



How templates help make great articles



28 October 2017

What's a template?

Go to
Help:
Templates
to find out

Help:Templates



FANDOM University - How Templates Work

```
{{subst:template}} {{#sub:
{{{1}}}|0|{{#expr:({{#expr:
({{#pos:{{{1}}}|({}} - {{#pos:
{{{1}}}|)})}})-2)}}}}.
{{#ifexpr:{{PAGESIZE:{{#expr:
{{#sub:{{PAGENAME}}|0|4}}+0}}|
R}}=0| [[{{#expr:{{#sub:
{{PAGENAME}}|0|4}}+0}}]]}}!
```



```
{{sub: template}} {{#s
{{0}}|{{#expr: ({{#ex
( {{po 1}}}}|({}} - {{#
1}}}}|{{}} - 2)}}}}}.
ifexpr. GSIZE: {{#ex
sub: {{PAGE}}|0|4}}+0
=0| |[[{{#e {{#sub:
AGENAME}}|0|4}}]]}}
```

QUIZ

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- B. The more complex they are, the more fun they are to make**
- C. Templates bring visual and functional harmony to your wiki, and they save all editors a lot of time**
- D. It's best if only a few people on the wiki understand how your templates work so that fewer people know how to screw things up**

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C. Templates bring visual and functional harmony to your wiki, and they save all editors a lot of time

**Because they foster
uniformity, templates have
a vital role in making your
articles look and feel great.**

Great articles load quickly.

**Too many #switch conditions,
expensive Magic Words and Array
complexity can seriously slow
things down.**

What's *too complex*? It depends on the template and the wiki. You have to weigh page load time versus the benefit you're getting by having a highly automated template.

**Documentation
improves articles**

**If editors aren't using your
templates the same way,
you're throwing away the
advantages of templates.**

Write clear
documentation,
preferably using
the
{{documentation}}
template

 Template documentation [view] [edit] [history] [purge]



This is a [template documentation subpage](#) for Template:Wikipedia.
It contains usage information, [categories](#), [interlanguage links](#) and other content that is not part of the original template page.

Description

Use this on pages which directly use [Wikipedia's](#) content.

Syntax

Type `{ {wikipedia|<page name>} }` as the last item of the page text.
Note that "page name" should be the title of the page on Wikipedia.

Annotate your code, especially the complicated stuff

```
-->{{#Fac:{{@pep:{{PCEMAME}}|bury}}  
|-1  
  
[[CenturyNav]]  
}}<!--
```

Tests for the string "Bs" in the title of a time-related page. Of these types of pages, only decade pages contain the alphanumeric combination "Bs". This part of the template will obviously wreak havoc on non time related pages. If it finds "Bs", it will call the DecodeNav template. If it doesn't, it returns the value of -1 and nothing happens.

```
>{{#Fac:{{@pep:{{PCEMAME}}|Bs}}  
|-1  
  
{{DecodeNav}}  
}}<!--
```

Tests for the number 1 as the result of dividing the P&PNAME by itself. Only year pages will result in a perfect 1 with this expression. If the calculation results in 1, Bob's your uncle - the YearNav template is called. If it doesn't, nothing happens.

```
-->{{#Fac:{{@exp:{{/div}}/{{div}}}}  
|-1
```

Categorize your templates so that they're easy to find. Don't forget to categorize the documentation templates!

in: Templates

Template documentation

Category page

This category is for template documentation.

Pages in category "Template documentation"

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Template:Documentation• Template:Documentation subpage• Template:Documentation/conf• Template:Documentation/conf2• Template:Documentation/doc• Template:Documentation/docspaced• Template:Documentation/docsguide/doc• Template:Documentation/end box	<p>C con'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Template:Column-count/doc• Template:Community gaming footer/doc <p>D</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Template:Disambig/doc• Template:Documentation/box/doc• Template:Documentation/box2/doc• Template:Documentation/end	<p>S</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Template:Sandbox heading/doc• Template:Signature/Article• Template:Signature/Documentation• Template:Sidebars/doc• Template:SignatureRounded/doc• Template:Signs/plan• Template:Sign/doc• Template:Speech bubble/doc• Template:Sub extended/doc
--	---	---

**Tell other editors
about new
templates on the
wiki—otherwise
no one will know
to use them!**



Variable names

Limit editor mistakes with variables (parameters). Use the same variable names across all your wiki's templates.

What not to do with variables

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- Use inconsistent plurality. Don't use `{{{sibling}}}` and `{{{siblings}}}`.

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- Use synonyms for the same things. Don't use {{{job}}} one place but {{{occupation}}} in another.
- Use inconsistent plurality. Don't use {{{sibling}}} and {{{siblings}}}.
- Use parentheses. {{{title(s)}}} works, but is confusing.

Using un-named variables

The template `[[wikipedia:{{{1}}} | {{{2}}}]]` will link to the wikipedia article you give first, but will display whatever you give second. But you have no control over the variable order.

`{{wikipedia|Cheers (TV series)|Cheers}}` and `{{wikipedia|Cheers|Cheers (TV series)}}` will produce valid links to different articles — something the novice editor might not quite understand.

Editor education is key to keeping errors off article pages.

Template types

Whether your articles look great on mobile devices is directly related to whether they're classified properly. See [Help:Template types](#).

Preloads

**A preload template creates
whole pages in a uniform way.
Your wiki gets great articles
from them because they
enforce consistency.**

They'll start pages with a blank infobox, a suggested lead, empty sections with common section headers, and even categories.

How do you set them up? Go to Dev Wiki's PreloadTemplates page to find out!

PreloadTemplates

PreloadTemplates allows users to insert a premade syntax from a list of selectable templates directly within the source editor.

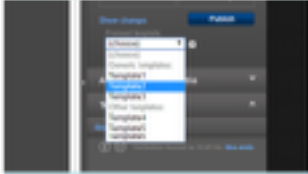
Contents [\[hide\]](#)

- 1 Installation
- 2 Configuration
- 3 Use
 - 3.1 Requirements
 - 3.2 Examples
 - 3.2.1 Default
 - 3.2.2 Custom
 - 3.3 Tags in preload page
- 4 Localization
- 5 Changelog

Installation [✎](#) [Edit](#)

See also: [Help:Including additional CSS and JS](#), [Help:Advanced CSS and JS](#)

PreloadTemplates



Information

Type	JavaScript
Release status	STABLE
Description	Allows to insert a preload syntax of a template selected from a list directly within the source editor.
Author(s)	levathan_89 , Grunny
Using code by	Originally created for the Harry Potter Wiki

**Things not to put
in templates
(in articles)**

In the main namespace, avoid using templates (other than infoboxes) for images or videos. A simple `[[file:]]` call works best on all devices.

Don't alter your headers or main body copy with templates. Use your main CSS sheets instead.