows people to easily add, modify, or delete the content of a web page simply by using a web browser.

Wikiwiki is Hawaiian and means *quick*. It describes the idea of creating and sharing content easily and, obviously, very quickly.

In public wikis such as Wikipedia, visitors don't even need a user account to make changes to a page that other people have created or edited before. Have you ever updated a Wikipedia page yourself? You should definitely try!



Wikiwiki Shuttle in Hawaii

Wikis use specialized wiki software and are often created in a very collaborative environment. The content is typically non-linear. In order to find relevant information, a powerful search function becomes very important. There are, however, many ways to organize a wiki so that users can navigate to content without relying only on the search function of their wiki.

History

The first wiki (named *WikiWikiWeb*) was invented by Ward Cunningham in 1995.

Cunningham became impatient with existing text processing programs and was looking for a new documentation system that was adapted to fit the needs of programmers. He wanted to develop a simple software that would allow programmers to work collaboratively on source code and to publish it immediately. Also, the new program should document all editing steps automatically to track all changes that have been made. In the end, the first wiki was put online and is still working.

Wikis are for good reasons a popular technology to this day and have become very mature and feature-rich. They are a great tool for collaborating on information of any kind.

Basic functions

Editing: Every wiki page has a clearly visible editing link or button. This should encourage page visitors to immediately contribute to the content if information is missing or simply wrong. Companies should be careful when limiting the edit options on a page – they will surely miss out on important knowledge transfer opportunities.

Linking: To make it easy for users to find related information, it is very easy to insert links anywhere in the wiki, even to a page that does not yet exist!

History: With the history function, it is possible to trace every change that anyone has ever made to a page. Losing versions of important content is a thing of the past.

Recent changes: All recent changes in the entire wiki are clearly visible. Nobody wastes any time looking for the most important and most up-to-date information.

Examples for public wikis

There are large and small wiki communities that use MediaWiki to collaborate. Some examples of public wikis:

- [Wikipedia](#): Free online encyclopedia
- [FileZilla Wiki](#): Help site of the popular FTP software
- [Joomla! Documentation](#): Help documentation of the popular CMS software
- [MoodleDocs](#): Documentation of the learning platform Moodle
- [Antwiki](#): Where ant scientists share their information

Literature

- Ebersbach, Anja, Glaser, Markus und Heigl, Richard (2007): *Wiki. Kooperation im Web*, 2. Aufl., Springer: Berlin, Heidelberg.
- Lange, Christoph (Hrsg.) (2006): *Wikis und Blogs - Planen, Einrichten, Verwalten*, Computer- und Literaturverlag.
- Leuf, Bo und Cunningham, Ward (2001): *The Wiki Way. Quick Collaboration on the Web*, Addison Wesley: Boston u. a.

3 The pages model

Each installed instance of a wiki is made up of different types of pages. Each page type serves a specific role in the wiki and, therefore, contains different elements which are described here.

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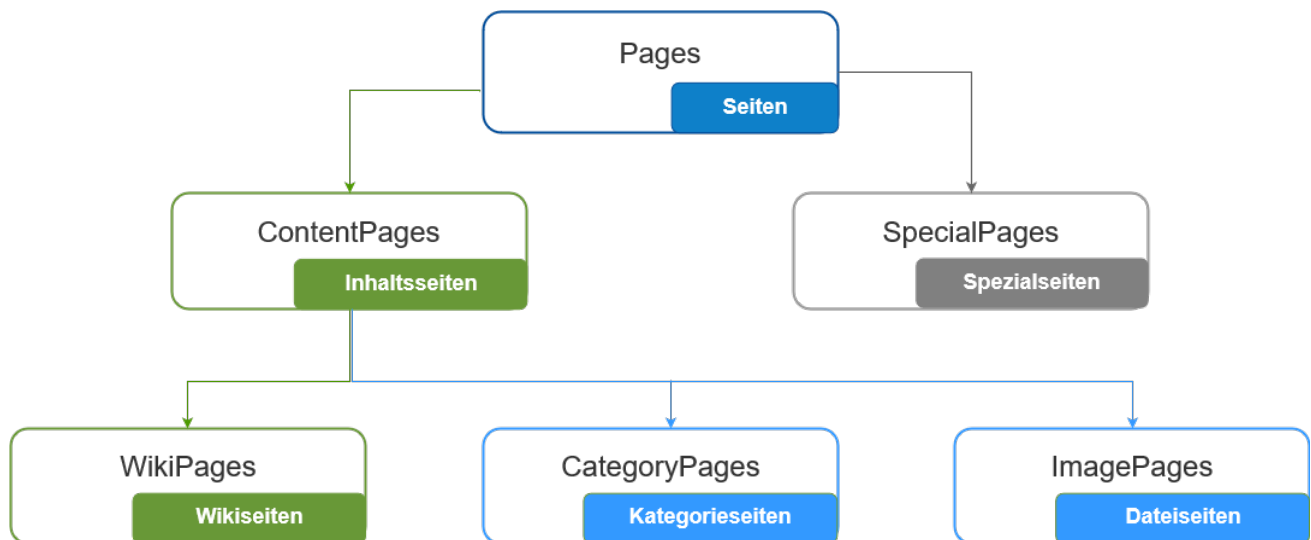
Wiki instance

