

# The Writer's Block v3.8a Online Manual

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## Features

- Fully changeable look with tag-based HTML templates.
- Language file for editing default text output and one-step translation.
- Blogging with permalinks, draft posts and changeable dates.
- Commenting with user remembrance and Spamguard Extra, which intelligently blocks spam comments.
- Mini-Blogs that can be used as sub-blogs for development diaries or even as blogs for each user.
- Anypages, non-blog pages which allow you to put anything you want in them.
- Categories for filing blog posts and Anypages.

- User system with three different permission levels.
- RSS and Atom feeds for main blog
- RSS feeds for Mini-Blogs and Latest Comments.
- Automated sitemap.

## License

Writer's Block is free software under the [GPL](#). There should be no charge for using the software, though you may have been charged for the distribution (paid to have it burned to a CD etc.). You may modify the software however you want. You may distribute your modification, though you must credit me as the original author if you do so.

The only condition for using Writer's Block is that you include a link to **<http://www.desiquintans.com/writersblock>** somewhere on every page. You can use an image as a link as long as the image's ALT text is "Published by Writer's Block" and the image links to **<http://www.desiquintans.com/writersblock>**.

Thanks to [Alex King](#), whose Javascript library *JS QuickTags* I took, stripped down and reused as *The Punctuator*, which is licensed under the GPL if it comes bundled with Writer's Block. An extended version of The Punctuator under the LGPL can be downloaded from <http://www.desiquintans.com/punctuator>.

Thanks to [Mark James](#) for the Silk icon set, which the Writer's Block Admin section uses.

## Errata

The authentication system uses cookies to allow for the greatest compatibility between server software (all support cookies, only Apache supports PHP sessions). Cookies must be enabled for you to log in.

The password resetting feature requires PHP to have access to a mail binary like Sendmail. If a user doesn't receive an email after resetting their password, ask your web host if your compilation of PHP can use Sendmail or some other mail binary.

The bug report feature also requires PHP to have access to a mail binary.

*The Punctuator* uses Javascript to insert HTML entities. The Mass-delete form also uses Javascript to automatically bring the text field into focus. These features require Javascript to be supported and allowed in your browser.

Some of the best user-friendly features of the Admin section's User Interface (like icons that turn into buttons when hovered over and extra-big clicking areas) don't work with Internet Explorer. These features were specifically added to make the UI easier to use, but the standards-ignorance of Internet Explorer (even IE6) makes this impossible. Unless you don't mind clicking on 16x16 pixel squares to get things done, I suggest changing to a standards-compliant browser like Firefox to make your life easier. Seriously, 16x16 is small.

# Getting started

## Installation

1. Extract the files from writersblock-current.zip, making sure to preserve the directory structure (clicking the 'Extract to...' button instead of dragging everything to the desktop will do this).
2. Open admin/control.php with a plain-text editor like Notepad or BBedit and put your mySQL login details where required. You can rename the tables that Writer's Block will use, but it is not necessary if you're only running one copy. There are also other configuration options in control.php that you may wish to change.
3. Upload everything to your server's public area (this is usually where your FTP client puts you by default).
4. Run *install.php* in your browser. Fill all the fields. If all goes well the tables will be created in your mySQL database and you'll be told that you can now run Writer's Block.
5. Delete *install.php* for security.

## Upgrading

Go to <http://www.desiquintans.com/writersblock#downloads> to get the upgrade patch relevant to you. Note that upgrades must be done in sequence, so to upgrade from v3.6 to v3.8 you would need to use all the upgrade scripts between those versions.

Instructions for upgrading are included with the upgrade patch. Often it will involve replacing some files and running a PHP script.

## Administering

### Using the Admin section

To use the Admin section point your browser to [admin/index.php](#) on your server, then log in with your username and password. Cookies must be enabled to log in.


















At the top of the page is a toolbar with up to seventeen buttons. The buttons displayed to you depend on the permissions you are given by the Administrator.

