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What is a WikiWord?

A WikiWord consists of two or more words with initial capitals, run together. WikiWords are topic names. A TWiki topic name always has a fixed format: two or more words with initial capitals, run together. Like the name of the current topic: WikiWord. When you type the name of a topic, you create a link to that topic. You type WebHome and on saving the page this becomes WebHome. It's as easy as that.

When you type a WikiWord, you establish a hyperlink. It's as easy as that.

WikiWord linking is easy to use:

- You don't have to know the full path to where the topic is stored - you just type the name
- You don't need to write HTML
- Without HTML, the topic text is easier to read when editing
- Easy linking leads to interesting texts with links placed in context

WikiWords are styled like this because:

- It makes Wiki hyperlinks instantly recognizable
- It leads to interesting Wiki topics
- It avoids the need to fiddle with HTML tags
- It avoids over-general topics because at least two words are required

Syntax of a WikiWord

- Uppercase letter(s)
- Lowercase letter(s) or numbers(s)
- Uppercase letter(s)
- Optional lowercase or uppercase letter(s) or number(s)

WikiWord syntax in Extended Backus-Naur form (EBNF):

```plaintext
wikiWord = upperLetters , lowerNumLetters , upperLetters , { alphaNum } ;
upperLetters = upperCase , { upperCase } ;
lowerNumLetters = lowerNum , { lowerNum } ;
alphaNum = upperCase | lowerCase | digit ;
lowerNum = lowerCase | digit ;
lowerCase = "a" | "b" | "c" | "d" | "e" | "f" | "g" | "h" | "i" |
| "j" | "k" | "l" | "m" | "n" | "o" | "p" | "q" | "r" |
| "s" | "t" | "u" | "v" | "w" | "x" | "y" | "z" ;
upperCase = "A" | "B" | "C" | "D" | "E" | "F" | "G" | "H" | "I" |
| "J" | "K" | "L" | "M" | "N" | "O" | "P" | "Q" | "R" |
| "S" | "T" | "U" | "V" | "W" | "X" | "Y" | "Z" ;
digit = "0" | "1" | "2" | "3" | "4" | "5" | "6" | "7" | "8" | "9" ;
```

Good examples of WikiWords

- WikiWord
- GoodStyle
- VersionFiveDotThree
- ReleaseVersion5dot3
AVeryLongWikiTopicNameIsAlsoPossible: wherever an uppercase or lowercase letter is allowed, a group of letters of the same case is allowed
• YearTwoThousand
• Nine2Five: Note that numbers are considered to be lowercase letters in WikiWords

Bad examples of WikiWords:
• Web: Name without the uppercase letter(s), lowercase letter(s), uppercase letter(s) sequence
• 5TWiki: Name beginning with a number
• Know-How: Name with dashes in between

Variations in linking

When you write the name of a topic, it becomes a link. There are more ways:

• To write a custom link label, use bracket notation: [[TWikiAccessControl][access control]] - this becomes: access control
• To link to a topic in another web, write: Sandbox.WebSearch - this becomes: WebSearch
• To link to a topic in another subweb write: Sandbox.Subweb.WebSearch.
• To show the web name in the link use bracket notation: [[Sandbox.WebHome]] - this becomes: Sandbox.WebHome
• To link to a topic on another Wiki site, use: TWiki:Main/WebHome - this becomes: TWiki:Main/WebHome  (sites are defined in the InterwikiPlugin)
• To link to a part on the same page, write a "#" followed by the name of an anchor. The anchor is a "#" followed by a name which must be a WikiName. Example #MyAnchor. You can also link to an anchor on another page: TWiki.WebHome#MyAnchor.
• To link to a header on the same page, write a "#" followed by the header text, with spaces replaced by underscores (and ! removed): [[#Good_examples_of_WikiWords]] becomes: #Good_examples_of_WikiWords. You can also link to a header on another page: TWiki.WebHome#Disclaimer becomes: WebHome#Disclaimer.

Hints

• Insert WikiWords wherever you can. Rich linking helps to make a Wiki successful.
• Be specific. All topics in a web share one name space. For example, instead of FunctionalSpec write BreadSlicerFunctionalSpec because other projects might also have a functional spec topic.
• To stop a WikiWord from being turned into a hyperlink, insert an exclamation point immediately before the WikiWord. For example, write !SunOS to get SunOS.
• In headers to stop a WikiWord from being turned into a hyperlink, insert %NOP% immediately before the WikiWord. For example, write %NOP%SunOS to get SunOS.
• Create topics with singular names. Plural WikiWords are automatically linked to the singular topic, i.e. the link WikiWords links to the topic WikiWord (works only in English).
• Sometimes you have to be creative to find a good WikiName. Examples:
  • To create a topic about the the Bread Slicer 1.2 product, use BreadSlicer1dot2 or BreadSlicer1pt2, but not BreadSlicer1.2.
  • Numbers are considered lowercase which makes Year2K and Y2K WikiWords but not Y2000 and Y2k.
• Turn acronyms into WikiWords, i.e. take FaqIndex for a "FAQ index" topic.
• It is possible to turn off the auto-linking of WikiWords and to rely only on the bracket notation. See NOAUTOLINK setting in TWikiPreferences#Default_Web_Preferences.

Good examples of WikiWords
When linking to a WebHome topic in another web, the link will be rendered as the name of the web, e.g. Sandbox.WebHome becomes Sandbox.

- Dots (.) are used as separators between webs, subwebs, and topics. It is not possible to use dots in topic names. TWiki does not attempt to guess if a dot could be part of a topic name.

Related topics: WikiSyntax, WikiNotation, TextFormattingRules, TWikiEditingShorthand, TWikiRenderingShortcut, TWikiShorthand


This topic: TWiki > WikiWord
Topic revision: r11 - 2018-11-13 - PeterJones

Note: Please contribute updates to this topic on TWiki.org at TWiki:TWiki.WikiWord