

Markdown Guide

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Introduction

Welcome to my (arguably scuffed) markdown guide. The aim to provide the general quirks of markdown; intended to be revisited as often as needed.

I tend to forget some specific markdown syntax; by which this guide provides a nice reference for. Also, writing this markdown guide in markdown is just wonderful.

What is markdown?

Markdown is a markup language with plain text formatting syntax (basically better text). It converts plain text to HTML.

Why use markdown?

- Markdown is incredibly lightweight compared to rich text formats; such as `.rtf` or `.docx`.
- It is arguably the simplest markup language there is.
- Can be converted to a plethora of formats seamlessly, such as `.html`, `.tex`, `.pdf`, etc.

Where is markdown used?

- Repositories such as [Github](#) (README.md files) for software documentation.
- Forums and blog posts within applications or websites.
- Static websites.
- Documents and notes.
- Email formatting.
- This markdown guide.

Headings and Sub-headings

Prepending a # before some text promotes it to a heading. Prepending additional #'s demotes it to a sub-heading, sub-sub-heading and so on.

Adding one (or multiple) = below the text also promotes it to a heading. Use - for a sub-heading.

Raw

```
# Heading
## Sub-heading
### Sub-sub-heading
#### Sub-sub-sub-heading
##### Sub-sub-sub-sub-heading
```

```
Also Heading
```

```
===
```

```
Also sub-heading
```

```
---
```

Compiled

Heading

Sub-heading

Sub-sub-heading

Sub-sub-sub-heading

Sub-sub-sub-sub-heading

Also Heading

Also sub-heading

Generic Formatting

Raw

Paragraphs are separated by a blank line.

Two spaces at the end of a line
produce a line break.

Text attributes: `_italic_`, `*also italic*`, `**bold**`, `__also bold__`

Compiled

Paragraphs are separated by a blank line.

Two spaces at the end of a line
produce a line break.

Text attributes: *italic*, *also italic*, **bold**, **also bold**, mono-space,
~~strike-through~~.

Lists

A blank line between list elements (sometimes) produces a larger space between the elements.

Raw

Unordered list:

- * Fruits
 - Apples
 - Oranges
 - + Orange
 - Green
- + Meat

Subsequent indented paragraphs belong to the list element.

- * Dairy

Links

Raw

A [Wikipedia] (https://www.wikipedia.org "Wikipedia Home") and [G

A <https://directlink.tv> and <directlink@email.org>.

[identifier]: https://www.google.com "Google Home"

Compiled

A [Wikipedia](https://www.wikipedia.org) and [Google](https://www.google.com) hyper-link.

A <https://directlink.tv> and directlink@email.org.

Horizontal Rule

Horizontal rules are not used that often.

Raw

Horizontal rule:

Also horizontal rule:

Also also horizontal rule:

Compiled

Horizontal rule:

Also horizontal rule:

Also also horizontal rule:

Images

Text within the quotes after the image directory is the text displayed when the image directory is not found.

Raw

```
![Markdown Icon](./figures/markdown-icon.png "Markdown Icon")
```

Compiled



Block-quotes

Prepend a > in every line of the block for a block-quote.

Raw

```
> Append two space in first line  
> for a line-break in block-quote.  
>  
> Second paragraph in block-quote.  
>  
>> Deeper block-quote with additional `>`.  
>>  
>>> Even deeper block-quote.  
>>>
```

Compiled

*Append two space in first line
for a line-break in blockquote.
Second paragraph in blockquote.
Deeper blockquote with additional >.
Even deeper blockquote.*

Code-blocks

Surround the block with three ```'s or three `~`'s (above and below the block).

Optionally append the first line with the name of the defined language for syntax highlighting.

A code-block can also be formed with a prepended tab (four spaces) in each line.

