

# WikiHow - A world of instructions

e-lang citizen team

#### **Teacher Sheet**

#### Task

Your students will be given the following task.

You are going to compare different discourses available on a site like wikiHow. For example, you can choose a theme/topic that is common to you and that is popular where you live. Then you will study how this theme/topic is described across the different language versions of wikiHow (e.g. 'sauna').

To do this, you will study how the topic is presented and you will read the instructions that are offered by the site. For the comparison task, you will look at the same theme in several languages: one which you understand quite well and other languages that belong to the same language family (e.g. French + other Romance languages).

#### Website

#### https://www.wikihow.com/

WikiHow is a wiki for collaboratively creating and editing web pages. On this site, users can share "the most reliable, comprehensive and enjoyable tutorials on the internet".

# Examples for the word/topic "sauna"

- https://www.wikihow.com/Take-a-Sauna;
- https://fr.wikihow.com/faire-une-s%C3%A9ance-de-sauna#relatedwikihows;
- https://es.wikihow.com/usar-un-sauna-de-manera-segura;
- https://pt.wikihow.com/Usar-uma-Sauna-com-Seguran%C3%A7a;







# CEFR level - For A2 level and above Objectives

# Digital citizenship and literacy

	Dimensions covered in task	Specific objectives (Potentials)
Digital citizenship	Ethical and responsible	Become aware of your responsibility when you publish on a website and especially on wikiHow.
	Critical	Be aware of different approaches to themes/topics that are common for some people and less familiar for others.
	Informed	To be aware of the need to be competent and to offer good information when publishing online, and also to realise that competency can be shared on a collaborative site like wikiHow.
	Competent	To better understand the process of creating and managing information on a participatory website such as wikiHow.

# Main language activity

Written reception: reading a variety of texts.

## Plurilingual/intercultural aspects

- Receptive multilingualism and intercomprehension for reading texts written in a language not studied or learned, but belonging to the same language family as a language already studied or learned (e.g. Spanish, Italian and Portuguese).
- Comparison and analysis of texts in different languages.
- Intercultural comparison of values related to a particular theme.
- A translation tool may be used and analysed critically.







# Possible steps

- Learners can first discuss and choose a topic that interests them, or the teacher can propose a topic.
- It is also possible to start by searching for interesting topics on wikiHow in different languages to avoid selecting a topic that is not covered in the chosen/desired languages.
- Once the topic has been found, learners study the topic on wikiHow in their chosen languages.
  - o If necessary, one or more automatic translators can be used. It may be useful to discuss the reliability of the machine translators.
  - O It is also possible to use tools that summarise the text. If this is the case, it is useful to discuss the fact that this may change the content of the text and lose something important.
- The following questions can help to reflect on the responsibility of authors and the knowledge needed to write about the topic:
  - O What information do you find in the chosen texts? Are there differences in content? What are the differences? In your opinion, is the content appropriate/correct/sufficient?
  - What do you notice about the use of references? Are there any sources of information indicated?
  - o Is there a possibility to comment or correct the content?
- The final step of this task can be the discussion of the strengths and limitations of wikiHow.







# Wikihow - A world of instructions

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#### Student Sheet

#### Task

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To do this, you will study how the topic is presented and you will read the instructions that are offered by the site. For the comparison task, you will look at the same theme in several languages: one that you understand quite well and others that belong to the same language family (e.g. French + other Romance languages).

### Website

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# Examples for the word/topic "sauna"

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- https://pt.wikihow.com/Usar-uma-Sauna-com-Seguran%C3%A7a.

## **CEFR level - For A2 level and above**

# **Objectives**

# Digital citizenship and literacy

While completing this task, you can:







- reflect on the responsibility of publishing online, especially on a collaborative site;
- reflect on the skills needed to publish on a participatory online encyclopaedia such as wikiHow;
- learn more about how wikiHow works, including how articles are written and managed on the site:
- use text translation tools and know their strengths and weaknesses;
- participate in critical discussion on the theme/topic.

## Plurilingual/intercultural aspects

When you read texts in other languages, you may discover the value of multiplying sources of information and becoming aware that some information is disseminated relatively differently in many languages.

#### **Hints**

# Work on the language-related aspects

If you want to read articles more quickly, you can use a tool that summarises them automatically: Resoomer.

- EN: <a href="https://resoomer.com/en">https://resoomer.com/en</a>;
- ES: https://resoomer.com/es;
- FR: https://resoomer.com/fr;
- IT: https://resoomer.com/it/;
- PT: https://resoomer.com/pt/.

If you have trouble understanding a text, you can use one or more automatic translation tools and compare, alone or in small groups, their translations with what you understand.

- DeepL: https://www.deepl.com/fr/translator;
- Google Translate: https://translate.google.com/.

# For you to think about

While completing this task, you can reflect on the following:

- What kind of information do you find in the selected texts?
- When you compare articles on a particular topic, what differences do you find regarding the advice offered? Could you explain these differences?







- In your opinion, is the content appropriate or sufficient? Is all the information valid, necessary and/or correct? Why or why not?
- Is there any possibility to comment on or revise the content?
- What limitations or weaknesses of wikiHow have you identified? Do you plan to use the site in the future? Why or why not? And if so, what precautions will you take?
- Does reading this/these text(s) change your view of wikiHow? If so, how?
- In your opinion, what qualities, skills and knowledge are necessary to contribute to wikiHow?
- If you used Resoomer and/or an automatic translator, what did you think of their performance? Did they help you understand the texts? What limitations or weaknesses of these tools have you identified?