You can hover your mouse over the buttons to get a message regarding what it does, but typically the pattern for each group is 1) *Create new item* and 2) *Manage existing items*. Here is a list of all the button functions from left to right.

1.  New blog post

9.  New user

2.  Edit and delete blog posts
3.  New Mini-Blog
4.  Add, edit and delete Mini-Blog posts
5.  New Anypage
6.  Edit and delete Anypages
7.  New category
8.  Edit and delete categories
10.  Edit and delete users
11.  Edit Writer's Block's settings
12.  Edit and delete blog comments
13.  Mass-delete blog comments
14.  Edit your user details
15.  Log out of Admin section
16.  View site
17.  Report a bug

The rest of the Admin section is fairly self-explanatory: click on an item's link to edit or delete it, fill lots of forms, see some nice confirmation messages. All good.

## Using The Punctuator

*The Punctuator* is a line of buttons used to insert typographically-correct punctuation entities into the text area below. If you hover your pointer over each button you'll see that it has an accesskey that you can use to insert text without having to click the button: for example, the accesskey for Italics is alt + I.



This is what each button means, in order of appearance. If a button 'wraps', it means that appropriate start/end marks are put at the beginning and end of selected text.

1. Boldface (wraps; XHTML-friendly; strongly emphasise)
2. Italicise (wraps; XHTML-friendly; emphasise)
3. Em Dash (a break in thought; a range without end)
4. En Dash (a range that ends; joining words that are already hyphenated [Open-Source-based, not Open-Source-based])
5. Single curly quotes (wraps; keyboard apostrophe is not a single quote)
6. Double curly quotes (wraps; keyboard double quote is not correct)
7. Ellipsis (three full-stops do not have the correct spacing and are too bold)
8. One-Dot Leader (use when not ending a sentence [as decimal points, abbreviation points or in a version number])
9. Apostrophe (keyboard apostrophe is not correct)
10. Ampersand (means 'and'; for showing character entity codes)
11. Less than-Greater than (wraps; for showing HTML code)
12. Paragraph (wraps; correct HTML code for starting and ending a new paragraph)

The Punctuator requires Javascript to run.

## URL string guide

When you make a category, Mini-Blog or Anypage Writer's Block asks you to enter [an](#) URL string. This is the thing you put into the query string of your address bar to view all the things filed under a category, for example

```
archive.php?cat=[URLstring] OR articles.php?cat=[URLstring]
```

or to look at a Mini-Blog

```
miniblog.php?blog=[URLstring]
```

or to display an Anypage.

```
articles.php?page=[URLstring]
```

An URL string is limited to **255 characters** or fewer, must be **unique** (not be the same as another URL string, and not share the name of a [folder](#) in the same directory as index.php) and in addition it **should not contain the following** characters or character combinations:

1. Spaces
2. +
3. %20
4. &
5. ?
6. \*
7. =

Writer's Block doesn't allow you to use these characters because they either fulfill a browser function (e.g. '?', '=' and '&' are used to delimit query strings in URLs) or because they can be used in modified queries to attack your site (e.g. without spaces and the asterisk an attacker cannot use SQL injection). Simply avoid characters that aren't numbers, letters and underscores `_`. Once you assign a URL string to an item, it's best not to change it or else you'll give dead links to a person who linked to it.

1: I put "an" in front of "URL string" because I pronounce it as "Earl string."

## Formatting dates

Use these codes to format the date as you like. If you want to use a plain word (like 'of' or 'the') you must escape each letter of the word with a backslash to keep PHP happy ('`\o\`' and '`\t\h\`'). For example, to get "Saturday, the 22nd of October, 2005" you would enter

```
l, \t\h\e jS \o\f F, Y
```

### Year

Y: 2005

y: 05

### Month

n: 4 (as one or two digits)

m: 04 (as two digits)

F: April

M: Apr

### **Day of the year**

z: 0-365

### **Day of the month**

S: st/nd/rd/th (two-digit ordinal suffix [e.g. 1st of...])

