

Read an article

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An article is a page with a title, body, and tags that you read before deciding whether to comment, follow its author, favorite it, or use an article action.

Start with [Before you start](#), then find and open the article.

If you need to...	Go to
Read the article and its tags	Understand the reading surface
Add a comment or use a favorite or follow action	Comment on and react to an article
Choose an author or reader action	Handle author and reader actions
Continue to another article	Discover articles
Open the author's profile	View a profile
See articles you favorited	View favorited articles
Edit an article you authored	Edit an article

Before you start

The Article route displays an existing article and its comments. Have the article route available, and sign in before you comment, follow an author, or favorite an article.

Prerequisites

- Know which existing article you want to open.
- Have the article route available.
- Sign in before commenting, following an author, or favoriting an article.

When these prerequisites are in place, continue to [Find and open an article](#).

Find and open an article

Use the article-discovery pages to choose an existing article, then open its Article route. The article and its comments load before the page is displayed.

Steps

1. Open [Discover articles](#).
2. Select the article you want to read.
3. Open the article route provided for the article.
4. If you are signed out, select **Sign in** to authenticate before commenting or using an interaction that requires sign-in.

Result: The selected article opens with its title, body, tags, author information, and comments area on screen. Continue to [Understand the reading surface](#).

Understand the reading surface

The reading surface combines the article content with author information, tags, comments, and actions that depend on who you are.

Area	What you use it for
Title	Identify the article you opened.
Body	Read the article content.
Tags	Recognize the topics attached to the article.
Author information	Open the author's profile and use article actions.
Comment area	Read existing comments or enter a comment when signed in.
Article actions	Edit or delete your article, or follow and favorite another author's article.

The Article route does not contain article-editing fields. When you are the author, select **Edit Article** to move to the editor. **Delete Article** is the author-only action for removing the article; use the editor page for editing.

When you can locate the content and the controls you need, continue to [Comment on and react to an article](#).

Comment on and react to an article

A comment records your response below the article. Favorite and follow actions are available for an article you did not author; their labels change with the current favorite or follow state.

Prerequisites

- Be signed in to see the comment editor.
- Open the article you want to discuss or react to.

Steps

1. Choose the alternative that matches what you want to do:

If you need to...	Do this
Write a response	Enter it in Write a comment... , then select Post Comment .
Add the article to your favorites	Select Favorite Article .
Remove the article from your favorites	Select Unfavorite Article .
Start following the author	Select Follow .
Stop following the author	Select Unfollow .
Sign in before using an interaction control	Select Sign in at the login screen.

Result: Your comment is added to the article's comments after a successful post, or the selected favorite or follow state is applied after a successful interaction. Continue to [Handle author and reader actions](#) when the action depends on your relationship to the article.

Handle author and reader actions

The article page shows different actions for the article author and for another reader. Your signed-in identity determines which set you see.

Your situation	Actions available
You are the article author	Edit Article and Delete Article
You are signed in but are not the article author	Follow , Unfollow , Favorite Article , or Unfavorite Article

Your situation	Actions available
You are signed out	Sign in and sign up in the comment area; sign-in is required for the interaction controls

Steps

1. Select the action that matches your situation:

If you need to...	Select
Change an article you authored	Edit Article
Remove an article you authored	Delete Article
Remove a comment you authored	The delete icon in that comment's footer

Result: The page presents the action set for your relationship to the article and comment. If an action fails, continue to [When something goes wrong](#).

When something goes wrong

What you see	What it means	What to do
Unable to connect to the server	The client could not connect to the server.	Check the connection and try the action again.
Server-provided field and message values	The server returned validation or other API errors for the action.	Read the message beside its field and correct the requested value before trying again.

For broader error guidance, see [General error messages](#) and [Common issues and solutions](#).

What to do next

After reading or interacting with an article, choose the next destination that matches your work.

Steps

1. Choose the next action:

If you need to...	Go to
Read another article	Discover articles

If you need to...	Go to
Review the author's other work	View a profile
Review articles you favorited	View favorited articles
Edit the article you authored	Edit an article
Change your account settings	Update your settings
Learn how following works	Follow an author

Result: You have a destination for the next article, profile, favorites, editing, settings, or following task.