
HTML Tags & Attributes

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Overview

This table lists alphabetically the HTML 4.0 tags approved by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). Most tags require an end tag to delimit the content between the start and end tag. *If an end tag is optional, it is marked (O) in the following table. If an end tag is forbidden, it is marked (F).* Some tags in version 4.0 are deprecated. This means that they may not be supported in future browser versions. *Deprecated tags are marked (D) in the table, and they should be avoided.*

Attributes that may be defined within the delimiters of a tag are listed under each tag. A tag may have any number of attributes in any order, providing they do not conflict with one another. If a variable is followed by “,—” in the table, multiple values may be used as long as they are separated by a comma. Some of the attributes that accept standard variables are listed here.

Definitions

URL

URL stands for *uniform resource locator*. This may take several forms, as listed below:

- **directory**
(<http://www.hansenmedia.net/knowledgebase>)
- **file**
(<http://www.hansenmedia.net/knowledgebase/definitions.htm>)
- **specific location within a file**
(<http://www.hansenmedia.net/knowledgebase/definitions.htm#html4>)
This URL refers to a local position within the current page without requiring a full path name.

Pixels

A measurement that defines the size of an area on the screen. It is expressed as a decimal number.

Color

Either a proper color name or a code that identifies the exact color to be used to define the background color, text color, and link colors. It consists of the # symbol followed by a six-digit hexadecimal triplet, with two digits for red, two for green, and two for blue. For example, magenta is #ff00ff, cyan is #00ffff, and gold is #d4a017. Colors are designated as shown below, where “#code” represents a hexadecimal triplet.

<body bgcolor="#code"> for background color

<body text="#code"> for color of text (all non-hyperlinked items)

<body link="#code">	for color of unvisited links
<body vlink="#code">	for color of visited links
<body alink="#code">	for color of active links (while being selected)

An example in HTML: <body bgcolor="#FFFF33" text="#000000" link="#FF00FF" vlink="#7F0000" alink="#7E587E">

Frame size

The size of a frame, which may be expressed in several ways. A number represents a measurement in pixels. A percentage is used to define a portion of the width of a page.

Alignment

Used to indicate the positioning of an image relative to surrounding text. It may also be used for positioning text on a page. Common options are left, right, center, and justified.

HTML Tags & Attributes

HTML Tag/Attributes	End Tag	Function
<!-->	(F)	Indicates a comment that will not be rendered on a page
<!DOCTYPE>	(F)	Header info that defines the file format
HTML		Contents are an HTML document
PUBLIC		Contents are a readable document
"standard"		Specifies the version of HTML used Usage: <!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C HTML 4//EN">
</tag>		Ends the effect of the current tag (end tag)
<A>		Indicates an anchor (hypertext link)
HREF="URL">		Marks the beginning of a link to a document
NAME="#name">		Names the location on a page that becomes a target
REL="value,—"		The relationship of a link (jump to next target)
REV="value,—"		Reverses the relationship of a link (jump to previous link)
TARGET="value"		Displays contents of a URL in the named window Values: NAME, _BLANK, _PARENT, _SELF, _TOP
TITLE="text"		Provides a name for the page that is linked
<ABBR>		The abbreviated form of a term or phrase
<ACRONYM>		Identifies the content as an acronym
TITLE="text"		Displays text rather than the acronym
<ADDRESS>		Tightly formats text as a mailing address
<APPLET>		Instructs browser to execute a Java applet
ALIGN="alignment"		Aligns horizontally and vertically (LEFT, CENTER, RIGHT)

