Markdown Cheat Sheet

Syntax reference with examples — basic and extended Markdown, math, diagrams and PDF layout

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Free, printable Markdown reference from mdtopdfonline.com/markdown-cheat-sheet. Every example can be tried in the free online editor at mdtopdfonline.com.

Basic syntax

The original Markdown elements — supported by every Markdown app.

Headings

```
# Heading 1
## Heading 2
### Heading 3
```

Emphasis

```
**Bold**, *italic* and ***both***.
Use `inline code` for code.
```

Result:

Bold, *italic* and ***both***. Use `inline code` for code.

Paragraphs and line breaks

Leave a blank line between paragraphs. End a line with two spaces (or a backslash) for a line break.

```
First paragraph.

Second paragraph,\
with a line break.
```

Result:

First paragraph.

Second paragraph,
with a line break.

Links

```
[Markdown to PDF](https://mdtopdfonline.com)

<https://example.com>
```

Result:

[Markdown to PDF]

[https://example.com]

Images

```
![Markdown mark](/icon-192.png)
```

Result:



Bulleted lists

```
- One
- Two
  - Nested
- Three
```

Result:

- One
- Two
  - Nested
- Three

Numbered lists

```
1. First
2. Second
3. Third
```

Result:

1. First
2. Second
3. Third

Blockquotes

```
> Markdown is intended to be as easy-to-read
> and easy-to-write as is feasible.
```

Result:

> Markdown is intended to be as easy-to-read and easy-to-write as is feasible.

Code blocks

Add a language after the backticks for syntax highlighting.

````
```python
def greet(name):
    return f"Hello, {name}!"
```
````

Result:

```python
def greet(name):
    return f"Hello, {name}!"
```

Horizontal rule

```
Above

---

Below
```

Result:

Above

Below

Extended syntax (GitHub-flavoured)

Widely supported extensions from GitHub Flavored Markdown and friends.

Tables

Colons set column alignment.

```
| Left | Center | Right |
| :--- | :---: | ---: |
| a | b | c |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
```

Result:

Left	Center	Right
a	b	c
1	2	3

Task lists

```
- [x] Write the draft
- [ ] Review
- [ ] Export to PDF
```

Result:

- [x] Write the draft
- [ ] Review
- [ ] Export to PDF

Strikethrough

```
~~This was a mistake.~~
```

Result:

~~This was a mistake.~~

Footnotes

```
Here is a claim.[^1]

[^1]: And here is the source.
```

Result:

Here is a claim.[1]

Alerts (callouts)

```
> [!NOTE]
> Useful information.

> [!WARNING]
> Be careful here.
```

Result:

> **Note**
> Useful information.

> **Warning**
> Be careful here.

Highlight, subscript, superscript

```
==Highlighted== text, H~2~O and x^2^.
```

Result:

Highlighted text, H_2O and x^2.

Emoji shortcodes

```
Ship it :rocket: :tada: :white_check_mark:
```

Result:

Ship it 🚀 🎉 ✅

Raw HTML

Safe HTML is kept; scripts are removed.

```
<kbd>Ctrl</kbd> + <kbd>P</kbd>

<details>
<summary>Click to expand</summary>

Hidden content.

</details>
```

Result:

<kbd>Ctrl</kbd> + <kbd>P</kbd>

<details>
<summary>Click to expand</summary>

Hidden content.

</details>

Math

LaTeX math rendered with KaTeX. Dollar signs and LaTeX-style delimiters both work.

Inline math

```
Euler's identity: $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$, or \(a^2 + b^2 = c^2\).
```

Result:

Euler's identity: $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$, or $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$.

Display math

```
$$
\sum_{k=1}^{n} k = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}
$$
```

Result:

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} k = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

Matrices

```
$$
\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}
$$
```

Result:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

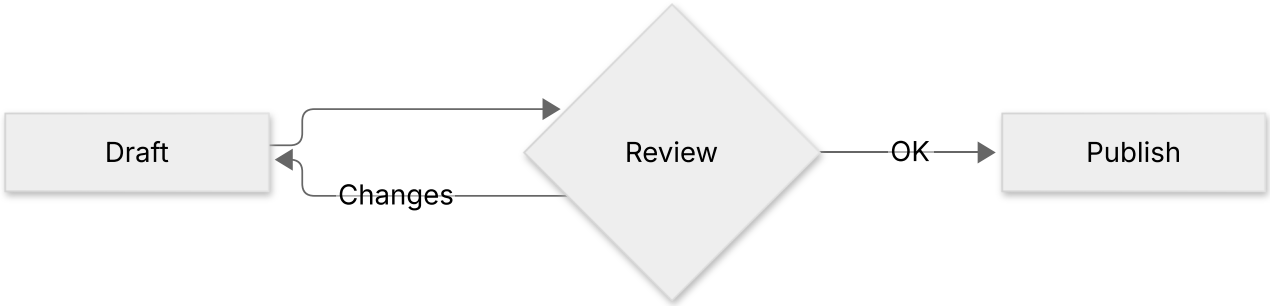
Diagrams

Mermaid code blocks turn text into flowcharts, sequence diagrams, Gantt charts and more.

Flowchart

````
```mermaid
flowchart LR
  A[Draft] --> B{Review}
  B -- OK --> C[Publish]
  B -- Changes --> A
```
````

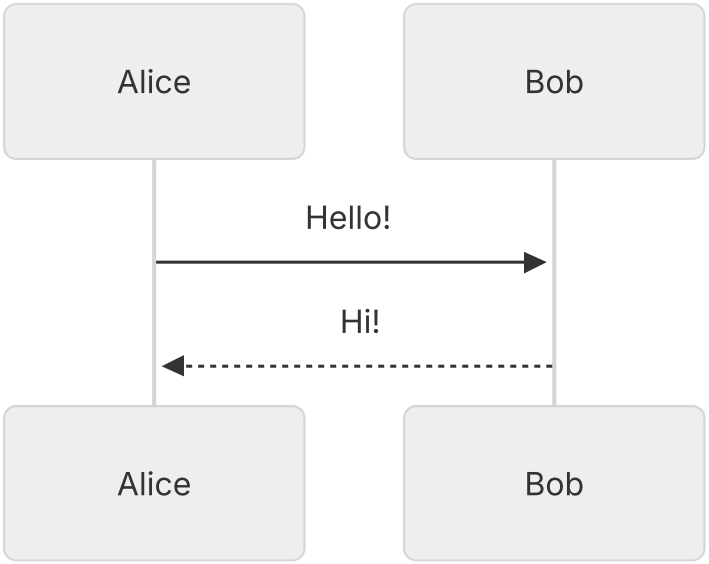
Result:



Sequence diagram

````
```mermaid
sequenceDiagram
  Alice->>Bob: Hello!
  Bob-->>Alice: Hi!
```
````

Result:


Alice
Bob
Hello!
Hi!
Alice
Bob

PDF layout

Extras that control how your document is laid out when exported to PDF.

Page break

Also: \pagebreak or .

```
End of chapter one.

\newpage

# Chapter two
```

Table of contents

Generated from your headings, with clickable links.

```
[toc]

## Introduction
## Method
## Results
```

Front matter

Sets the title, cover page details and per-document PDF settings.

```
---
title: Annual Report
author: Jane Doe
date: 2026-10-02
pdf:
  theme: academic
  toc: true
  cover: true
---

# Introduction
```

---

1. And here is the source. ↩