

# Basic writing and formatting syntax

Create sophisticated formatting for your prose and code on GitHub with simple syntax.

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## Headings

To create a heading, add one to six # symbols before your heading text. The number of # you use will determine the size of the heading.

```
# The largest heading
## The second largest heading
##### The smallest heading
```

### The largest heading

---

### The second largest heading

---

### The smallest heading

# Styling text

You can indicate emphasis with bold, italic, or strikethrough text in comment fields and `.md` files.

Style	Syntax	Keyboard shortcut	Example	Output
Bold	<code>** **</code> or <code>__</code>	command/control + b	<code>**This is bold text**</code>	<b>This is bold text</b>
Italic	<code>* *</code> or <code>_ _</code>	command/control + i	<code>*This text is italicized*</code>	<i>This text is italicized</i>
Strikethrough	<code>~~ ~~</code>		<code>~~This was mistaken text~~</code>	<del>This was mistaken text</del>
Bold and nested italic	<code>** **</code> and <code>_ _</code>		<code>**This text is _extremely_ important**</code>	<b>This text is <i>extremely</i> important</b>
All bold and italic	<code>*** ***</code>		<code>***All this text is important***</code>	<b><i>All this text is important</i></b>

# Quoting text

You can quote text with a `>`.

```
Text that is not a quote

> Text that is a quote
```

Text that is not a quote

Text that is a quote

**Tip:** When viewing a conversation, you can automatically quote text in a comment by highlighting the text, then typing `r`. You can quote an entire comment by clicking `...`, then **Quote reply**. For more information about keyboard shortcuts, see "[Keyboard shortcuts](#)."

## Quoting code

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You can call out code or a command within a sentence with single backticks. The text within the backticks will not be formatted. You can also press the `command` or `Ctrl + e` keyboard shortcut to insert the backticks for a code block within a line of Markdown.

Use ``git status`` to list all new or modified files that haven't yet been committed.

Use `git status` to list all new or modified files that haven't yet been committed.

To format code or text into its own distinct block, use triple backticks.

```
Some basic Git commands are:
...
git status
git add
git commit
...
```

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```
git status
git add
git commit
```

For more information, see "[Creating and highlighting code blocks](#)."

## Links

---

You can create an inline link by wrapping link text in brackets `[ ]`, and then wrapping the URL in parentheses `( )`. You can also use the keyboard shortcut `command + k` to create a link. When you have text selected, you can paste a URL from your clipboard to automatically create a link from the selection.

This site was built using `[GitHub Pages](https://pages.github.com/)`.

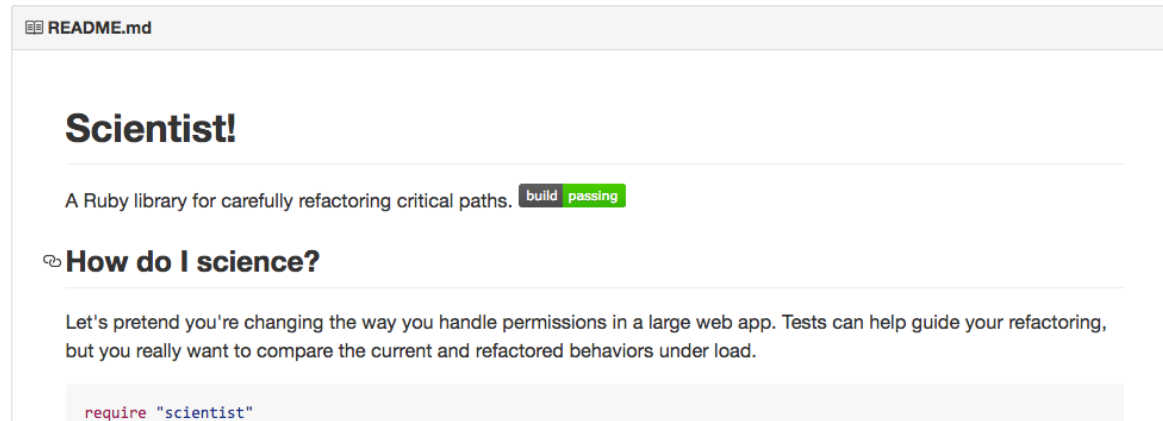
This site was built using [GitHub Pages](#).

**Tip:** GitHub automatically creates links when valid URLs are written in a comment. For more information, see "[Autolinked references and URLs](#)."

## Section links

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You can link directly to a section in a rendered file by hovering over the section heading to expose the link.



## Relative links

You can define relative links and image paths in your rendered files to help readers navigate to other files in your repository.

A relative link is a link that is relative to the current file. For example, if you have a README file in root of your repository, and you have another file in *docs/CONTRIBUTING.md*, the relative link to *CONTRIBUTING.md* in your README might look like this:

