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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" ;
digit = "0", | "1", | "2", | "3", | "4", | "5", | "6", | "7", | "8", | "9" ;
```

Good examples of WikiWords

• WikiWord
• GoodStyle
• VersionFiveDotThree
• ReleaseVersion5dot3
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.
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


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