YAML Cheatsheet

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Basic concepts

YAML is a human-readable data-serialization language.

The language is indented by spaces (no tabs allowed).

The specification is (for once) very clear and somewhat simple: https://yaml.org/spec/1.2/spec.html

YAML Parsers

YAML online linter (only validation): http://www.yamllint.com/

YAML parser (validates and converts to JSON): https://yaml-online-parser.appspot.com/

YAML syntax

Scalar types

These are "simple" types.

```
a: 1         # integer
a: 1.234     # float
b: 'abc'     # string
b: "abc"
b: abc
c: false     # boolean type
d: 2021-07-14   # date type
```

Strings

A string can have multiple lines. By default space will be used as line separator.

```
content:
    Arbitrary free text
    over "multiple lines" stopping
    after indentation changes...
```

To preserve line breaks use "|" after the property

```
content: |
    Arbitrary free text
    over "multiple lines" stopping
    after indentation changes...
```

Sequences

They are just lists of values. They are equivalent to a JSON Array

Simple sequence

```
array:
    - 132
    - 2.434
    - 'abc'
```

Can be expressed too as:

```
array: [132, 2.434, 'abc']
```

Nested sequences

A sequence can contain more sequences (sequence of sequences)

```
my_list_of_lists:
    - [1, 2, 3]
    - [4, 5, 6]
```

Mapping

A mapping is equivalent to a JSON (or Python) dictionary. Sometimes it is called a "hash".

```
my_mapping:
    subkey:
      subsubkey1: 5
      subsubkey2: 6
    another:
      somethingelse: 'Important!'
```

Sequence of mappings

You can use mappings of scalar (and complex types) inside a sequence. Only the first dash (-) is needed and then you can use indentation to separate elements.

```
my_hash:
    subkey:
      - subsubkey1: 5
        subsubkey2: 6
```

Which is equivalent to

```
my_hash:
    subkey:
      -
```

```
        subsubkey1: 5
        subsubkey2: 6
```

Comments

It's simple, just use #

```
my_hash:
# I am a comment
    subkey: a thing
```

Multiple documents

A YAML file can contain several YAML documents. Jus use three dashes as separators for each section.

```
---
content: doc1
morestuff:
    substuff:
      - potato: 1
        tomato: something
---
content: doc2
```