ALT="text"		Text that is displayed if that applet cannot be loaded
ARCHIVE=" value"		File name of an archive of multiple applets (extension .ZIP)
CODE=" value,—"		Java class code file that executes the applet
CODEBASE=" value"		Specifies the directory URL of the applet code
DOWNLOAD="value"		Specifies order in which images will be downloaded
HEIGHT="pixels"		Specifies the height of the display area in pixels
HSPACE="pixels"		Number of pixels spaced beside the applet displayed
MAYSCRIPT		Permits the browser to execute a JavaScript script
NAME="text"		Specifies a proper name for the applet
STYLE="text"		Specifies information about a style sheet (CSS)
TITLE="text"		Text to be displayed while applet is executing
VSPACE="pixels"		Number of pixels in the border above applet
WSPACE="pixels" or ="%"		Width of the display area
<AREA>	(F)	Describes the shape of a link on an image map
ALT="text"		Text displayed if image map cannot be rendered
COORDS="values"		The left, top, right, and bottom of the link area (required)
HREF="URL"		Location that is linked (required)
ID="text"		Refers to another location on the same page
NOHREF		This area is not a link
SHAPE="value"		Arranges image map values according to COORDS Values: RECT, CIRC, and POLY
TARGET="text"		Specifies window for display of named URL Values: _BLANK, _PARENT, _SELF, _TOP
		Indicates that text is to be bold
<BASE>	(F)	Specifies defaults for all URLs in a document
HREF="URL"		Absolute URL of home page (base for relative URLs)
TARGET="text"		Defines name or type of window for BASE HREF value Values: _BLANK, _PARENT, _SELF, _TOP
<BASEFONT>		Changes default for fonts in document
COLOR="text"		Specifies the default font COLOR
NAME="text"		Specifies the default font NAME
SIZE="number"		Sets the default font SIZE between 0 and 7
<BIG>		Increases current font size by one
<BLOCKQUOTE>		Indents specified text on both sides
<BODY>	(O)	Indicates the beginning of page content
ALINK="color"		Sets the color of all active links
BACKGROUND="URL"		Sets an image as the page background (JPG, GIF, or PNG)
BGCOLOR="color"		Sets a color for the background of a page
LINK="color"		Sets the color of an unvisited link

TEXT="color"		Sets the default color of all text
VLINK="color"		Sets the visited link color
 	(F)	Inserts a line break to start a new line of text
CLEAR=ALL		Instructs browser to clear text around a graphic or table
CLEAR=LEFT		Starts a new line below and left of image
CLEAR=NONE		Clears text without respect to margins
CLEAR=RIGHT		Starts a new line below and right of image
<CAPTION>		Sets placement for a caption above or below a table
ALIGN=BOTTOM		Places the caption below a table
ALIGN=TOP		Places the caption above a table (default)
<CENTER>	(D)	Centers text or an image across a page (Replaced by DIV align=center)
<CITE>		Italicizes text for all citations
<CODE>		Text is rendered in a mono-spaced font (program code) (Note: Does not override BASEFONT NAME)
<COL>	(F)	Specifies properties of columns in a table
ALIGN="alignment"		Specifies CENTER, LEFT, or RIGHT
SPAN="number"		Specifies number of columns defined by COL
<COLGROUP>		Specifies columns within a table cell
SPAN="number"		Specifies the number of consecutive columns in group
WIDTH="pixels" or "% "		Specifies width of columns inside a table cell
<DD>	(O)	Formats text as the definition of a term
<DFN>		"Defining instance," the first usage of a term or acronym
<DIR>		Formats text in a directory list, like a table of contents
<DIV>		Generic container, divides paragraphs of text
ALIGN="alignment"		Aligns text LEFT, RIGHT, or CENTER
<DL>		Formats a definition list
COMPACT		Reduces inter-item spacing in the list
<DT>		Defined term from a definition list, aligned left
		Emphasizes text (italic, usually)
<FIELDSET>		Groups elements together, facilitating form processing (LEGEND tag is used to create a caption for the FIELDSET)
CLASS="text"		Indicates the class attribute of the element
STYLE="text"		Specifies style sheet (CSS) information

