

Markdown Cheat Sheet with Examples

A complete Markdown syntax reference with copy-paste examples for every element. Use the quick table below, or explore each element interactively.

Markdown Syntax Quick Reference

Element	Markdown Syntax	Result
Heading 1	<code># Heading 1</code>	Largest heading
Heading 2	<code>## Heading 2</code>	Section heading
Bold	<code>**bold text**</code>	bold text
Italic	<code>*italic text*</code>	italic text
Bold + Italic	<code>***bold italic***</code>	bold italic
Strikethrough	<code>~~struck through~~</code>	struck through
Inline code	<code>`code`</code>	code
Link	<code>[title](https://example.com)</code>	title (clickable)
Image	<code>![alt text](image.jpg)</code>	embedded image
Unordered list	<code>- Item 1 - Item 2</code>	bulleted list
Ordered list	<code>1. First 2. Second</code>	numbered list

Element	Markdown Syntax	Result
Task list	<pre>- [x] Done - [] Todo</pre>	checkbox list
Blockquote	<pre>> quoted text</pre>	indented quote
Code block	<pre>```js code ```</pre>	fenced code block
Table	<pre> A B - - 1 2 </pre>	data table
Horizontal rule	<pre>---</pre>	divider line

Headings

Headings

Create headings using # symbols. The number of # symbols determines the heading level (1-6).

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

- Discord

- Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
# Heading 1
## Heading 2
### Heading 3
#### Heading 4
##### Heading 5
##### Heading 6
```

OUTPUT

Heading 1

Heading 2

Heading 3

Heading 4

Heading 5

Heading 6

TIPS

- Always put a space after the # symbols

- Use heading levels hierarchically

COMMON MISTAKES

- Skipping heading levels (e.g., going from H1 to H3)

Alternative Headings

Alternative syntax for H1 and H2 using underlines.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

- Discord

- Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
Heading 1
```

```
=====
```

```
Heading 2
```

```
-----
```

OUTPUT

Heading 1

Heading 2

Emphasis

Bold

Make text bold using double asterisks or underscores.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

✓ Discord

✓ Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
**bold text**
```

```
__also bold__
```

OUTPUT

bold text
also bold

Asterisks: `**bold text**`

Underscores: `__bold text__`

TIPS

- Asterisks are more commonly used and work in more contexts

Italic

Make text italic using single asterisks or underscores.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

✓ Discord

✓ Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
*italic text*
```

```
_also italic_
```

OUTPUT

italic text
also italic

Asterisks: `*italic text*`

Underscores: `_italic text_`

Bold & Italic

Combine bold and italic using triple asterisks or underscores.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

✓ Discord

- Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
***bold and italic***
```

```
___also bold and italic___
```

OUTPUT

bold and italic

also bold and italic

Strikethrough

Strike through text using double tildes.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

✓ Discord

✓ Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
~~strikethrough text~~
```

OUTPUT

~~strikethrough text~~

Highlight

Highlight text using double equals signs. Note: Not standard Markdown.

- Github

- Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

- Discord

- Slack

- Notion

MARKDOWN

```
==highlighted text==
```

OUTPUT

```
==highlighted text==
```

TIPS

- This is an extended syntax, not supported everywhere

Lists

Unordered List

Create bullet lists using dashes, asterisks, or plus signs.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

✓ Discord

✓ Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
- Item 1
- Item 2
  - Nested item
  - Another nested
- Item 3
```

OUTPUT

```
Item 1
Item 2
  Nested item
  Another nested
Item 3
```

Dashes: `- Item - Item`

Asterisks: `* Item * Item`

Plus signs: `+ Item + Item`

TIPS

- Use 2 spaces for nesting
- Be consistent with your list marker

Ordered List

Create numbered lists using numbers followed by periods.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

- Discord

- Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
1. First item
2. Second item
3. Third item
   1. Nested item
   2. Another nested
```

OUTPUT

```
First item
Second item
Third item
  Nested item
  Another nested
```

TIPS

- Numbers don't need to be in order - Markdown will auto-number

Links

Inline Link

Create a clickable link with custom text.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

✓ Discord

✓ Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
[Link text](https://example.com)
```

OUTPUT

[Link text](#)

Link with Title

Add a tooltip title that appears on hover.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

- Discord

- Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
[Link text](https://example.com "Title on hover")
```

OUTPUT

[Link text](#)

Reference Link

Define links separately for cleaner text.

