

Introduction to Standard Format Markers

Principles for using usfm:

Desire is to define the content, not the format.

Backslash markers identify each piece of text in a file.

Text can be used in Paratext and easily published (in print form or internet).

Order of markers is very important: \c \s \r \p \v

Examples:

\c	= chapter marker
\mt	= main title
\s	= section heading

Basic markers and mandatory markers

\id	\c	\v	= book identification, chapter breaks and verses
\p	or	\q	= prose, narrative text or poetry

Other common markers

\h	\mt	\ip	= running header, main title and introductory paragraph
\s	\r		= section heading and parallel reference
\ms	\mr		= <u>main</u> section heading and parallel reference

Footnotes and cross references

\f + This is a simple note. \f*

\f + \fr 6.7 \fq silver coins: \ft this is the note about the coins. \f*

\x - \xo 1.6: \xt Mt 3.1; Mk 1.4 \x*

Character markers

\nd...\nd*	- name of deity: Thus says the \nd Lord \nd*
\w...\w*	- mark word in text dictionary or glossary entries
\bk...\bk*	- name of book in Bible (introduction)
\tl...\tl*	- transliteration (most likely in a footnote)

You must number markers when you use more than two levels

\mt1	\mt2	\mt3
\s1	\s2	\s3
\q1	\q2	\q3

Summary of types and use

Titles:	for opening of introduction material and sections (ex: \mt1, \ms1 and \s)
Paragraph:	illustrate the text type and apply until the next paragraph style (ex: \p \q)
Notes:	footnotes and cross references markers are only used in notes (ex: \fr \fq \ft)
Characters:	special text (like bold) and apply until the closing marker (ex: \nd \bk)