Breaking it Down

The first thing one needs to know about customizing your profile on GitHub is that you are going to be using markdown language. That is why the readme file is called readme.md. Only files ending with the extension md (for markdown) can be edited in this way.

GitHub's implementation of markdown is unique. But there are many cross applications. For instance, you can use html in an md file. Such as an anchor tag <a href or <a name – of course, closed with another html component .

So what else can you do? Almost anything!

You can have in text images or link out to them. You can link to files, pages, or other websites.

I highly suggest getting familiar with GitHub's markdown formatting by visiting this getting started page: https://docs.github.com/en/get-started/writing-on-github/getting-started-with-writing-and-formatting-on-github/basic-writing-and-formatting-syntax

You can easily get along with just following these instructions, but if you wish to go further, then you might want to check that page out.

You may wish to start off by using images to make the look of your default GitHub readme.md file more interesting. You can do this in several ways, the way I choose to do it is to use image tags in html so I have better control over the image itself. Use the following:

<img src="the URL of the image file" height="25" width="25">

For instance, I did it two different ways to start my readme.md page. This is my code:

1. <img src="https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcSGlQXWqbQZJOfxE7MtMvIs9--VPgCp-dHPGA&s" height="20" width="20">Introducing myself!
2. ![photo-1453928582365-b6ad33cbcf64](https://github.com/user-attachments/assets/e08da0b8-2d7f-4ab1-9720-d56df2152932)

The first part, which I number 1 – but is not actually numbered, is an html image tag pointing to an image on the web. The second line is a cut and paste image from my desktop. That is by far the easiest way to put an image in the file, but you have much less control over how it is rendered (note that this image is 2917x1305 pixels).
That code renders the following on my github readme.md:
(I shrank the image to conserve space here)

So, if you got this far, the next question is how to make that nice list that links to either other pages or places in the same page.
Start by typing a dash to start the list. Next a left square bracket to designate that you are about to type text to be displayed instead of a link (think backwards if you are used to html). End the text to be displayed with a square right bracket and immediately follow that with an open parenthesis to indicate a link. So far you should have this:

- [some text](

Next put in either the link you wish to send the user to OR the link in the page you want to jump to. The first is a regular https address (https://somewhere.com/something), the second is the name of the place in the text you will create, but in lower case and with hyphens instead of spaces. If you are linking to something that says "My Link Place" (without the quotes), then the text you link with is #my-link-place. So the line should read either

- [some text](https://somewhere.com/someplace)

Or

- [some text](#my-link-place)

The result on your GitHub readme page will look something akin to this:

- Toms Technical Writing
- Power BI
- Tableau

The code for that is:

```
- [Toms Technical Writing](#toms-technical-writing)
- [Power BI](#powerbi)
- [Tableau](#tableau)
```

Or the following code goes to another page. In this case another GitHub readme.md page.

```
- [Course Resources Page](https://github.com/tzucker02/course_material/blob/main/README.md)
```

The profile default readme.md file is unique in that it is not listed to the right of what is your default repository (your profile). Other readme files will be listed on the side of the screen.

If you have looked at the code on my readme page (I encourage you to look at it if you are interested in customizing your own GitHub default readme), You have seen that I use # signs. This is GitHub's markdown to designate a Title. First level titles use a single # second level titles use ## and so on. This is helpful in organizing your page and emphasizing things you wish others to notice. Remember:

FIRST LEVEL HEADER

SECOND LEVEL HEADER

THIRD LEVEL HEADER

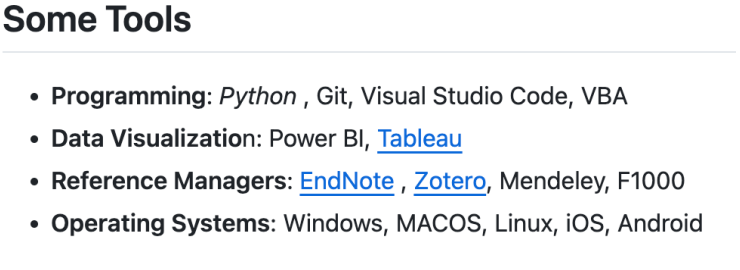
This is from GitHub's formatting documentation linked to above. It is some general formatting information:

