

See [Help:Contents](#) for an overview of all pages.

Contents

- [1 Intro](#)
- [2 Other](#)
- [3 Namespace uses](#)
- [4 List of namespaces](#)
- [5 Automatic conversions of page names](#)
- [6 Prefixes in various languages](#)
- [7 Colon in page name](#)
- [8 Special namespace](#)
- [9 Custom namespaces](#)
- [10 See also](#)

Intro

Articles with no `:` in their name are in the main namespace. This namespace is for articles; documents that aren't directly related to this may go in other namespaces. When articles are in another namespace, they are specified as *namespace:article*; i.e. this page is *Help:Namespaces*.

Project

Information about this wiki; i.e. policies that apply here. This namespace also has an alias, which is the name of the wiki installation.

Help

Documentation about working with the wiki software. This could be mirrored from outside sites, or locally written.

User

For personal notes. Each User has a corresponding user page for their own information. Users can also create subpages, by using a `/` after their name.

Talk

Each page has a corresponding *discussion* page. This can be used for feedback/comments about that page, or other local notes that another group may want to associate with the page, without modifying the document directly, or for any other additional information to associate with the document.

User_talk

The discussion page on a user's page can be used for leaving messages. If this page is edited, the next time that user logs in they will see a box notifying them that they have new messages

Template

This is used for meta-information that is to be transcluded into multiple documents, such as tags to mark the status of a document.

Image

For descriptions of uploaded files. You shouldn't create these directly; they are created when you click the [Upload file](#) link in the toolbox.

Other

Template:H:h Page titles in MediaWiki are composed of two parts: an optional namespace name, and the remainder of the title. For example, this page has the title [[Help:Namespaces]], so it is in the *Help namespace*. A title without a colon, for example [[Goings-on]], is in the *main namespace*.

By default, a wiki using the MediaWiki software has 18 **namespaces**, including:

- the main namespace, where page names have no prefix
- 15 additional namespaces, each with its own prefix. (Two namespaces, the so-called 'project' namespaces, get their names from the name of the wiki project, and so differ in name from one wiki to the next; on the Wikipedia, they are called **Wikipedia:** and **Wikipedia talk:**. On each wiki, these project namespaces (whatever they may happen to be for that wiki), can be referred to by the pseudonyms "Project:" and "Project Talk:", respectively.)
- two pseudo-namespaces

In addition to these 18 namespaces, the Wikipedia specially adds to these the **Portal:** and **Portal talk:** namespaces. Other wiki projects may have their own additional custom namespaces.

But take note:

- Namespace prefixes should not be confused with prefixes for interwiki linking.
- If a page title contains a colon, but the initial part of the title is *not* one of the pre-defined namespaces, that page is considered to be in the main namespace.

Namespace uses

Namespaces allow, among other things, a separation of content from policy and discussion. They encourage separation of the pages of a wiki into a core set intended for public viewing, and private information intended for the editing community.

This core set is the main namespace. Other namespaces that are also useful for people who are just viewers are:

- the image namespace (with the full-size images)
- the category namespace (for navigation)
- the help pages and the preferences page (as far as they concern viewing)

By default, searches and the random page feature are restricted to the main namespace, thus the user interface is directed towards readers who are not part of the community. Note that this separation of community and readership is not a feature of many wiki engines. It may not be required for your editing community. You are always free to put discussion and policy in the main namespace, if you desire.

On most Wikimedia wikis, pages in the main namespace and a few other ones are actively policed by the community, with inappropriate content being quickly removed. The rules for the other namespaces are generally more relaxed.

- Special:Allpages can be applied to a namespace of choice

From [MediaWiki 1.5 Recent changes](#) ditto; for each of the two, one can also select all namespaces except a specified one; thus, although one cannot have a single list of all pages, one can select a small namespace and use the invert option, to get almost all pages.

- [Searching](#) can be restricted to any subset of namespaces

[User contributions](#) can only show all or be restricted to a namespace of choice.

It is possible to customise the visual appearance of pages by namespace (see e.g. [\[1\]](#)); also enabling the [subpage feature](#) can be done for selected namespaces.