j: 9 (one or two digits)

d: 09 (two digits)

t: 28-31 (number of days in given month)

### **Day of the week**

l (small L): Monday

D: Mon

w: 0-6 (0 is Sunday)

### **Hour**

g: 7 (12-hour format with one or two digits)

G: 19 (24-hour format with two digits)

h: 07 (12-hour format with one or two digits)

H: 19 (24-hour format with two digits)

### **Misc time**

i: 45 (minutes)

a: am/pm

A: AM/PM

s: 12 (seconds)

U: 1129596111 (seconds since the 1st of January, 1970)

It's always better to show the year as four digits and the month non-numerically because it reduces confusion: lots of people have trouble with an ambiguous date like 06-10-05 because it can be construed as:

- 6th of October, 2005 (DMY, mainly British)
- June the 10th, 2005 (MDY, mainly American)
- 2006, October the 5th (YMD, Zulu (international date/time))

## **Editing the language file**

The language file (by default [en.php](#)) stores all the text that Writer's Block outputs in the public pages. It is here that you change things like headings, pagination text, comment forms and the code for links within listings.

Language files should be kept in the template/ folder. To use a new language file, simply place it in the template/ folder and then edit admin/control.php where appropriate.

Editing a language file is a simple matter of putting your text between the single quotes after the => glyph, though you must escape all single quotes/apostrophes with a backslash (\') or else you will get PHP errors and Writer's Block will not run.

Please note that the Latest Comments page (latestcomments.php) has some text that is not covered by the language file. You will have to edit the

DESCRIPTION and COPYRIGHT tags of the feed if you want the text in another language.

## Toggling auto linebreaks

Writer's Block can convert newlines (one press of the [Enter] key) into `<br />` tags to save you from having to type the tags yourself. This option comes in the form of a checkbox that, by default, is checked. To make the box UNCHECKED by default, open `admin/include/autobreak.inc` in a plain text editor and delete

```
[checked="checked" ]
```

notice that we're also deleting a space.

## Spamguard

### Editing Blacklists

Spamguard keeps three separate blacklists in `admin/include/`, each screening a different comment field. A comment is blocked if an entry in a blacklist is matched to the data input in its field.

1. `spamguard.txt` screens the URL field and all linked URLs found in the body of a comment.
2. `spamguard-email.txt` screens the information given in the Email field.
3. `spamguard-text.txt` screens all text in the body of a comment.

To add a new entry to a blacklist, open one in a plain-text editor like Notepad or BBEdit. Lines that begin and end with double hashes (`## ... ##`) are comments, and are ignored in the finished blacklist. It's alright to have spaces within comments. Each entry appears on its own line in the list. There should be no spaces outside the comments.

Blacklists use Regular Expressions, three features of which are specifically supported by Spamguard; literals, wildcards and quantifiers. Blacklists can also use character classes, but it is not officially supported.

### Literals

A literal is a string of characters written exactly as it is interpreted. The string `porn` if entered in `spamguard.txt` will block any comment that links to a URL that contains `porn` (`http://www.porn.com`, `ftp://porno.net`, `http://amateurporn.de`) or enters such a URL in the URL field. If entered in `spamguard-text.txt` it will block any comment whose body text contains `porn` at all.

The shorter a literal, the more possible matches it will make. For example, `ringtone` may also appear as `rington`, `ringtonz` or `ringto` in different spam comments. The string `ringto` can block all of them.

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## Wildcards and quantifiers

A period (.) matches any character that isn't a newline, including spaces. The string `ab.c` will match `abbc`, `ab c`, `ab2c` and so forth. It will not match `abc` because the wildcard was not given a quantity, and therefore behaves as a permanent character.

You can indicate how many characters a wildcard should stand in for by using quantifiers. Quantifiers can also be applied to characters in literals, as the following examples show.

