

KISS Solution: Export Markdown + Mermaid to PDF

 **One Extension, Three Clicks, Done.**

Step 1: Install Extension (One Time Only)

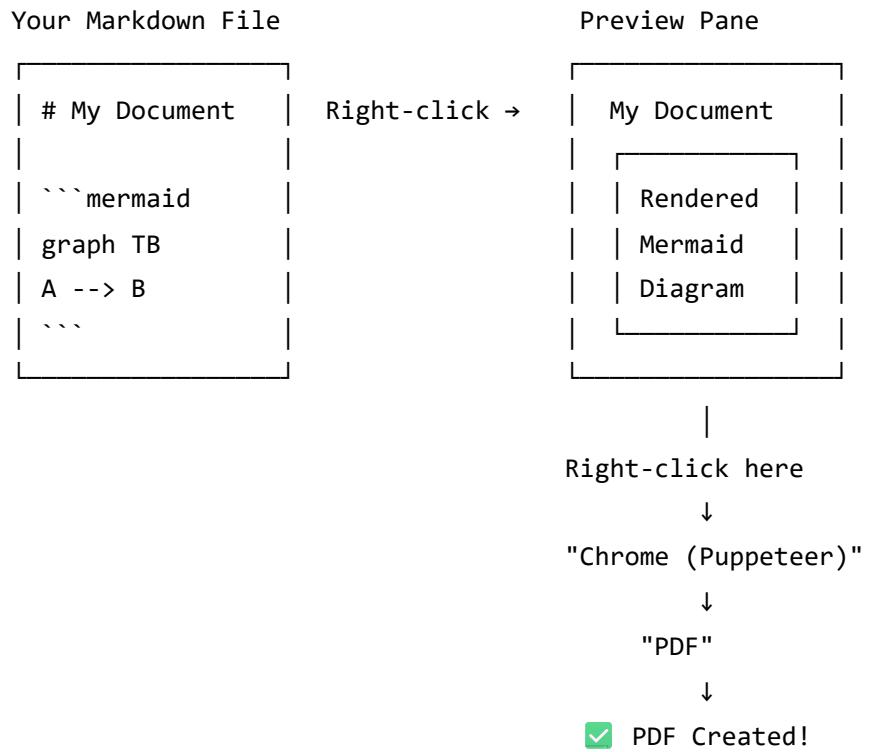
1. In VSCode, press: `Ctrl+Shift+X` (or `Cmd+Shift+X` on Mac)
2. Search: **Markdown Preview Enhanced**
3. Click **Install** on the extension by **Yiyi Wang**
4. Done. Never do this again.

Step 2: Export to PDF (Every Time)

1. Open your `.md` file in VSCode
2. Right-click anywhere in the editor
3. Select: "**Markdown Preview Enhanced: Open Preview to the Side**"
4. Right-click in the **preview pane**
5. Select: "**Chrome (Puppeteer) → PDF**"
6. Wait 30-60 seconds (progress shown in VSCode)
7. PDF appears in same folder as your `.md` file

Done. That's it.

🎥 Visual Guide



🎓 For Your Students

"How do I view the diagrams in the SOLID guide?"

Tell them:

1. Install VSCode extension: **Markdown Preview Enhanced**
2. Right-click in file → **Open Preview to the Side**
3. To save PDF: Right-click preview → **Chrome** → **PDF**

That's the entire instruction.

If It Doesn't Work

Problem: "Puppeteer" option missing

Fix:

- Close VSCode completely
- Reopen VSCode
- Try again (extension needs restart to load Puppeteer)

Problem: Diagrams not showing

Fix:

- Wait longer (complex diagrams take time)
- Check bottom-right of VSCode for progress/errors

Problem: PDF quality poor

Fix:

- Add to VSCode settings (`Ctrl+,` search "markdown enhanced"):
- Set **Print Background:** ON

Quick Reference Card

Print this for students:

 EXPORT MD + MERMAID → PDF IN VS CODE	
1. Install: "Markdown Preview Enhanced"	
2. Right-click in .md file	
→ "Markdown Preview Enhanced: Open Preview"	
3. Right-click in preview pane	
→ "Chrome (Puppeteer)"	
→ "PDF"	
4. Wait ~30 seconds	
5. PDF appears in same folder	



Why This is KISS

Alternative Methods	This Method
✗ Install Node.js, npm, CLI tools	✓ One VSCode extension
✗ Run terminal commands	✓ Right-click menu
✗ Edit config files	✓ Works out of box
✗ Upload to websites	✓ Works offline
✗ Manual diagram export	✓ Auto-renders everything
✗ Python scripts	✓ No coding

Single Responsibility Principle Applied: This extension does ONE thing and does it well.

That's it. Truly KISS. 