TITLE="text"		The title of the FIELDSET container
	(D)	Specifies font attributes
COLOR="color"		Changes the font color
SIZE="number"		Changes the font to size (0-7)
SIZE="+number"		Increases font size (up to +6)
SIZE="-number"		Decreases font size (down to -6)
<FORM>		Structures a data input form
ACTION="URL"		Location to which data is directed (cgi-bin)
ENCTYPE="URL"		Specifies MIME encoding type
METHOD="protocol"		Selects transfer protocol for submit (GET or POST)
ONRESET="text"		Specifies event when RESET button is clicked
ONSUBMIT="text"		Specifies event when SUBMIT button is clicked
TARGET="text"		Displays a window with the FORM results returned
		Values: _blank, _parent, _self, _top
<FRAME>	(F)	Sets the attributes for a frame, part of a FRAMESET
FRAMEBORDER="value"		Sets visible or invisible property of frame border
		Values: IE4 (1, 0); Navigator 4 (YES, NO)
MARGINHEIGHT="pixels"		Sets the space above and below an object in a frame
MARGINWIDTH="pixels"		Sets the space between an object and the sides of a frame
NAME="frame"		Assigns a name to the frame
NORESIZE		Prevents frame borders from being moved
SCROLLING="value"		Allows scroll bars within a frame (YES or NO)
SRC="URL"		Identifies contents to be places in the frame
<FRAMESET>		Specifies the region of the screen to display frames
BORDER="pixels"		Sets the width of frameset borders (default is 5)
COLS="pixels" or "%"		Sets the height of the frame columns
ROWS="pixels" or "%"		Sets the width of the frame rows
<H"number">		Sets the heading level for text (number 1-6)
ALIGN="alignment"		Controls the headline alignment
		Value: LEFT, CENTER, RIGHT
<HEAD>	(O)	The page header that defines document content
		Usage:
		<HEAD >
		<META CONTENT="MOZILLA">
		<TITLE> "This Home Page"</TITLE>
		</HEAD>
<HR>	(F)	Creates a horizontal rule line
ALIGN="alignment"		Positions the rule line on the page

NOSHADA	Solid line, not shaded (default is 3D shading)
SIZE="pixels"	Sets thickness (height) of the line in pixels
WIDTH="pixels" or "%"	Sets width of line in pixels or as a percentage of space
<HTML>	Identifies an HTML formatted document (required)
	Usage:
	<HTML >
	<BODY>
	<H2>This is a second level heading.</H2>
	<BODY>
	</HTML>
<I>	Renders text in italic font
<IFRAME>	Specifies an inline subwindow, or floating frame (IE4)
ALIGN="alignment"	Specifies the alignment of the IFRAME object
	Values: LEFT, CENTER, RIGHT, TOP, MIDDLE, BOTTOM
FRAMEBORDER="value"	Displays a 3D border around the IFRAME (default shows 3D)
	Values: 0 (show no 3D), 1 (show 3D border)
HEIGHT="pixels"	Specifies height of an IFRAME
MARGINHEIGHT="pixels"	Determines vertical space between an object and edge of frame
MARGINWIDTH="pixels"	Determines horizontal space between text and the edge of frame
SCROLLING="value"	Controls whether content may scroll (default is AUTO)
	Values: YES, NO, AUTO
SRC="URL"	Displays contents of the URL named
WIDTH="pixels"	Determines vertical dimensions of an IFRAME
	(F) Displays a graphical image
	Usage:
	File types: GIF, JPG, PNG, XPM, XBM
ALIGN="alignment"	Positions the image in relation to text
	Values: BOTTOM, MIDDLE, LEFT, RIGHT, TOP
ALT="text"	Text that replaces a graphic that cannot be displayed
BORDER="pixels"	Identifies the thickness of a border around a graphic
	Default shows border; set to "0" to make invisible
HEIGHT="pixels"	Sets the vertical size of an image on a page
HSPACE="pixels"	Sets the horizontal space cleared around an image
ISMAP	The MAP is located on the server, or is server-side
SRC="URL"	Source location of URL or file to be displayed (required)
USEMAP="URL"	Specifies a client-side MAP, a file with the "#" prefix
VSPACE="pixels"	Clears vertical space above and below image
WIDTH="pixels" or "%"	Sets the width of an image horizontally
<INPUT>	(F) Creates a form field, or input object (default is text)

