

# The Text::Amuse markup manual

The writer's guide

2012

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# The Muse markup

A Muse document uses special, contextual markup rules to determine how to format the output result. For example, if a paragraph is indented, Muse assumes it should be quoted. Indentation is heavily used to determine if the paragraph is something different from “normal” text.

There are not too many markup rules, and all of them strive to be as simple as possible so that you can focus on document creation, rather than formatting.

This document describes Muse, which was written by John Wiegley, then maintained by Michael Olson and edited for this implementation by Marco Pessotto.

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# Paragraphs

Paragraphs in Muse must be separated by a blank line.

## Centered and right aligned paragraphs and quotations

A line that begins with six or more columns of whitespace (but less than 20) indicates a centered paragraph.

Alternatively, you can use the `<center>` tag to surround regions that are to be published as centered paragraphs.

Like this

But if the line begins with more than 20 spaces, you'll have a right aligned paragraph. This is handy for signatures.

Like this right-aligned one.

The same result is done with the `right` tag.  
Using the tags:

Like this centered one

And this is right

This is a quotation:

But if a line begins with whitespace (at least 2 spaces), though less than six columns, it indicates a quoted paragraph. Alternatively, you can use the `<quote>` tag to surround regions that are to be published as quoted paragraphs.

## Source

A line that begins with six or more columns of whitespace (but less than 20) indicates a centered paragraph.

Alternatively, you can use the `=<center>=` tag to surround regions that are to be published as centered paragraphs.

Like this

But if the line begins with more than 20 spaces, you'll have a right aligned paragraph. This is handy for signatures.

Like this right-aligned one.

The same result is done with the `=right=` tag.

Using the tags:

```
<center>
Like this centered one
</center>
```

```
<right>
And this is right
</right>
```

This is a quotation:

But if a line begins with whitespace (at least 2 spaces), though less than six columns, it indicates a quoted paragraph. Alternatively, you can use the `=<quote>=` tag to surround regions that are to be published as quoted paragraphs.

**Please keep in mind that indentation must be consistent if you prefer to keep the lines short** and break them inserting a new line. Long lines (using the rule 1 line, 1 paragraph) are perfectly fine. The rule of paragraphs separated by blank lines still apply, though.

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Also, <tags> which start and stop blocks, **must be placed on a line by themselves.**

## Literal paragraphs

The <example> tag is used for examples, where whitespace should be preserved, the text rendered in monospace, and any characters special to the output style escaped.

Example:

```
<example>
```

```
The =<example>= tag is used for examples, where whitespace should be preserved, the text rendered in monospace, and any characters special to the output style escaped.
```

```
</example>
```

There is no <literal> tag as in the original Muse markup, because it's not a private tool and will be exposed to the internet.

## Line breaks

If you need a line break, then use the br tag. Most of the time this tag is unnecessary, because Muse will automatically detect paragraphs by means of blank lines. If you want to preserve newlines in several lines of text, then use verse markup instead.

This line will break <br> And continue

Yields:

This line will break  
And continue.

If you want to add a blank, line, put the br tag on a line by itself:

Here we add a blank line

<br>

Here we go.

Here we add a blank line

Here we go.

## Page breaks

If you put exactly five “\*” separated by whitespace on a line by itself, indented by 6 or more spaces (like a centered paragraph), you’ll get a page break in the PDF.

This code will break the page.

```
* * * * *
```

```
*****
```

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Anyway, using three of them is just a decorator and it's not threatened specially.

\* \* \*

It's just a centered paragraph with 3 "\*".

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# Levels of headings

A heading becomes a chapter or section in printed output - depending on the style. To indicate a heading, start a new paragraph with one or more asterices, followed by a space and the heading title. Then begin another paragraph to enter the text for that section.

All levels of headings will be published. There is support for 5 levels.

The first level is a "part", and should be used only for larger texts. In this document is used for the License and for the main title.

The second level is a "chapter". It starts a new page on the PDF output.

The third level is undoubtedly the most used. It usually separate a section of an article. For example the "Literal paragraph" above.

The forth level goes down further.

## Forth level, a "subsection"

The fifth level is very, very low. It's handy to create description lists, too. It's not dumped on the Table of Contents.

### item 1

A description

### item 2

Another description

## The example of levels

\* First level, aka part

\*\* Second level, aka chapter

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\*\*\* Third level, aka section

\*\*\*\* Fourth level, aka subsection

\*\*\*\*\* Fifth level, aka subsubsection

# Directives at the beginning of a document

Directives are lines beginning with the ‘#’ character that come before any paragraphs or sections in the document.

