

# Summary of Obsidian Flight School

Created: 2022-01-05 20:01

Obsidian is a powerful program for building a **knowledge base** using **local markdown files**.

## Obsidian Interface

The interface consists of 7 main parts:

Title Bar, Status Bar, Two Sidebars (Left and Right), Two ribbons (Left and Right) and Main area.

### Title Bar

- Vault Name
- Obsidian Version
- Buttons to navigate back and forward
  - By default, Obsidian has one global history shared by all panes.
  - For per pane history, use the Pane Relief plugin

### Status Bar

- File Count
- Total words and characters
- Amount of backlinks in current file
- Current File Word Count and Char
- Selection Word Count and Character Count with plugin

### Sidebars

- Can be split horizontally into sections
- Each section is a tab group of tab panes
- Panes are draggable.
- Drag panes to move them to a new section / tab group
- To rearrange the order of tabs in a tab group, move panes out to another section then back in in order
- Some Panes are not closable.
  - File Explorer, Search, Starred, Tag Panes
- All panes in editor area are draggable to sidebars but not vice versa.
  - Uncloseable pane are not draggable to the main area.

### Ribbons

Left Ribbon

- List clickable commands added by plugins
- Toggle left sidebar

Right Ribbon

- Toggle right sidebar

### Main

- The main root area is a container for panes.
- The default location for note editor panes
  - When creating or opening notes, they will show up here
- The area can be split vertically and horizontally to host different panes — mostly note editor panes
  - Splitting defines whether new note editor panes are added to the right or the bottom of the current active pane
    - It's like creating a flexbox container with flex direction set to `row` or `column`.
    - A new note pane is a flex item which will be added after the current active pane

## Note Editor Pane

- The pane where you edit and read notes.
- Two main modes
  - Edit Mode: Source Mode (legacy) and Live Preview
  - Reading Mode (formerly preview mode)
- Just like sidebar tab panes, they're draggable
- Panes are linkable
  - Linked panes scroll together
- Top Right Buttons
  - `Toggle Reading View`
    - `Left Click` to toggle mode in current pane
    - `Cmd + Left Click` to open in new pane
      - New pane will be linked to this one
  - `Close`
  - `More options`
    - `Link with pane ..`
- Inside the pane, `Select Text -> Right Click` to see available actions

## Settings

- This is where you customize Obsidian and add extensions to enhance Obsidian features further.
- To launch settings, press `Cmd + ,` or click the Settings icon on the left ribbon

## Editor

A few examples of available options to customize the note editor.

- `Strict line breaks`
- `Readable line length`
  - Set Max Width of note pane
- `Line wrap`
- `Auto pair brackets`
- `Auto pair Markdown syntax`
- `Fold heading`
  - Toggle via the `...` Ellipses or the Caret Symbol
- `Fold indent` — e.g. lists
  - Toggle via the `...` Ellipses or the Caret Symbol
- `Smart Indent lists`
  - Makes creating lists easy

## Files & Links

- Customize the location of where new note files and attachments are created
- Customize where deleted files go
- Customize the link format (standard markdown or wikilink)
- Set whether links should be updated automatically once file name changes.

## Appereance

- Theme
  - Themes affect exported pdfs
- Font Size
- Custom CSS Snippets

## Themes

## Hotkeys

- Set hotkeys for commands
- Multiple hotkeys per command are allowed

## About

- Automatic Updates
- Language
- Config Folder Location

## Account

- Login to activate license to get early access to new features
- Also used with Obsidian Sync and Obsidian Publish

## Core Plugins

- Official Plugins built by the Obsidian Team.
- Enable them at **Settings -> Core Plugins**

## File Explorer

- Command Buttons
  - New Note
  - New Folder
  - Change Sort Order
- Drag and drop notes and folders in the pane to move them.
- Move notes from File Explorer to Note Pane to create a link
- **Shift + click** to select a note range
- **Opt + click** to multi-select notes and folders
- **Right Click** on Notes and Folders for additional commands

## Search

- Search Settings
  - Match Case
  - Explain search term
  - Collapse results
  - Show more context
  - Change sort order
- Search results are expandable by clicking on **Show more context** arrows
- Copy Search Results as a list of links
- Search Query
  - <https://help.obsidian.md/Plugins/Search#Search+operators>
- Embed search result

```
```query
search_query here
```
```

## Starred

- Star/unstar current file
- Star/unstar current search

## Outline

- Show all headings of current file grouped by heading levels
  - Higher level headings group lower level headings (e.g. **h2** contains **h3**,**h4**)
- **Left Click** to navigate to that heading
- Drag and drop headings in pane to reorder them.

