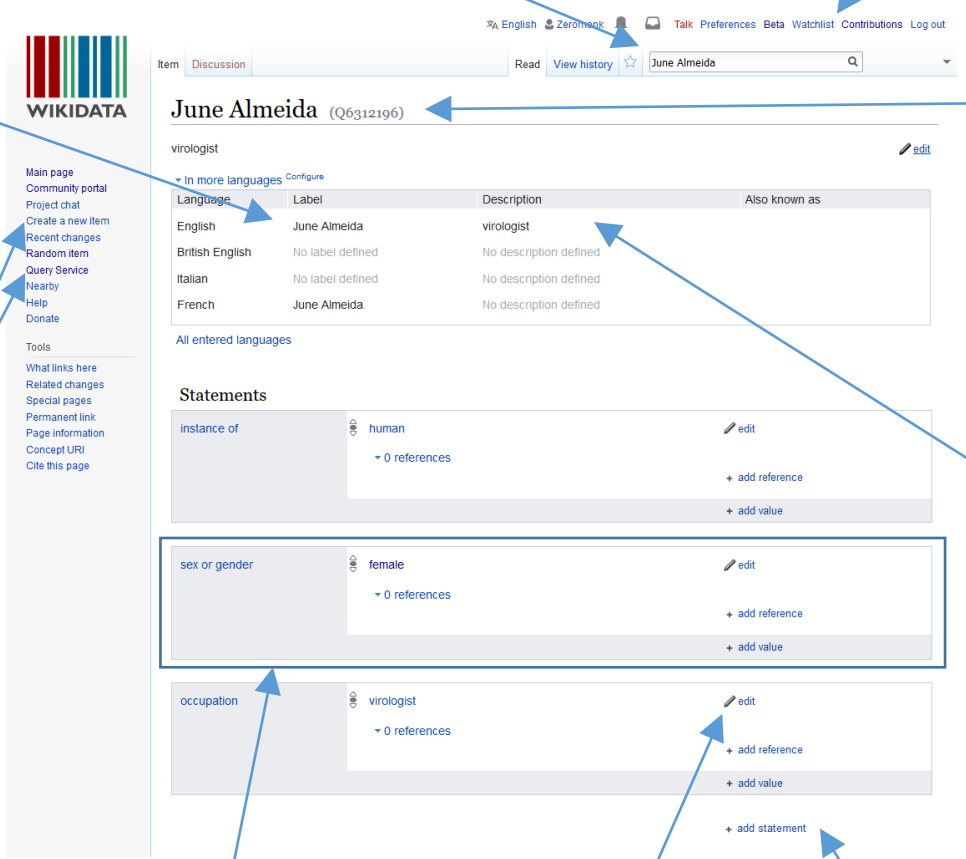
# Wikidata for beginners

Wikidata is a collaboratively edited knowledge base. It provides a data which can be used by any language Wikipedia, and by anyone else, under a public domain license. This guide shows you how to do some basic editing of individual entries.

Find entries by searching. Suggestions appear as you type.

Sign in to keep track of your editing via “Contributions” and “Watchlist” or to set editing “Preferences”

Labels tell people the names of things in different languages.




Q-numbers are unique item identifiers – they mean each page can exist in multiple languages.

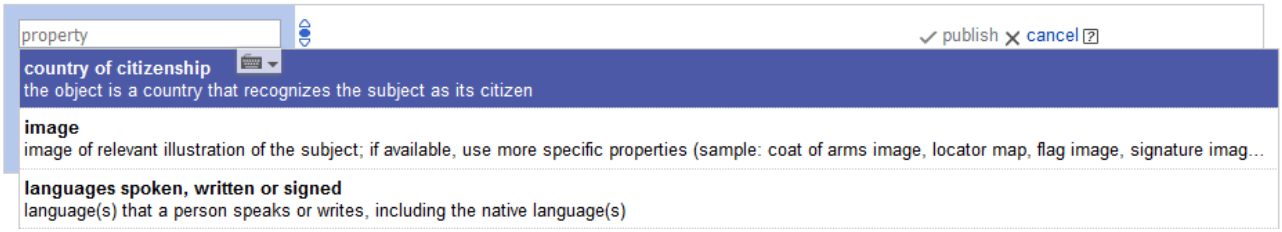
You can create a brand new entry or query existing entries – links are in the sidebar.

