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Introduction to Markdown - Markdown: a widely-used markup language - Combines power and simplicity - Replaces WYSIWYG editors - Valuable skill for career advancement - Comprehensive guide available	Welcome everyone to this introduction on Markdown, one of the most versatile markup languages available today. What makes Markdown so special is its unique combination of power and simplicity. It's not surprising that it often replaces traditional WYSIWYG editors in platforms like Reddit and GitHub. Knowing Markdown is becoming an increasingly vital skill in the professional world, often required in various job roles. In this course, we're going to dive into the Markdown Guide, which serves as a comprehensive reference to help you master this indispensable tool. Whether you're new to Markdown or are already familiar with it, this guide will prove invaluable. Let's get started on this journey to enhance your writing skills with Markdown.
## Introduction to Markdown - Lightweight markup language - Created by John Gruber in 2004 - Add formatting to plaintext - Different from WYSIWYG editors - Syntax examples: heading (# Heading), bold (**bold**) - Readable and unobtrusive design	Welcome to our introduction to Markdown! Markdown is a popular lightweight markup language created by John Gruber back in 2004. It's designed to add formatting elements to plaintext documents, making them easy to read without excessive markup. Unlike WYSIWYG editors like Microsoft Word, where you see formatting changes applied as you edit, Markdown uses simple syntax to denote formatting. For example, you use a '#' for headings or asterisks for bold text. This makes Markdown files highly readable even in their raw state, which is one of its key goals—ensuring that the text remains uncluttered by tags or formatting commands. Let's explore how this simplicity and readability make Markdown a powerful tool for document creation.

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### Using Markdown for Document Creation - Suitable for basic documents - Can export to PDF or HTML - Recommended applications: - **Mac**: iA Writer, Ulysses, Marked, MacDown - **iOS/Android**: iA Writer, Ulysses (iOS only) - **Windows**: MarkdownPad, ghostwriter - **Web**: Dillinger, StackEdit - iA Writer/Ulysses templates for formatting	Markdown simplifies the process of creating basic documents, like assignments and letters. Unlike word processors with myriad features, Markdown's strength lies in its simplicity. You can export these documents to PDF or HTML, with the PDF format being particularly versatile for distribution—be it printing or uploading online. Several Markdown applications can assist in this process. For Mac users, iA Writer and Ulysses are popular choices. If you're using a Windows system, MarkdownPad and ghostwriter are two recommended tools. Meanwhile, for a web-based solution, Dillinger and StackEdit are great options. Moreover, iA Writer and Ulysses come with useful templates for viewing, printing, and exporting your Markdown files to ensure they meet specific formatting standards, such as those required for academic submissions.
### Creating Lists in Markdown - **Ordered Lists** - Use numbers followed by a period - Start with the number 1 - Number order in syntax irrelevant - **Unordered Lists** - Use dashes (-), asterisks (*), or plus signs (+)	Let's talk about creating lists in Markdown, which is a simple way to organize information. We'll start with ordered lists. To create one, you'll use numbers followed by a period. It's interesting to note that the number order in your code doesn't matter, but the list should start with number one. This means in your Markdown file, you can number everything as '1.' and Markdown will auto-adjust the numbering in the output. For unordered lists, you have flexibility in how you format them. You can start each item with a dash, an asterisk, or a plus sign—whatever suits your style. These basics will help you create clear, readable lists in your Markdown documents.

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### Integrating URLs in Markdown - Standard URL link syntax - Reference-style URL syntax - HTML syntax for identical output	In this section, we're going to explore how to integrate URLs into your Markdown text. Let's start with the two different methods you can use: standard URL link syntax and reference-style URL syntax. Both methods will produce the same HTML output. For example, if you include a link in a sentence, it will appear as a clickable link in your final document, regardless of whether you used a standard inline method or a reference method. The HTML that gets generated in both cases will be exactly the same, ensuring a seamless display of links in your text. This approach gives you some flexibility in organizing and managing your Markdown documentation.
### Markdown Footnotes - Simple and extended footnotes - Indentation for multiple paragraphs - Code inclusion in footnotes	In this segment, we're diving into the feature of footnotes in Markdown. You'll find they can be as simple or as complex as needed. For a straightforward citation, a simple footnote does the job perfectly. But Markdown also allows for more detailed footnotes by supporting multiple paragraphs through indentation. You even have the flexibility to include code snippets within these footnotes, making your documentation both robust and versatile. This provides a way to elaborate on points without disrupting the flow of your main content.