

How to Add a Border in Google Docs: Create Page, Paragraph, Text, and Table Borders Easily

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Quick answer

To add a border in Google Docs, you can use different methods depending on the type of border you need.

Google Docs supports paragraph borders and table borders directly, but it does not have a built-in page border feature. For a full-page border, you need to simulate it with a drawing or a one-cell table.

Add a Page Border in Google Docs

The most reliable way is to use a drawing with a rectangle shape.

1. Open your document in Google Docs.
 2. Go to Insert > Drawing > New .
 3. In the drawing window, click Shape and choose Rectangle .
 4. Draw the rectangle to create the border.
 5. Set the rectangle Fill color to Transparent .
 6. Choose the Border color , Border weight , and Border dash style you want.
 7. Click Save and Close .
 8. Click the inserted drawing and use the image/text wrapping options to position it as needed on the page.
- If your document is in Pageless mode, switch it to Pages first so the layout behaves like a normal page: File > Page setup > Pages.

Quote: Important: Google Docs does not offer a native page border option. The drawing method is a workaround, not a built-in page border control.

Alternative Page Border Method: One-Cell Table

1. Go to Insert > Table and insert a 1x1 table.
2. Click inside the table.
3. Use the border controls in the toolbar to set border color , border thickness , and border style .
4. Drag the table edges so it fills most of the page.
5. Adjust cell padding in Format > Table > Table options or by right-clicking the table and choosing Table options .

This method is simpler, but it can be harder to keep perfectly aligned across pages.

Add a Paragraph Border

1. Click anywhere in the paragraph you want to format, or select multiple paragraphs.
2. Go to Format > Paragraph styles > Borders and shading .
3. Choose which sides to show: top , bottom , left , right , or between .

4. Set the border width , border dash , and border color .
5. Optionally set background color and paragraph padding.
6. Click Apply .

This is the best method when you want a border around a quote, note, callout, or a single block of text.

Add a Border Around Text

Google Docs does not have a direct inline text border option for regular typed text. To put a border around text, use a text box inside a drawing.

1. Go to Insert > Drawing > New .
2. Click the Text box tool.
3. Draw the text box and type your text.
4. Set the border color , border weight , and fill color .
5. Click Save and Close to insert it into the document.

You can also use Word Art or other shapes inside the drawing tool if you want a more styled border effect.

Add or Edit Table Borders

1. Insert a table from Insert > Table if you have not added one already.
2. Select the table or the specific cells you want to change.
3. Use the toolbar to adjust:
 - Border color
 - Border width / thickness
 - Border dash style
 - Cell background color
4. To change only one side or one line, click that specific border line first, then apply the style from the toolbar.
5. For padding and vertical alignment, right-click the table and open Table options , or go to Format > Table > Table options .

Fastest Method for Each Border Type

- Page border: Insert a rectangle through Insert > Drawing .
- Paragraph border: Use Format > Paragraph styles > Borders and shading .
- Text border: Use a text box in Insert > Drawing .
- Table border: Select the table or cells and use the toolbar border controls .

Why This Happens

Many users expect Google Docs to work like Microsoft Word, where page borders are a built-in page formatting feature. In Google Docs, that feature still does not exist as a native page option, so page borders must be faked with drawings or tables. Paragraph and table borders are supported directly, which is why those options appear in the interface while full-page borders do not.