Pandoc Document converter

CONCEPTS

Pandoc reads any input format into an internal document tree, then writes any output format. Formats are guessed from file extensions; -f/-t override that. Without -s you get only a fragment, without header or footer.

Input markdown, docx, html...
↓ reader
Document tree filters edit here
↓ writer
Output html, pdf, epub...

Filters run on the tree between reader and writer

BASIC CONVERSION

pandoc *<file>* **-o** *<out>*
Convert, formats from extensions

pandoc -f *<fmt>* **-t** *<fmt>* *<file>*
Choose input and output format

pandoc -s *<file>* **-o** *<out>***.html**
Standalone page with head and body

pandoc *<a>***.md** *<b>***.md -o** *<out>*
Concatenate several inputs

cat *<file>* **| pandoc -f** *<fmt>* **-t** *<fmt>*
Read stdin, write stdout

pandoc -o *<out>***.pdf** *<file>***.md**
Make a PDF

pandoc --pdf-engine=*<prog>* **...**
Pick the PDF engine

pandoc -f markdown -t gfm *<file>*
Normalise to GitHub Markdown

pandoc *<file>***.docx -t markdown --wrap=none**
Docx to readable Markdown

pandoc --extract-media=*<dir>* *<file>***.docx -o** *<out>***.md**
Pull embedded images out

pandoc --embed-resources -s *<file>* **-o** *<out>***.html**
Single self-contained HTML file

BASIC CONVERSION (cont.)

pandoc -d *<defaults>***.yaml**
Load options from a defaults file

pandoc --wrap=none|auto|preserve
Control line wrapping

FORMATS AND EXTENSIONS

pandoc --list-input-formats
Readable formats

pandoc --list-output-formats
Writable formats

pandoc --list-extensions=*<fmt>*
Extensions of a format and defaults

-f markdown+*<ext>*
Enable an extension

-f markdown-*<ext>*
Disable an extension

-f gfm / commonmark
Strict Markdown dialects

-t html5 / latex / beamer
Common output formats

STANDALONE, TEMPLATES AND STYLING

pandoc -s ...
Add header and footer

pandoc --toc --toc-depth=*<n>*
Table of contents to depth n

pandoc -N
Number section headings

pandoc -V *<key>***=***<val>*
Set a template variable

pandoc -M *<key>***=***<val>*
Set a metadata field

pandoc --template=*<f>*
Use a custom template

pandoc -D *<fmt>*
Print the default template

pandoc --css=*<url>*
Link a stylesheet in HTML

pandoc --reference-doc=*<f>***.docx**
Style docx, odt or pptx from a file

STANDALONE, TEMPLATES AND STYLING (cont.)

-V geometry:margin=2cm
LaTeX page margins

MARKDOWN SYNTAX

::: {.note} ... :::
Fenced div with a class

| a | b | with |:--|--:|
Pipe table, colons align

text[^1] and [^1]: note
Footnote

x^2 and $$...$$
Inline and display math

```python
Fenced code with language

YAML metadata block

```
---
title: My report
author: [Ada, Grace]
date: 2026-10-11
toc: true
---
```

CITATIONS

pandoc -C --bibliography=*<f>***.bib**
Resolve citations with citeproc

pandoc -C --csl=*<style>***.csl**
Choose the citation style

[@key]
Parenthetical citation

FILTERS AND SLIDES

pandoc --lua-filter=*<f>***.lua**
Run a Lua filter

pandoc -t revealjs -s *<f>***.md -o** *<out>***.html**
reveal.js slides

pandoc --version
Show version and data directory

RECIPES

Markdown to a styled PDF

```
pandoc report.md -s --toc -N \
  --pdf-engine=xelatex \
  -V geometry:margin=2.5cm -V
mainfont="DejaVu Serif" \
  -o report.pdf
```