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TWiki Text Formatting

These instructions are for contributors who prefer to use the Raw Edit over the default WYSIWYG editor.
Working in TWiki is as easy as typing in text. You don't need to know HTML, though you can use it if you prefer. Links to topics are created automatically when you enter WikiWords. And TWiki shorthand gives you all the power of HTML with a simple coding system that takes no time to learn. It's all laid out below.

TWiki Editing Shorthand

Formatting Command:	You write:	You get:

Paragraphs:
Blank lines will create new paragraphs.
	`1st paragraph`
	
	`2nd paragraph`
		1st paragraph
		
		2nd paragraph

Headings:
Three or more dashes at the beginning of a line, followed by plus signs and the heading text. One plus creates a top level heading, two pluses a second level heading, etc. The maximum heading depth is 6.
 	
💡 You can create a table of contents with the %TOC% variable.
💡 If you want to **exclude** a heading from the TOC, put `!!` after the `---+`.
⚠ Empty headings are allowed and won't appear in the table of contents.
	`---++ Sushi`
	`---+++ Maguro`
	`---+++!! Not in TOC`
		## Sushi
		
		### Maguro
		
		### Not in TOC

Bold Text: Words get shown in **bold** by enclosing them in `*` asterisks.	`*Bold*`	**Bold**
Italic Text: Words get shown in *italic* by enclosing them in `_` underscores.	`_Italic_`	*Italic*
Bold Italic: Words get shown in ***bold italic*** by enclosing them in `___` double-underscores.	`__Bold italic__`	***Bold italic***
Fixed Font: Words get shown in `fixed font` by enclosing them in = equal signs.	`=Fixed font=`	`Fixed font`
Bold Fixed Font: Words get shown in **`bold fixed font`** by enclosing them in double equal signs.	`==Bold fixed==`	**`Bold fixed`**

💡 You can follow the closing bold, italic, or other (`* _ __ = ==`) indicator with normal punctuation, such as commas and full stops.
⚠ Make sure there is no space between the text and the indicators.
⚠ All words enclosed by the indicators need to be on the same line.
	`_This works_,`
	`_this does not _`
	`_this fails`
	`too_`
		This works,
		_this does not _
		this fails too

	`-------`	———————

Separator (Horizontal Rule): Three or more three dashes at the beginning of a line..		

