

The Markdown Guide

- by Cone, Matt

“Markdown is a lightweight markup language that you can use to add formatting elements to plaintext text documents. ”

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“When you create a Markdown-formatted file, you add Markdown syntax to the text to indicate which words and phrases should look different. ”

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“Markdown can be used for everything. People use it to create websites, documents, notes, books, presentations, email messages, and technical documentation. ”

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“Markdown is portable. ”

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“Markdown is future proof. Even if the application you’re using stops working at some point in the future, you’ll still be able to read your Markdown-formatted text using a text editing application. ”

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“When you write in Markdown, the text is stored in a plaintext file that has an .md or .markdown extension. ”

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“Markdown applications use something called a Markdown processor (also commonly referred to as a “parser” or an “implementation”) to take the Markdown-formatted text and output it to HTML format. ”

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“Joplin is a note taking application that respects your privacy. It’s available for every platform. ”

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“Markdown is the ideal syntax for taking notes. ”

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“Leanpub, a service that takes your Markdown-formatted files and turns them into an electronic book. ”

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“To create a heading, add number signs (#) in front of a word or phrase. ”

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“number of number signs you use should correspond to the heading level. ”

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“on the line below the text, add any number of == characters for heading level ”

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“on the line below the text, add any number of == characters for heading level 1 or -- characters for heading level 2. ”

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“always put a space between the number signs and the heading name. ”

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“Markdown applications don’t agree on how to handle a missing space between the number signs (#) ”

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“create paragraphs, use a blank line to separate one or more lines of text. ”

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“create paragraphs, use a blank line to separate one or more lines of text. ”

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“create a line break (), end a line with two or more spaces, and then type return. ”

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““trailing whitespace”) ”

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“add emphasis by making text bold or italic. ”

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“two asterisks or underscores before and after a word or phrase. ”

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“Markdown applications don’t agree on how to handle underscores in the middle of a word. ”

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“For compatibility, use asterisks to italicize the middle of a word for emphasis. ”

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“For compatibility, use asterisks to bold the middle of a word for emphasis. ”

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“one asterisk or underscore before and after a word or phrase. ”

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“emphasize text with bold and italics at the same time, add three asterisks or underscores before and after a word or phrase. ”

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“For compatibility, use asterisks to bold and italicize the middle of a word for emphasis. ”

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“create a blockquote, add a > in front of a paragraph. ”

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“Blockquotes can contain multiple paragraphs. Add a > on the blank lines between the paragraphs. ”

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“Blockquotes can be nested. Add a >> in front of the paragraph you want to nest. ”

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“Blockquotes can contain other Markdown formatted elements. ”

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“put blank lines before and after blockquotes. ”

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“organize items into ordered and unordered lists. ”

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“To create an ordered list, add line items with numbers followed by periods. ”

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“To nest line items in an ordered list, indent the items four spaces or one tab. ”

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“To create an unordered list, add dashes (-), asterisks (*), or plus signs (+) in front of line items. ”

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“If you need to start an unordered list item with a number followed by a period, you can use a backslash (\) to escape the period. ”

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“Markdown applications don’t agree on how to handle different delimiters in the same list. For compatibility, don’t mix and match delimiters in the ”

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“Markdown applications don’t agree on how to handle different delimiters in the same list. For compatibility, don’t mix and match delimiters in the same list ”

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“Code blocks are normally indented four spaces or one tab. When they’re in a list, indent them eight spaces or two tabs. ”

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“denote a word or phrase as code, enclose it in backticks (`). ”

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“If the word or phrase you want to denote as code includes one or more backticks, you can escape it by enclosing the word or phrase in double backticks. ”

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“To create a horizontal rule, use three or more asterisks (**), dashes (---), or underscores (_) on a line by themselves. ”

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“For compatibility, put blank lines before and after horizontal rules. ”

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“To create a link, enclose the link text in brackets ”