List of namespaces

The two pseudo-namespaces, main namespace and 15 auxiliary namespaces in *this* project (Meta) are as follows (the [variables](#) for them are also shown):

Variables	Alternate syntax	Name, linked to list of all such pages	Nr. of pages	Notes
<code>{{ns:-2}}</code>	<code>{{ns:Media}}</code>	"Media"		pseudo-namespace for images and other files themselves, as opposed to the image description pages; see also below
<code>{{ns:-1}}</code>	<code>{{ns:Special}}</code>	"Special"		pseudo-namespace for special pages (list: Special:Specialpages)
<code>{{ns:-0}}</code>	<code>{{ns:Main}}</code>	<u>main</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:0</u>	main namespace, no prefix, or optionally a colon (this is needed when using the page as template) see Help:Talk page for this and the following odd-numbered namespaces
<code>{{ns:1}}</code>	<code>{{ns:Talk}}</code>	<u>Talk</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:1</u>	
<code>{{ns:2}}</code>	<code>{{ns:User}}</code>	<u>User</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:2</u>	logged-in users (list: Special:Listusers) have a user homepage <i>User:username</i> (linked to by the system from user names in lists of edits , e.g. on page histories , and from signatures on talk pages); this and subpages of it can be used to present oneself, for project-related bookmarks, and for drafts, tests, and other working material. One can put here material to give oneself one-step access to it from any page in the same project, and one can put here links to give oneself two-step access to the link targets from any page in the same

Help:Namespaces

project as the user page. For users who do not log in, the same applies, with the IP as username. Dynamic IPs are a complication.

{{ns:3}}	{{ns:User_talk}}	<u>User talk</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:3</u>	
{{ns:4}}	{{ns:Project}}	<u>DII</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:4</u>	the project namespace for matters <i>about</i> the project, such as guidelines and discussions; see also the [[Help:Help:]] namespace
{{ns:5}}	{{ns:Project_talk}}	<u>DII talk</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:5</u>	
{{ns:6}}	{{ns:Image}}	<u>File</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:6</u>	<u>images and other uploaded files</u> , with <u>image description pages</u> (list: <u>Special:Imagelist</u>)
{{ns:7}}	{{ns:Image_talk}}	<u>File talk</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:7</u>	
{{ns:8}}	{{ns:MediaWiki}}	<u>MediaWiki</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:8</u>	system messages (list: <u>Special:Allmessages</u>), editable by users, or if protected, by sysops
{{ns:9}}	{{ns:MediaWiki_talk}}	<u>MediaWiki talk</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:9</u>	
{{ns:10}}	{{ns:Template}}	<u>Template</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:10</u>	the default namespace for <u>templates</u> : the wikitext code <code>{{name}}</code> refers to and includes the page <code>Template:name</code>
{{ns:11}}	{{ns:Template_talk}}	<u>Template talk</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:11</u>	
{{ns:12}}	{{ns:Help}}	<u>Help</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:12</u>	typically used for the MediaWiki User's Guide, with the wikitext a frequently refreshed copy of the master version on Meta-Wikipedia, but with project-specific templates
{{ns:13}}	{{ns:Help_talk}}	<u>Help talk</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:13</u>	
{{ns:14}}	{{ns:Category}}	<u>Category</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:14</u>	each page (list: <u>Special:Categories</u>) represents a <u>category</u> of pages, with each category page displaying a list of pages in that category and optional additional text.
{{ns:15}}	{{ns:Category_talk}}	<u>Category talk</u>	<u>Template:PAGESINNS:15</u>	

Note that all characters of namespace prefixes are case-insensitive, so one can write e.g "mediawiki".

The names are set in files such as those listed in m:Locales for the Wikimedia projects, with default m:Language.php:

```
/* private */ $wgNamespaceNamesEn = array(
    NS_MEDIA          => 'Media',
    NS_SPECIAL        => 'Special',
    NS_MAIN           => '',
    NS_TALK           => 'Talk',
    NS_USER           => 'User',
```

Help:Namespaces

```
NS_USER_TALK      => 'User_talk',
NS_WIKIPEDIA     => $wgMetaNamespace,
NS_WIKIPEDIA_TALK => $wgMetaNamespace . '_talk',
NS_IMAGE         => 'Image',
NS_IMAGE_TALK    => 'Image_talk',
NS_MEDIAWIKI     => 'MediaWiki',
NS_MEDIAWIKI_TALK => 'MediaWiki_talk',
NS_TEMPLATE      => 'Template',
NS_TEMPLATE_TALK => 'Template_talk',
NS_HELP          => 'Help',
NS_HELP_TALK     => 'Help_talk',
NS_CATEGORY      => 'Category',
NS_CATEGORY_TALK => 'Category_talk'
);
```

Automatic conversions of page names

On the column "Alternate syntax" in the table at the beginning of the previous section, a list of project-independent namespace names is shown in the form of `{{ns:namespace name}}`, the same as those on Meta and the English Wikipedia, except that "Meta" and "Wikipedia" are replaced by "Project". The prefixes are the terms listed, followed by a colon.