Bulleted List:
Multiple of three spaces, an asterisk, and another space.
ℹ️ For all the list types, you can break a list item over several lines by indenting lines after the first one by **at least 3 spaces**.
	```* level 1```
	``` * level 2```
	```* back on 1```
	```* A bullet```
	``` broken over```
	``` three lines```
	```* last bullet```
		• level 1
		    ♦ level 2
		• back on 1
		• A bullet broken over three lines
		• last bullet

Numbered List: Multiple of three spaces, a type character, a dot, and another space. Several types are available besides a number: | Type	Generated Style	Sample Sequence
1.	Arabic numerals	1, 2, 3, 4...
A.	Uppercase letters	A, B, C, D...
a.	Lowercase letters	a, b, c, d...
I.	Uppercase Roman Numerals	I, II, III, IV...

i.	Lowercase Roman Numerals	i, ii, iii, iv...		```1. Sushi```
				```1. Dim Sum```
				```1. Fondue```
				
				```A. Sushi```
				```A. Dim Sum```
				```A. Fondue```
				
				```i. Sushi```
				```i. Dim Sum```
				```i. Fondue```
					1. Sushi
					2. Dim Sum
					3. Fondue
					
					1. Sushi
					2. Dim Sum
					3. Fondue
					
					1. Sushi
					2. Dim Sum
					3. Fondue
					
					1. Sushi
					2. Dim Sum
					3. Fondue

Definition List:
Three spaces, a dollar sign, the term, a colon, a space, followed by the definition.
 	
Deprecated syntax: Three spaces, the term with no spaces, a colon, a space, followed by the definition.
	```$ Sushi: Japan```
	```$ Dim Sum: S.F.```
		Sushi
		    Japan
		Dim Sum
		    S.F.

Table: Each row of the table is a line containing of one or more cells. Each cell starts and ends with a vertical bar '|'. Any spaces at the beginning of a line are ignored. • `| *bold* |` header cell with text in asterisks • `|   center-aligned   |` cell with at least two, and equal number of spaces on either side • `|       right-aligned |` cell with more spaces on the left • `| 2 colspan ||` and multi-span columns with multiple `|`'s right next to each other • `|^|` cell with caret indicating follow-up row of multi-span rows • You can split rows over multiple lines by putting a backslash '`\`' at the end of each line	```| *L*	*C*	*R* |``` ```| A2	B2	C2 |``` ```| A3	B3	C3 |``` ```| multi span |||``` ```| A5-7	5	5 |``` ```|^| six	six |``` ```|^| seven	seven |``` ```| split\``` ```	over\``` ```	3 lines |``` ```| A9	B9	C9 |```		L	C	R
A2	B2	C2
A3	B3	C3
multi span		
A5-7	5	5
	six	six
	seven	seven
split	over	3 lines
A9	B9	C9	

- Contents of table cells wrap automatically as determined by the browser - Use `%VBAR%` or `|` to add | characters in tables. - Use `%CARET%` or `^` to add ^ characters in tables. 💡 The TablePlugin provides the `|^|` multiple-span row functionality and additional rendering features		

WikiWord Links:
CapitalizedWordsStuckTogether (or WikiWords) will produce a link automatically if preceded by whitespace or parenthesis.
💡 If you want to link to a topic in a different web write `Otherweb.TopicName`.
To link to a topic in a subweb write `Otherweb.Subweb.TopicName`.
ℹ️ The link label excludes the name of the web, e.g. only the topic name is shown. As an exception, the name of the web is shown for the WebHome topic.
⚠️ Dots `'.'` are used to separate webs and subwebs from topic names and therefore cannot be used in topic names.
 	
It's generally a good idea to use the TWikiVariables %SYSTEMWEB% and %USERSWEB% instead of TWiki and Main.
	`WebStatistics`
	
	`Sandbox.WebNotify`
	
	`Sandbox.WebHome`
	
	`Sandbox.Subweb.TopicName`
		WebStatistics
		
		WebNotify
		
		Sandbox
		
		TopicName

Anchors:
You can define a reference inside a TWiki topic (called an anchor name) and link to that. To *define* an anchor write `#AnchorName` at the beginning of a line. The anchor name must be a WikiWord of no more than 32 characters. To *link* to an anchor name use the `[[MyTopic#MyAnchor]]` syntax. You can omit the topic name if you want to link within the same topic.
	`[[WikiWord#NotThere]]`
	
	`[[#MyAnchor][Jump]]`
	
	`#MyAnchor`
	`To here`
		WikiWord#NotThere
		
		Jump
		
		To here

Forced Links:
Use double square brackets to create forced links: Write `[[link]]` or `[[link][label]]` to force a link. Use the former for singleton words and if automatic linking is disabled. Use the latter one to specify a link label other than the link. For the link, you can use internal link references (e.g. WikiWords) and URLs (e.g. http://TWiki.org/).
💡 Anchor names can be added to create a link to a specific place in a document.