Style	Syntax	Keyboard shortcut	Example	Output
Bold	** ** or __ __	Command+B (Mac) or Ctrl+B (Windows/Linux)	**This is bold text**	**This is bold text**
Italic	* * or _ _	Command+I (Mac) or Ctrl+I (Windows/Linux)	_This text is italicized_	*This text is italicized*
Strikethrough	~~ ~~	None	~~This was mistaken text~~	
Bold and nested italic	** ** and _ _	None	**This text is _extremely_ important**	**This text is *extremely* important**
All bold and italic	*** ***	None	***All this text is important***	***All this text is important***
Subscript		None	This is a _{subscript} text	This is a _{subscript} text
Superscript		None	This is a ^{superscript} text	This is a ^{superscript} text
Underline	<ins> </ins>	None	This is an <ins>underlined</ins> text	This is an underlined text

The following code will render the image after it. I included this because it demonstrates how to use multiline commenting and several formatting options:

```
## Some Tools

<!—
Multi-line comment out
-->
- **Programming**: *Python* , Git, Visual Studio Code, VBA
- **Data Visualizatio**n: Power BI, [Tableau](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/thomaszuckerscharff/vizzes)
- **Reference Managers**: [EndNote](https://www.endnote.com) , [Zotero](https://www.zotero.org/tcszucker/library), Mendeley, F1000
- **Operating Systems**: Windows, MACOS, Linux, iOS, Android
```



Notice that there is a mistake there. Did you see it? Did you see how it affected the rendering of the text?

On other pages I use an invisible bookmark so that it makes it easier for people to navigate the page and cleaner looking. The way to make an invisible marker on a page is as follows. Go to where you want the bookmark/marker to be and type in the code below. The only change you need to make is to give it an appropriate name (replace the highlighted text), one you will be using later.

<a name="<bookmark name>">

My code uses Top as the bookmark name, since I use it to go to the top of the page.

Then in other parts of the same page I use a link like the one below:

[<img src="https://image.pngaaa.com/286/1053286-middle.png" height = "25" width = "35">](#Top)

This shows an image of an up arrow that links to the top of the page where my hidden bookmark resides. Notice I used the built-in markdown of brackets and parentheses []() to do the trick here.

Tables can be nice and useful. I found this formatting on someone else's page and started using it (change the titles to whatever works for you). The first line defines the titles in the table, the second line defines the table itself. Everything that comes below it should match that format, without the dashes. So, this is a four-component table, but you can have more by defining it that way.

```
| title 1  | title 2 | title 3 | title 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
```

The below defines a 5-component table

```
| File Link | Date Added | Type | Description | Person who Provided link |
|---|---|---|---|---|
```

This is a commented out 5 component table which uses the above description:

```
<!--
| []() | 2025-02 | <img src="https://github.com/user-attachments/assets/5e1448a3-2757-44c0-bdae-c4b8768b41d9" width = "20" height = "20" ></a>  |  | Course Material |
| []() | 2025-02 | <img src="https://github.com/user-attachments/assets/5e1448a3-2757-44c0-bdae-c4b8768b41d9" width = "20" height = "20" ></a>  |  | Course Material |
-->
```

The last entry in the table above is the following:

```
| [A place to learn and practice](https://www.w3schools.com/) | 2025-02 | <img src="https://github.com/user-attachments/assets/5e1448a3-2757-44c0-bdae-c4b8768b41d9" width = "20" height = "20" ></a>  | w3schools | Anthony Nguyen |
```

A similar entry renders like this:

5 Trends in AI and Data Science in 2025	2025-02-24		MITSloan Management Review	Michael Cockrell

Additionally, you may like to put several other links on your home GitHub readme page. There is a built-in component that is provided by GitHub.

The statistics section you can easily add to your readme.md file by changing the name to your profile name. I have highlighted it for your convenience.

- The first part shows your GitHub statistics.
- The last part requires that you create the button code first at https://visitorbadge.io

<!-- Replace the highlighted fields below with the your own information. -->

```
<!—
Both the GitHub stats and visitor counter sections will only start working AFTER they have been placed on
your page, so the sooner you do so, the sooner they will start up.
-->
![Github Stats](https://github-readme-
stats.vercel.app/api?username=tzucker02&count_private=true&show_icons=true&include_all_commits
=true)

[![Visitors](https://api.visitorbadge.io/api/daily?path=tzucker02&label=TOTAL%20VISITORS&count
Color=%23555555&labelStyle=upper)](https://visitorbadge.io/status?path=tzucker02)
```

The code above renders the following image on my GitHub profile readme.md:

Note that the visitors badge can be customized when you visit the page referred to above. You can put this badge on any or all of your repo pages simply by designating the specified page on the URL where you customize the counter.

If you have any questions about customizing your GitHub profile that I haven't covered here, feel free to message using the contact information listed on my GitHub profile page.