## Tag Pane

- Change sort order
- Show nested tags
- **Right Click** for additional commands
  - Rename tags with tag wrangler plugin

## Graph View

- Global Graph
- Local Graph
- Options
  - Filters
  - Groups
  - Display
  - Forces

Using graph view

- find orphan notes
- find developing notes

## Incoming links (Backlinks)

- Settings
  - Collapse results
  - Show more context
    - Same as search pane
  - Change sort order
  - Search Filter
    - Search through notes linking to this note
- Results
  - Linked mentions
    - Direct link
  - Unlinked mentions
    - mentioned via text

## Outgoing links

- Links
- Unlinked mentions
  - Exact match of text in current file to file name
  - Click to convert to link

## Quick Switcher

- Open Quick Switcher — `Cmd + O`
  - Open or create file (if no match found) in active pane — `Enter`
  - Open or create file (if no match found) in new pane — `Cmd + Enter`
  - Force create: `Shift + Enter`

## Command Palette

- Open Command Palette — `Cmd + P`
  - Use Command — `Enter`

## Templates

- Insert template

## Daily Notes

- Create or open today's daily note

## Workspaces

- Manage workspaces via ribbon or command palette

## Community Plugins

- Plugins built by the community that extend features of Obsidian
  - Programmed with TypeScript
  - Search / Install / Enable / Disable Community Plugins
- 

## Better Word Count

- Show the word count of the selection in the status bar

## Sliding Panes

- Horizontal Scroll — `Shift + Scroll`

## Note Refactor

- Extract note content to new note and link to it

## Tag Wrangler

- Rename Tags

## Text Format

- Text Manipulation (e.g. uppercase, lower case)

## Hotkeys++

- Quickly toggle list types

## Calendar

- Click on the date to open or create new note for that date

## Advanced Tables

## Metaedit

## Dataview

## Pane Relief

# Syntax

Obsidian supports standard markdown with some extended features

## Basic Syntax

### Heading

```
# h1
## h2
### h3
#### h4
##### h5
##### h6
```

- A total of 6 levels

### Paragraph

- ***A blank line***

Example

```
Paragraph 1 here

Paragraph 2 here
```

### Line Break

- ***A new line***
- Make sure `Settings -> Editor -> Strict line breaks` is disabled

Example

```
Line 1
Line 2
```

## Bold

```
**bold text**
```

## Italic

```
*italic text*
```

## Bold & Italic

```
***bold and italic text***
```

## Blockquote

```
> Quote Here
```

## Unordered List

```
- Point
```

- Though `*` is supported, use `*` .
  - By default, Obsidian designed `*` for italics. Two `*` will be inserted when the key `*` is pressed.

Example

```
- One
- Two
- Three
  - Subpoint
- Four
```

Task List

```
- [x] Task 1
- [x] Task 2
- [ ] Task 3
- [x] Task 4
```

## Ordered List

```
1. Point
```

- Numbers don't have to be in order, but the list should start with the number one
- Easy to move around if all points start with `1.`

Examples

```
1. First Item
2. Second Item
3. Third Item
   1. Subpoint
1. Fourth Item
```

## Inline Code

```
`code`
```

### Examples

At the command prompt, type ``vim``.

## Horizontal Rule

```
---
```

- **Put blank lines before and after horizontal rules**, otherwise they would be recognized as headings
- Used by [Slides Plugin](#) to separate slides in presentation mode

## Link

```
[Text] (Url)
```

### Examples

```
[Tong Hua Labs] (https://tonghualabs.com)
[hello@tonghualabs.com] (mailto:hello@tonghualabs.com)
[File in another vault] (obsidian://obisdian-url-here)
```

## Images

```
![alt] (image-url)
```

### Examples

```
![Book] (https://example.com/book.jpg)
```

## HTML

```
<tag>test</tag>
```

### Examples

---



```
<div style="color:red">test</div>
This <b>text</b> is bold
<iframe src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/Nt1mAzFjz_g"></iframe>
```

## Extended Syntax

### Strikethrough

```
~~strikethrough text~~
```

### Highlight

```
==highlight text==
```

- Bug: Does not highlight when there are spacings between `==` and the text to be highlighted

