

Markdown Guide

Puthearath Aim

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Contents

Introduction	3
What is markdown?	3
Why use markdown?	3
Where is markdown used?	3
Headings and Sub-headings	4
Raw	4
Formatted	4
Heading	4
Sub-heading	4
Sub-sub-heading	4
Also Heading	5
Also sub-heading	5
Generic Formatting	5
Raw	5
Formatted	5
Lists	5
Raw	5
Formatted	6
Links	7
Raw	7
Formatted	7

Horizontal Rule	7
Raw	7
Formatted	7
Images	8
Raw	8
Formatted	8
Block-quotes	8
Raw	8
Formatted	9
Code-blocks	9
Raw	9
Formatted	10
Comments	10
Raw	10
Formatted	10
Footnotes	10
Raw	10
Formatted	11
LaTeX	11
Raw	11
Formatted	11
Tables	11
Raw	11
Formatted	12
Pandoc Tables	12
Raw	12
Formatted	14
Line-block	15
Raw	15
Formatted	15
Task-list	16
Raw	16
Formatted	16
Superscripts and Subscripts	16

Raw	16
Formatted	16
Line-break	16
Raw	16
Formatted	16
Definition-list	17
Raw	17
Formatted	17
Compiling	17
ghostwriter	17
Pandoc	17
Explore	18

Introduction

Welcome to a 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`, `.pdf`, `.docx`, etc. (which implies that `.md` files are essentially future-proof).

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
---
```

Formatted

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__`, ``mono-space``, `~~strike-through~~`

Formatted

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

```
```\nif(height<10cm){shortPerson.drinkMilk()}\n```
```

- Vegetables

Ordered list:

1. Uno
- 2) Dos
- 3) Tres
  
4. Cuatro

## Formatted

Unordered list:

- Fruits
  - Apples
  - Oranges
    - \* Orange
    - \* Green

- Meat

Subsequent indented paragraphs belong to the list element.

- Dairy

```
if(height<10cm){shortPerson.drinkMilk()}
```

- Vegetables

Ordered list:

1. Uno
- 2) Dos
- 3) Tres
  
4. Cuatro

## Links

### Raw

A [Wikipedia](https://www.wikipedia.org "Wikipedia Home") and [Google][identifier] hyper-link.

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

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

### Formatted

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

A <https://directlink.tv> and [directlink@email.org](mailto:directlink@email.org).

## Horizontal Rule

Horizontal rules are not used that often.

### Raw

Horizontal rule:

---

Also horizontal rule:

---

Also also horizontal rule:

\*\*\*

### Formatted

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](../images/markdown-icon.png "Markdown Icon")
```

### Formatted



Figure 1: Markdown Icon

## 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.
```



>>>

## Formatted

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++
// Another code-block
for(int i=0;i++;i<42){
    Serial.println(i);
}
~~~
```

```
 free(malloc(69))
 malloc(free(42))
```

## Formatted

```
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

// Another code-block
for(int i=0;i++;i<42){
 Serial.println(i);
}

free(malloc(69))
malloc(free(42))
```

## Comments

### Raw

<Comment>

<!--

Comment

-->

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

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

## Formatted

## Footnotes

### Raw

Text<sup>[^footnote-identifier]</sup> with a footnote<sup>[^long-footnote]</sup> and inline<sup>^</sup>[You do not have to c

[^footnote-identifier]: Footnote information.

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

Subsequent indented paragraphs belong to the footnote.

```
code.isNone() == True
```

## Formatted

Text<sup>1</sup> with a footnote<sup>2</sup> and inline<sup>3</sup>.

## LaTeX

Surround LaTeX code with double \$.

## Raw

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

## Formatted

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

## 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
```

---

<sup>1</sup>Footnote information.

<sup>2</sup>Footnote with multiple blocks.

Subsequent indented paragraphs belong to the footnote.

```
code.isNone() == True
```

<sup>3</sup>You do not have to create an identifier.

Table: Pipe Table

## Formatted

Table 1: Pipe Table

| 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   |

## 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

|                                  |         |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Left                             | Centre  | Right   |
| Aligned                          | Aligned | Aligned |
| This sentence<br>spans two lines | 1,2     | 1,3     |

2,1                      2,2              Note the the blank  
                                          line between rows.

-----

: Multi-line Table

: Grid Table

```
+-----+-----+
```

| Default | Default |
|---------|---------|
| 0.33,1  | 1,2     |
| 0.67,1  |         |
| 1.33,1  | 2,2     |
| 1.67,1  |         |

```
+-----+-----+
```

: Piped Grid Table

```
+----+-----+-----+
```

| 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   |

```
+----+-----+-----+
```

: Header-less Grid 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|
+-----+-----+-----+

```

## Formatted

Table 2: Simple Table

| 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 3: Header-less 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 |

Table 4: Multi-line Table

| Left Aligned                     | Centre Aligned | Right Aligned                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------|
| This sentence spans<br>two lines | 1,2            | 1,3                                      |
| 2,1                              | 2,2            | Note the the blank line<br>between rows. |

Table 5: Grid Table

| Default  | Default |
|----------|---------|
| • 0.33,1 | 1,2     |
| • 0.67,1 |         |
| • 1.33,1 | 2,2     |
| • 1.67,1 |         |

Table 6: Piped Grid Table

| 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 7: Header-less Grid 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 |

## 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.
```

## Formatted

```
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.
```

## Task-list

### Raw

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

### Formatted

- ☒ 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.

### Formatted

H<sub>2</sub>O is one of the main reasons to why life exists.

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

## Line-break

### Raw

\

### Formatted



## Definition-list

### Raw

Term

: This is a definition.

: This is an alternate definition.

### Formatted

**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 src/markdown-guide.md -o build/markdown-guide.html -s --mathjax`.
- To PDF example snippet: `pandoc src/markdown-guide.md -o build/markdown-guide.pdf --pdf-engine=pdflatex`.
- To Beamer example snippet: `pandoc src/markdown-guide.md -o build/markdown-slide.pdf -t beamer -V theme:Luebeck`. Note: Beamer does not like footnotes that take more than the available space (hence make sure that this is satisfied before converting to beamer); also it is best remove any geometry tags and decrease the font size as well.
- `-s` means standalone and not a fragment; e.g. an HTML file with **head** and **body**.
- `-f` and `-t` specifies input and output format respectively (markdown, latex, html), otherwise format is interpreted from file type.
- `--toc` for table of contents; useful with `-c style.css`.
- Make modifications to `latex-template.tex` from `pandoc -D latex >> latex-template.tex`, and then use `--template=latex-template.tex`.

- Can concatenate multiple input files.

## Explore

- Labels
- Images
- [Citations](#)
- Citation Syntax