YAML – Styles

YAML Styles

Block Style

Flow Style

Block Style

- Block style is indentation-based structure with explicit indentation for nesting.
- This style is mainly used for lists and mapping.

```
---
key1: value1
key2:
  nested_key: nested_value
```

Flow Style

- Flow style is more compact, suitable for simple data structures or single-line representations.
- It uses '{}' for mapping and '[]' for lists.

```
---
{ key1: value1, key2: { nested_key: nested_value } }
```

Difference between block and flow style

Block style

- Structure:
  - Uses indentation to define the structure and hierarchy of data.
  - Indentation is critical to determine nesting and relationships.
- Readability:
  - Highly readable and human-friendly.
  - Easier to follow and understand due to clear indentation.
- Usage:
  - Suitable for representing complex and nested data structures.
  - Typically used for lists, mappings, and more intricate data hierarchies.

Flow style

- Structure:
  - Compact and less verbose, using braces {} for mappings and brackets [] for lists.
  - Commas separate key-value pairs in mappings.
- Readability:
  - Less readable, especially for deeply nested or complex data structures.
  - Not as human-friendly as the block style, especially for large or intricate data.
- Usage:
  - Suitable for simple data, single-line representations, or when compactness is more important than readability.
  - Often used for representing data in a more condensed form.

Difference between block and flow style

Block style

```
---
key1: value1
key2:
  nested_key: nested_value
list:
  - item1
  - item2
```

Flow style

- Mapping in flow style

```
---
{ key1: value1, key2: { nested_key: nested_value } }

```

- List in flow style

```
---
list: [item1,item2]

```

When to use

- **Use Block Style:**
  - Readability and human understanding are important.
  - Representing complex or nested data structures.
  - Clarity and visual organization are desired.
- **Use Flow Style:**
  - Compactness and brevity are crucial.
  - Representing simple, one-dimensional data.
  - Space is limited or a more condensed representation is preferred.