Directives are of the form `#directive content of directive`.

You can use any combination of uppercase and lowercase letters for directives, even if the directive is not in the list below. The directives are completely arbitrary. You can put there whatever you want. It’s the template job to pick them up. In the templates shipped with this bundle there is support for the following directives:

The following is a list of directives that Muse uses.

- `#author`

The author of the text.

- `#title`

The title of the document

- `#lang`

The language code of the document (2 or 3 letters). Defaults to en.

- `#LISTtitle`

This directive is used (defaulting to `#title`) to alphabetically sort the titles. It’s handy if you want, for example, sort “A title” under “T” and not under “A”.

In this case you may write `#LISTtitle Title`

- `#subtitle`

The subtitle (if any)

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## Bold, italicized and emphasized text

To emphasize text, surround it with certain specially recognized characters. The following example will produce:

```
emphasis strong emphasis very strong emphasis verbatim and  
monospace
```

```
*emphasis*  
**strong emphasis**  
***very strong emphasis***  
=verbatim and monospace=
```

Each of these forms may span multiple lines, but not multiple paragraphs.

You can also use the `<code>` tag to indicate verbatim and monospace text. This is handy for regions that have an “=” in them.

If the “\*” confuse you or the preview is screwed up, you can use inline tag `<em>` and `<strong>`, which are guarantee to work in any case.

The above example rewritten with tags:

```
<em>emphasis</em>  
<strong>strong emphasis</strong>  
<strong><em>very strong emphasis</em></strong>  
<code>verbatim and monospace</code>
```

And produces the same thing.

```
emphasis strong emphasis very strong emphasis verbatim and  
monospace
```

Please note that there is no support for the underline. Underlining is an handwritten substitute for the italics. You simply don't need it.

```
That shew of such an exercise may colour <br>  
Your loneliness. We are oft too blame in this, <br>  
'Tis too much prou'd, that with Deuotions visage, <br>  
And pious Action, we do surge o're <br>  
The diuell himselfe
```

```
**King.** Oh 'tis true: <br>  
How smart a lash that speech doth giue my Conscience? <br>  
The Harlots Cheeke beautied with plaist'ring Art <br>  
Is not more vgly to the thing that helps it, <br>  
Then is my deede, to my most painted word. <br>  
Oh heauie burthen!
```

```
</play>
```

**Pol.** Ophelia, walke you heere. Gracious so please ye

```
We will bestow our selues: Reade on this booke,  
That shew of such an exercise may colour  
Your loneliness. We are oft too blame in this,  
'Tis too much prou'd, that with Deuotions visage,  
And pious Action, we do surge o're  
The diuell himselfe
```

**King.** Oh 'tis true:

```
How smart a lash that speech doth giue my Conscience?  
The Harlots Cheeke beautied with plaist'ring Art  
Is not more vgly to the thing that helps it,  
Then is my deede, to my most painted word.  
Oh heauie burthen!
```

## Plays and bibliographies

Unlike the original Muse, this implementation doesn't support external sources for citations, but provides an environment which can be used to compose the list of cited works without resorting to lists, wrapping all in a `<biblio>` tag.

```
<biblio>
The author, *Title*, published on
[[http://theanarchistlibrary.org][The Anarchist Library]], with a
very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very,
very, long description

Another author, *Another title*, published in the real world. with a
very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very,
very, long description
</biblio>
```

The author, *Title*, published on The Anarchist Library, with a very, long description  
Another author, *Another title*, published in the real world. with a very, long description

The list is wrapped in a `<div>` with class set to `biblio`, while the TeX source gets wrapped in `\startawikibiblio` and `\stopawikibiblio`. You are free to change class and definition. A reversed indentation is suggested.

The same goes with the `<play>` environment, which is supposed to wrap theatrical plays, when you want a reverse indentation and more spacing between the paragraph (without resorting to `<verse>` and hardcoding the spaces).

```
<play>
**Pol.** Ophelia, walke you heere. Gracious so please ye <br>
We will bestow our selues: Reade on this booke, <br>
```

Also, small caps are missing, mainly because on the HTML they look awful and a very few fonts have decent small caps.

Other tags are `<sub>` and `<sup>` for subscript and superscript. And there is also a `<del>` tag for overstriking.

```
This is the <sup>superscript</sup> and this is a
<sub>subscript</sub>, and this is <del>something deleted and
overstriked</del>
```

This is the <sup>superscript</sup> and this is a subscript, and this is ~~something deleted and overstriked~~

## Making notes to be shown at the end

A footnote reference is simply a number in square brackets. To define the footnote, place this definition starting the line with a digit in square brackets.

