The Markdown Guide
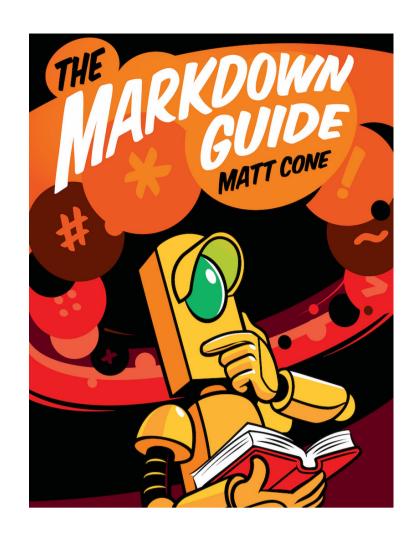
By Matt Cone

Learn Markdown in 60 pages. *The Markdown Guide* book includes everything you need to get started and master Markdown syntax.

✓ Professional quality PDF, MOBI, and EPUB files (DRM-free)

✓ Unlimited free lifetime updates

✓ 100% satisfaction guaranteed

Buy now for $9.99   Read free sample

The Markdown Guide is also available on Leanpub and Amazon.

Take your Markdown skills to the next level.

Learn the power of Markdown and take full control of the syntax.

See how Markdown works and dive in using an online editor.

Practice using basic and extended Markdown syntax elements.

Learn how to use Markdown for just about everything.

What's inside.

Detailed descriptions. Clear and concise examples. Beautifully formatted pages.

3. Basic Syntax

Nearly all Markdown applications support the basic syntax outlined in John Gruber's original design document. There are minor variations and discrepancies between Markdown processors — those are noted inline wherever possible.

🔑 Using Markdown doesn't mean that you can't also use HTML. You can add HTML tags to any Markdown file. This is helpful if you prefer certain HTML tags to Markdown syntax. For example, some people find that it's easier to use HTML tags for images.

Headings

To create a heading, add number signs (#) in front of a word or phrase. The number of number signs you use should correspond to the heading level. For example, to create a heading level three (<h3>), use three number signs (e.g., ### My Header).

Markdown	HTML
# Heading level 1	Heading level 1
## Heading level 2	Heading level 2
### Heading level 3	Heading level 3
#### Heading level 4	Heading level 4
##### Heading level 5	Heading level 5
###### Heading level 6	Heading level 6

Alternate Syntax

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

Markdown	HTML
Heading level 1 ==============	Heading level 1
Heading level 2 ---------------	Heading level 2

Paragraphs

To create paragraphs, use a blank line to separate one or more lines of text. You should not indent paragraphs with spaces or tabs.

Markdown

```
1  I really like using Markdown.
2
3  I think I'll use it from now on.
```

HTML

```
1  <p>I really like using Markdown.</p>
2
3  <p>I think I'll use it from now on.</p>
```

The rendered output looks like this:

I really like using Markdown.

I think I'll use it from now on.

Line Breaks

To create a line break (<br>), end a line with two or more spaces, and then type return.

What readers are saying.

The Markdown Guide is hands-down the best Markdown reference.
— Michael Hartl, Founder of [Learn Enough](#) and author of the [Ruby on Rails Tutorial](#)

Well done! This is an incredibly valuable and well-done resource. It does a great job of educating without becoming too overwhelming or too narrowly focused on one application of Markdown.
— nxprefect, via [Reddit](#)

The Markdown Guide is awesome. I keep it open in a browser tab for reference while working on my guides.
— Rob Reeder, Documentation Specialist, [Software Engineering Institute, CMU](#)

If you're working with Markdown, then do yourself a favour and check out *The Markdown Guide*… It's excellent.
— Matthew Setter, via [Twitter](#)

An interesting read and worth reading… This book provides the right amount of information to learn Markdown and I would highly recommend it!
— Mohamad Kalaaji, via [Goodreads](#)

> I've found this very simple guide to Markdown syntax very useful in a pinch.
> — Morgan Thompson, via [Twitter](#)

100% satisfaction guaranteed.

If you're not completely satisfied with *The Markdown Guide*, I'll refund your money, no questions asked.

<div align="center">

[Buy now for $9.99]

</div>

About the Author

Matt Cone is a technical writer at [Fastly](#). He has experience creating documentation for organizations like Linode and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Matt's first book, *[Master Your Mac](#)*, was published by No Starch Press. To get in touch with Matt, visit https://www.mattcone.com.