Raw

```
```Python
A code-block
import numpy as np
def func(x):
 """Returns sin squared of a number."""
 assert type(x) in (int,float)
 return np.sin(x)**2
if __name__ == '__main__':
 pass
```
~~~C++
```

Comments

Raw

```
<Comment>
```

```
<!--
```

```
Comment
```

```
-->
```

```
[//]: # (This is the most platform independent syntax.)
```

```
[///]: # (This will not be included in the output file.)
```

Compiled

Footnotes

Raw

Text[^footnote-identifier] with a footnote[^long-footnote] and i

[^footnote-identifier]: Footnote information.

[^long-footnote]: Footnote with multiple blocks.

Subsequent indented paragraphs belong to the footnote.

code.isNone() == True

Compiled

Text¹ with a footnote² and inline³.

¹Footnote information.

²Footnote with multiple blocks.

³You do not have to create an identifier.

Surround LaTeX code with double \$.

Raw

```
$$\frac{some}{69}\cdot\frac{420}{LaTeX}$$
```

Compiled

$$\frac{some}{69} \cdot \frac{420}{LaTeX}$$

Tables

Generally and unfortunately, for some table styles, you cannot directly set the column width; unless you perform some wonky stuff with its behaviour.

Raw

```
|Left|Centre|Right|
|:--|:--:|--:|
|1,1|1,2|1,3|
|2,1|2,2|2,3|
|3,1|3,2|3,3|
|4,1|4,2|4,3|
```

Table: Pipe Table

Compiled

Table 1: Pipe Table

| Left | Centre | Right |
|------|--------|-------|
| 1,1 | 1,2 | 1,3 |

Pandoc Tables

Raw

| Left | Centre | Right |
|------|--------|-------|
| 1,1 | 1,2 | 1,3 |
| 2,1 | 2,2 | 2,3 |
| 3,1 | 3,2 | 3,3 |
| 4,1 | 4,2 | 4,3 |

: Simple Table

| | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 1,1 | 1,2 | 1,3 |
| 2,1 | 2,2 | 2,3 |
| 3,1 | 3,2 | 3,3 |
| 4,1 | 4,2 | 4,3 |

: Header-less Simple Table

Line-block

Prepend a | in each line of the line-block.

This allows new lines without an empty line between each line, which is useful for verses and addresses.

Raw

```
| An iconic lullaby:  
|   Twinkle twinkle little star,  
|   how I wonder what you are.  
|   Up above the world so high,  
|   like a diamond in the sky.  
|   Twinkle twinkle little star,  
|   how I wonder what you are.
```

Compiled

An iconic lullaby:
Twinkle twinkle little star,
how I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
like a diamond in the sky.

Task-list

Raw

- [x] Done.
- [] Not done.

Compiled

- ☒ Done.
- ☐ Not done.

Superscripts and Subscripts

Surround literals between `~` for a subscript. Very useful in [chemical formulae](#).

Conversely, surround literals between `^` for a superscript.

Raw

```
H~2~O is one of the main reasons to why life exists.
```

```
f(x) = Ae^-bx^ describes exponential decay.
```

Compiled

H₂O is one of the main reasons to why life exists.

$f(x) = Ae^{-bx}$ describes exponential decay.

Line-break

Raw

\

Compiled

Definition-list

Raw

Term

: This is a definition.

: This is an alternate definition.

Compiled

Term This is a definition.
This is an alternate definition.

Compiling

I mainly use [ghostwriter](#) and [pandoc](#).

ghostwriter

- Can choose Markdown Flavor and Style Sheet for HTML preview.
- Can see Outline HUD and Documents Statistics HUD; and can use `ctrl + shift + h` to remove or show them.
- Can Insert Image by dragging in an image.
- Can Copy HTML with `ctrl + shift + c`.
- Can Export directly.
- Can use Distraction Free Mode with no HUD and no HTML preview.

pandoc

- To HTML example snippet: `pandoc .\markdown-guide.md -o markdown-guide.html -s --mathjax.`
- To PDF example snippet: `pandoc .\markdown-guide.md -o markdown-guide.pdf --pdf-engine=pdflatex.`
- To beamer example snippet: `pandoc .\markdown-guide.md -o markdown-slide.pdf -t beamer -V theme:Luebeck.`

- Labels
- Images
- Citations
- Citation Syntax