

Clojure Macro Sigils Reference <https://purelyfunctional.tv/clojure-macros>

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Name: backquote AKA backtick

Purpose: evaluate code at runtime

Example:

evaluate if at runtime →

```
(defmacro when* [test & body]
  `(if ~test
      (do ~@body)
      nil))
```

~

Name: unquote

Restrictions: must be inside of a backquote

Purpose: evaluate code at compile time

Example:

evaluate if at runtime →

```
(defmacro when* [test & body]
  `(if ~test
      (do ~@body)
      nil))
```

evaluate test at compile time
since test is a symbol, that means it evaluates to the expression used when calling the macro
if we don't eval it at compile time, the symbol itself will be put there

~@

Name: unquote splice

Restrictions: must be inside of a backquote

Purpose: evaluate code at compile time and splice result into containing list

Example:

evaluate if at runtime →

```
(defmacro when* [test & body]
  `(if ~test
      (do ~@body)
      nil))
```

evaluate test at compile time

evaluate body at compile time and splice into the resulting seq
since body is a symbol, it evaluates to the expression used when calling the macro
body is a list of rest arguments - we want to splice it into the do

~'

Name: unquote quote

Restrictions: must be inside of a backquote

Purpose: insert symbol without namespace expansion

Example:

evaluate if-let at runtime →

```
(defmacro ana-if [test then else]
  `(if-let [~'it ~test]
    ~then ~else))
```

insert the symbol it directly
un-sigilized symbols are expanded to include the full namespace, which we don't want here

#

Name: auto-gensym

Restrictions: must be inside of a backquote; suffix (at the end of a symbol)

Purpose: create a unique variable name

Example:

```
(defmacro square [x]
  `(let [x# ~x]
    (* x# x#)))
```

x# expands to a new unique symbol each time the macro is called
useful for making local variables

but inside of a single macro call, they all expand to the same symbol

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