

Referential content type

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Referential content provides detailed information that people need while they are actively using a feature.

Articles in the "Contributing to GitHub Docs" section refer to the documentation itself and are a resource for GitHub staff and open source contributors.

We create referential articles and referential sections within other articles.

- Some major subjects may require their own referential article, especially if there is a large amount of referential content, such as for search syntax or YAML syntax in GitHub Actions.
- For smaller amounts of content or more specific information, like a list of a feature's supported languages or hardware requirements, use referential sections in context within procedural or conceptual articles.

How to write referential content

For the referential content template, see "[Templates](#)."

- Write a sentence or an entire conceptual section to introduce the referential content.
- Present the actual referential content clearly and consistently.
- For subjects with a single element to explain, use a list.
 - Example: [Repository roles for an organization](#)
- For subjects with multiple elements to explain, use a table.
 - Example: [Repository roles for an organization](#)
- For longer referential content, such as YAML syntax for workflows, use headers consistently.
 - H2 headers for each distinct section.
 - H3 headers for subsections, such as examples.
 - Example: [Workflow syntax for GitHub Actions](#)

Titles for referential content

- Referential articles or headers of referential sections clearly describe the contents of the section, and generally begin with nouns.
- Titles include enough information to be accessible to novice users and fully describe the contents of each section.

- Titles avoid stacked nouns - use prepositions to break up long strings of nouns.

Examples of referential content

- Referential articles
 - [Keyboard shortcuts](#)
 - [Roles in an enterprise](#)
 - [Billing](#) in the REST API documentation
 - [Mutations](#) in the GraphQL API documentation
- Referential sections within other articles
 - "Supported languages" in [GitHub Mobile](#)
 - "Hardware considerations" in [Installing GitHub Enterprise Server on AWS](#)

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