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Text Formatting FAQ

This topics lists frequently asked questions on text formatting. Text formatting applies to people who edit TWiki pages in raw edit mode. TextFormattingRules contains the complete TWiki shorthand syntax on one quick reference page.

How do I make a separator?

Create a separator - a horizontal rule - by entering three dashes at the beginning of a blank line: ---. You can enter more than three if you like, for a more visible separator in edit mode:

How do I create a heading?

You can create six sizes of headings - <h1>...<h6> in HTML - by typing, from the beginning of a line, three dashes (-), from one to six plus signs (+), a space, and your heading text. The FAQ questions on this page are created with: ---++ Have a question?.

- You can insert a nested table of contents, generated from headings, by placing %TOC% wherever you like on a page (see TWikiVariables for more %TOC% options).

Text enclosed in angle brackets like <filename> is not displayed. How can I show it as it is?

TWiki interprets text as HTML, and the '<' and '>' characters define where HTML commands start and end. Text *inside* angle brackets is treated as HTML, and ignored if it doesn't actually do anything - either way, the brackets and its contents are not displayed.

If you want to display angle brackets, enter them as HTML codes instead of typing them in directly:

- < = <
> = >
- **You enter:** (a > 0)

Result: (a > 0)

Some words appear highlighted with a red-link. How can I prevent that?

A red-link points to a topic that doesn't exist yet - click on it to create the new page. This is a TWiki feature - typing a MeaningfulTitle in a comment is an invitation for someone else to add a new branch to the topic.

To prevent auto-linking - say you want to enter a word like JavaScript - prefix the WikiStyleWord with an exclamation point:

- !WikiStyleWord displays as WikiStyleWord
-

How do I start a word with an exclamation mark?

A leading exclamation point is used to escape wiki formatting, as we have learned in the previous question. Sometimes it has an unwanted effect, such as when you want to write "!=" (e.g. "not equal"), you will not see the exclamation mark.

To escape the exclamation mark escape, try prefixing a `<nop>`, e.g. write `A <nop>!= B` to get "A != B". Alternatively, use the HTML entity `!`, which renders as an exclamation mark, e.g. write `A != B` to get "A != B".

How can I write fixed font text?

The quickest way is to enclose the text in equal signs:

- **You enter:** Proportional text, =fixed font=, proportional again.

Result: Proportional text, fixed font, proportional again.

Text I enter gets wrapped around. How can I keep the formatting as it is?

TWiki interprets text as HTML, so you can use the `preformatted HTML` option to keep the new line of text as is. Enclose the text in `<pre> </pre>`, or in TWiki's own `<verbatim> </verbatim>` tag:

This text will keep its format as it is:

```
<verbatim>
  Unit      Price    Qty    Cost
  -----  -
  aaa      12.00     3     36.00
</verbatim>
```

The `pre` tag is standard HTML; `verbatim` is a special TWiki tag that forces text to fixed font mode, and also prevents other tags and TWiki shortcuts from being expanded.

NOTE: VARIABLES are still Set within `verbatim` tags (this is a historical peculiarity)

NOTE: The `verbatim` opening and closing tags are converted into `pre` tags; any HTML attributes (e.g., `class`, `id`) in the opening `verbatim` tag are included in the corresponding `pre` tag.

How do I create tables?

There are three possibilities:

1. Use Wiki rule with "|" vertical bars.
2. Use HTML tables with `<table>`, `<tr>`, `<td>` tags.
3. Use preformatted text with `<verbatim>` tags.

1. Use Wiki rule with "|" vertical bars

- Example text:

```
| cell A1 | cell B1 | cell C1 |
```

```
| cell A2 | cell B2 | cell C2 |
```

- **Example output:**

cell A1	cell B1	cell C1
cell A2	cell B2	cell C2

2. Use HTML tables with <table>, <tr>, <td> tags

This is a manual process using HTML commands.

You enter:

```
<table border="1">
  <tr>
    <th> Head A  </th> <th> Head B  </th>
  </tr><tr>
    <td> Cell A2 </td> <td> Cell B2 </td>
  </tr><tr>
    <td> Cell A3 </td> <td> Cell B3 </td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

Result:

Head A	Head B
Cell A2	Cell B2
Cell A3	Cell B3

3. Use preformatted text with <verbatim> tags

See "Text I enter gets wrapped around..."

Can I include images on a page?

Yes. The easiest way is to attach a GIF, JPG or PNG file to a topic and then to place it with: %ATTACHURL%/myImage.gif. This works only for the topic where the image is attached to.

To place an image on any topic, there are two ways of including inline images.

1. Using URL ending in .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png

This is a simple and automatic way of including inline images. Simply write the URL of the image file, this will create the inline image for you. **NOTE:** The images must be accessible as a URL.

- **You enter:** %PUBURL%/TWiki/TWikiLogos/T-logo-80x15.gif logo.
- Result:**  logo.

You can upload images directly to your server with FTP access. You can also attach image files to a topic - you could even create a dedicated image topic, like ImageLibrary - and then link to the images directly:

- Attach pic.gif to Someweb.SomeTopic
- Display with %PUBURL%/Someweb/SomeTopic/pic.gif

2. Using tag

This is a manual process where you have more control over the rendering of the image. Use the tag of HTML to include GIF, JPG and PNG files. **Note:** The rendering of the topic is faster if you include the width

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and `height` parameters that have the actual image size.

<http://www.htmlhelp.com/reference/wilbur/special/img.html> has more on inline images.

- **You enter:** ` logo.`

Result:

 logo.

Can I write colored text?

TWikiPreferences defines some commonly used colors: `%YELLOW%`, `%RED%`, `%PINK%`, `%PURPLE%`, `%TEAL%`, `%NAVY%`, `%BLUE%`, `%AQUA%`, `%LIME%`, `%GREEN%`, `%OLIVE%`, `%MAROON%`, `%BLACK%`, `%GRAY%`, `%SILVER%` and `%ENDCOLOR%`.

- **You enter:** `%RED% red text %ENDCOLOR%` and `%GREEN% green text %ENDCOLOR%`

Result: red text and green text

Note: `%<color>%` text must end with `%ENDCOLOR%`. If you want to switch from one color to another one you first need to end the active color with `%ENDCOLOR%`, e.g. write `%RED% some text %ENDCOLOR% %GREEN% more text %ENDCOLOR%`.

If you need more colors you can use HTML, like ` red text `. You can also use the up-to-date `style` attribute - ex: `style="color:#ff0000"` - placed in most HTML tags. `span` is an all-purpose choice: `CoLoR`. Only old (like 3.x IE & NS) browsers have a problem with `style`.

The code is the *hexadecimal RGB color code*, which is simply Red, Green and Blue values in hex notation (base 16, 0-F). For pure red, the RGB components are 255-0-0 - full red (255), no green or blue. That's FF-0-0 in hex, or `"#ff0000"` for Web page purposes. StandardColors lists basic colors.

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