```
[Contribution guidelines for this project](docs/CONTRIBUTING.md)
```

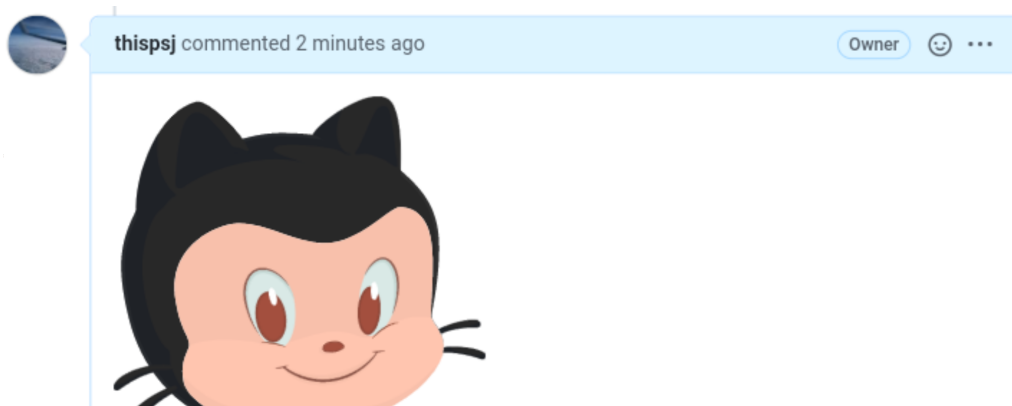
GitHub will automatically transform your relative link or image path based on whatever branch you're currently on, so that the link or path always works. You can use all relative link operands, such as `./` and `../`.

Relative links are easier for users who clone your repository. Absolute links may not work in clones of your repository - we recommend using relative links to refer to other files within your repository.

## Images

You can display an image by adding `!` and wrapping the alt text in `[ ]`. Then wrap the link for the image in parentheses `( )`.

```
![This is an image](https://myoctocat.com/assets/images/base-octocat.svg)
```





GitHub supports embedding images into your issues, pull requests, discussions, comments and `.md` files. You can display an image from your repository, add a link to an online image, or upload an image. For more information, see "[Uploading assets](#)."

**Tip:** When you want to display an image which is in your repository, you should use relative links instead of absolute links.

Here are some examples for using relative links to display an image.

Context	Relative Link
In a <code>.md</code> file on the same branch	<code>/assets/images/electrocat.png</code>
In a <code>.md</code> file on another branch	<code>/../main/assets/images/electrocat.png</code>
In issues, pull requests and comments of the repository	<code>../blob/main/assets/images/electrocat.png</code>
In a <code>.md</code> file in another repository	<code>../../../../../github/docs/blob/main/assets/images/electrocat.png</code>
In issues, pull requests and comments of another repository	<code>../../../../../github/docs/blob/main/assets/images/electrocat.png?raw=true</code>

**Note:** The last two relative links in the table above will work for images in a private repository only if the viewer has at least read access to the private repository which contains these images.

For more information, see "[Relative Links](#)."

### Specifying the theme an image is shown to

You can specify the theme an image is displayed to by appending `#gh-dark-mode-only` or `#gh-light-`

`mode-only` to the end of an image URL, in Markdown.

We distinguish between light and dark color modes, so there are two options available. You can use these options to display images optimized for dark or light backgrounds. This is particularly helpful for transparent PNG images.

Context	URL
Dark Theme	<code>![GitHub Light](https://github.com/github-light.png#gh-dark-mode-only)</code>
Light Theme	<code>![GitHub Dark](https://github.com/github-dark.png#gh-light-mode-only)</code>

## Lists

You can make an unordered list by preceding one or more lines of text with `-` or `*`.

- George Washington
- John Adams
- Thomas Jefferson

- George Washington
- John Adams
- Thomas Jefferson

To order your list, precede each line with a number.

1. James Madison
2. James Monroe
3. John Quincy Adams

1. James Madison
2. James Monroe
3. John Quincy Adams

## Nested Lists

You can create a nested list by indenting one or more list items below another item.

To create a nested list using the web editor on GitHub or a text editor that uses a monospaced font, like [Atom](#), you can align your list visually. Type space characters in front of your nested list item, until the list marker character ( `-` or `*` ) lies directly below the first character of the text in the item above it.

1. First list item
  - First nested list item

- Second nested list item

```
1. First list item
   - First nested list item
     - Second nested list item
```

### 1. First list item

- First nested list item
  - Second nested list item

To create a nested list in the comment editor on GitHub, which doesn't use a monospaced font, you can look at the list item immediately above the nested list and count the number of characters that appear before the content of the item. Then type that number of space characters in front of the nested list item.

In this example, you could add a nested list item under the list item `100. First list item` by indenting the nested list item a minimum of five spaces, since there are five characters ( `100.`  ) before `First list item`.

```
100. First list item
    - First nested list item
```

### 100. First list item

- First nested list item

You can create multiple levels of nested lists using the same method. For example, because the first nested list item has seven characters ( `100.`  ) before the nested list content `First nested list item`, you would need to indent the second nested list item by seven spaces.

