

Basic USFM Cheat Sheet

Text Section

Any helpful notes.

Marker Name

\Marker

Example

1. Identification

Required. Always at beginning of book. Standard 3 letter id.

Book ID

\id

\id_GEN[return]

2. Book Titles

Required. Before chapter number, after ID.

Main Title

\mt (\mt1, \mt2)

\mt1_Genesis

3. Chapter Number

Required. After book title, before section headings, paragraph markers or verses.

Chapter Number

\c

\c_6[return]

4. Headings & Labels

Section Heading

\s (\s1, \s2)

\s1_The Thirty Wise Sayings

The common marker for section headings: \s1=main, \s2=second level (less important).

Parallel Passage Reference

\r

\r_(Mark 1.1-8; Luke 3.1-18)

Located on line under \s. A reference to a parallel passage.

Hebrew Subtitle

\d

\d_A Psalm of David

Located on line under \s. Usually in Psalms.

5. Paragraphs and Poetic Text

Paragraph Text

\p

\p_Some text {OR} \p[return]

Marks a new paragraph. Followed by a space and paragraph text or a new line and a verse marker.

Poetic Text (or Speech)

\q (\q1, \q2)

\q1_Some poetry {OR} \q1[return]

Identifies poetry or text which should be indented. Number represents level of indent.

5. Verses, Cross References and Footnotes

Verse Number

\v

\v_8_This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place...

Marker is placed on new line. It is followed by a space, the verse number, another space, then the verse text.

Cross Reference

\x...\x*

\x_+(\xo_REF_)cross reference content\x*

\x + \xo 1:11 \xt 2Kēn 24:14–15\x*

Entered inline within the main scripture body text, usually at start of verse. Defined by an opening and closing marker.

Footnote

\f...\f*

\f_+(\fr_REF_)footnote content\f*

\f + \fr 1.21 \fk the prophet: \ft One who announces the coming of the Messiah.\f*

Entered inline within the main scripture body text. Defined by an opening and closing marker.

