

# RFC2119 - Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels

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Table 1: Data sheet for RFC2119 Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels

Title	Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels
Acronym	
Version	1997
Document Number	RFC2119 Updated by <a href="#">RFC8174 - Ambiguity of Uppercase vs Lowercase in RFC 2119 Key Words</a>
Release Date	March 1997
Reference	<a href="https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2119">https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2119</a>

**Note:** The following is an excerpt from the official IETF RFC. It is provided here as a convenience and is not authoritative. Refer to the original document as the authoritative reference.

## Abstract

*In many standards track documents several words are used to signify the requirements in the specification. These words are often capitalized. This document defines these words as they should be interpreted in IETF documents. Authors who follow these guidelines should incorporate this phrase near the beginning of their document:*

*The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119. : **Note:** that the force of these words is modified by the requirement level of the document in which they are used. ~-DISCUSSION:on|Outstanding Issues~-  
~-DISCUSSION:off~-*

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