- `*` means 0 or more of the previous expression: `ab*c` = `ac`, `abc`, `abbc`, `abbbbc`.
- `?` means 0 or 1 of the previous expression: `ab?c` = `ac`, `abc`.
- `+` means 1 or more of the previous expression: `ab+c` = `abc`, `abbc`, `abbbc`, `abbbbc`.

You can also specify the exact number of occurrences of a character by using curly braces.

- `{3}` means exactly 3 occurrences: `ab{3}c` = `abbbbc`.
- `{3, 5}` means between 3 to 5 occurrences, and is inclusive: `ab{3, 5}c` = `abbbbc`, `abbbbc`, `abbbbbc`.
- `{3,}` means at least 3 occurrences: `ab{3,}c` = `abbbbc`, `abbbbc`, `abbbbbc`.

If you want to use a wildcard or quantifier as part of a literal (for example, to match a period instead of any character), escape it with a backslash (`\`). The string `ab\.c` will now match `ab.c`.

If Writer's Block returns a PHP error when you try to comment, or blocks comments that are not spam at all, check your blacklists for comment lines that aren't ended with double hashes, or for bracket characters (`[](){}` ) that are not escaped where appropriate.

## Comment Closing

By default, Writer's Block automatically closes the comment threads of a blog post that is older than 120 hours (five days). You can change the number of hours a thread stay open in Preferences. Entering a lifetime of 0 hours gives threads infinite life; they will stay open indefinitely unless specifically closed when creating or editing the blog post, or unless already closed.

## Using Mass-delete

The mass-delete utility retrieves all URLs from the thirty most recent comments and lists them. Based on the URLs shown on the list, you can construct a delete query similar to [a blacklist entry](#) and delete all comments that match it.

## Creating drafts

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### Drafting blog and Mini-Blog posts



A post can be made into a Draft by checking the "Is this post a Draft?" checkbox when creating or editing it. As long as the Draft checkbox is enabled the post will not be viewable in the Public site (not even by referring to the post's supposed permalink).

### Drafting an Anypage

An Anypage can be saved as a Draft by not categorising it. As long as the Anypage is not categorised and the URL not linked to, the page stays incognito. You should avoid accidental visits to the page by giving it a random URL string or leaving the URL string field blank. If left blank, the Anypage will appear at the top of the 'Manage Anypages' list as **!!\_UNDEFINED\_URL\_STRING\_!!**.

## Multi-categorising

Writer's Block allows you to put posts and Anypages in up to four categories. There are five basic rules you must remember when multi-categorising an item:

1. Do not repeat categories. Writer's Block does not check for duplicate categorising for speed purposes.
2. Always fill the category drop-downs from left to right.
3. If you want an item to be uncategorised, leave all category drop-downs blank.
4. Do not skip drop-downs (e.g. use drop-downs 1 and 3 while leaving 2 blank). It won't lead to an error but it is bad form.

And the most important rule of all is this:

5. In the case of Anypages, the category in the leftmost drop-down is the category under which it will be listed in the Sitemap. This is because a Sitemap should not show the same page more than once. Just think of the leftmost category as the item's primary category, and all others as secondary categories.

## Making multi-page articles

The first page of an article should contain the description and categories for the entire article, as well as the normal elements.

Subsequent pages **should not be put into categories**. By keeping these pages uncategorised they stay hidden from Writer's Block and cannot be displayed in Newest Articles, category directories or the Sitemap.

It is recommended that you put the links for transferring between article pages in the Subheader field of each Anypage involved.

## Users and permissions

To log in you must allow cookies (allowed by default in the Security settings of your browser). If you have forgotten your password you can have it reset and sent to your given email address by clicking *I forgot my password!* at the login prompt. For security purposes you are automatically logged out after two hours

of inactivity.

There are three permission levels: Administrator, Assistant and Contributor. The user created from the details given in the install or upgrade script is automatically made an Administrator.

1. **Administrator:** Complete control over all features of the Writer's Block installation. Can create, edit and delete anything.
2. **Assistant:** Can create, edit or delete any blog posts, Anypages and categories, as well as moderate comments.
3. **Contributor:** Can create blog posts, Anypages and categories, but can only edit or delete blog posts, Anypages and categories they created.