A wiki instance has the following main characteristics:

- it has its own configuration
- it has its own data storage with
 - its own database (for pages, users, user<->groups, user settings, ...)
 - its own file repo (for uploaded files)
- it can be part of a wiki farm

Wiki pages

The pages modell



Content page

Content pages are all editable wiki pages. They can be **wiki pages** that are created by all users with the goal to share information on the wiki. **Category pages** are created when a page was added to a category and a user subsequently saves the necessary category page. A **file description page** is created when a file is uploaded to the wiki.

Wiki page

Wiki pages are the actual "content pages" that users create when they add information to a wiki. They can be "blank" at the beginning or based on a page template that already contains some content with a predefined structure.

Characteristics:

- content is added by users
- revisioned and has a version history

- has an associated "Talk" page

Special page

Each wiki contains a large number of special pages. These pages are built-in and not editable. All special pages are located in the pseudo-namespace "Special" and are listed on the page

`Special:SpecialPages` : Merkmale:

- automatically created content
- overview pages or administrative tools

Types of special pages:

- **Maintenance reports** (e.g., broken redirects, uncategorized pages, wanted pages)
- **Lists of pages** (e.g., all pages, categories, forms, templates, high-use pages)
- **User admin pages** (e.g., active users list, blocked users, user rights)
- **BlueSpice special pages** (e.g., category manager, namespace manager, privacy admin)
- and many others

If you want to create your own special page, you can find the necessary information at [Mediawiki.org](https://mediawiki.org).

Category page / file description page

To display all pages that share a category tag, a category page has to be created. Otherwise, users won't have a list of pages that are in a particular category.

When a file (e.g. image or PDF) is uploaded to the wiki, a corresponding description page is created. This page shows all necessary file information and provides access to important file management tools.

Characteristics:

- hybrid page between special and wiki page
- editable/deletable like a wiki page
- automatically generated content like a special page

Related info

- mediawiki.org/wiki/Manual:Special_pages

3.3 UserManual:Wikitext

Wikitext is a simplified markup language that is used to format and structure text and other data.

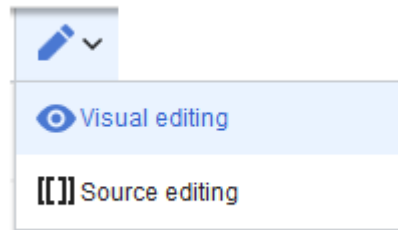
While HTML is the most common markup language for web pages, Wikitext is used in wiki systems. Like HTML, it uses tags to mark parts of text or other data.

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How do I use Wikitext?

When you edit a page, you can switch between visual editing and source editing using the editor toolbar.



Wikitext can be entered in source editing mode. When you are in visual editing mode, VisualEditor inserts Wikitext "behind the scenes". If VisualEditor doesn't format elements on a page correctly, you can always switch to source editing to correct the issues directly in Wikitext.