💡 To "escape" double square brackets that would otherwise make a link, prefix the leading left square bracket with an exclamation point.
	`[[WikiWord]]`
	
	`[[WikiWord#TheSyntax]]`
	
	`[[WikiSyntax][wiki syntax]]`
	
	`[[http://gnu.org/][GNU]]`
	
	`[[Singleton]]`
	
	`escaped:`
	`![[WikiSyntax]]`
		WikiWord
		
		WikiWord#TheSyntax
		
		wiki syntax
		
		GNU
		
		Singleton
		
		escaped:
		[[WikiSyntax]]

Prevent a Link: Prevent a WikiWord from being linked by prepending it with an exclamation point.	`!SunOS`	SunOS

Disable Links: You can disable automatic linking of WikiWords by surrounding text with `<noautolink>` and `</noautolink>` tags. 🔳 It is possible to turn off all auto-linking with a NOAUTOLINK preferences setting.	`<noautolink>`
	`RedHat & SuSE`
	`</noautolink>`
		RedHat & SuSE

Mailto Links: E-mail addresses are linked automatically. To create e-mail links that have more descriptive link text, specify subject lines or message bodies, or omit the e-mail address, you can write `[[mailto:user@domain][descriptive text]].`	`a@b.com`
	
	`[[mailto:a@b.com]\`
	`[Mail]]`
	
	`[[mailto:?subject=\`
	`Hi][Hi]]`
		a@b.com
		
		Mail
		
		Hi

Verbatim Text: Surround code excerpts and other formatted text with `<verbatim>` and `</verbatim>` tags. 💡 `verbatim` tags disable HTML code. Use `<pre>` and `</pre>` tags instead if you want the HTML code within the tags to be interpreted. ⚠ *NOTE:* Preferences variables (* Set NAME = value) are set within verbatim tags.	`<verbatim>`
	`class CatAnimal {`
	`  void purr() {`
	`    <code here>`
	`  }`
	`}`
	`</verbatim>`
		`class CatAnimal {`
		`  void purr() {`
		`    <code here>`
		`  }`
		`}`

Literal Text: TWiki generates HTML code from TWiki shorthand. **Experts** surround anything that must be output literally in the HTML code, without the application of TWiki shorthand rules, with `<literal>..</literal>` tags. ⚠ any HTML within literal tags **must** be well formed i.e. all tags must be properly closed before the end of the literal block. 💡 TWiki Variables are expanded within literal blocks.	`<literal>` `| Not	A	Table |` `<literal>`	| Not | A | Table |

Protected Text: **Experts** protect text from mangling by WYSIWYG editors using `<sticky>..</sticky>` tags. Sticky tags don't have any effect on normal topic display; they are only relevant when content has to be protected from a WYSIWYG editor (usually because it isn't well-formed HTML, or because it is HTML that WYSIWYG would normally filter out or modify). Protected content appears as plain text in the WYSIWYG editor.	`<sticky>`
	`<div>`
	`This div is required`
	`</div>`
	`</sticky>`
		This div is required

Using HTML, CSS and JavaScript

You can use most HTML tags in TWiki topics without a problem. This is useful where you want to add some content that is formatted in a way that is not supported using TWiki shorthand, for example, you can write `<strike>deleted text</strike>` to get ~~deleted text~~.

There are a few usability and technical considerations to keep in mind:

- On collaboration pages, it's better **not** to use HTML, but to use TWiki shorthand instead - this keeps the text uncluttered and easy to edit using the plaintext editor.
- If you *must* use HTML, use XHTML 1.0 Transitional   syntax.
- Use `<literal>..</literal>` tags around blocks of HTML to avoid accidental interpretation of TWiki shorthand within the HTML.
- ⚠ Script tags may be filtered out, at the discretion of your TWiki administrator.

Recommendations when pasting HTML from other sources (using the plain-text editor):

- Copy only text between `<body>` and `</body>` tags.
- Remove all empty lines. TWiki inserts `<p />` paragraph tags on empty lines, which causes problems if done between HTML tags that do not allow paragraph tags, like for example between table tags.
- Remove leading spaces. TWiki might interpret some text as lists.
- Do not span a tag over more than one line. TWiki requires that the opening and closing angle brackets - `<...>` - of a HTML tag are on the same line, or the tag will be broken.
- In your HTML editing program, save without hard line breaks on text wrap.

When using a WYSIWYG editor, you can just copy-paste directly into the editor, and the content will be converted to TWiki shorthand automatically when you save.

It is also possible to add Cascading Style Sheets (CSS   ) and JavaScript   code to TWiki pages, which can be used to make TWiki application more interactive. To prevent TWiki from interpreting some text as markup, it can be enclosed in HTML-escaped `<pre>`-tags.

JavaScript Example:	CSS Example:

