

Markdown

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By the end of this training, participants will:

- select and use a markdown editor that offers real-time preview functionality.
- see how the preview feature aids in visualizing the final output.
- create a simple markdown document (headings, bold, italic).
- develop a complex markdown document
- trouble-shoot common markdown issues
- apply markdown in language technology tools (e.g. Project plan task descriptions, Notion)

1. Introduction to Markdown

- **What Markdown is:** a simple way of marking up plain text so that it is easy to read and write, yet can be seamlessly converted to structurally valid HTML.
- **Where it is used:** websites (e.g., the source files for the Paratext Manual), README files, the Paratext Project plan, and many more.
- **History & Evolution:** It started with two people, and as it has grown, there are several variants. (e.g., GitHub Flavored Markdown).

2. Core Syntax & Features

- **Basic Elements:** Headers, lists, emphasis (bold/italic), links, and images.
- **Advanced Features:** Code blocks, tables, blockquotes, and horizontal rules.
- **Inline HTML:** How and when to use HTML within Markdown for extra customization.

3. Tools & Editors

- **Text Editors & IDEs:** Overview of popular Markdown editors (Visual Studio Code, Notepad++, Google Docs (imports and exports md), etc.).
- **Preview & Conversion Tools:** Tools that help visualize Markdown in real-time and convert it (Pandoc, Markdown converters).

4. Practical Applications

- **Documentation:** Using Markdown for project documentation and technical writing.
- **Version Control:** How Markdown integrates with Git for documentation, README files, and wikis.
- **Content Management Systems:** Usage in blogs, static site generators (Jekyll, Hugo), and other publishing tools.

5. Best Practices

- **Consistency:** Tips for keeping Markdown documents clear and maintainable.
- **Collaboration:** Strategies for working with teams (e.g., using Markdown in pull requests, collaborative platforms like GitHub).
- **Accessibility:** Ensuring that Markdown documents are accessible to diverse audiences, including language technology contexts.

6. Customizations and Extensions

- **Flavors of Markdown:** Differences between standard Markdown and variants (CommonMark, GitHub Flavored Markdown).
- **Extensions & Plugins:** How to add extra functionalities like footnotes, diagrams, or mathematical expressions.
- **Integration with Language Tools:** Discuss how Markdown can be used in localization, documentation, or in developing language technology software.

7. Real-World Examples & Demos

- **Case Studies:** Present examples where Markdown has streamlined documentation or improved workflow.
- **Live Demo:** A hands-on session converting a document from Markdown to HTML or using a Markdown editor effectively.

8. Interactive Session

- **Q&A Session:** Address common questions and pitfalls.
- **Group Exercise:** A quick group task where participants convert or edit a Markdown document.

9. Additional Resources

- **Reference Guides:** Provide links to cheat sheets and comprehensive guides.
- **Community & Support:** Highlight forums, communities, or official documentation for ongoing support.