

# Filenames and file types

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 [developers.google.com/style/filenames](https://developers.google.com/style/filenames)



# Google Developers

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## Guidelines for names

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Make file and directory names lowercase. Use hyphens, not underscores, to separate words—for example, `query-data.html`. Use only standard ASCII alphanumeric characters in file and directory names.

Don't use generic page names such as `document1.html`.

## Exceptions for consistency

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If you're adding to a directory where everything else already uses underscores, and it's not feasible to change everything to hyphens, it's okay to use underscores to stay consistent.

For example, if the directory already has `lesson_1.jd`, `lesson_2.jd`, and `lesson_3.jd`, it's okay to add your new file as `lesson_4.jd` instead of `lesson-4.jd`. However, in all other situations, use hyphens.

Recommended: `avoiding-cliches.jd`

Sometimes OK: `avoiding_cliches.jd`

Not recommended: `avoidingcliches.jd`

Not recommended: `avoidingCliches.jd`

Not recommended: `avoiding-clichés.jd`

## Other exceptions

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It's okay to have some inconsistency in filenames if it can't otherwise be avoided. For example, sometimes tools that generate reference documentation produce filenames based on different style requirements or based on the design and naming conventions of the product or API itself. In those cases, it's okay to make exceptions for those files.

## Refer to files

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The following sections discuss how to reference files.

### Refer to filenames

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When referring to a specific file, do the following:

- Use code font.
- Include the word *file* after the filename. For more information, see Grammatical treatment of code elements.
- Use the exact spelling of the filename even if it doesn't follow naming guidelines.
- If a sample of the file is included on the page, follow the code sample guidelines and precede a code sample with an introductory sentence or paragraph that includes the filename.

Recommended: In the following `build.sh` file, modify the default values for all parameters:

### Refer to file interactions

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When interacting with files and file types, don't use the file types as a verb.

Recommended: Extract a zip file.

Not recommended: Unzip a zip file.

### Refer to file types

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**Key Point:** Use the formal file type name, not the filename extension.

When you're discussing a file type, use the formal name of the type. (The file type name is often in all caps because many file type names are acronyms or initialisms.) Do not use the filename extension to refer generically to the file type.

Recommended: a PNG file

Not recommended: a `.png` file

Recommended: a Bash file

Not recommended: an `.sh` file

The following table lists some examples of filename extensions and the corresponding file type names to use.

Extension	File type name
<code>.adoc</code>	AsciiDoc file
<code>.csv</code>	CSV file
<code>.exe</code>	executable file
<code>.gif</code>	GIF file
<code>.img</code>	disk image file
<code>.jar</code>	JAR file
<code>.jpg</code> , <code>.jpeg</code>	JPEG file
<code>.json</code>	JSON file
<code>.md</code>	Markdown file
<code>.pdf</code>	PDF file
<code>.png</code>	PNG file
<code>.ps</code>	PowerShell file
<code>.py</code>	Python file
<code>.sh</code>	Bash file
<code>.sql</code>	SQL file
<code>.svg</code>	SVG file
<code>.tar</code>	tar file
<code>.tiff</code>	TIFF file
<code>.txt</code>	text file

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<code>.yaml</code>	YAML file
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<code>.zip</code>	zip file
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Was this helpful?

## Recommended for you

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### **Example domains and names**

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Don't use real domain names, email addresses, or people's names in your examples. Don't reveal personally identifiable information (PII), such as domain names, email addresses, phone numbers, people's names, project names, or credit card numbers. You

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### **Document command-line syntax**

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This page shows how to document command-line commands and their arguments. For more information about formatting code that appears in text, placeholders, and code samples, see the following links: When you write procedural or conceptual documentation

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### **Active voice**

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In general, use active voice (in which the grammatical subject of the sentence is the person or thing performing the action) instead of passive voice (in which the grammatical subject of the sentence is the person or thing being acted upon), although

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