

# Javadoc syntax

A doc comment consists of characters between the characters `/**` that begin the comment and the characters `*/` that end it. Leading asterisks are allowed on each line and are described below. Text in a comment can continue to multiple lines.

- **Leading asterisks**  
When Javadoc Tool parses a doc comment, leading asterisk (\*) characters on each line are discarded.
- **First sentence**  
The first sentence of each doc comment is a summary sentence.  
This sentence can be retrieved from `$doc.firstSentenceTags`.  
The first sentence tags are a collection of inline tags until full stops (.).
- **Comment and tag sections**  
A comment is the main description which begins after the starting delimiters `/**` and continues until the tag section. A tag section starts with the first block tag. The comment can be retrieved by `$doc.comment`
- **Comments written in HTML**  
Text is written in HTML and will be rendered as HTML support before being printed to a report. (See Appendix D: [HTML Tag Support](#))
- **Block and in-line tags**  
A tag is a special keyword within a doc comment that Javadoc Tool can process. There are two kinds of tags:
  - (i) **Block tags**  
They can be placed only in the tag section. The block tag form is `@tag`.  
The block tag can be accessed directly from the root document such as `$doc.param` and `$doc.author`.  
The `$doc.tags` will provide a collection of all the tags appearing in this Javadoc.
  - (ii) **Inline tags**  
They can be placed anywhere in the main description or in the block tags. The inline tag form is `{@tag}`.

The table below lists Current Supported Tags

Tag	JDK	Report Wizard Support
@author	1.0	Yes
{@code}	1.5	Render as <code>&lt;code&gt;text&lt;/code&gt;</code>
{@docRoot}	1.3	Not supported
@deprecated	1.0	Yes
@exception	1.0	Yes
{@inheritDoc}	1.4	Not supported
{@link}	1.2	Yes, with conditions (External link, model support, and class/method link will be ignored)
{@linkplain}	1.4	Yes, see {@link link}
{@literal}	1.5	Yes
@param	1.0	Yes
@return	1.0	Yes
@see	1.0	Yes, with conditions (External link, model support, and class/method link will be return as plain text)
@serial	1.2	Yes
@serialData	1.2	Yes
@serialField	1.2	Yes
@since	1.1	Yes
@throws	1.2	Yes
{@value}	1.4	Not Supported
@version	1.0	Yes