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):

- 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";
- 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 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.
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


Hints