

Leanpub Sample Markdown Book

**A standard 6x9 inch Leanpub
ebook has a cover image that is
1800 Pixels wide by 2700 Pixels high
at 300 Pixels Per Inch (PPI)**

Sample Book

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This is a Leanpub book which is for sale at <http://leanpub.com>.

Leanpub helps you connect with readers and sell your ebook, while you're writing it and after it's done.

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Preface

A Leanpub book is composed of either a bunch of Markdown files or a bunch of HTML files.

The order of these files is defined in a file called Book.txt, which is in the same folder as this file.

This is the Leanpub sample book for a Markdown book, so these files are Markdown. Markdown is a good format for people who want to write their book in a text editor.

To learn about the syntax and philosophy of Markdown, see this article by John Gruber¹.

Briefly, Markdown is a nice way of writing content which is easily transformed into HTML. For example, # at the beginning of a line becomes an h1, ## becomes an h2, ### becomes an h3, etc. Lists, paragraphs and other formatting is also intuitive.

Even if you know Markdown, you need to learn a few things about how we use it at Leanpub.

First, we use h1 for chapters and h2 and below for sections. This is true whether the book is a Markdown book or an HTML book.

So, if you look at the top of this file you'll see that it has one #, meaning it is a Chapter. (No, we don't do anything special for prefaces or appendices at Leanpub; we feel that ebooks are better served by having normal numbers as page numbers instead of

¹<http://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/syntax>

Roman numerals.)

Another thing this means is that one file can contain as many chapters or sections as you want. For example, the next few lines will create some chapters and sections.

Chapter One

This is chapter one.

2.1 Chapter One, Section One

This is section one in chapter one.

2.2 Chapter One, Section Two

This is section two in chapter one.

Chapter Two

This is chapter two.

3.1 Chapter Two, Section One

This is section one in chapter two.

Sample Books

Leanpub also lets you create a sample book. It's called `Sample.txt`, and it is in the same folder as this file. Note that, like `Book.txt`, it is just a list of files. It's supposed to be a smaller list than what is in `Book.txt`, or else you're giving your whole book away! (If you don't want a sample book, just delete the `Sample.txt` file.)

Anyway, one consequence of the `Sample.txt` file approach to specifying a sample book is that it's an "all or nothing" thing to include a file. If you include a file, all the chapters and sections in it are included. Because of this, we recommend a couple things:

1. Either use one chapter per file, or one section per file.
2. Never let a chapter's content span multiple files, unless that content is in sections.

These two guidelines mean that your sample book is a lot less likely to have problems. If you don't follow them, things can still work, but you can sometimes create a situation where your book will be created fine but your sample book will not.

(Note that this file actually breaks guideline #1! If we were following it, then Chapter One and Chapter Two would be in their own files.)

Leanpub Book Format

This chapter discusses how to format a Leanpub book, and known issues with the current version of Leanpub.

5.1 Code Samples

Chapters contain sections, which is where the bulk of your content should be. A section contains text, and can include images and code samples.

This section will show how a code sample works. Here is a code sample:

```
#!/usr/bin/env ruby  
puts "Hello World, I'm a code sample in an e-book!"
```

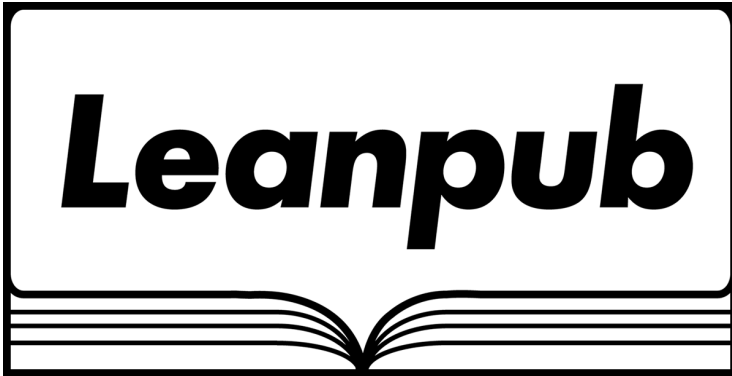
Here is another sample:

```
#!/usr/bin/env ruby  
puts "Hello World, I'm the code sample number #{1+1} in an e-book!"
```

This text is after the code sample.

5.2 Inserting Images

This section shows how you include an image.



Leanpub Logo

That's it!

We support PNG, JPEG and GIF formats for images.