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“then follow it immediately with the URL in parentheses (e.g., ”

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“then follow it immediately with the URL in parentheses ”

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“To quickly turn a URL or email address into a link, enclose it in angle brackets. ”

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“To emphasize links, add asterisks before and after the brackets and parentheses. To denote links as code, add backticks in the brackets. ”

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“Reference-style links are a special kind of link that make URLs easier to display and read in Markdown. ”

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“The first part of a reference-style link is formatted with two sets of brackets. The first set of brackets surrounds the text that should appear linked. The second set of brackets displays a label used to point to the link you’re storing elsewhere in your document. ”

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“The second part of a reference-style link is formatted with the following attributes: ”

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“For compatibility, try to URL encode any spaces with %20. ”

“To add an image, add an exclamation mark (!), followed by alt text in brackets, and the path or URL to the image asset in parentheses. ”

“To add a link to an image, enclose the Markdown for the image in brackets, and then add the link in parentheses. ”

“display a literal character that would otherwise be used to format text in a Markdown document, add a backslash (\) in front of the character. ”

“You can use a backslash to escape the following characters. ”

“You can’t use Markdown syntax inside block-level HTML tags. ”

“To add a table, use three or more hyphens (---) to create each column’s header, and use pipes (|) to separate each column. ”

“Creating tables with hyphens and pipes can be tedious. ”

“You can align text in the columns to the left, right, or center by adding a colon (:) to ”

“You can align text in the columns to the left, right, or center by adding a colon (:) to the left, right, or on both side of the hyphens within the header row. ”

“You can display a pipe (|) character in a table by using its HTML character code (|). ”

“Depending on your Markdown processor or editor, you’ll use three backticks (`) or three tildes (~ ~ ~) on the lines before and after the code block. The best part? You don’t have to indent any lines! ”

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“Depending on your Markdown processor or editor, you’ll use three backticks (`) or three tildes (~ ~ ~) on the lines before and after the code block. ”

“To add syntax highlighting, specify a language next to the backticks before the fenced code block. ”

“Footnotes allow you to add notes and references without cluttering the body of the document. ”

“To create a footnote reference, add a caret and an identifier inside brackets ([^1]). ”

“Identifiers only correlate the footnote reference with the footnote itself — in the output, footnotes are numbered sequentially. ”

“Identifiers can be numbers or words, ”

“Identifiers can be numbers or words, ”

“Identifiers can be numbers or words, but they can’t contain spaces or tabs. ”

“Add the footnote using another caret and number inside brackets with a colon and text ([^1]: My footnote.). ”

“— some Markdown processors automatically add them. ”

“To add a custom heading ID, enclose the custom ID in curly braces on the same line as the heading. ”

“You can link to headings with custom IDs in the file by creating a standard link with a number sign ”

“You can link to headings with custom IDs in the file by creating a standard link with a number sign (#) followed by the custom heading ID. ”

“definition lists of terms and their corresponding definitions. To create a definition list, type the term on the first line. On the next line, type a colon followed by a space and the definition. ”

““strikethrough” words by putting a horizontal line through the center of them. This feature allows you to indicate that certain words are a mistake not meant for inclusion in the document. ”

“use two tilde symbols (~ ~) before and after the words. ”

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“Task lists allow you to create a list of items with checkboxes. In Markdown applications that support task lists, checkboxes will be displayed next to the content. To create a task list, add dashes (-) and brackets with a space ([]) in front of task list items. ”

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“To select a checkbox, add an x in between the brackets ([x]). ”

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“There are two ways to add emoji to Markdown files: copy and paste the emoji into your Markdown-formatted text, or type emoji shortcodes. ”

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“If you’re using a static site generator, make sure you encode HTML pages as UTF-8 ”

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“emoji shortcodes. These begin and end with a colon and include the name of an emoji. ”

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“If you don’t want a URL to be automatically linked, you can remove the link by denoting the URL as code with backticks. ”

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