Only an Administrator can create new users and edit or delete existing ones (even other Administrators). The only things an Administrator cannot edit are a user's Username and Password.

### Mini-Blog permissions

A special consideration is Mini-Blog permissions. Any user can create a Mini-Blog, but only the creator can add new posts, edit or delete existing ones, edit the Mini-Blog's settings or delete the Mini-Blog. This is so that Mini-Blogs can be used as wholly private blogs with free rein.

## The public site

### URL construction

These pages make up the part of Writer's Block accessible to the public. Most of these pages require a query string in order to use their more complex functions.

### Blog ('Front Page')

The blog can be viewed at [index.php](#). It shows you as many of the newest blog posts you've made as you assigned in Preferences. [index.php](#) takes no query strings.

### Mini-Blog

[miniblog.php](#) must be used with query strings. The URL

```
.../miniblog.php?blog=[URLstring]
```

is the main page for the Mini-Blog with the given URL string. This page shows as many of the newest posts as the creator assigned.

You can also view the permalink of a Mini-Blog entry by using the URL

```
.../miniblog.php?blog=[URLstring]&entry=[ID]
```

where [URLstring] is the URL string of the Mini-Blog and [ID] is the MiniID

number of the post in question.

Mini-Blog archives can be viewed by using `archive.php` (below), and a Mini-Blog's feed can be accessed through `rss.php` (also below).

---

## Archive

The Archive lives at `archive.php`. The flat URL

```
.../archive.php
```

shows the date, title and category of each main blog post from new to old. The number of posts listed can be changed in Preferences. The URL

```
.../archive.php?cat=[URLstring]
```

leads the user to the Post Category directory, where the date, title and category of each main blog post categorised under `[URLstring]` is displayed from new to old. The number of posts listed can be changed in Preferences. `[URLstring]` is the text you put into the *URL string* field when you created the category.

You can also view the archive of a Mini-Blog by using the URL

```
.../archive.php?miniblog=[URLstring]
```

where `[URLstring]` is the text you put into the *URL string* field when you created the Mini-Blog.

---

## Anypages

Anypages can be viewed in `articles.php`. The plain URL

```
.../articles.php
```

shows the title and description of the newest categorised Anypages at the top and the title and description of all the Anypage categories that exist. The number of newest Anypages to show can be changed in Preferences. The URL

```
.../articles.php?cat=[catURLstring]
```

is the Anypage Category directory, which shows the title and description of every Anypage categorised under `[catURLstring]`. Ordered by date created, from new to old. The number of Anypages to list on one directory page can be changed in Preferences. `[catURLstring]` is the text you put into the *URL string* field when you created the category. The URL

```
.../articles.php?page=[URLstring]
```

is the URL used to display the actual content of an Anypage, where `[URLstring]` is the name you gave it in the *URL string* field when you made the Anypage.

---

## Permalink/comments

The content of a blog post and any comments it received is shown in [permalink.php](#). When linking to a post you must supply a PostID:

```
.../permalink.php?PostID=[ID]
```

where [ID] is the PostID of the post you're linking to. If you want to link to the comments block of the Permalink, use the URL

```
.../permalink.php?PostID=[ID]#comments
```

Individual comments also have their own permalink so you or others can link directly to them in other posts instead of saying "halfway down the page somewhere." Use the URL

```
.../permalink.php?PostID=[ID]#C[CommID]
```

where [ID] is the PostID of the post in question and [CommID] is the CommID of the comment.

## RSS Feed

The RSS feed of the blog is [rss.php](#). If you do not include any query strings it will display as many of the newest blog posts as you assigned in Preferences as a valid RSS 2.0 feed. It shows the first 500 characters of the entry before cutting off with an ellipsis.

If you use the URL

```
.../rss.php?miniblog=[URLstring]
```

you can access the RSS feed for any Mini-Blog where [URLstring] is the URL string given to the Mini-Blog.

