

# Markdown Cheat Sheet

Ralph Mason, Author

## Headings (Core Markdown)

```
# This is an H1
## This is an H2
### This is an H3
##### This is an H6
```

or...

```
This is an H1
=====
This is an H2
-----
```

## Ordered Lists (Core Markdown)

```
1. Top-level item
2. Top-level item
3. Top-level item
  1. Nested item
  2. Nested item
```

- You must include a . after each number
- Markdown will output items in order (1, 2, 3...) even if you write unorderedly (1, 3, 2...)

## Text Formatting (Core Markdown)

```
*This is em text* and _so is this_
**This is strong text** and __so is this__
*This is **strong text** inside em text*
**This is _em text_ inside strong text**
***This is strong and em combined***
```

## Paragraphs (Core Markdown)

Paragraphs don't require markup, but make sure:

- There's a line break before and after it
- There are no spaces or tabs at the start of it

## Unordered Lists (Core Markdown)

```
* Top-level item
* Top-level item
  * Nested item
```

- Optionally use + or - instead of \*
- Indent nested items by 2 spaces
- Lists must have a line break before and after
- List *items* can be indented by max. three spaces or one tab
- Hanging indents for wrapped lines are supported:

```
- This is nicer to read
  in plain text
```

## Paragraphs in List Items (Core Markdown)

Adding line breaks between list items will wrap the list item content in **<p>** tags.

```
- item 1
- item 2
```

For *multiple paragraphs* in a list item, indent each one by four spaces or a tab (first item optional).

```
- Paragraph 1

  Paragraph 2
```

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## Code Blocks (Core Markdown)

Place three backticks above and below the block

```
...
.selector {
  color: red;
}
...
```

Or, indent every line by at least 4 spaces/one tab

```
.selector {
  color: red;
}
```

- Markdown renders code inside **<pre><code>** tags
- Place one line break above/below the code block

## Code Block in a List Item (Core Markdown)

Indent the code block by 8 spaces or 2 tabs

```
* list item:

    console.log("A code block")
```

## Inline Code (Core Markdown)

Wrap inline code with single backticks

```
Run `console.log("Hello world");` in the console.
```

## Blockquotes (Core Markdown)

```
> One paragraph in
  a blockquote

> Another paragraph in
  the same blockquote.
```

Alternatively, use > before every line.

```
> One paragraph in
> a blockquote
>
> Another paragraph in
> the same blockquote.
```

## Nested Blockquotes (Core Markdown)

```
> A top-level blockquote
>
>> A nested blockquote
>
> Top-level blockquote continued.
```

## Elements Within a Blockquote (Core Markdown)

```
> ## This is an H2
>
> - This is a list
> - Inside a blockquote
>
> ```
> console.log("Code inside a blockquote");
> ```
```

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## Blockquote in a List Item (Core Markdown)

Indent the blockquote by 4 spaces or a tab

```
* list item:
```

```
> Blockquote inside a list item.
```

## Horizontal Rules/Line Breaks (Core Markdown)

- **<br>**: hit enter or end the line with two spaces
- **<hr>**: \*\*\* or --- or \_\_ on a line on their own

## Raw HTML in Markdown

HTML elements can be used in Markdown as long as you don't indent the first/last tags in a HTML block and add a line break before/after the block.

## Escaping Markdown Characters

The following Markdown characters can appear literally when escaped with a backslash (e.g. ``\#``):

```
\\ \* \_ \{ \} \[ \] \# \+ \- \. \!
```

## Links (Core Markdown)

```
[Linked text](https://sitepoint.com "Optional title")
```

```
[Reference][id]
```

```
:
```

```
[id]: https://sitepoint.com "Optional title"
```

Visit `<https://sitepoint.com>` for more.

- **[id]** can be any random identifier
- **[id]: reference** can sit on its own line, absolutely anywhere in the document
- Markdown auto-obfuscates email addresses

## Images (Core Markdown)

```
![Alt text](path/to/img.jpg "Optional title")
```

```
![Reference alt text][id]
```

```
:
```

```
[id]: path/to/image "Optional title"
```

Visit `<https://sitepoint.com>` for more.

- Links can be absolute (with `http://`) or relative (link to an image within your file structure)

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## Extended Markdown

Most Markdown processors support an extended syntax, although syntaxes vary across editors.

Popular flavors include:

Github Flavored Markdown: <https://goo.gl/Pycq8Z>  
 Markdown Extra: <https://goo.gl/7f9TuE>

Some widely supported elements follow:

## Footnotes (Extended Markdown)

This line ends with a footnote reference.<sup>[^id]</sup>

<sup>[^id]</sup>: Place this footnote anywhere.

## Strikethrough Text (Extended Markdown)

Let's ~~draw a line though this~~ now

## Syntax Highlighting (Extended Markdown)

```
```javascript
  console.log("SitePoint rocks");
```
```

## Tables (Extended Markdown)

Creating a table with headers:

| Header One   | Header Two   |
|--------------|--------------|
| Content Cell | Content Cell |
| Content Cell | Content Cell |

Notes:

- There must be a header row
- There must be a separator line after the header
- There must be at least one pipe per row
- Extra pipes at the start/end of rows are optional
- MD for inline elements is allowed within cells

Set column alignment by adding colons to the separator row:

| : -----      | -----         | :   : ----- | :        |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|----------|
| Left-aligned | Right-aligned |             | Centered |

Notes:

- Headers are centered by default
- Columns are left-aligned by default
- Colon alignment affects both header and column

## About the Author

Ralph Mason is SitePoint's Web channel editor, administrator of SitePoint's magnificent web forums, and a freelance editor and web designer at Page Affairs.