Description tells people they’ve found the correct entry when searching / linking.

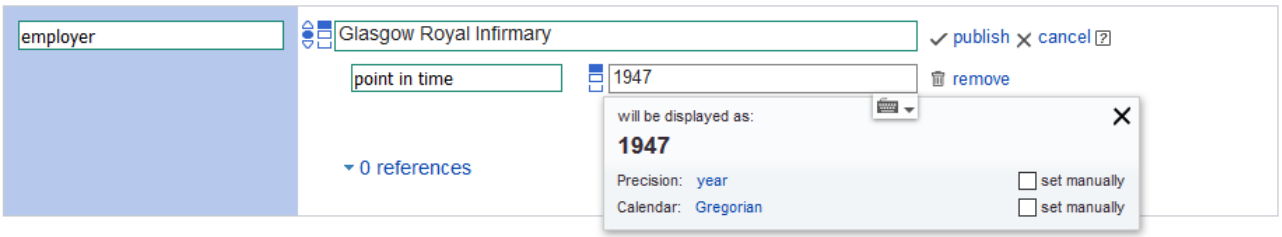
Each statement tells you about the subject by showing a “property”, and then a “value” for a specific property that subject has (e.g. sex or gender: female).

You can “edit” any existing statements or “add” new ones to an article. To add a new statement, scroll down past all the existing ones to find the “add statement” button.

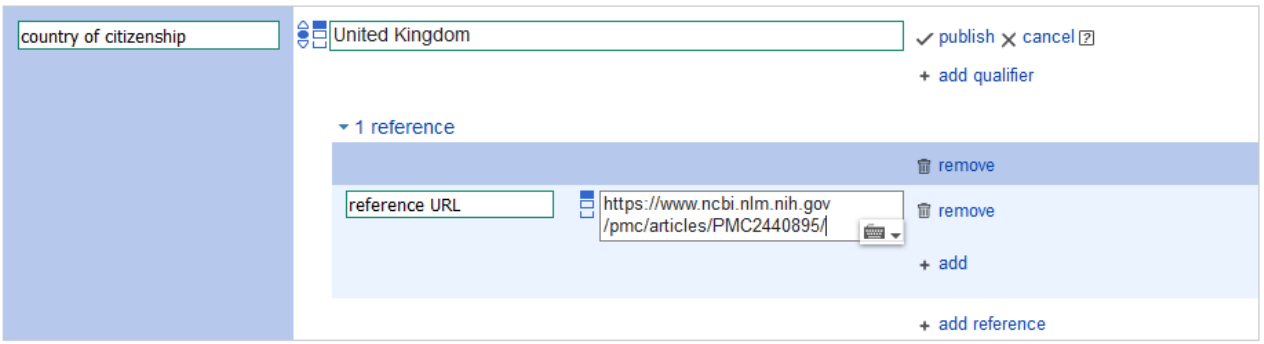
# Editing Wikidata entries




When editing, Wikidata suggests popular properties that are missing.
You can also start typing to search for a property that you'd like to add. Sometimes it's not obvious what the property name should be so you can look at pages for other similar people/places/things to see examples of useful properties.




You can add a "qualifier" to specify details, e.g. "point in time" when something happened, "start date" or "end date", "position" someone held in an organisation, and so on.

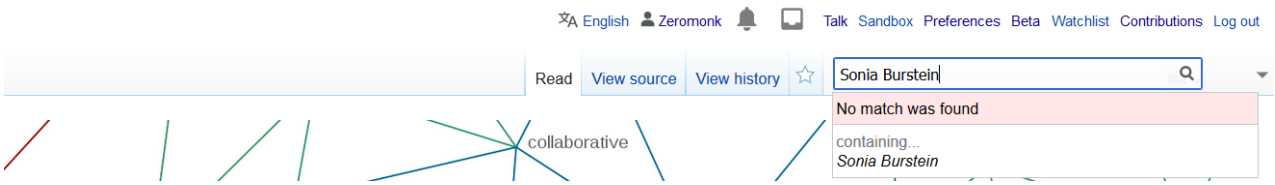



Add references to all edits. Info might come from a "reference URL", be "stated in" a book, or "imported from" a language version of Wikipedia. You can find guidance on how to reference by typing "Help:Sources" into the Wikidata search box.