```
<!-- <pre> -->                        <!-- <pre> -->
<script language="javascript">        <style type="text/css">
<!--                                    /* put your CSS code here */
  // put your JavaScript code here    </style>
//-->                                  <!-- </pre> -->
</script>
<!-- </pre> -->
```

Hyperlinks

Being able to create links without any special formatting is a core TWiki feature, made possible with WikiWords and inline URLs.

Internal Links

- GoodStyle is a WikiWord that links to the GoodStyle topic located in the current web.

- NotExistingYet is a topic waiting to be written because it is a red-link. Create the topic by clicking on the link. (Try clicking, but then, **Cancel** - creating the topic would wreck this example!)

External Links

- `http://...`, `https://...`, `ftp://...`, `gopher://...`, `news://...`, `file://...`, `telnet://...` and `mailto:...@...` are linked automatically.

- Write `[[URL][label]]` to get an external link with a descriptive text for the link, such as `[[http://google.com/][Google home page]]` to get Google home page .

- E-mail addresses like `name@domain.com` are linked automatically.

TWiki Variables

TWiki Variables are names enclosed in percent signs that are that are expanded to some other text when the topic is displayed. For example, `%TOPIC%` is expanded to TWikiVariablesQuickStart. Some variables can take arguments in curly braces - for example, `%INCLUDE{"OtherTopic" ARG="arg"}%`.

Many TWiki variables are built-in, and others are predefined for your convenience. TWikiVariables describes how you can also define your own TWiki Variables at the entire site, individual web, or individual topic level. Variables are fully expanded *before* any of the TWiki text formatting rules are applied.

Commonly used variables:

- `%TOC%` : Automatically generates a table of contents based on headings in a topic - see the top of this page for an example.
- `%WEB%` : The current web, is **TWiki**.
- `%TOPIC%` : The current topic name, is **TWikiVariablesQuickStart**.
- `%ATTACHURL%` : The attachment URL of the current topic. Example usage: If you attach a file to a topic you can refer to it as **`%ATTACHURL%/image.gif`** to show the URL of the file or the image in your text.
- `%INCLUDE{"SomeTopic"}%` : Server side include, includes another topic. The current web is the default web. Example: **`%INCLUDE{"TWiki.SiteMap"}%`**
- `%SEARCH{"sushi"}%` : Inline search showing the search result embedded in a topic. FormattedSearch gives you control over formatting, used to create web-based applications.
- Documentation Graphics: There are many graphics available to use in your topics. Use `%ICON{"help"}%`, `%ICON{"tip"}%`, and `%ICON{"warning"}%` to get: 🛈, 💡, and ⚠, respectively.
- **See all TWiki variables**.

💡 To "escape" a variable, prefix it with an exclamation mark. Write: `!%SOMEVARIABLE%` to get: %SOMEVARIABLE%.

TWikiPlugin Formatting Extensions

Plugins can extend the functionality of TWiki into many other areas. There are a huge number of TWiki plugins available from the Plugins web on TWiki.org.

Currently enabled plugins on this TWiki installation, as listed by `%PLUGINDESCRIPTIONS%`:

- SpreadSheetPlugin (2013-10-10, $Rev: 26482 (2013-10-14) $): Add spreadsheet calculation like **`"$SUM( $ABOVE() )"`** to TWiki tables or anywhere in topic text
- BackupRestorePlugin (2013-02-16, $Rev: 25448 (2013-10-14) $): Administrator utility to backup, restore and upgrade a TWiki site
- ColorPickerPlugin (2013-02-15, $Rev: 25074 (2013-10-14) $): Color picker, packaged for use in TWiki forms and TWiki applications
