

# Formatting Text

Last Modified on 07/22/2025 12:00 am EDT

DevResults enables you to format text in narrative fields using a system called Markdown. Markdown uses simple characters to create emphasis, lists, headers, links, and images. If you use **forms** to generate reports from DevResults, the exported Word document will come with the formatting used online. You can use Markdown on the project overview page, the indicator definition page, and for **narrative responses** each reporting period.

This page includes information about:

- **Making text bold or italic**
- **Using paragraphs**
- **Creating bulleted or numbered lists**
- **Adding headers**
- **Including links**
- **Embedding images**

## Making text bold or italic

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The examples below show how to type the formatting and how it appears when you're done.

Create italic text with one set of *asterisks* or *underscores*.

Make text bold with double **asterisks** or **underscores**.

Combine emphasis with **asterisks** and *underscores*.

Strikethrough uses two tildes. ~~Scratch this.~~

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## Using paragraphs

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Make sure to use two returns to create separate paragraphs.

This appears in a separate line  
while this does not.

You can also add line dividers using three dashes in a paragraph by themselves.

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This creates separate sections on the page.

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## Creating bulleted or numbered lists

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In this example, leading and trailing spaces are shown with with dots: ...

```
Create a bulleted list with asterisks, pluses, or minuses. They all work the same:
* Item one
- Item two
+ Item three

Add a numbered list like so:
1. First ordered item
2. Second item
3. Another item

Create sublists and combine bullets and numbering:

1. First numbered list item
2. Second numbered list item
..* Bulleted sub-item
..* Bulleted sub-item
3. Another item
..1. Numbered sub-item
..2. Numbered sub-item
4. And another item

...You can have properly indented paragraphs within list items. Notice the blank line above and the leading
...To have a line break without a paragraph, you will need to use two trailing spaces..
...Note that this line is separate, but within the same paragraph..
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1. First ordered list item
2. Second numbered list item
  - Bulleted sub-item
  - Bulleted sub-item

- 3. Another item
  - 3.1. Numbered sub-item
  - 3.2. Numbered sub-item

- 4. And another item

You can have properly indented paragraphs within list items. Notice the blank line above and the leading spaces.

To have a line break without a paragraph, you will need to use two trailing spaces.

Note that this line is separate, but within the same paragraph.

## Adding headers

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Use hashes to create headings on separate lines:

```
# Main Heading
## Sub-Heading
### Another Sub-Heading
#### Even More Specific Heading
##### We Can Keep On Going
##### And We're Finally Getting to the Point
```

# Main Heading

---

## Sub-Heading

---

### Another Sub-Heading

---

#### Even More Specific

---

#### **We Can Keep On Going**

#### **AND WE'RE FINALLY GETTING TO THE POINT**

## Including links

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Create links using brackets and parentheses:

```
[Here's a link](https://www.devresults.com)
```

```
[Here's a link with hover-over title](https://www.devresults.com "DevResults Homepage")
```

```
[Here's a link to start an email]()
```

[Here's a link](https://www.devresults.com)

[Here's a link with hover-over title](https://www.devresults.com)

[Here's a link to start an email](mailto:)

## Embedding images

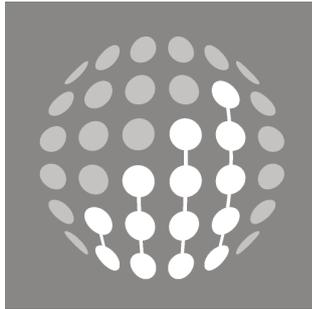
---

Adding images is similar to adding links. All you have to do is type **** and then put the URL to the photo in the (parentheses). Add a descriptive title inside the **[square brackets]** so that visually impaired users (or anyone else who uses a screen reader) will also know what the image is. For example:

```
Here's our logo. Hover to see the image title:  
![DevResults logo](https://i.imgur.com/eUgvBht.png)
```

You can paste this code into your narrative section or Markdown tile. The result would be:

Here's our logo. Hover to see the image title:



To get a link to a photo in your DevResults site, first click on the photo in your photos tab to get to a full-sized view. Right click on the image and select "copy image address."

### Resizing Images

Markdown does not offer an easy way to resize images. As an alternative, you can use **HTML**. These two lines of code are equivalent:

Markdown:

```
![DevResults logo](i.imgur.com/eUgvBht.png)
```

HTML:

```
</img>
```

Now you can add to your HTML code to resize an image. Here, I'm setting the width equal to 500 pixels. (The height will then scale proportionally.)

```
</img>
```

### Using an Image in Google Drive

Google makes it difficult to generate a link directly to the image content in Google Drive, but it's still possible. To do so:

Get the ID of the file: You can open the image in a new window or get the "shareable link" to the file. When you're viewing the image, your URL will look something like this:

```
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dCIELFHSw8KmXms431d8PPQkuWDfi3_Z/view
```

The ID of the image would be:

```
1dCIELFHSw8KmXms431d8PPQkuWDfi3_Z
```

Next, add the ID to this URL:

```
https://drive.google.com/uc?id=
```

The result is this new URL:

```
https://drive.google.com/uc?id=1dCIELFHSw8KmXms431d8PPQkuWDfi3_Z
```

You can then include the image in your DevResults site using this URL with either the Markdown or HTML syntaxes described above.

## More Resources

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For more markdown tricks, you can check out the syntax guide for the version we use, available at [daringfireball.net](https://daringfireball.net).

Didn't answer your question? Please email us at [help@devresults.com](mailto:help@devresults.com).

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## Related Articles

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