Examples of Wikitext

Here are some typical examples of Wikitext:

Text formatting

- This is `'''bold'''`
- This is `'''italic'''`
- This is `<u>underlined</u>`

Structuring

- This is a `==Heading==`
- This is an `*unordered list element`
- Table:

```
{| class="wikitable"
|-
!header 1
!header 2
|-
|row 1, cell 1
|row 1, cell 2
|-
|row 2, cell 1
|row 2, cell 2
|}
```

Links / Embedded files

Link to internal wiki page

```
[[Wikipage|Label]]
[[Pancake|Best Pancake]]
```

Link to external website

```
[url label]
[https://wikipedia.org Wikipedia]
```

'Link with parameters

```
<span class="plainlinks">[{{fullurl:{{FULLPAGENAME}}|action=edit}} Edit this page]</span>
```

This link opens the referenced page in edit mode in a new tab.

Embed image/file

- `[[Datei:image-or-pdf-name.png]]` - - - **Image/PDF is embedded on page**
 - the wiki checks, if a preview can be generated (e.g., for "png", "jpeg", "gif", "svg") and embeds the preview
 - otherwise, a link to the file description page is created
 - can be embedded: PDF, Tiff (with extension)
 - cannot be embedded: Microsoft Office- und Libre Office-Dateien; Shell-Skripte, ...
- `[[Media:image-or-pdf--name.png]]` - - - - **Links to image / PDF**
- `[[[:Datei:image-or-pdf--name.png]]` - - - **Links to file description page**

Magic words

Type of Wikitext	Example
Special character	<code>&atilde;</code> → ã
	<code>&ccedil;</code> → ç
	UTF-8 is possible

Type of Wikitext	Example
Comment	<code><!-- unnoticed --></code>
No "wiki translation"	<code><nowiki></code> and <code></pre></code>
Table of contents	<code>__TOC__</code> and <code>__NOTOC__</code>
Signature	<code>~~~~</code>
Redirect	<code>#REDIRECT [[targetpage]]</code>
Template	<code>{{template name}}</code>

Related info

- meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Help:Wikitext_examples
- [Magic words](#)

Wikitext

Wikitext is a simplified markup language that is used to format and structure text and other data.

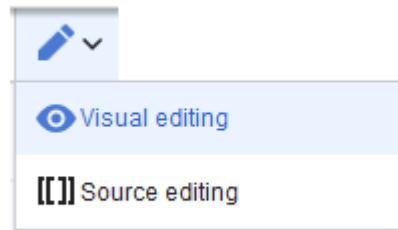
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Examples of Wikitext

Here are some typical examples of Wikitext:

Text formatting

- This is `'''bold'''`
- This is `'''italic'''`
- This is `<u>underlined</u>`

Structuring

- This is a `==Heading==`
- This is an `*unordered list element`
- Table:

```
{| class="wikitable"
|-
!header 1
!header 2
|-
|row 1, cell 1
|row 1, cell 2
|-
|row 2, cell 1
|row 2, cell 2
|}
```

Links / Embedded files

Link to internal wiki page

```
[[Wikipage|Label]]
[[Pancake|Best Pancake]]
```

Link to external website

```
[url label]
[https://wikipedia.org Wikipedia]
```

'Link with parameters

```
<span class="plainlinks">[{{fullurl:{{FULLPAGENAME}}|action=edit}} Edit this page]<
/span>
```

This link opens the referenced page in edit mode in a new tab.

Embed image/file

- `[[Datei:image-or-pdf-name.png]]` - - - **Image/PDF is embedded on page**
 - the wiki checks, if a preview can be generated (e.g., for "png", "jpeg", "gif", "svg") and embeds the preview
 - otherwise, a link to the file description page is created
 - can be embedded: PDF, Tiff (with extension)
 - cannot be embedded: Microsoft Office- und Libre Office-Dateien; Shell-Skripte, ...
- `[[Media:image-or-pdf--name.png]]` - - - - **Links to image / PDF**
- `[[Datei:image-or-pdf--name.png]]` - - - **Links to file description page**

Magic words

Type of Wikitext	Example
Special character	<code>&atilde;</code> → ã
	<code>&ccedil;</code> → ç
	UTF-8 is possible

Type of Wikitext	Example
Comment	<code><!-- unnoticed --></code>
No "wiki translation"	<code><nowiki></code> and <code></pre></code>
Table of contents	<code>__TOC__</code> and <code>__NOTOC__</code>
Signature	<code>--~~~~</code>
Redirect	<code>#REDIRECT [[targetpage]]</code>
Template	<code>{{template name}}</code>

Related info

- meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Help:Wikitext_examples
- [Magic words](#)