

Markdown

Plain text for readable documents.

01 / EVERYDAY SYNTAX

01 Headings

```
# Project
## Install
### Usage
#### Notes
##### Detail
##### Small
```

CommonMark: one to six # characters set the heading level. Put a space after #. Use a clear heading hierarchy; one main title is a useful document convention, not a syntax requirement.

02 Paragraphs & soft breaks

First paragraph, first source line.
Still the same paragraph.

A second paragraph starts here.
Blank lines separate paragraphs.

Blank lines separate paragraphs. A normal source newline is a soft break, commonly displayed as a space. Keep intentional paragraph breaks; do not rely on editor line wrapping.

03 Visible hard line breaks

```
First line\  
Second line
```

A new paragraph.
Another soft line.

The visible backslash at the first line's end creates a hard break. Two trailing spaces also work but are easy to lose. A blank line makes a paragraph break, not just a line break.

04 Emphasis & strong text

```
*emphasis*  
**strong**  
***both***  
_italic_  
__bold__
```

Match delimiters without spaces just inside. * or _ marks emphasis; double them for strong emphasis. Surrounding punctuation/whitespace affect parsing.

05 Inline & reference links

```
[Guide](https://example.com/guide)  
[Start here](#quick-start)
```

```
[API][api]
```

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

Use [text](destination); reference links move URLs to definitions. Heading IDs such as #quick-start depend on the renderer. Use descriptive link text.

06 Images & linked images

```
![Flow diagram](images/flow.png)
```

```
![Flow](flow.png "Diagram title")
```

```
![Build](badge.svg)](https://example.com)
```

Images add ! to links. Brackets hold alt text; quoted text is a title, not a caption. Relative paths depend on location/host. Describe meaningful images.

07 Bullets & nested lists

- Install dependencies
- Run tests
 - Unit tests
 - Integration tests
- Build docs

Use -, +, or * as the bullet marker. Indent children to the parent item's content column: two spaces in this example. Blank lines between items produce a looser list.

08 Numbered lists

1. Clone the repository.
2. Install dependencies.
3. Start development.
 1. Open the local URL.
 2. Read the guide.

Ordered lists start with a number and . or). The first number sets the starting value; later source numbers do not set individual output numbers. Nested items here use three leading spaces.

09 Block quotes

```
> Save before continuing.  
>  
> **Tip:** keep examples small.  
>  
> > Nested note.
```

> introduces a quote. Keep the marker on blank quoted lines to retain separate quoted paragraphs. Quotes can contain normal Markdown, including lists, emphasis, and nested quotes.

Markdown

Code, GFM extras, and practical docs.

02 / CODE & DOCUMENTS

10 Inline code & backticks

Use ``npm test`` to run tests.

Use ``` `name` ``` to show backticks.

Inside code: ``*not emphasis*``.

Backticks mark code spans. Use a longer matching run if content has backticks. Markdown punctuation stays literal; whitespace is normalized.

11 Fenced code blocks

```
```js
const name = "Maya";
console.log(name);
```
```

The code above is JavaScript.

Use three or more backticks/tildes; close with the same character and at least that many. Language hints may enable color. Longer fences can contain shorter ones.

12 Escape punctuation

`\*literal stars\*`

`\#` Not a heading

`1\.` Not a numbered list

Use `&` for an ampersand.

Backslash escapes ASCII punctuation outside code. `&` is a character reference in normal text. Code spans/blocks keep these sequences literal.

13 Thematic rules

Before the divider.

After the divider.

Three or more matching `-`, `*`, or `_` characters make a thematic break. Blank lines clarify intent. A `---` line immediately below paragraph text can instead make a level-two setext heading.

14 Tables (GFM)

| | | | | |
|--|------|--|--------|--|
| | Name | | Role | |
| | :--- | | --- | |
| | Maya | | Admin | |
| | Leo | | Reader | |
| | Sam | | Editor | |

GFM extension: a header row and delimiter row start a table. Colons request left, right, or center alignment (`:---`). Escape a literal pipe as `\|`, including inside a code span in a cell.

15 Task lists (GFM)

- [x] Create the project
- [x] Add a README
- [] Write tests
 - [] Unit tests
 - [] Integration tests

GFM extension: put `[ ]` or `[x]` after a list marker, followed by a space. `X` also means checked. Nest tasks like other list items. Whether a checkbox is interactive depends on the host.

16 Strikethrough (GFM)

~~~~Old approach~~~~

Use **~~the new approach~~** instead.

Replace ~~~~foo~~~~ with bar.

GFM: double tildes strike text. Other inline formatting can be combined. A CommonMark-only renderer may show the tildes literally.

## 17 A useful README outline

# Project

A short description of its purpose.

## Quick start

See `[setup](docs/setup.md)`.

Start with purpose, requirements, and tested commands. Add examples, configuration, and license details. Resolve links from the README's location.

## 18 Portability checks

|             |                                    |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| CommonMark  | Core syntax used on these pages.   |
| GFM         | Adds tables, tasks, strikethrough. |
| Raw HTML    | A host may filter or disable it.   |
| Heading IDs | Generation rules vary by host.     |
| Preview     | Check the actual target renderer.  |

Test links, images, nesting, and fences on the target host. GFM reference: [github.github.com/gfm/](https://github.github.com/gfm/).