ALIGN="alignment"	Positions an input field on a page (default is TOP) Values: BOTTOM, MIDDLE, LEFT, RIGHT, TOP
CHECKED	Sets a check box or radio button to TRUE
MAXLENGTH="number"	Sets maximum number of characters user may enter
NAME="text"	Gives the form field a name
ONBLUR="text"	When focus is removed from an object, JavaScript is executed
ONCHANGE="text"	When contents of a box are changed, JavaScript is executed
ONFOCUS="text"	When the form object receives focus, JavaScript is executed
ONSELECT="text"	When user selects contents of a text box, JavaScript is executed
SIZE="number"	Sets the size of a text box in characters
SRC="URL"	Identifies an image file for a button on a form
TYPE=CHECKBOX	A basic checkbox (yes/no) in the field
TYPE=FILE	Directs browser to upload the specified file
TYPE=HIDDEN	Field is not visible to the user
TYPE=IMAGE	A graphical form submission button
TYPE=PASSWORD	Text entry field in which text is not displayed
TYPE=RADIO	An option select field (radio button)
TYPE=RESET	A button that clears all fields
TYPE=SUBMIT	A form submission button
TYPE=TEXT	A standard text field with one line (Note: Although not part of the HTML 4.0 specification, TEXTAREA creates a standard text field with multiple lines in some browsers.)
VALUE="text"	Default value for a field (required by radio and checkboxes)
<INS>	Text that has been inserted (used for revisions)
<INDEX>	(F) (D) Indicates that the document is a searchable index
ACTION="text"	Sends text to specified CGI program, followed by a question mark
PROMPT="text"	Substitutes specified text for the default prompt
<KBD>	Text appears in a bold mono-spaced font (keyboard style)
<LABEL>	Specifies label text for a form field Usage: <FORM action="name" method="post"> <LABEL for="uname">Your User Name: </LABEL> <INPUT type="text" id="username"> </FORM>
ACCESSKEY="text"	Accelerator key that puts the insertion point in the labeled text box
CLASS="text"	Indicates that the subclass style sheet is used to render the LABEL
FOR="text"	Specifies a name for the control object

ID="text"		Specifies a unique value for the control element
LANG="text"		Indicates the language to be rendered by the browser (fr=French)
LANGUAGE="text"		Specifies scripting language used (default is JavaScript)
<LEGEND>		
ACCESSKEY="text"		Accelerator key that places focus on labeled control object
CLASS="text"		Indicates that the sub-class style sheet is used to render the LEGEND
ALIGN="alignment"		Positions specified LEGEND related to fieldset (default is LEFT)
CLASS="text"		Indicates that the sub-class style sheet is used to render the LEGEND
ID="text"		Specifies a unique value for the LEGEND
LANG="text"		Indicates the language to be rendered by the browser (fr=French)
LANGUAGE="text"		Specifies scripting language used (default is JavaScript)
STYLE="text"		Specifies the way a Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) is to be used
TITLE="text"		Indicates the title of the LEGEND
VALIGN="alignment"		Places LEGEND above or below fieldset (TOP or BOTTOM)
		
TYPE=1		Arabic numbers (1, 2, 3) (Default)
TYPE=a		Lowercase letters (a, b, c)
TYPE=A		Uppercase letters (A, B, C)
TYPE=i		Lowercase Roman numerals (i, ii, iii, iv)
TYPE=I		Uppercase Roman numerals (I, II, III, IV)
TYPE="value"		Values: DISC, CIRCLE, SQUARE (shape of bullet symbol)
VALUE="number"		Sets the first number to be used in a sequence
<LINK> (F)		
		Specifies a location in a document or a different document Must be used inside HEAD tags
HREF="URL"		Displays specified HTML document when user clicks on LINK (Required attribute; case sensitive to a browser)
REL="value,—"		Defines relationship of the link, or location of style sheet (CSS) Values: HOME, TOC, INDEX, GLOSSARY, COPYRIGHT, UP, NEXT, PREVIOUS, HELP (required attribute)
REV="URL"		Reverses relationship of a link; may be used to indicate author
TITLE="URL"		The title of the document named in the LINK
<MAP>		
		Defines the areas of a client-side image map that are links (AREA tag is required to specify hot spots on the map)
NAME="name"		The name of the map (required)
<MENU> (D)		
COMPACT		Forces tighter lines in a MENU
<META>		
		Contains information defining a page