```
100. First list item
    - First nested list item
      - Second nested list item
```

### 100. First list item

- First nested list item
  - Second nested list item

For more examples, see the [GitHub Flavored Markdown Spec](#).

## Task lists

To create a task list, preface list items with a regular space character followed by `[ ]`. To mark a task as complete, use `[x]`.

- [x] #739
- [ ] <https://github.com/octo-org/octo-repo/issues/740>
- [ ] Add delight to the experience when all tasks are complete :tada:

☒  **Convert text into issues** #739

☐  **Keep issue state and checkboxes in sync** #740

☐ Add delight to the experience when all tasks are complete 🎉

If a task list item description begins with a parenthesis, you'll need to escape it with `\` :

- [ ] \ (Optional) Open a followup issue

For more information, see "[About task lists](#)."

## Mentioning people and teams

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You can mention a person or [team](#) on GitHub by typing `@` plus their username or team name. This will trigger a notification and bring their attention to the conversation. People will also receive a notification if you edit a comment to mention their username or team name. For more information about notifications, see "[About notifications](#)."

@github/support What do you think about these updates?

**@github/support** What do you think about these updates?

When you mention a parent team, members of its child teams also receive notifications, simplifying communication with multiple groups of people. For more information, see "[About teams](#)."

Typing an `@` symbol will bring up a list of people or teams on a project. The list filters as you type, so once you find the name of the person or team you are looking for, you can use the arrow keys to select it and press either tab or enter to complete the name. For teams, enter the `@organization/team-name` and all members of that team will get subscribed to the conversation.

The autocomplete results are restricted to repository collaborators and any other participants on the thread.

## Referencing issues and pull requests

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You can bring up a list of suggested issues and pull requests within the repository by typing `#` . Type the issue or pull request number or title to filter the list, and then press either tab or enter to complete the highlighted result.

For more information, see "[Autolinked references and URLs](#)."

## Referencing external resources

---

If custom autolink references are configured for a repository, then references to external resources,



like a JIRA issue or Zendesk ticket, convert into shortened links. To know which autolinks are available in your repository, contact someone with admin permissions to the repository. For more information, see "[Configuring autolinks to reference external resources](#)."

## Uploading assets

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You can upload assets like images by dragging and dropping, selecting from a file browser, or pasting. You can upload assets to issues, pull requests, comments, and `.md` files in your repository.

## Using emoji

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You can add emoji to your writing by typing `:EMOJICODE:`.

@octocat :+1: This PR looks great - it's ready to merge! :shipit:

@octocat 🍏 This PR looks great - it's ready to merge! 🧐

Typing `:` will bring up a list of suggested emoji. The list will filter as you type, so once you find the emoji you're looking for, press **Tab** or **Enter** to complete the highlighted result.

For a full list of available emoji and codes, check out [the Emoji-Cheat-Sheet](#).

## Paragraphs

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You can create a new paragraph by leaving a blank line between lines of text.

## Footnotes

---

You can add footnotes to your content by using this bracket syntax:

Here is a simple footnote<sup>[^1]</sup>.

A footnote can also have multiple lines<sup>[^2]</sup>.

You can also use words, to fit your writing style more closely<sup>[^note]</sup>.

[^1]: My reference.

[^2]: Every new line should be prefixed with 2 spaces.

This allows you to have a footnote with multiple lines.

[^note]:

Named footnotes will still render with numbers instead of the text but allow easier identi

This footnote also has been made with a different syntax using 4 spaces for new lines.



The footnote will render like this:

Here is a simple footnote<sup>[1]</sup>.

---

A footnote can also have multiple lines<sup>[2]</sup>.

You can also use words, to fit your writing style more closely<sup>[3]</sup>.

1. My reference. ↩
2. Every new line should be prefixed with 2 spaces.  
This allows you to have a footnote with multiple lines. ↩
3. Named footnotes will still render with numbers instead of the text but allow easier identification and linking.  
This footnote also has been made with a different syntax using 4 spaces for new lines. ↩

**Note:** The position of a footnote in your Markdown does not influence where the footnote will be rendered. You can write a footnote right after your reference to the footnote, and the footnote will still render at the bottom of the Markdown.

## Hiding content with comments

You can tell GitHub to hide content from the rendered Markdown by placing the content in an HTML comment.

```
<!-- This content will not appear in the rendered Markdown -->
```

## Ignoring Markdown formatting

You can tell GitHub to ignore (or escape) Markdown formatting by using `\` before the Markdown character.

Let's rename `\*our-new-project\*` to `\*our-old-project\*`.

Let's rename `*our-new-project*` to `*our-old-project*`.

For more information, see Daring Fireball's "[Markdown Syntax](#)."

## Disabling Markdown rendering

When viewing a Markdown file, you can click `<>` at the top of the file to disable Markdown rendering and view the file's source instead.



Disabling Markdown rendering enables you to use source view features, such as line linking, which is not possible when viewing rendered Markdown files.

## Further reading

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- [GitHub Flavored Markdown Spec](#)
- ["About writing and formatting on GitHub"](#)
- ["Working with advanced formatting"](#)
- ["Mastering Markdown"](#)