






YAML Full Syntax Guide

YAML = YAML Ain't Markup Language

Used widely in: **Kubernetes**, **GitHub Actions**, **Docker Compose**, **Ansible**, and more.



Basics of YAML

-  **Indentation:** Always use 2 spaces – never use tabs ❌
 -  YAML is case-sensitive
 -  File extensions: `.yaml` or `.yml`
-



Basic Key-Value Pairs

```
name: Darshan Vasani
role: DevOps Engineer
active: true
age: 23
```



Data Types

```
string_value: "Hello YAML"
int_value: 25
float_value: 12.34
boolean_true: true
boolean_false: false
null_value: null    # or ~ or ""
```



Comments

```
# This is a comment in YAML
```



Strings

```
plain_string: Hello
single_quoted: 'Don't forget me'    # escape single quote by doubling it
```

```
double_quoted: "This is a string with \n newline"
```

```
multiline_string: |  
  This is a multi-line string  
  which preserves line breaks.  
  Useful for writing big texts.
```

```
folded_string: >  
  This is a folded  
  multi-line string that becomes  
  a single line with spaces.
```

Lists (Arrays)

```
languages:  
  - JavaScript  
  - Python  
  - Go  
  - Rust
```

```
short_list: [Red, Green, Blue]
```

Dictionaries (Maps / Objects)

```
database:  
  host: localhost  
  port: 5432  
  username: user  
  password: pass
```

Nested Structures

```
infrastructure:  
  cloud: AWS  
  region: ap-south-1  
  services:  
    - EC2  
    - S3  
    - Lambda
```

Anchors (&) and Aliases (*)

```
defaults: &default_settings
  retries: 3
  timeout: 30

production:
  <<: *default_settings
  timeout: 60 # override
```

Boolean Gotchas (YAML 1.1 vs 1.2)

- YAML 1.1 treats `yes`, `no`, `on`, `off` as booleans (❌ unpredictable)
- YAML 1.2 strictly uses `true` and `false` (✅ recommended)

```
bool_true: true
bool_false: false
```

Kubernetes Pod Example

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Pod
metadata:
  name: my-nginx-pod
  labels:
    app: nginx
spec:
  containers:
    - name: nginx
      image: nginx:1.29
      ports:
        - containerPort: 80
```

Docker Compose Example

```
version: "3.9"
services:
  web:
    image: nginx:alpine
```

```
ports:
  - "8080:80"
db:
  image: postgres:15
  environment:
    POSTGRES_USER: admin
    POSTGRES_PASSWORD: secret
    POSTGRES_DB: mydb
```

GitHub Actions CI/CD Workflow

```
name: Node CI

on:
  push:
    branches: [main]
  pull_request:
    branches: [main]

jobs:
  build:
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    steps:
      - name: Checkout code
        uses: actions/checkout@v3

      - name: Set up Node.js
        uses: actions/setup-node@v3
        with:
          node-version: 20

      - name: Install dependencies
        run: npm install

      - name: Run tests
        run: npm test
```

DOs and DON'Ts


DOs


Use **2-space** indentation


Quote strings starting with `!`, `@`, `#`, or numbers

Use hyphens for lists

DON'Ts

 Never use **tabs**

 Don't rely on implicit parsing

 Don't align values manually

❌ Incorrect

key: value

✅ Correct

key: value

Tips & Tools

- ✅ Use linters like `yamllint` or `kubeval`
- 💡 Install VS Code extensions:
 - "YAML" by Red Hat
 - "Kubernetes" by Microsoft

Keep YAMLint Like a Pro!

With great indentation comes great configuration power. Happy YAMLint! ✨ Made with ❤️ by **Darshan Vasani**

1. Pod (nginx example)

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Pod
metadata:
  name: nginx-pod
  labels:
    app: nginx
spec:
  containers:
    - name: nginx-container
      image: nginx:latest
      ports:
        - containerPort: 80
```