Note that it's important to get the size and the resolution of the image right:

- You have **4 inches** of width for content in a Leanpub book.
- We use **300 pixels per inch (PPI)** in our books, and we recommend you use that for your images. Any smaller PPI is scaled up to 300 PPI. Since we scale up to 300 PPI, your image may look blurry if it's a smaller PPI.
- If you save your image in a 300 PPI format, your image

can be up to **1200 pixels wide** ($300 \text{ PPI} * 4 \text{ inches} = 1200 \text{ pixels}$).

- However, if you save your image in a 72 PPI format (the default in most programs), it can only be 288 pixels wide ($72 \text{ PPI} * 4 \text{ inches} = 288 \text{ pixels}$). If it's wider, it will bleed into the right margin, and if your image is much too big it may not show up at all. (Please don't use 72 PPI though, since scaling looks bad.)

So, in the example above, this image is **1200 pixels wide** x 610 pixels high and it is **300 pixels per inch (PPI)**. So it fits perfectly in the 4 inches of content.

5.3 Links Become Footnotes

We support Markdown syntax for links, as well as normal HTML links. Both of these are converted into functioning footnotes in the PDF. Here's an example of a link to Leanpub¹.

¹<http://leanpub.com>

Markdown Extensions in Leanpub

We've made a few additions to Markdown for use in Leanpub. Here they are.

6.1 Tables

There are three table syntaxes: simple tables, multiline tables and grid tables. There's no need to learn all three. If you can, I'd suggest just using simple tables and ignoring the rest.

Simple tables

A simple table looks like this in Markdown:

| Author Name | First Book to Read | Genre |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Larry Niven | The Mode in God's Eye | SF |
| James Lovegrove | Worldstorm | Fantasy |
| China Mieville | Perdido Stree Station | Fantasy |

And looks like this in the final product:

| Author Name | First Book to Read | Genre |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Larry Niven | The Mode in God's Eye | SF |
| James Lovegrove | | |

Worldstorm Fantasy China Mieville Perdido Stree Station Fantasy

You can use the positioning of the dashes below the headers to set the column alignment to right, left or centered. So, if I decide to align the first column to the left, the middle column in the center and the right column on the right, I'd do this:

| Author Name | First Book to Read | Genre |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Larry Niven | The Mode in God's Eye | SF |
| James Lovegrove | Worldstorm | Fantasy |
| China Mieville | Perdido Stree Station | Fantasy |

(the text above doesn't quite line up correctly in the PDF output, but it is correct in the markdown file and in the epub and mobi.)

And get this output:

Author Name First Book to Read Genre -----
 --- Larry Niven The Mode in God's Eye SF James Lovegrove
 Worldstorm Fantasy China Mieville Perdido Stree Station Fantasy

Multiline tables

If you need to put multiple lines in your table cells, then you'll want to use a multi-line table. It will look something like this:

| Author Name | First Book to Read | Genre |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Larry Niven | The Mode in | SF |

and Jerry God's Eye
Pournelle

James Worldstorm Fantasy
Lovegrove

China Perdido Street Fantasy
Mieville Station

and will look like this:

Author Name First Book Genre to Read

Larry Niven The Mode in SF and Jerry
God's Eye Pournelle
James Worldstorm Fantasy Lovegrove
China Perdido Street Fantasy Mieville Station -----

Enclose the whole thing in a line with lots of dashes, put dashes below the headers and put empty lines between the rows.

Grid tables

If you use Emacs and are used to table mode¹, then this will be useful to you. If not, you can probably ignore this.

This:

```
+-----+-----+-----+
|Author Name      |First Book to Read  |Genre   |
+-----+-----+-----+
```

¹<http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/TableMode>

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----------------|--|------------------------|--|---------|---------|--|--|
| +=====+ | | | +=====+ | | | +=====+ | | |
| | Larry Niven | | The Mote in God's Eye | | SF | | | |
| +-----+ | | | +-----+ | | | +-----+ | | |
| | James Lovegrove | | Worldstorm | | Fantasy | | | |
| +-----+ | | | +-----+ | | | +-----+ | | |
| | China Mieville | | Perdido Street Station | | Fantasy | | | |
| +-----+ | | | +-----+ | | | +-----+ | | |

Will result in this:

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----------------|---------|------------------------|---------|---------|-------------|------------|
| +-----+ | | +-----+ | | +-----+ | | Author Name | First Book |
| to Read | Genre | | +=====+ | | | | |
| | Larry Niven | | The Mote in God's Eye | | SF | | +-----+ |
| | James Lovegrove | | Worldstorm | | Fantasy | | +-----+ |
| | China Mieville | | Perdido Street Station | | Fantasy | | +-----+ |