### Comment

```
%%comment here%%`
```

## Table

```
First Col | Second Col
----- | -----
cell 1,1 | cell 1,2
cell 2,1 | cell 2,2
```

## Fenced Code Block

```
```code-language
Code Here
```
```

### Examples

```
```javascript
function() {
  console.log("hi")
}
```
```

## Diagrams

```
```mermaid
stateDiagram
```

```
graph LR
  a --> b
  a --> c
  b --> d
  c --> d
  ...
```

- Obsidian uses [Mermaid](#) to draw diagrams

## Internal Link (Wikilink)

```
[[Internal Link#heading | Alias]]
```

- Internal Link is filename
- Use Wikilinks for linking to content internally and use standard markdown links for external links
  - Has autocompletion
  - Easier to type
  - Separation of concerns

### Examples

```
[[Tong Hua Labs]]
[[Tong Hua Labs Tech Stack#Frontend]]
[[Tong Hua Labs Tech Stack#Frontend | Our Tech Stack]]
[[#Basic Syntax]]
```

## Embed

```
![[filename.extension]]
```

### Supported File Formats

1. Markdown files: `.md`;
2. Image files: `.png`, `.jpg`, `.jpeg`, `.gif`, `.bmp`, `.svg`;
3. Audio files: `.mp3`, `.webm`, `.wav`, `.m4a`, `.ogg`, `.3gp`, `.flac`;
4. Video files: `.mp4`, `.webm`, `.ogv`;
5. PDF files: `.pdf`.

- Notice the similarity between embedding images via standard markdown syntax and wikilink syntax — both starts with `!`
- Use wikilink embed syntax for embedding internal content

```
![[whoa.jpg|100]]
![[file.pdf]]
```

## Tag

```
#tagname
```

- Notice that there are no spaces between the `#` sign and the tag name
- Has autocompletion
- Multi-level nested tags supported: `#tag/subtag1/subtag2`

- Tag pane can group tags by nested levels

# Cheat Sheet

## Basic Editing

### Moving the Cursor

- By Character — `Left/Right`
- By Line — `Up/Down`
- By Word — `Opt + Left/Right`
- Start of the Line — `Cmd + Left`
- End of the line — `Cmd + Right`
- Top of the page — `Cmd + Up`
- Bottom of the page — `Cmd + Down`
- By Mouse — `Left Click`

### Multiple Cursors — `Opt + Left Click`

- Same as VSCode

### Select Text — Commands based on `Shift`

- By Character — `Shift + Left/Right`
- By Line - `Shift + Up/Down`
- By Word — `Opt + Shift + Left/Right`
- Start of the line — `Cmd + Shift + Left`
- End of the line — `Cmd + Shift + Right`
- Top of the page — `Cmd + Shift + Up`
- Bottom of the page — `Cmd + Shift+ Down`
- All — `Cmd + A`
- By Mouse
  - `Shift + Left Click`
  - `Left Click + Drag`
- Select current word
  - `Opt + Left -> Opt + Shift + Right`
  - `Double Left Click`
- Select current line
  - `Cmd + Left -> Cmd + Shift + Right`
  - `Triple Left Click`

### Moving Text

- Cut — `Cmd + X`
- Copy — `Cmd + C`
- Paste — `Cmd + V`
- Paste plain text — `Cmd + Shift + V`
- Swap Lines — `Opt + Up/Down` (Custom)

### Delete Text

- By Word — `Opt + Backspace`
- By Line — `Cmd + Backspace`

### History

- Undo — `Cmd + Z`
- Redo — `Cmd + Shift + Z`

# Formatting Text

## Key Points

- Formatting enhance the presentation of information
  - Makes document more readable and comprehensible
- Obsidian has no formatting bar
- Two main ways to format text
  - Write down the markdown syntax directly
  - Select and apply fomating to selected text
    - With Editor Options `Auto pair brackets` and `Auto pair Markdown syntax` enabled

## Hotkeys

- Bold
  - `Cmd + B`
  - `**`
- Italics
  - `Cmd + I`
  - `*`
- Inline Code
  - ```
- Highlight
  - `==`
- Strikethrough
  - `~~`
- Comment
  - `Cmd + /`
  - `%%`
- Internal Links
  - `[]`
- External Links
  - `Cmd + K` — Same as Word Hyperlinks
- Other wrappers
  - `||`, `|||`, `(((`, `(((`, `(((`
- Indent Line
  - `Tab`
  - `Cmd + ]`
- Outdent Line
  - `Shift + Tab`
  - `Cmd + [`
- Toggle checklist status
  - `Cmd + Enter`
  - Turns normal text to unordered list item
- Toggle bullet list — `Cmd + Shift + Enter` (Custom)
- Toggle numbered list — `Cmd + Shift + 1` (Custom)
- Table (Advanced Tables Plugin)
  - `[ -> Tab / Enter`
    - New Column — `Tab`
    - New Row — `Enter`
  - Navigate Between Cells
    - Right Cell — `Tab`
    - Left Cell — `Shift + Tab`
    - Above Cell — `Up`
    - Below Cell — `Down`

