



GitHub Markdown Cheat Sheet

Complete guide to GitHub Flavored Markdown (GFM) syntax — including alerts, Mermaid diagrams, and LaTeX math that older cheat sheets skip

GitHub Flavored Markdown extends standard Markdown with extra features. See our Markdown Cheat Sheet for basic syntax.

GitHub-Specific Features

Task Lists

Interactive checkboxes

- [x] Completed task
- [] Incomplete task

Autolinks

URLs become links automatically

```
https://github.com is auto-linked
```

Issue/PR Reference

Link to issues and PRs

```
#123 or user/repo#123
```

User Mention

Mention and notify users

```
@username
```

SHA Reference

Link to commits

```
a1b2c3d4 or user/repo@a1b2c3d4
```

Emoji

Emoji shortcodes

```
:+1: :sparkles: :rocket:
```

Tables

Basic Table

Simple table

```
| Header 1 | Header 2 |  
|-----|-----|  
| Cell 1  | Cell 2  |
```

Aligned Table

Column alignment

```
| Left | Center | Right |  
|:----|:-----:|-----:|
```

Code Blocks

Syntax Highlighting

Specify language for highlighting

```
```javascript
const x = 1;
```
```

Diff Highlighting

Show code changes

```
```diff
- removed line
+ added line
```
```

Mermaid Diagrams

Create diagrams

```
```mermaid
graph TD;
 A-->B;
```
```

Alerts/Callouts

Note

Informational callout

- > [!NOTE]
- > Information note

Tip

Tip callout

- > [!TIP]
- > Helpful tip

Important

Important callout

- > [!IMPORTANT]
- > Key information

Warning

Warning callout

- > [!WARNING]
- > Warning message

Caution

Caution callout

- > [!CAUTION]
- > Dangerous action

Extended Features

Footnotes

Add footnotes

Text with footnote^[1]

[1]: Footnote content

Collapsed Section

Collapsible content

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

```
Hidden content
</details>
```

Keyboard Keys

Keyboard key styling

```
<kbd>Ctrl</kbd> + <kbd>C</kbd>
```

Subscript

Subscript text

```
H<sub>2</sub>O
```

Superscript

Superscript text

```
X<sup>2</sup>
```

Math (LaTeX)

LaTeX math rendering

```
Inline  $x^2$  or block:

$$x^2$$

```

```
\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}
$$
```

Syntax Highlighting Languages

GitHub supports syntax highlighting for 100+ languages. Common ones include:

javascript typescript python ruby go rust java c cpp csharp
php swift kotlin bash sql json yaml markdown html css

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between Markdown and GitHub Flavored Markdown?

GitHub Flavored Markdown (GFM) is a superset of standard Markdown. It adds tables, task lists, strikethrough, autolinks, footnotes, syntax-highlighted code blocks, and GitHub-specific features like @mentions, issue references, alerts, Mermaid diagrams, and LaTeX math.

How do I add a note or warning box in a GitHub README?

Use alerts: start a blockquote with [!NOTE], [!TIP], [!IMPORTANT], [!WARNING], or [!CAUTION] on its own line, for example "> [!WARNING]" followed by "> your message". GitHub renders it as a colored callout box in READMEs, issues, and PRs.

Does GitHub Markdown support Mermaid diagrams?

Yes. Create a fenced code block with the language set to mermaid and GitHub renders the diagram directly in READMEs, issues, discussions, and wikis — flowcharts, sequence diagrams, Gantt charts, and more.

Does GitHub Markdown support LaTeX math?

Yes. Wrap inline expressions in single dollar signs (x^2) and display equations in double dollar signs. GitHub renders them with MathJax in Markdown files, issues, discussions, and PRs.

How do I make a collapsible section in a GitHub README?

Use the HTML details element: `<details><summary>Title</summary> your content </details>`. Readers click the title to expand it. Leave a blank line after the summary tag so Markdown inside still renders.

Why is my Markdown table not rendering on GitHub?

Check for a separator row of dashes under the header row (`| --- | --- |`), make sure every row has the same number of pipes, and leave a blank line before the table. Pipes inside cells must be escaped with a backslash.

Related Tools

README Generator

Create project READMEs

Profile README

Create profile README

Markdown Cheat Sheet

Basic Markdown syntax