**Documentation Typographical Conventions**

Apex and Visualforce documentation uses the following typographical conventions.

| **Convention** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| Courier font | In descriptions of syntax, monospace font indicates items that you should type as shown, except for brackets. For example:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1 | Public class HelloWorld | |
| *Italics* | In descriptions of syntax, italics represent variables. You supply the actual value. In the following example, three values need to be supplied: *datatype variable\_name* [ = *value*];  If the syntax is bold and italic, the text represents a code element that needs a value supplied by you, such as a class name or variable value:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1 | public static class YourClassHere { ... } | |
| **Bold Courier font** | In code samples and syntax descriptions, bold courier font emphasizes a portion of the code or syntax. |
| < > | In descriptions of syntax, less-than and greater-than symbols (< >) are typed exactly as shown.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | 1 | <apex:pageBlockTable value="{!account.Contacts}" var="contact"> | | | 2 | <apex:column value="{!contact.Name}"/> |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | 3 | <apex:column value="{!contact.MailingCity}"/> | | | 4 | <apex:column value="{!contact.Phone}"/> |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | 5 | </apex:pageBlockTable> | |
| { } | In descriptions of syntax, braces ({ }) are typed exactly as shown.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1 | <apex:page> | | 2 | Hello {!$User.FirstName}! | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | 3 | </apex:page> | |
| [ ] | In descriptions of syntax, anything included in brackets is optional. In the following example, specifying *value* is optional:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1 | data\_type variable\_name [ = value]; | |
| | | In descriptions of syntax, the pipe sign means “or”. You can do one of the following (not all). In the following example, you can create a new unpopulated set in one of two ways, or you can populate the set:  [view source](https://developer.salesforce.com/docs/#viewSource)  [print](https://developer.salesforce.com/docs/#printSource)[?](https://developer.salesforce.com/docs/#about)   |  |  | | --- | --- | | 1 | Set<data\_type> set\_name | | 2 | [= new Set<data\_type>();] | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | 3 | [= new Set<data\_type{value [, value2. . .] };] | | | | 4 | ; | |