



GitHub Flavored Markdown

GitHub uses "GitHub Flavored Markdown," or GFM, across the site—in issues, comments, and pull requests. It differs from standard Markdown (SM) in a few significant ways, and adds some additional functionality.

If you're not already familiar with Markdown, take a look at [Markdown Basics](#). If you'd like to know more about features that are available in issues, comments, and pull request descriptions, such as task lists, read [Writing on GitHub](#).

Differences from traditional Markdown

Multiple underscores in words

Where Markdown transforms underscores (`_`) into italics, GFM ignores underscores in words, like this:

```
wow_great_stuff
do_this_and_do_that_and_another_thing.
```

This allows code and names with multiple underscores to render properly. To emphasize a portion of a word, use asterisks (`*`).

URL autolinking

GFM will autolink standard URLs, so if you want to link to a URL (instead of setting link text), you can simply enter the URL and it will be turned into a link to that URL.

```
http://example.com
```

becomes

<http://example.com>

Strikethrough

GFM adds syntax to create strikethrough text, which is missing from standard Markdown.

```
~~Mistaken text.~~
```

becomes

~~Mistaken text.~~

Fenced code blocks

Standard Markdown converts text with four spaces at the beginning of each line into a code block; GFM also supports fenced blocks. Just wrap your code in ````` (as shown below) and you won't need to indent it by four spaces. Note that although fenced code blocks don't have to be preceded by a blank line—unlike indented code blocks—we recommend placing a blank line before them to make the raw Markdown easier to read.

Here's an example:

```

'''
function test() {
  console.log("notice the blank line before this function?");
}
'''

```

Keep in mind that, within lists, you must indent non-fenced code blocks *eight* spaces to render them properly.

Syntax highlighting

Code blocks can be taken a step further by adding syntax highlighting. In your fenced block, add an optional language identifier and we'll run it through syntax highlighting. For example, to syntax highlight Ruby code:

```

'''ruby
require 'redcarpet'
markdown = Redcarpet.new("Hello World!")
puts markdown.to_html
'''

```

We use [Linguist](#) to perform language detection and syntax highlighting. You can find out which keywords are valid by perusing [the languages YAML file](#).

Tables

You can create tables by assembling a list of words and dividing them with hyphens `-` (for the first row), and then separating each column with a pipe `|`:

```

First Header | Second Header
-----|-----
Content Cell | Content Cell
Content Cell | Content Cell

```

For aesthetic purposes, you can also add extra pipes on the ends:

```

| First Header | Second Header |
| -----|----- |
| Content Cell | Content Cell |
| Content Cell | Content Cell |

```

Note that the dashes at the top don't need to match the length of the header text exactly:

```

| Name | Description |
| -----|----- |
| Help | Display the help window. |
| Close | Closes a window |

```

You can also include inline Markdown such as links, bold, italics, or strikethrough:

```

| Name | Description |
| -----|----- |
| Help | Display the help window. |
| Close | Closes a window |

```

Finally, by including colons `:` within the header row, you can define text to be left-aligned, right-aligned, or center-aligned:

Left-Aligned	Center Aligned	Right Aligned
:-----	:-----:	-----:
col 3 is	some wordy text	\$1600
col 2 is	centered	\$12
zebra stripes	are neat	\$1

A colon on the **left-most** side indicates a left-aligned column; a colon on the **right-most** side indicates a right-aligned column; a colon on **both** sides indicates a center-aligned column.

HTML

You can use a subset of HTML within your READMEs, issues, and pull requests.

A full list of our supported tags and attributes can be found in the [github/markup repository](#).

Further reading

["Writing on GitHub"](#)

 **Contact a human**

Article versions

- [GitHub.com](#)
- [GitHub Enterprise 2.4](#)
- [GitHub Enterprise 2.3](#)
- [GitHub Enterprise 2.2](#)
- [GitHub Enterprise 2.1](#)
- [GitHub Enterprise 2.0](#)

