Introduction to Markdown



Plain text that reads well as it is and renders into books, slides and web pages: the Markdown that Grimoire and cantrip understand.

by @mplx

Text that reads as it is

```
# A heading

## A smaller heading

A paragraph is lines of text. A blank line
starts the next one.
```

- # to ######: six levels of headings
- A blank line between blocks; a single line break joins lines

Emphasis and inline code

```
**bold**, *italic*, `code`, ~~struck~~, ==marked==, H~2~O, x^2^
```

bold, *italic*, `code`, struck, marked, H2O, x2

Lists

```
- milk
- bread
  - white
  - rye

1. preheat the oven
2. mix the dough
```

Task lists and definition lists

```
- [x] written
- [ ] reviewed

deck
: a directory of Jennifer modules with a deck.toml
```

[x] written

[ ] reviewed

Links and images

```
[the manual](https://docs.jennifer-lang.dev/)
<https://jennifer-lang.dev/>
![The Jennifer logo](jennifer-logo.png)
```

- The text in brackets is what the reader sees
- An image is a link with `!` in front; its text describes it
- A relative path points to a file next to the page

Code blocks

````
```jennifer
use io;

io.printf("Hello, world!\n");
```
````

- Three backticks open and close a block
- The word after them names the language for highlighting
- Grimoire: `title="hello.j"` after the language names the file

Tables

```
| Tool     | Builds        | Output    |
| :------- | :-----------: | --------: |
| Grimoire | books         | HTML, PDF |
| cantrip  | slide decks   | HTML, PDF |
```

Tool	Builds	Output
Grimoire	books	HTML, PDF
cantrip	slide decks	HTML, PDF

Quotes and callouts

```
> A quotation, marked like a reply in an email.

> [!TIP]
> Run `jennifer fmt -w` before you commit.
```

> **Tip**
>
> Run `jennifer fmt -w` before you commit.

Anchors, classes and keys

```
## Installing {#install}

[Download the PDF](book.pdf){.gr-button}

Press <kbd>Ctrl</kbd> + <kbd>C</kbd> to stop.
```

Press `Ctrl` + `C` to stop.

What is not supported

- Footnotes: `[^1]` stays as written
- Raw HTML is escaped unless the book or deck allows it
- cantrip: a bare `https://` address in text is not linked
- cantrip: `---` separates slides, so it is not a rule or a heading underline

Grimoire: a book from a folder

```
# Summary

[Introduction](index.md)

# Using Grimoire

- [Installation](installation.md)
- [Commands](commands.md)
```

cantrip: slides from one file

```
---
theme: nordic
mode: dark
---

# The title slide

<!-- notes: what to say here -->

---

## The next slide
```

Where to go next

- Grimoire's Markdown: grimoire.jennifer-lang.dev
- cantrip's slide format: cantrip.jennifer-lang.dev
- Write a talk yourself: the Jennifer Academy

Based on Jennifer 0.26.0, November 2026.