✓ Github ✓ Gitlab ✓ Obsidian - Discord - Slack ✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
[Link text][ref]
```

```
[ref]: https://example.com
```

OUTPUT

[Link text](#)

TIPS

- Great for documents with many links to the same URL

Autolink

Automatically convert URLs to clickable links.

✓ Github ✓ Gitlab ✓ Obsidian ✓ Discord ✓ Slack ✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

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

OUTPUT

<https://example.com>

Images

Image

Embed an image with alt text.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

- Discord


- Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
![Alt text](https://example.com/image.jpg)
```

OUTPUT

 Alt text

TIPS

- Always include descriptive alt text for accessibility

Image with Title

Add a tooltip title to an image.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

- Discord


- Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
![Alt text](https://example.com/image.jpg "Image title")
```

OUTPUT

 Alt text

Linked Image

Make an image clickable by wrapping it in a link.

Github Gitlab Obsidian - Discord - Slack Notion

MARKDOWN

```
[![Alt text](https://example.com/image.jpg)](https://example.com)
```

OUTPUT

 [Alt text](#)

Code

Inline Code

Format code inline using backticks.

Github Gitlab Obsidian Discord Slack Notion

MARKDOWN

```
Use `code` inline
```

OUTPUT

Use `code` inline

Code Block

Create a code block with syntax highlighting.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

✓ Discord

✓ Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
```javascript
const greeting = "Hello, World!";
console.log(greeting);
```
```

OUTPUT

```
const greeting = "Hello, World!";
console.log(greeting);
```

TIPS

- Specify the language after the opening backticks for syntax highlighting

Indented Code Block

Create a code block using 4 spaces indentation.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

- Discord

- Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
    const greeting = "Hello";
    console.log(greeting);
```

OUTPUT

```
const greeting = "Hello";
console.log(greeting);
```

Tables

Table

Create tables using pipes and dashes.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

- Discord

- Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
Header 1	Header 2	Header 3
Cell 1	Cell 2	Cell 3
Cell 4	Cell 5	Cell 6
```

OUTPUT

| Header 1 | Header 2 | Header 3 |
|----------|----------|----------|
| Cell 1 | Cell 2 | Cell 3 |
| Cell 4 | Cell 5 | Cell 6 |

TIPS

- Columns don't need to be perfectly aligned
- Use colons for alignment

Table Alignment

Align table columns using colons.

✓ Github ✓ Gitlab ✓ Obsidian - Discord - Slack ✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
Left	Center	Right
L	C	R
```

OUTPUT

| Left | Center | Right |
|------|--------|-------|
| L | C | R |

Blockquotes

Blockquote

Create a blockquote using the > character.

✓ Github ✓ Gitlab ✓ Obsidian ✓ Discord ✓ Slack ✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
> This is a blockquote.
> It can span multiple lines.
```

OUTPUT

This is a blockquote.
It can span multiple lines.

Nested Blockquote

Nest blockquotes using multiple > characters.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

- Discord

- Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
> Outer quote
```

```
>> Nested quote
```

```
>>> Even more nested
```

OUTPUT

```
Outer quote
```

```
  Nested quote
```

```
    Even more nested
```

Horizontal Rules

Horizontal Rule

Create a horizontal line using three or more dashes, asterisks, or underscores.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

- Discord

- Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
---
```

```
***
```

```
---
```

OUTPUT

Dashes:

```
---
```

Asterisks:

```
***
```

Underscores:

```
---
```

Task Lists

Task List

Create interactive checklists using brackets.

- ✓ Github
- ✓ Gitlab
- ✓ Obsidian
- Discord
- Slack
- ✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
- [x] Completed task  
- [ ] Incomplete task  
- [ ] Another task
```

OUTPUT

- Completed task
- Incomplete task
- Another task

Footnotes

Footnote

Add footnotes to your document.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

- Discord

- Slack

- Notion

MARKDOWN

```
Here's a sentence with a footnote.[^1]
```

```
[^1]: This is the footnote content.
```

OUTPUT

Here's a sentence with a footnote.¹

This is the footnote content. ↩

Other

Line Break

Create a line break by ending a line with two spaces.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

- Discord

- Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
First line  
Second line
```

OUTPUT

```
First line  
Second line
```

TIPS

- Two spaces at the end of a line creates a `
`

Escaping Characters

Escape special characters using backslash.

