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.

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)

`snake\_case`
Backslash escapes a special character

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

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

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)

LINKS & IMAGES

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

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

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

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

`[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

`` ```lang ``
Fenced code block with language

`> quote`
Blockquote

`> [!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

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

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