- Exit — `Shift + Enter`
- Others
  - `Cmd + P -> Command Name`
  - e.g. `capi`, `lower`, `upper`
    - Text Format Plugin

## Search and Replace

- Search current file — `Cmd + F`
- Search and replace in current file — `Cmd + Opt + F`
- Search in all files via Plugin — `Cmd + Shift + F`
  - Support advanced search queries (e.g. regex, obsidian search syntax)

## Refactor

- Refactoring improves existing notes through restructuring
  - Make notes easier to understand
- Extract current selection to ... — `Cmd + R` (Custom)
- Extract this heading — `Cmd + Opt + R` (Custom)
- Merge current file with another file — `Cmd + Shift + M` (Custom)

## Create Note

- Via File Explorer
- `Cmd + N`
- Quick Switcher
  - `Shift + Enter`
  - `Enter` when no match found
- Clicking on links pointing to uncreated notes

## Open Note

- From Sidebar Pane
  - Open in active pane — `Left Click`
  - Open in new pane — `Cmd + Left Click`
- From Note Pane
  - In Edit Mode:
    - Open in active pane
      - `Cmd + Left Click`
      - `Opt + Enter`
    - Open in new pane
      - `Cmd + Shift + Left Click`
      - `Opt + Shift + Enter`
  - In Reading Mode:
    - Open in active pane — `Left Click`
    - Open in new Pane — `Cmd + Left Click`
- From Quick Switcher
  - Open in active pane — `Cmd + O -> Type -> Enter`
  - Open in new pane — `Cmd + O -> Type -> Cmd + Enter`

## Preview Note

- From Sidebar Pane
  - `Cmd + Hover`
  - (e.g. File Explorers, Search, Graph View, Calendar)

- From Editor
  - In Edit Mode: `Cmd + Hover`
  - In Reading Mode: `Hover`

## Note Editor Pane

- Insert Template — `Cmd + T` (Custom)
- Edit file title — `Cmd + L` (Custom)
- Copy Obsidian Url — `Cmd + Shift + L` (Custom)
- Toggle between editing and reading mode — `Cmd + E`
- Toggle Pin — `Cmd + Shift + E` (Custom)
- Fold all headings and lists — `Opt + ,` (Custom)
- Unfold all headings and lists — `Opt + .` (Custom)
- Fold current line — `Opt + /` (Custom)
- Move current file
  - `Cmd + M` (Custom)
  - Command Palette
  - File Explorer
- Delete Current File
  - `Cmd + Shift + Backspace` (Custom)
- Navigate back
  - Default: `Cmd + Opt + Left` — Same as "move to left pane"
  - Custom: `Cmd + Shift + [`
- Navigate forward
  - Default: `Cmd + Opt + Right` — Same as "move to right pane"
  - Custom: `Cmd + Shift + ]`
- Close Pane
  - `Cmd + W`
- Close all other panes
  - `Cmd + Shift + W` (Custom)
- Undo close pane
  - `Cmd + Shift + T`
- Moving between note panes
  - `Cmd + Opt + Left / Right` (Custom)
- Swap panes (Pain Relief Plugin)
  - `Cmd + Ctrl + Left / Right` (Custom)
- Horizontal Scrolling between note panes (Sliding Panes Plugin) — `Shift + Scroll`

- Toggle Leaf Auto Width (Sliding Panes Plugin) — `Cmd + Shift + 0` (Custom)

## Graph View

- Global Graph — `Cmd + G`

## Layout

- Toggle left sidebar — `Ctrl + Shift + Left` (Custom)
- Toggle right sidebar — `Ctrl + Shift + Right` (Custom)

## Others

- Obsidian Settings
  - `Cmd + ,`

Commands with no hotkeys (Type in Command Palette)