This is the text, and we refer to a footnote [1]

Here the text continues.

[1] This footnote  
spans more lines in the source

[2] But this is not, because of the initial whitespace.

[3] Footnotes which don't have a referrer will disappear on the PDF output and preserved in the HTML. But will lead to incorrect code, as it will point to a non-existent anchor

This is the result:

---

This is the text, and we refer to a footnote<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>This footnote spans more lines in the source

Here the text continues.

[2] But this is not, because of the initial whitespace.

---

You can break the footnotes lines (even if it's not recommended), but keep the indentation consistent, as shown above

## Indicating poetic stanzas

Poetry requires that whitespace be preserved, but without resorting to monospace. To indicate this, use the following markup, reminiscent of email quotations, or use the verse tag.

```
> A line of Emacs verse;  
>   forgive its being so terse.
```

```
<verse>  
  A line of Emacs verse;  
  forgive its being so terse.  
</verse>
```

This yields:

```
A line of Emacs verse;  
  forgive its being so terse.
```

```
A line of Emacs verse;  
  forgive its being so terse.
```

Multiple stanzas may be included in one set of <verse> tags, as follows.

```
<verse>  
A line of Emacs verse;  
  forgive its being so terse.
```

In terms of terse verse,

## Lines to omit from published output

```
; Comment text goes here.
```

That is, only a semi-colon at the beginning of a line, followed by a literal space, will cause that line to be treated as a comment and **totally removed from the output**.

You can alternatively surround the region with the <comment> tag. In this case the HTML output will be wrapped in a <div> with the display:none property, so it can be turned visible changing the CSS.

```
<comment>  
This won't be published, but in the HTML is there, only hidden  
</comment>
```

# Inserting a horizontal line or anchor

## Horizontal Rules

Four or more dashes indicate a horizontal rule. Be sure to put blank lines around it, or it will be considered part of the proceeding or following paragraph, like this: ---.

Example

----

Results:

---

```
    you could do worse.  
</verse>
```

Or this

```
> A line of Emacs verse;  
>   forgive its being so terse.  
>  
> In terms of terse verse,  
>   you could do worse.
```

```
A line of Emacs verse;  
   forgive its being so terse.
```

```
In terms of terse verse,  
   you could do worse.
```

Or this

```
A line of Emacs verse;  
   forgive its being so terse.
```

```
In terms of terse verse,  
   you could do worse.
```

# Lists

Lists are given using special characters at the beginning of a line. Whitespace must occur before bullets or numbered items, to distinguish from the possibility of those characters occurring in a real sentence.

Normal text.

- bullet item one
- bullet item two

An enumerated list follows.

1. Enum item one
2. Enum item two

A list with roman numbering

- i. First
- ii. Second
- iii. Third

A list with upper roman numbering

- I. First
- II. Second
- III. Third

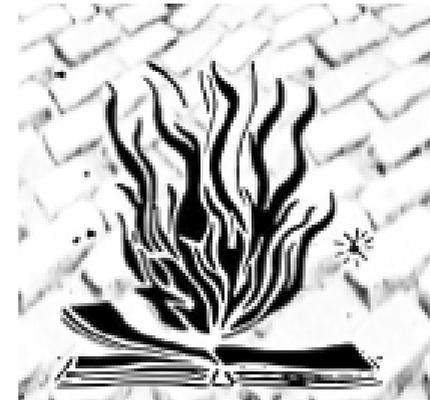
A list with upper letters

- A. first
- B. second
- C. third

of my life in the United States had been confiscated by the Department of Justice raiders and never returned. I lacked even my personal set of the Mother Earth magazine, which I had published for twelve years.

It was a problem I could see no solution for. Sceptic that I am, I had overlooked the magic power of friendship, which had so often in my life made mountains move. My staunch friends Leonard D. Abbott, Agnes Inglis, W. S. Van Valkenburgh, and others soon put my doubts to shame.

Agnes, the founder of the Labadie Library in Detroit, containing the richest collection of radical and revolutionary material in America, came to my aid with her usual readiness. Leonard did his share, and Van spent all his free time in research work for me.



full page

Suggestions that I write my memoirs came to me when I had barely begun to live, and continued all through the years. But I never paid heed to the proposal. I was living my life intensely — what need to write about it? Another reason for my reluctance was the conviction I entertained that one should write about one’s life only when one had ceased to stand in the very torrent of it. “When one has reached a good philosophic age,” I used to tell my friends, “capable of viewing the tragedies and comedies of life impersonally and detachedly — particularly one’s own life — one is likely to create an autobiography worth while.” Still feeling adolescently young in spite of advancing years, I did not consider myself competent to undertake such a task. Moreover, I always lacked the necessary leisure for concentrated writing.

