Markdown Plain-text formatting

CONCEPTS

Markdown is plain text with light marks. A blank line separates blocks; indentation decides nesting.

Plain text .md file
↓ parser
Syntax tree blocks, inlines
↓ renderer
HTML or PDF, docs

CommonMark is the core spec (0.31.2 here). GitHub Flavored Markdown adds tables, task lists, strikethrough, autolinks, alerts and footnotes; other renderers may not.

Raw HTML is passed through by most renderers, but GitHub and similar sites strip scripts and unsafe tags.

HEADINGS & TEXT

`# H1  ## H2  ### H3`
ATX headings, 1 to 6 hashes

`**bold**  __bold__`
Strong emphasis

`*italic*  _italic_`
Emphasis

`***both***`
Bold and italic

`~~text~~`
Strikethrough (GFM)

`Title`
`=====`
Setext heading, H1 (underline with ---: H2)

`snake\_case`
Backslash escapes a special character

`line  (two spaces)`
Hard line break at end of line

`---  ***  ___`
Thematic break (horizontal rule)

`<!-- note -->`
Comment, not rendered

`<br>`
Raw HTML line break

LISTS

`- item  * item  + item`
Bullet list

`1. item`
Ordered list

`  - nested`
Nest by indenting under the item text

`- [ ]  - [x]`
Task list, open and done (GFM)

`5. item`
Ordered list starting at 5

`- a (blank line) - b`
Blank line between items makes a loose list

LINKS & IMAGES

`[text](`*`<url>`***`)`**
Inline link

`[text](`*`<url>`*** **`"title")`**
Link with hover title

`<https://example.com>`
Autolink in angle brackets

`![alt](`*`<path>`***`)`**
Image

`[![alt](`*`<img>`***`)](`***`<url>`***`)`**
Image that links

`[text][id]`
Reference link

`[id]:` ***`<url>`*** **`"title"`**
Define a reference, anywhere in file

`[text](#section-name)`
Link to a heading anchor (lowercase, hyphens)

`https://example.com`
Bare URL auto-linked (GFM)

CODE & QUOTES

`` `code` ``
Inline code

`` ``a ` b`` ``
Inline code containing a backtick

```` ``` ***`<lang>`***
Fenced code block with language

`    code`
Indented code block, 4 spaces

`> quote`
Blockquote

CODE & QUOTES (cont.)

`> > nested`
Quote inside a quote

`> [!NOTE]`
Alert: NOTE, TIP, IMPORTANT, WARNING, CAUTION (GitHub)

TABLES & EXTRAS

`| a | b |`
Table header row (GFM)

`| --- | --- |`
Delimiter row, required under the header

`| :--- | :---: | ---: |`
Align left, centre, right

`\|`
Literal pipe inside a cell

`text[^1]`
Footnote reference (GFM)

`[^1]: note`
Footnote text, anywhere in file

`<details><summary>`
Collapsible section, raw HTML

RECIPES

Minimal README

````
# Project

One-line summary.

## Install

```sh
npm install project
```
````

Table with alignment

```
| Name | Qty | Price |
| :--- | --: | ----: |
| Tea  |   2 |  3.50 |
```

Collapsible log

````
<details>
<summary>Show log</summary>

```
output here
```

</details>
````

Footnote and reference link

```
See the spec[^1] or the [docs]
[d].

[^1]: CommonMark 0.31.2.
[d]: https://commonmark.org
"Docs"
```