## Atom Feed

The Atom feed of the blog is [atom.php](#). It is automatically updated with as many of the newest blog posts as you assigned in Preferences. It shows the first 500 characters of the entry before cutting off with an ellipsis. [atom.php](#) takes no query strings and is valid Atom 1.0.

## 'Latest Comments' Feed

The Latest Comments feed is [latestcomments.php](#). It is automatically updated with as many of the newest comments as you assigned in Preferences. It shows the first 100 characters of the entry before cutting off with an ellipsis. [latestcomments.php](#) takes no query strings and is valid RSS 2.0.

## Sitemap

The sitemap is at [sitemap.php](#). It automatically grabs the titles of all your categorised Anypages and lists them underneath their respective categories. If

you want to manually add a page (for example, a static HTML page or an uncategorised Anypage) you can do it in the [sitemap's display template](#). `sitemap.php` takes no query strings.

## Templating

### Header and Footer

Header/Footer templates are (X)HTML pages that contain the code for the start and end of the page. The content of all Writer's Block pages goes between the header and footer templates. In other words, the header and footer are the slices of bread in the sandwich. The header and footer templates **must** be named `header.htm` and `footer.htm` respectively.

The default template included with Writer's Block looks like poo. Get creative!

---

#### header.htm

To use dynamic titles (titles that change depending on what page you're on), have

```
<title><?php echo "$pagetitle"."$tagline_is"; ?></title>
```

in the HEAD section. To use the information you specified in Preferences as a metatag, have

```
<meta name="author" content="<?php echo $author_is; ?>" />
<meta name="title" content="<?php echo $sitename_is; ?>" />
<meta name="description" content="<?php echo $sitedesc_is; ?>" />
```

somewhere in the HEAD section. If you want to use an external stylesheet (and you keep the stylesheet in the template/ folder) you must use

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="template/____.css" me
```

note that the HREF requires you to say that your CSS file is in the template/ folder: simply `href="screen.css"` won't work because header.htm is called by files outside the template/ folder.

To allow browsers and aggregators to automatically discover your RSS and Atom feeds, have the following code somewhere in the HEAD section.

```
<link rel="alternate" type="application/rss+xml" title="RSS Blog F
<link rel="alternate" type="application/atom+xml" title="Atom Bloç
<link rel="alternate" type="application/rss+xml" title="Latest Con
```

You can remove any of the `<link>`s if you don't want browsers to autodiscover the feeds they reference.

---

#### footer.htm

If you want a back-to-top link at the bottom of your pages, make an anchor

named *top* in the BODY section of your header.htm file

```
<a name="top"></a>
```

and then add this somewhere in footer.htm:

```
<?php
if(!$ _SERVER['QUERY_STRING'] == "") {
    $thispage = $ _SERVER['PHP_SELF'].'?'.$ _SERVER['QUERY_STRING'];
} else {
    $thispage = $ _SERVER['PHP_SELF'];
}
echo '<a href="'.$thispage.'#top">Back to top</a>';
?>
```

footer.htm **must must MUST have a link to the Writer's Block page**; that's the only condition of use. By default, it's