You can take a tour in your language by typing "Wikidata:Tours" into the search bar. There are tours for both Items and Statements.

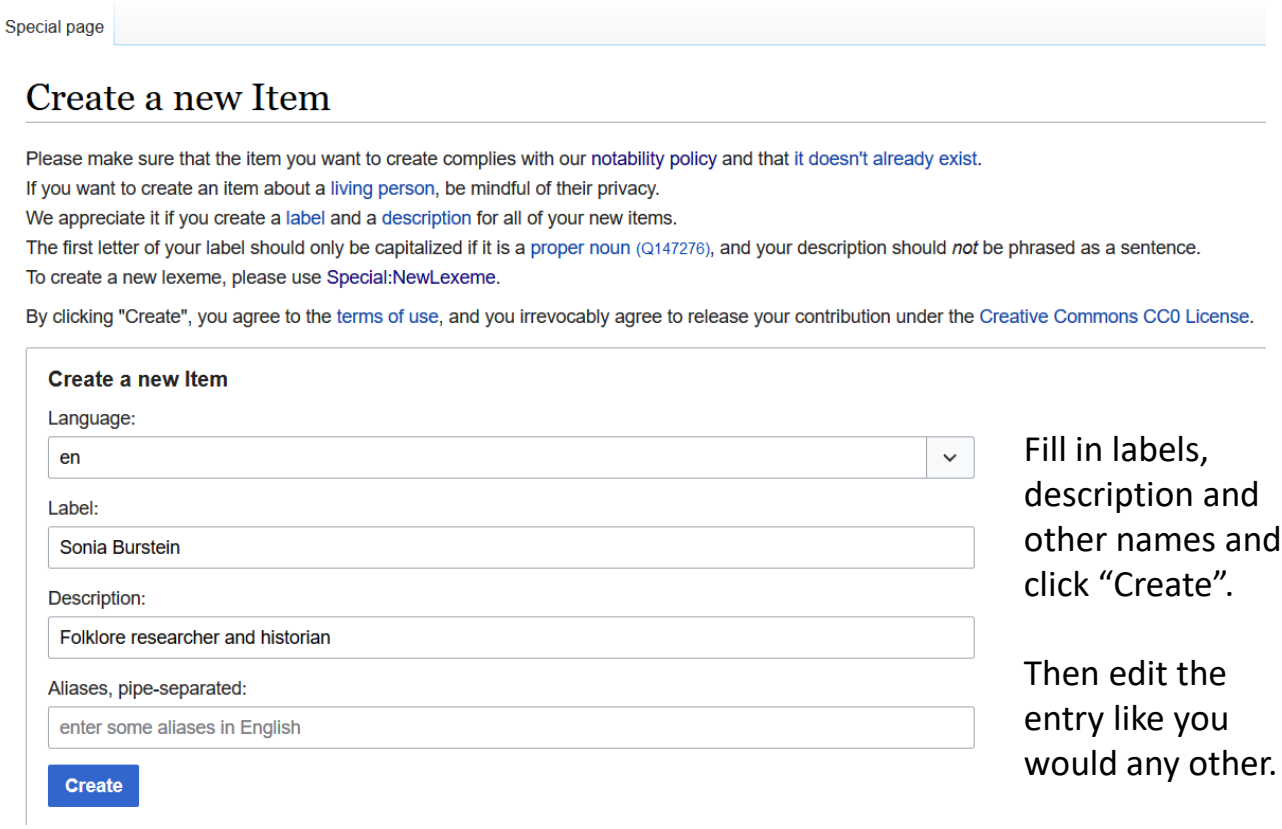
There's a video in English on how to create SPARQL Queries and visualise data at: https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/Wikidata+Sparql+Query+Tutorial/1_7v9v6s04

# Adding Wikidata entries




To create a new page, first search for the person/place/thing to see if it already exists. It's also helpful to search Wikipedia, which redirects better (if something exists with a different name): if you find a Wikipedia article, check for a Wikidata item link in the grey bar on the left.

If your person/place/thing doesn't exist you can click on "Create a new item" in the grey bar on the left of any Wikidata page.




Fill in labels, description and other names and click "Create".

Then edit the entry like you would any other.