My enforced European inactivity left me enough time to read a great deal, including biographies and autobiographies. I discovered, much to my discomfiture, that old age, far from ripening wisdom and



mellowness, is too often fraught with senility, narrowness, and petty rancour. I would not risk such a calamity, and I began to think seriously about writing my life.

right  
float

The great difficulty that faced me was lack of historical data for my work. Almost everything in the way of books, correspondence, and similar material that I had accumulated during the thirty-five years

of my life in the United States had been confiscated by the Department of Justice raiders and never returned. I lacked even my personal set of the Mother Earth magazine, which I had published for twelve years.



left  
float

It was a problem I could see no solution for. Sceptic that I am, I had overlooked the magic power of friendship, which had so often in my life made mountains move. My staunch friends Leonard D. Abbott, Agnes Inglis, W. S. Van Valkenburgh, and others soon put my doubts to shame.

Agnes, the founder of the Labadie Library in Detroit, containing the richest collection of radical and revolutionary material in America, came to my aid with her usual readiness. Leonard did his share, and Van spent all his free time in research work for me.

The great difficulty that faced me was lack of historical data for my work. Almost everything in the way of books, correspondence, and similar material that I had accumulated during the thirty-five years

A list with lower letters

- a. first
- b. second
- c. third

Please note the consistent indentation, **expecially** for roman numbering.  
Normal text.

- bullet item one
- bullet item two

An enumerated list follows.

1. Enum item one
2. Enum item two

A list with roman numbering

- i. First
- ii. Second
- iii. Third

A list with upper roman numbering

- I. First
- II. Second
- III. Third

A list with upper letters

- A. first
- B. second

C. third

A list with lower letters

- a. first
- b. second
- c. third

While the original Emacs Muse had the description lists, this implementation has not. You should use the fifth level of headings for those. The outcome is mostly the same (yes, you can't nest them in lists, but crazy nesting is beyond the scope of this markup).

## Nested lists

It is possible to nest lists of the same or different kinds. The "level" of the list is determined by the amount of initial whitespace.

Normal text.

- Level 1, bullet item one
  - 1. Level 2, enum item one
  - 2. Level 2, enum item two
- Level 1, bullet item two
  - 1. Level 2, enum item one
  - 2. Level 2, enum item two
    - i. Level 3, enum item i
    - ii. Level 3, enum item ii
  - 3. Level 2, enum item three
- Back to Level 1, third bullet
  - a. Level 2, enum item "a"
  - b. Level 2, enum item "b"
    - I. Level 3, enum item "I"
- Back to the bullets

Normal text.

## Floating images and adjusting width

By default, image width in the HTML output is kept to the original one, whatever it is, but limited via CSS, while in the PDF expands to fill the page width. This creates problems.

Starting with version 0.07, it's possible to set the width of the image, in **percent**, just appending it to the file name after a whitespace.

It's also possible to make it a right or left float, adding the character `l` or `r`, or to mark it as a "fullpage" with `f`.

This one will have a width to 80% of the page width:

```
[[logo.png 80]]
```

This one will have a width to 80% of the page width and will be a left float.

```
[[logo.png 80 l]]
```

This one will have a width to 80% of the page width and will be a right float.

```
[[logo.png 80 r]]
```

The Following will be marked as a fullpage.

```
[[logo.png f]]
```

Floating without a width doesn't make sense, as in the PDF will be no room for wrapping text around it.

## Examples

The next figures use these codes:

```
[[logo.png 10r][right float]]  
[[logo.png 10l][left float]]  
[[logo.png 50f][full page]]
```

```
[[logo.png][This is *our* logo]]
```



This is *our* logo

Remote urls are not permitted. Also, the path checking is rather strict, so please use just alphanumeric filenames for your images.

- Level 1, bullet item one
  1. Level 2, enum item one
  2. Level 2, enum item two
- Level 1, bullet item two
  1. Level 2, enum item one
  2. Level 2, enum item two
    - i. Level 3, enum item i
    - ii. Level 3, enum item ii
  3. Level 2, enum item three
- Back to Level 1, third bullet
  - a. Level 2, enum item “a”
  - b. Level 2, enum item “b”
    - I. Level 3, enum item “I”
- Back to the bullets

## Breaking list items

If you want to break up a line within any list type, just put one blank line between the end of the previous line and the beginning of the next line, using the same amount of initial indentation.