```
Published by <a href="http://www.desiquintans.com/writersblock">Writers Block
```

## Page templates

Page templates are (X)HTML pages that determine the overall layout of the content. They do not govern the look of a particular item within a page, like a blog post or a comment: [item templates](#) do that.

Each template has its own special tags. Put a tag in a particular part of your template to automatically insert the appropriate content at that point. Tags are case-sensitive and use curly braces (above the square brackets on a keyboard). The names of these files **must not** be changed (don't even change the extension to .html).

The default template included with Writer's Block looks like poo. Get creative!

---

### 404.htm

**The page shown if an item can't be found, doesn't exist or was searched for with a disallowed query string.**

It takes no variables or special codes: use only straight HTML. Note that this 404 page is only called when a Writer's Block item is not found: it is not called when a page doesn't exist. You still need to use your server's configuration (whether .htaccess or otherwise) to give a general 404 page.

---

### anypage.htm

**How an Anypage will look when it's displayed.**

{TITLE}: Anypage's title

{SUBHEADING}: text of the subheading, if it exists.

{DESCRIPTION}: the description of the Anypage.

{BODY}: the text of the Anypage.

{CATEGORY}: Anypage's category, if existent.

{AUTHOR}: The display name of the user who created the Anypage.

`{BIO}`: The biography of the user who created the Anypage. This will not show if the Anypage belongs to no categories.

`{DATE}`: the date the Anypage was created. If created before v3.8a, displays a message instead of a date.

---

### archive.htm

**The generic display of the Archive (it lists all posts by reverse chronological order)**

`{TITLE}`: title

`{PAGINATE}`: shows the page navigation links (Prev | 1 2 3 4 | Next)

`{LINKS}`: the list of archived posts.

---

### articles.htm

**The default display of articles.php (it shows newest articles and lists all categories)**

`{TITLE}`: title

`{NEWEST_ARTICLES}`: lists the newest articles; the number of new articles shown can be edited in Preferences.

`{CATEGORIES}`: lists all Anypage categories.

---

### catdir.htm

**The page that appears when you click on a category's name. It shows all posts and Anypages under the category.**

`{TITLE}`: title

`{DESCRIPTION}`: description of the category (you enter this when making the category).

`{PAGINATE}`: shows the page navigation links (Prev | 1 2 3 4 | Next)

`{LINKS}`: the list of posts or Anypages under the category.

---

### message.htm

**How messages like confirmations, alerts and errors look.**

`{TITLE}`: the title of the message.

`{BODY}`: the body of the message.

---

### miniblog.htm

**The 'wrapper' of the Mini-Blog, typically where information about the Mini-Blog itself goes.**

`{MINIBLOG_TITLE}`: the title of the Mini-Blog.

`{MINIBLOG_DESC}`: description of the Mini-Blog.

`{MINIBLOG_CONTENT}`: the body text of the Mini-Blog (see minipost.htm below).

`{BLOG_URL}`: the Mini-Blog's URL string.

`{AUTHOR}`: display name of the creator of the Mini-Blog.

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## permalink.htm

**How the permalink page will look as a whole. Note that you can configure how each comment is displayed in comment.htm.**

{*TITLE*}: title of post.

{*DATE*}: date of the post.

{*POST\_ID*}: number of the post.

{*BODY*}: text of post.

{*PREV*}: link to previous blog post.

{*NEXT*}: link to next blog post.

{*CATEGORY*}: category of the post. Prints "no category" if the post is not categorised, or else it prints links with the display names of the categories.

{*AUTHOR*}: The display name of the user who made the post.

{*BIO*}: The biography of the user who made the post. If defined, it will always show.

{*COMMENT\_FORM*}: the New Comment form.

{*COMMENTS*}: all the comments made so far.

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## sitemap.htm

**How the sitemap will look. This is where you can add static links to an About page, Contact page and others.**

{*TITLE*}: title of post.

{*BLOG\_CATEGORIES*}: lists all existing blog post categories as links to their respective category directories.

{*ANYPAGES*}: lists all Anypage categories with a nested list of all Anypages that are categorised under each of them.

## **Item templates**

Item templates are (X)HTML pages that determine the look of a particular item on the page. They do not govern the look of the page itself: [page templates](#) do that.

Each template has its own special tags. Put a tag in a particular part of your template to automatically insert the appropriate content at that point. Tags are case-sensitive and use curly braces (above the square brackets on a keyboard). The names of these files **must not** be changed (don't even change the extension to .html).