✓ Github

✓ Gitlab

✓ Obsidian

✓ Discord

✓ Slack

✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
\*Not italic\  
\# Not a heading
```

OUTPUT

```
*Not italic*  
# Not a heading
```

Emoji

Insert emojis using shortcodes.

✓ Github ✓ Gitlab ✓ Obsidian ✓ Discord ✓ Slack ✓ Notion

MARKDOWN

```
:smile: :heart: :thumbsup:
```

OUTPUT

:smile: :heart: :thumbsup:

TIPS

- GitHub supports a wide range of emoji shortcodes

Comment

Hide notes in your source using HTML comments. The text is invisible in the rendered output.

✓ Github ✓ Gitlab ✓ Obsidian - Discord - Slack - Notion

MARKDOWN

```
<!-- This comment will not appear in the rendered output -->
```

OUTPUT

TIPS

- Comments can span multiple lines - everything between <!-- and --> is hidden

COMMON MISTAKES

- Putting sensitive information in comments - anyone reading the raw source can still see them

Syntax Deep Dives

Want more than a quick reference? Each guide covers edge cases, common mistakes, and platform differences for one element.

[Bold](#)
[Italic](#)
[Strikethrough](#)
[Headings](#)
[Links](#)
[Images](#)
[Code Blocks](#)

[Tables](#)
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[Escaping Characters](#)
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[Emoji](#)
[Highlight](#)
[Comments](#)

[Markdown Hacks](#)
[All syntax guides →](#)

Markdown Flavors Compared: What Works Where

Core Markdown is the same everywhere, but every platform adds and removes features. Click a platform name for its full cheat sheet.

| Feature | GitHub | Obsidian | Jupyter | Discord | Slack |
|--|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Bold <code>**text**</code> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ⚠️ <code>*text*</code> |
| Headings <code>#</code> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ (H1-H3) | ✗ |
| Tables | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Task lists - <code>[]</code> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Images <code>![alt](url)</code> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| LaTeX math <code>\$x^2\$</code> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Underline <code>__text__</code> | ✗ (bold) | ✗ (bold) | ✗ (bold) | ✓ | ✗ |
| Spoilers <code> text </code> | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ |

| Feature | GitHub | Obsidian | Jupyter | Discord | Slack |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------|---------|---------|-------|
| Highlight <code>==text==</code> | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Footnotes <code>[^1]</code> | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Markdown?

Markdown is a lightweight markup language for creating formatted text using a plain-text editor. It was created by John Gruber in 2004 and is now one of the most popular markup languages in the world.

Is Markdown the same everywhere?

While core Markdown syntax is consistent across platforms, different platforms (GitHub, Discord, Obsidian, etc.) may support additional features or have slight variations. This is often called "flavored Markdown".

What can I use Markdown for?

Markdown is used for documentation, README files, blog posts, notes, emails, and more. It's supported by GitHub, GitLab, Reddit, Discord, Slack, Notion, Obsidian, and many other platforms.

Do I need special software to write Markdown?

No, you can write Markdown in any plain text editor. However, specialized Markdown editors like VS Code, Obsidian, or Typora provide live preview and additional features.

What are the most common Markdown syntax examples?

The most common Markdown examples are: `#` Heading for headings, `**bold**` for bold text, `*italic*` for italics, `[title](url)` for links, `![alt](image.jpg)` for images, `-` item

for bullet lists, > quote for blockquotes, ``code`` for inline code, and triple backticks for code blocks.

Is there a printable Markdown cheat sheet PDF?

Yes — click the Download PDF button at the top of this page to get the complete Markdown cheat sheet as a free PDF file you can print or keep offline. No signup or email required.

Related Tools

Markdown Editor

Write and preview Markdown with our online editor

Table Generator

Create Markdown tables visually

Quote Generator

Generate blockquotes and callouts