Keep in mind that if you put random indentation you’ll get random and probably unexpected results (but it should not crash – if it does, please contact me).

Also, you can be lazy with numbered list. The parser actually doesn’t care if you number them properly, or just do something like that.

1. first
1. second
1. third

or

- a. first
- a. second
- a. third

There results will always be:

1. first
2. second
3. third

or

- a. first
- b. second
- c. third

If you need to switch type while the list is running, put a `br` tag between them, or some invisible material like a non-breaking space.

This won't get you what you expect:

1. first
- a. first item

So you'll have to do:

1. first

`<br>`

- a. first item



# Hyperlinks with or without description (and images)

A hyperlink can reference a URL or a place on the same document. In addition, descriptive text can be specified, which should be displayed rather than the link text in output styles that supports link descriptions. The syntax is as follows.

```
[[link target][link description]]
[[link target without description]]
```

So, the home of this project is `[[http://theanarchistlibrary.org][The Anarchist Library]]`, which can be found at `[[http://theanarchistlibrary.org]]`. Bare links will not get the hyperlinking. So `http://thisisspam.org` won't get the hyperlinking.

So, the home of this project is The Anarchist Library, which can be found at `http://theanarchistlibrary.org`. Bare links will not get the hyperlinking. So `http://thisisspam.org` won't get the hyperlinking.

## Images

Images are special case of this kind of linking.

```
[[logo.png]]
```

We assume that we have the "logo.png" file on the same directory of the file, and the result is:

Now, let's add a caption.

Which yields:

---

This won't get you what you expect:

1. first
2. first item

So you'll have to do:

1. first
  - a. first item
- 

## Complete example

Normal text.

- Level 1, bullet item one, this is the first paragraph. I can break the line, keeping the same amount of indentation

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

1. Level 2, enum item one. i can break the line, keeping the same amount of indentation

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

2. Level 2, enum item two

which continues

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

- Level 1, bullet item two  
which continues

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

1. Level 2, enum item one  
which continues

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

2. Level 2, enum item two  
which continues

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

i. Level 3, enum item i

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

ii. Level 3, enum item ii

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

3. Level 2, enum item three  
which continues

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

- tables *without* a caption are inserted at the point they are in the source. Table *with* a caption are converted into a float, so they are in no way guaranteed they will appear in the same exact point of the source. Anyway, the result is way better, and you have a caption, so you can refer to them in the text.

# Generation of data tables

Only very simple tables are supported. The syntax is as follows (just keep the indentation consistent and separate each cell by one or more textbars.

```
Triple bars ||| Separate footer fields
Double bars  || Separate header fields
Single bars  | Separate body fields
Here are more | body fields
|+ This is the caption +|
```

Double bars	Separate header fields
Single bars Here are more	Separate body fields body fields
Triple bars	Separate footer fields

This is the caption

The ordering of the footer, header and table body blocks is irrelevant for the output (HTML requires you put first the header, then the footer, then the body). Ordering of the single rows is of course preserved. From this we come to the conclusion that you can't normally typeset the pipe symbol without triggering a list. In `<example>` you can type it freely. Inside the cells you can do pretty much what you want (beside headers and lists): mark them up freely.

## Floating tables

When composing tables, please keep in mind the following:

- tables are never splat over pages. If they don't fit a page, they will run off the page. So keep them short or split them yourself.

- Back to Level 1, third bullet

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

- a. Level 2, enum item "a"  
which continues

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

- b. Level 2, enum item "b"  
which continues

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

- I. Level 3, enum item "I"

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

- Back to the bullets

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

Normal text.

- Level 1, bullet item one, this is the first paragraph. I can break the line, keeping the same amount of indentation

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

- 1. Level 2, enum item one. i can break the line, keeping the same amount of indentation

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

2. Level 2, enum item two which continues

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

- Level 1, bullet item two which continues

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

1. Level 2, enum item one which continues

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

2. Level 2, enum item two which continues

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

- i. Level 3, enum item i

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

- ii. Level 3, enum item ii

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

3. Level 2, enum item three which continues

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

- Back to Level 1, third bullet

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

- a. Level 2, enum item “a” which continues

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

- b. Level 2, enum item “b” which continues

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

- I. Level 3, enum item “I”

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.

- Back to the bullets

Here I have the same amount of indentation, and it continues the item above.