The default template included with Writer's Block looks like poo. Get creative!

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## blog.htm

**How each blog post looks on the front page.**

{*DATE*}: date of the post, the format can be edited in Preferences.

{*TITLE*}: title of the post.

{*BODY*}: the text of the post.

{*CATEGORY*}: the category of the post. Prints "no category" if the post is not categorised, or else it prints links with the display names of the categories.

{*COMMENT\_COUNT*}: the number of comments made so far.



`{AUTHOR}`: the display name of the user who made the post.

`{PREV}`: link to previous blog post.

`{NEXT}`: link to next blog post.

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### minipost.htm

**How each Mini-Blog post will look. This is what is shown with the `{MINIBLOG_CONTENT}` tag in `miniblog.htm`.**

`{TITLE}`: the title of the post.

`{BODY}`: the body of the post.

`{AUTHOR}`: display name of the Mini-Blog's and the post's author.

`{DATE}`: the date of the post, as the creator formatted it when the Mini-Blog was created.

`{MINI_ID}`: the ID number of the post.

`{BLOG_URL}`: the Mini-Blog's URL string.

`{PREV}`: link to previous blog post.

`{NEXT}`: link to next blog post.

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### comment.htm

**Each individual comment in `permalink.php` will use this code.**

`{NAME}`: name of speaker.

`{COMMENT}`: text of comment.

`{DATE}`: when the comment was made; the format can be edited in Preferences.

`{P_URL}`: the permalink URL of the individual comment. The tag outputs only a relative URL ("permalink.php?PostID=[ID]#C[CommID]") so that you can put it into a text link or an image link as you please.

## Link templates

Link templates are in the language file (by default `en.php`, around the bottom) and not in individual pages. As their name suggests, they only handle the look of links that appear in listings (like the list of blog posts in the Archive or the article summaries in `articles.php`).

Each template has its own special tags. Put a tag in a particular part of your template to automatically insert the appropriate content at that point. Tags are case-sensitive and use curly braces (above the square brackets on a keyboard).

**Edit only the second quoted value. Escape your single quotes/apostrophes with a backslash (/').**

The default link templates included with Writer's Block are adequate for most needs.

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### bloglink

**Each item in the main blog's archive.**

`{CATEGORIES}`: categories the post is filed under.

`{DATE}`: the date the post was made.

{*POST\_ID*}: the blog post's ID number. Use it in links.

{*SUMMARY*}: the first sentence of the post.

{*TITLE*}: the post's title.

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### postcatdirlink

#### **Each item in a Post category's directory.**

{*CATEGORIES*}: categories the post is filed under, with the currently viewed category blacked out.

{*DATE*}: the date the post was made.

{*POST\_ID*}: the blog post's ID number. Use it in links.

{*SUMMARY*}: the first sentence of the post.

{*TITLE*}: the post's title.

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### minibloglink

#### **Each item in a Mini-Blog's archive.**

{*DATE*}: the date the post was made.

{*MINI\_ID*}: the post's ID number. Use it in links.

{*SUMMARY*}: the first sentence of the post.

{*TITLE*}: the post's title.

{*URLSTRING*}: the Mini-Blog's URL string. Use it in links.

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### newestarticleslink

#### **Each item in the Newest Articles section of the default articles.php display.**

{*CATEGORIES*}: categories the Anypage is filed under.

{*DATE*}: the date the Anypage was created. If created before v3.8a, displays a message instead of a date.

{*DESCRIPTION*}: the Anypage's description.

{*TITLE*}: the Anypage's title.

{*URLSTRING*}: the Anypage's URL string. Use it in links.

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### anycategorylisting

#### **The listing of an Anypage category in the default articles.php display.**

{*DESCRIPTION*}: the category's description.

{*TITLE*}: the category's name.

{*URLSTRING*}: the category's URL string. Use it in links.

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### anycatdirlink

#### **Each item in an Anypage category's directory.**

{*CATEGORIES*}: categories the post is filed under, with the currently viewed category blacked out.

{*DATE*}: the date the Anypage was created. If created before v3.8a, displays a message instead of a date.

*{DESCRIPTION}*: the Anypage's description.

*{TITLE}*: the Anypage's title.

*{URLSTRING}*: the Anypage's URL string. Use it in links.

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