Markdown Cheat Sheet

Ralph Mason, Author

Headings (Core Markdown)

```
# This is an H1
## This is an H2
### This is an H3
###### This is an H6
```

or...

```
This is an H1
========
This is an H2
----–-
```

Ordered Lists (Core Markdown)

```
1. Top-level item
2. Top-level item
3. Top-level item
   1. Nested item
   2. Nested item
```

• You must include a **.** after each number
• Markdown will output items in order (1, 2, 3…) even if you write unorderly (1, 3, 2…)

Text Formatting (Core Markdown)

```
*This is em text* and _so is this_
**This is strong text** and __so is this__
*This is **strong text** inside em text*
**This is _em text_ inside strong text**
***This is strong and em combined***
```

Paragraphs (Core Markdown)

Paragraphs don't require markup, but make sure:

• There's a line break before and after it
• There are no spaces or tabs at the start of it

Unordered Lists (Core Markdown)

```
* Top-level item
* Top-level item
  * Nested item
```

• Optionally use **+** or **-** instead of *****
• Indent nested items by 2 spaces
• Lists must have a line break before and after
• List *items* can be indented by max. three spaces or one tab
• Hanging indents for wrapped lines are supported:

```
- This is nicer to read
  in plain text
```

Paragraphs in List Items (Core Markdown)

Adding line breaks between list items will wrap the list item content in **<p>** tags.

```
- item 1

- item 2
```

For *multiple paragraphs* in a list item, indent each one by four spaces or a tab (first item optional).

```
-  Paragraph 1

   Paragraph 2
```

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Code Blocks (Core Markdown)

Place three backticks above and below the block

```
.selector {
  color: red;
}
```

Or, indent every line by at least 4 spaces/one tab

```
.selector {
  color: red;
}
```

- Markdown renders code inside **<pre><code>** tags
- Place one line break above/below the code block

Code Block in a List Item (Core Markdown)

Indent the code block by 8 spaces or 2 tabs

```
* list item:

      console.log("A code block")
```

Inline Code (Core Markdown)

Wrap inline code with single backticks

```
Run `console.log("Hello world");` in the console.
```

Blockquotes (Core Markdown)

```
> One paragraph in
  a blockquote

> Another paragraph in
  the same blockquote.
```

Alternatively, use **>** before every line.

```
> One paragraph in
> a blockquote
>
> Another paragraph in
> the same blockquote.
```

Nested Blockquotes (Core Markdown)

```
> A top-level blockquote
>
>> A nested blockquote
>
> Top-level blockquote continued.
```

Elements Within a Blockquote (Core Markdown)

```
> ## This is an H2
>
> - This is a list
> - Inside a blockquote
>
> ```
> console.log("Code inside a blockquote");
> ```
```

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Blockquote in a List Item (Core Markdown)

Indent the blockquote by 4 spaces or a tab

```
* list item:

    > Blockquote inside a list item.
```

Horizontal Rules/Line Breaks (Core Markdown)

• **
**: hit enter or end the line with two spaces
• **<hr>**: *** or --- or ___ on a line on their own

Raw HTML in Markdown

HTML elements can be used in Markdown as long as you don't indent the first/last tags in a HTML block and add a line break before/after the block.

Escaping Markdown Characters

The following Markdown characters can appear literally when escaped with a backslash (e.g. `\#`):

\\ \` * _ \{} \[] \() \# \+ \- \. \!

Links (Core Markdown)

```
[Linked text](https://sitepoint.com "Optional title")
```

```
[Reference][id]

⋮

[id]: https://sitepoint.com "Optional title"
```

```
Visit <https://sitepoint.com> for more.
```

• **[id]** can be any random identifier
• **[id]: reference** can sit on its own line, absolutely anywhere in the document
• Markdown auto-obfuscates email addresses

Images (Core Markdown)

```
![Alt text](path/to/img.jpg "Optional title")
```

```
![Reference alt text][id]

⋮

[id]: path/to/image  "Optional title"
```

```
Visit <https://sitepoint.com> for more.
```

• Links can be absolute (with http://) or relative (link to an image within your file structure)

◆ sitepoint

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Extended Markdown

Most Markdown processors support an extended syntax, although syntaxes vary across editors.

Popular flavors include:

Github Flavored Markdown: https://goo.gl/Pycq8Z
Markdown Extra: https://goo.gl/7f9TuE

Some widely supported elements follow:

Footnotes (Extended Markdown)

```
This line ends with a footnote reference.[^id]

[^id]: Place this footnote anywhere.
```

Strikethrough Text (Extended Markdown)

```
Let's ~~draw a line though this~~ now
```

Syntax Highlighting (Extended Markdown)

```
```javascript
    console.log("SitePoint rocks");
```
```

Tables (Extended Markdown)

Creating a table with headers:

```
Header One    | Header Two
————————|————————
Content Cell  | Content Cell
Content Cell  | Content Cell
```

Notes:

• There must be a header row
• There must be a separator line after the header
• There must be at least one pipe per row
• Extra pipes at the start/end of rows are optional
• MD for inline elements is allowed within cells

Set column alignment by adding colons to the separator row:

```
: ————————|———————— : | : ———————— :
Left-aligned    |   Right-aligned  |    Centered
```

Notes:

• Headers are centered by default
• Columns are left-aligned by default
• Colon alignment affects both header and column

About the Author

Ralph Mason is SitePoint's Web channel editor, administrator of SitePoint's magnificent web forums, and a freelance editor and web designer at Page Affairs.