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# Collaboration Tips

Following you will find a short list of hints and recommendations that are considered basic knowledge when starting to edit existing topics.

- Wiki has a very simple text formatting shorthand. In any case, you won't go wrong if you simply:
  - ◆ start each line without spaces
  - ◆ separate paragraphs with a blank line
- Run together capitalized words to form WikiWords:
  - ◆ WikiWords automatically appear as hyperlinks
  - ◆ make up meaningful, reasonably brief Wiki names - it can be a challenge (it'll sharpen you up!)
  - ◆ WikiWords has name-creation tips that may help
- If a **discussion** is going on:
  - ◆ separate each follow-up with a space
  - ◆ add your WikiName and the date at the end. Example:  
-- Main.WikiGuest - 04 May 2024
  - ◆ OR, by all means, insert your comment where it seems to fit best:
    - ◊ you may want to insert it with a bullet and/or *set it in italics* so it's clear (always sign and date)
  - ◆ if you'd like to use an initial, use a link with label. Example:  
-- [[Main.WikiGuest] [ZXQ]] - 04 May 2024
- A good format for a **new topic** is "dissertation followed by discussion":
  - ◆ start with a brief, factual introduction, followed by double horizontal rules
  - ◆ let the discussion begin
- When a discussion dies down and the page becomes static, if you're clear on your course, feel free to **refactor mercilessly**:
  - ◆ fearlessly edit down to capture the key points
  - ◆ reduce the noise without losing the facts or the flavor
  - ◆ if you merge or delete comments, group credit **Contributors**: at the end of the page
  - ◆ *This is how Wiki content matures and grows in value over time.*
- For **external site links**, you can type URLs directly into the text - `http://etcete.ra/...` - it'll be clear to anyone where they're headed on click.
- Foswiki is intended for world-wide use, and an internationally understood date format like **01 Sep 2024** or **2024-09-01** is preferred. It's clearer than the xx/xx/xx format, where a date like 9/1/01 can mean either Jan or Sep, depending on the local conventions of the readers. For months, use the first three letters: Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr,...
- Check the source when you want to find out how something is formatted: click **[Raw view]** on the toolbar.
- To see earlier versions, click either on **[History]** (to see all previous versions of a topic) or click on the revision number you would like to see; the formatted revision version will be shown.
- To see the source of a previous revision, click **[More topic actions]**, then at **View previous topic revision**, enter the revision number, mark the **in raw text format** checkbox and click **[View]**. A bit of HTML experience can't hurt, but you'll soon see with ShortHand how far that is from necessary.

**Related Topics:** UserDocumentationCategory

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Topic revision: r1 - 09 Jan 2009 - 13:00:00 - ProjectContributor

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