

The anatomy of a Wikipedia article

Discussion appears at the top of each article. Discussion is a place for you and other contributors to plan article structure, discuss and build consensus on article content, and ask for help from one another. When you begin contributing to an existing article, it is a good practice to study the discussion page to onboard yourself with the content decisions made for that article.

Recent changes allows you to view edits made to all Wikipedia articles in chronological order. This allows you to monitor articles for mistakes and vandalism.

Help provides assistance to learn more about how Wikipedia works.

Wikipedia exists in over 250 languages.

Create account, at the top right of the page, gives you access to all features of Wikipedia and helps build your online profile.

Search takes you to the article that matches your query. If the article does not exist, it displays the articles in which the word(s) appears.

View history allows you to view and compare past versions of the page.

Some articles reach a level where it is so well-written, sourced, and comprehensive, that only experts can add much value to it. A few of these good articles are recognized by the community as being of the highest quality. These are designated as featured articles and displayed on the Wikipedia main page.

Often you would find a message displayed at the top of an article page that asks for your help. The editors use the message to flag to the community that the article needs improvement. Over time, this article will be edited and refined by users and soon this message will be removed.

Lead section summarizes the key points covered in an article. Note that the lead section is without a header.

The body of the article follows the lead section and includes specific headers and subheaders. A geographic location, for example, might have the following headers: history, geography, climate, economy, civic administration, demographics, culture, references, and external links.

You can upload different kinds of media to an article. A Wikipedia article with accept all popular formats for images, animation, audio, and video.

Appendices and footnotes appear after the body of the article. These may include bibliographies, links to other Wikipedia articles, notes and references, relevant publications, and websites.

The screenshot shows the Wikipedia article for Io (moon). At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Discussion' and 'View history' buttons. The main content area includes a lead section, a 'Discovery' table, 'Orbital characteristics' table, 'Physical characteristics' table, and 'Atmosphere' table. There are also sections for 'Nomenclature', 'Observational history', 'Pioneer', 'Surface', 'Surface composition', 'Volcanism', and 'References'. A 'Main article' link is provided for 'Exploration of Io'. The page also features a 'List of volcanic features on Io' and a 'List of mountains on Io'. At the bottom, there are 'External links' and 'References' sections. The page is in English and is part of the English Wikipedia.



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