- CommentPlugin (2013-02-10, $Rev: 24977 (2013-10-14) $): Quickly post comments to a page without an edit/preview/save cycle
- DatePickerPlugin (2013-09-04, $Rev: 26272 (2013-10-14) $): Pop-up calendar with date picker, for use in TWiki forms, HTML forms and TWiki plugins

- EditTablePlugin (2013-01-13, $Rev: 25108 (2013-10-14) $): Edit TWiki tables using edit fields, date pickers and drop down boxes
- ExplicitNumberingPlugin (1.6, $Rev: 19806 (2010-11-09) $): Use the `##., ##..` etc. notation to insert outline numbering sequences (1, 1.1, 2, 2.1) in topic's text. Also support numbered headings.
- GoogleAnalyticsPlugin (2011-05-14, $Rev: 21272 (2011-05-14) $): Adds Google Analytics javascript code to specified pages
- HeadlinesPlugin (2013-02-16, $Rev: 25104 (2013-10-14) $): Show headline news in TWiki pages based on RSS and ATOM news feeds from external sites
- InterwikiPlugin (2013-02-12, $Rev: 25126 (2013-10-14) $): Text `ExternalSite:Page` links to a page on an external site based on aliases defined in a rules topic
- JQueryPlugin (2013-09-28, $Rev: 26439 (2013-10-14) $): jQuery JavaScript library for TWiki
- PreferencesPlugin (2013-09-08, $Rev: 26286 (2013-10-14) $): Allows editing of preferences using fields predefined in a form
- RenderListPlugin (2013-01-28, $Rev: 24820 (2013-10-14) $): Render bullet lists in a variety of formats
- SetGetPlugin (2013-01-28, $Rev: 24822 (2013-10-14) $): Set and get variables in topics, optionally persistently across topic views
- SlideShowPlugin (2013-04-07, $Rev: 25715 (2013-10-14) $): Create web based presentations based on topics with headings.
- SmiliesPlugin (2013-01-13, $Rev: 24784 (2013-10-14) $): Render smilies as icons, like `:-)` for 🙂 or `:eek:` for 😨
- TablePlugin (2013-09-25, $Rev: 26425 (2013-10-14) $): Control attributes of tables and sorting of table columns
- TagMePlugin (2013-10-23, $Rev: 26549 (2013-10-25) $): Tag wiki content collectively or authoritatively to find content by keywords
- TwistyPlugin (2013-03-22, $Rev: 25508 (2013-10-14) $): Twisty section JavaScript library to open/close content dynamically

Check on current Plugin status and settings for this site in TWikiPreferences.

Common Editing Errors

TWiki formatting rules are fairly simple to use and quick to type. However, there are some things to watch out for, taken from the TextFormattingFAQ:

- **Q:** Text enclosed in angle brackets like `<filename>` is not displayed. How can I show it as it is?
  - ♦ **A:** The '`<`' and '`>`' characters have a special meaning in HTML, they define HTML tags. You need to escape them, so write '`<`' instead of '`<`', and '`>`' instead of '`>`'. Example: Type '`prog <filename>`' to get '`prog <filename>`'.

- **Q:** Why is the '`&`' character sometimes not displayed?
  - ♦ **A:** The '`&`' character has a special meaning in HTML, it starts a so called character entity, i.e. '`©`' is the © copyright character. You need to escape '`&`' to see it as it is, so write '`&`' instead of '`&`'. Example: Type '`This & that`' to get '`This & that`'.

Related topics: WikiSyntax, WikiWord, WikiNotation, TextFormattingRules, TWikiEditingShorthand, TWikiRenderingShortcut, TWikiShorthand, TWikiVariablesQuickStart

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This topic: TWiki > TextFormattingRules
Topic revision: r54 - 2011-06-05 - TWikiContributor

Ideas, requests, problems regarding TWiki? Send feedback

Note: Please contribute updates to this topic on TWiki.org at TWiki:TWiki.TextFormattingRules.