

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#relatedwikihow>;
- <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.
 - If necessary, one or more automatic translators can be used. It may be useful to discuss the reliability of the machine translators.
 - 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:
 - 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?
 - 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.

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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).

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- <https://es.wikihow.com/usar-un-sauna-de-manera-segura;>
- [https://pt.wikihow.com/Usar-uma-Sauna-com-Seguran%C3%A7a.](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:

- 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?