2. Deployment

```
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
  name: nginx-deployment
spec:
```

```
replicas: 3
selector:
  matchLabels:
    app: nginx
template:
  metadata:
    labels:
      app: nginx
  spec:
    containers:
      - name: nginx
        image: nginx:1.25
        ports:
          - containerPort: 80
```

3. Service (ClusterIP, NodePort, LoadBalancer)

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Service
metadata:
  name: nginx-service
spec:
  type: NodePort # Can be ClusterIP, NodePort, LoadBalancer
  selector:
    app: nginx
  ports:
    - protocol: TCP
      port: 80
      targetPort: 80
      nodePort: 30036 # Only for NodePort
```

4. ConfigMap

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: ConfigMap
metadata:
  name: app-config
data:
  APP_ENV: production
  DB_HOST: localhost
```

5. Secret (base64 encoded)

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Secret
metadata:
  name: db-secret
type: Opaque
data:
  username: dXNlcm5hbWU= # base64 encoded
  password: cGFzc3dvcmQ= # base64 encoded
```

To encode:

```
echo -n 'username' | base64
```

6. PersistentVolume (Static Provisioning)

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: PersistentVolume
metadata:
  name: pv-example
spec:
  capacity:
    storage: 1Gi
  accessModes:
    - ReadWriteOnce
  hostPath:
    path: /mnt/data
```

7. PersistentVolumeClaim

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: PersistentVolumeClaim
metadata:
  name: pvc-example
spec:
  accessModes:
    - ReadWriteOnce
  resources:
    requests:
      storage: 1Gi
```

8. Job

```
apiVersion: batch/v1
kind: Job
metadata:
  name: simple-job
spec:
  template:
    spec:
      containers:
        - name: hello
          image: busybox
          command: ["echo", "Hello from Kubernetes Job"]
      restartPolicy: Never
```

9. CronJob

```
apiVersion: batch/v1
kind: CronJob
metadata:
  name: hello-cron
spec:
  schedule: "*/5 * * * *" # Every 5 minutes
  jobTemplate:
    spec:
      template:
        spec:
          containers:
            - name: hello
              image: busybox
              args:
                - /bin/sh
                - -c
                - date; echo Hello from cron job
          restartPolicy: OnFailure
```

10. Ingress (with NGINX controller)

```
apiVersion: networking.k8s.io/v1
kind: Ingress
metadata:
  name: example-ingress
  annotations:
```



```
    nginx.ingress.kubernetes.io/rewrite-target: /
spec:
  rules:
    - host: example.com
      http:
        paths:
          - path: /
            pathType: Prefix
            backend:
              service:
                name: nginx-service
                port:
                  number: 80
```

11. Namespace

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Namespace
metadata:
  name: dev-namespace
```

12. ServiceAccount

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: ServiceAccount
metadata:
  name: my-serviceaccount
  namespace: default
```

13. RBAC (Role, RoleBinding)

```
# Role (access within a namespace)
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
kind: Role
metadata:
  namespace: default
  name: pod-reader
rules:
  - apiGroups: [""]
```

```
resources: ["pods"]
verbs: ["get", "watch", "list"]
```

```
# RoleBinding
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
kind: RoleBinding
metadata:
  name: read-pods-binding
  namespace: default
subjects:
- kind: ServiceAccount
  name: my-serviceaccount
  namespace: default
roleRef:
  kind: Role
  name: pod-reader
  apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
```

14. Clean-up Job (TTL)

```
apiVersion: batch/v1
kind: Job
metadata:
  name: ttl-cleanup-job
spec:
  ttlSecondsAfterFinished: 60
  template:
    spec:
      containers:
      - name: cleanup
        image: busybox
        command: ["sh", "-c", "echo Cleaning... && sleep 10"]
      restartPolicy: Never
```

Notes:

- All YAMLs are compatible with `kubectl apply -f file.yml`
- Always validate using:

```
kubectl apply -f file.yml --dry-run=client -o yaml
```

- You can use `kubectl explain` for any field:

```
kubectl explain deployment.spec.template.spec.containers
```