The prefix "Project:" is for every project automatically converted to the project namespace, e.g. try the link [Project:xyz](#). It is like a [piped link](#). Therefore a [page name](#) starting with "Project:" is not possible (unless, of course, that is the name of the project).

Similarly the other project-independent namespace prefixes are also automatically converted to the project-specific ones.

An exception to the rule that the link label is the name used in the wikitext and not the converted name, applies if the target of a redirect is expressed using a project-independent namespace name: in that case the converted name is shown on the redirect page, compare [\[2\]](#) with the preview of [\[3\]](#).

Prefixes in various languages

For [Wikimedia](#) projects this project prefix is "Wikipedia:", "Wiktionary:", "Wikibooks:", "Wikisource:", "Wikiquote:", "Meta:", and in the case of [In Memoriam](#) also "Wikipedia:". In languages other than English, the Wikipedia project has its own prefixes: in French "Wikipédia:", in Czech "Wikipedie:", in Russian "?????????", in Korean "????:", in Hindi "????????????:", in Hebrew "?:?????????" and in Arabic "?:?????????". The last two are [RTL](#) languages which put the prefixes on the right. In URLs the prefixes are always on the left.

To check which prefix is used in a project, you may edit and preview a page in the project to render the variable `{{ns:Project}}` (and cancel the edit after the check), though what you will see is deprived of a colon. Another way: visiting any project page there, you will find it at the left (in LTR languages) or the right (in RTL languages) of the page title. This applies even for non-existing pages, so, in view of the conversion explained in the previous section, you can use a URL like <http://ar.wikipedia.orghttp://dii.ing.unimo.it/wiki/Project:A>. Also you may go to a project page of a target language from a project page of a language familiar to you (e.g. [en:Wikipedia:Contact us](#)) by clicking an interlanguage link, if applicable. "Talk", "User", "Image" and combinations can also be translated in the case of non-English wikis. see [m:Locales for the Wikipedia Software](#).

Colon in page name

Adding a colon to a page name does not automatically create a new namespace. To see the namespace of a page, use {{NAMESPACE}} which returns the namespace. For this page it returns "Help". The same code would return an empty string for a page in the main namespace. Similarly, {{PAGENAME}} returns the page name without prefix. For this page it returns "Namespaces". {{FULLPAGENAME}} returns both namespace and pagename; for this page, that is "Help:Namespaces".

To take some examples from **Wiktionary**: [Wiktionary:FAQ](#) has Talk page [Wiktionary talk:FAQ](#), but [Wiktionary Appendix:Colours](#) has Talk page [Talk:Wiktionary Appendix:Colours](#), because the first is in the project preface namespace and the second is not. In [Special:Allpages](#), accordingly, the first is, unlike the second, not in the list of articles, but in the page list of the namespace Wiktionary.

Special namespace

Main article: [Help:Special page](#)

The namespace "Special:" consists of "special pages", which are created by the software on demand, for example [Special:Recentchanges](#).

Custom namespaces

*For instructions on **creating a custom namespace** or for more information, see [Help:Custom namespaces](#).*

A project can have additional namespaces. For example, if a single project is multilingual (as opposed to the case of sister projects, each in one language) there may be a namespace [Help](#) and also a namespace Hilfe:, for help pages in the English and German language, respectively.

A list of all namespaces is in the dropdown menus of [Special:Prefixindex](#), [Special:Allpages](#), [Special:RecentChanges](#), and "My contributions". With [query](#) a list including also the numbers of the namespaces is given by {{SERVER}}{{SCRIPTPATH}}/query.php?what=namespaces , for this project <http://dii.ing.unimo.ithttp://dii.ing.unimo.it/wiki/query.php?what=namespaces> .

Custom namespaces are numbered from 100{{#if: |, on this project starting with , 101 = }}. See [m:Help:MediaWiki help policy](#) for a list of custom namespaces on Meta.

See also

- [m:Transwiki](#), a cross-project pseudo-namespace
- [m:MediaWiki namespace](#)
- [Help:Talk page](#)
- [Help:Template](#)
- [Template:Wikivar](#)
- [m:Help:Namespace manager](#)
- [m:Help:Custom namespaces](#)
- [Help:Namespace manager](#), a feature planned for next release of MediaWiki

Template:H:f