- "Show in system explorer" — Show in finder
- "Open another vault"
- "Reveal active file in navigation"

## Combos

### General Editing

- Move the cursor — `Cmd/Opt + Arrows`
  - Type
  - Select Text — `Shift`
    - Move — e.g. `Opt + Up/Down`, `Cmd + X -> Cmd + V`
    - Refactor — `Cmd + Shift + R`
    - Format — e.g. `Cmd + B/I`

### Dealing with Lists

- Select List Item(s) — e.g. `Shift`, `Left Click + Drag`, `Opt + Left Click`
- Swap Up/Down — `Opt + Up/Down`
- Indent / Outdent — `Tab`, `Tab + Shift`
- Toggle List Mode — `Cmd + Shift + Enter`, `Cmd + Shift + I`
- Fold / Unfold — `Opt + ,`, `Opt + .`, `Opt + /`

### Create and Link to new note

- Create Link
  - `Select -> []`
  - `[] -> Type`
- Open to create note in new pane
  - `Opt + Cmd + Enter`
  - `Cmd + Shift + Left Click`
- Insert template — `Cmd + T`
- Close Window — `Cmd + W`

[sfasdfasdf](#) adfasdfasdfasdf [[]]

# Personal Notes

- Left sidebar for global views
- Right sidebar for local views (related to current active pane)
- Themes should make emphasis (e.g. bold, italic) stand out
- Create Notes by clicking on links
  - Create links
- Use Wikilinks for internal links
- Use standard markdown link for external links

## Most frequently used

- Quick Switcher — `Cmd + O`
  - `Shift + Enter` to force create
- Command Palette — `Cmd + P`
- Preview — `Cmd + Hover`
- Open in new pane
  - In edit mode — `Cmd + Shift + Left Click`
  - Elsewhere — `Cmd + Left Click`
- Open in current pane
  - In edit mode — `Cmd + Left Click`
  - Elsewhere — `Left Click`
- Select — `Shift`
- `Split` to open two copies of that file

## Editor Settings

- `Strict line breaks` — Disable this for better writing experience
- Nested Tags

```
- inbox/to-read
- inbox/processing
```

- Use Links as Tags
- Use Tags as metadata / status
- Use number prefix for folder names

# Note Design




## General

- **Exploratory** (non-linear) approach
  - Linear is a Top-down/Bottom-up approach
  - Exploratory is a mixture of both
- Just start thinking and writing — You don't know how the final product will look like.
  - Don't over-structuring too soon
  - Don't overthink about filenames and let it hinder your note creation
    - You will adjust it anyway later when refactoring
- A note should be short, concise and atomic, typically less than 333 words.



- 333 words will be visible on screen all at one time (usually).

## Grouping and Sectioning

- Headers
  - Use  headings to group content
    - Think about the outline of the note — By looking at the outline, we should be able to get an overview picture of the note.
  - Add the **filename** as an  header in your notes.
    - This makes sure that the note has a title and is easy to read.
  - Use H3 headers instead of H2 if groupings are needed
    - Structural Flexibility
    - Revise the structure when needed
      - Convert h3 headers to h2
      - Group h3 headers with h2 headers
  - Rarely use h4 and h5
  - Use H6
    - To group data to show in the Outline
      - e.g. "metadata" under a foldable header
    - To Highlight or as a side note
    - Note that H6 is atomic, you can't split it any further
- Use  whenever something just "feels" different enough
  - Use dividers when taking notes and refactor them to headers later
- Use Lists for short structured notes
  - Suitable for grouping content with many points
  - Lists do not show in Outline
  - List items do not need to be in complete sentences.
  - Foldable

## Emphasis

- Rarely use italics, it doesn't stand out
- Use bold
- Use highlights

## Metadata

- Frontmatter vs Backmatter
  - Frontmatter provides important details to let readers decide whether to read or to skip
    - Executive Summary
    - State of the Note — e.g. Published
  - Backmatter helps with finding related or "learn more" content
- One uplink at the top of the note
  - Why?
    - Forces sensemaking
    - Improves ability to find this note
    - For ease of navigation
  - Everything points back to Index / Home note
- Use comments to hide

## Types

- BOAT Notes
  - Blocks Of Atomic Thoughts
  - Orphan notes

## References

1. [Obsidian Flight School Fleeting Notes](#)
2. <https://help.obsidian.md/How+to/Format+your+notes>