CONTENT="text"	The information contained (required)
HTTP-EQUIV="value"	Relates information with an HTTPd response field to the server Value: REFRESH (required attribute)
NAME="text"	The type of information contained in the CONTENT attribute
<NOFRAMES>	Specifies alternate text if browser cannot display frames
<NOSCRIPT>	Specifies alternate text if JavaScript cannot be executed
<OBJECT>	Embeds an object on a page OBJECT could be an image, control, applet, or document
ALIGN="alignment"	Positions the OBJECT in relation to text Values: BASELINE, TEXTBOTTOM, MIDDLE, TEXTMIDDLE, LEFT, RIGHT, CENTER, TEXTTOP,
BORDER="pixels"	Identifies the thickness of invisible border around OBJECT Default shows border; set to "0" to make invisible
CODEBASE="URL"	Specifies the URL in the programming code to reference (required)
DATA="URL"	Specifies the URL in the data to be accessed by OBJECT
DECLARE	Declares the OBJECT without instantiating it
HEIGHT="pixels"	Sets the vertical size of an OBJECT on a page (required)
HSPACE="pixels"	Sets the horizontal space cleared to the right or left of OBJECT
ID	Specifies a unique value that can be referenced elsewhere
SHAPES	Specifies that the OBJECT uses shaped hyperlinks
STANDBY="text"	Text to be displayed while OBJECT is loading
TYPE	Specifies MIME type to be used by OBJECT
USEMAP="URL"	Specifies a server-side MAP (filename and location)
VSPACE="pixels"	Clears vertical space above and below OBJECT
WIDTH="pixels" or "%"	Sets the width of the OBJECT horizontally
	An ordered list by number or letter
COMPACT	Reduces inter-item spacing in the list
START="number"	Specifies the first value to be used on the list
TYPE=1	Arabic numbers (1, 2, 3) (default)
TYPE=a	Lowercase letters (a, b, c)
TYPE=A	Uppercase letters (A, B, C)
TYPE=i	Lowercase Roman numerals (i, ii, iii, iv)
TYPE=I	Uppercase Roman numerals (I, II, III, IV)
<OPTGROUP>	Defines a group of options
DISABLED	Unavailable in this context
LABEL="text"	Specifies LABEL for hierarchical group
<OPTION>	Specifies a menu choice on a form
DISABLED	This choice may not be selected

SELECTED		The default choice in a list box
VALUE="text"		This text is sent to the server if option is chosen
<P>		A text paragraph
ALIGN="alignment"		Defines how text is aligned horizontally
		Values: CENTER, LEFT, RIGHT
<PARAM>	(F)	Passes parameters to a Java applet
<PRE>		Preformatted text with spaces and line returns
WIDTH="number"		Specifies the number of characters in each line
<Q>		A short inline quotation
<S>	(D)	Specified text displayed with a strike-through line
<SAMP>		Formats text samples in mono-spaced font (for code)
<SCRIPT>		Container for script statements
		Note: Hides script from browsers that cannot render scripts
LANGUAGE="text"		Specifies script language to use
SRC="URL"		Specifies the location of the script code
<SELECT>		A menu field or drop-down list box on a form
MULTIPLE		Allows more than one selection from a list
NAME="text"		The title for a list box
SIZE="number"		The number of items visible at once
<SMALL>		Instructs browser to use one size smaller than default font
		A generic language or style container
ALIGN="alignment"		Positions specified applet on a page (default is LEFT)
		Values: CENTER, LEFT, RIGHT, JUSTIFY
ID="text"		Specifies a unique value for element that can be referenced elsewhere
STYLE="text"		Specifies the way a Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) is to be used
<STRIKE>	(D)	Display the text with a line through it (strike-through)
		Text is rendered with strong emphasis (typically bold)
<STYLE>		Names a style sheet (CSS) to be applied to the document
		Overrides linked style sheets and browser settings
TITLE="text"		Not rendered by browser (may be useful to author)
TYPE="text"		Specifies how a style sheet (CSS) is to be used
		Also defines MIME type to be used
<SUB>		Displays text in subscript
<SUP>		Displays text in superscript

<TABLE>	Formats a table on the page
ALIGN= <i>alignment</i>	Positions the entire table on the page Values: CENTER, LEFT, RIGHT
BORDER= <i>pixels</i>	Defines thickness of a border in pixels
CELLPADDING= <i>pixels</i>	Distance between the cell wall and contents
CELLSPACING= <i>pixels</i>	Distance between table cells
COLS=" <i>number</i> "	Specifies the number of columns in the table
FRAME=" <i>value</i> "	Determines appearance of outside table edge Values: ABOVE, BELOW, BORDER, BOX, HSIDES, LHS, RHS, VOID, VSIDES
RULES=" <i>value</i> "	Specifies how interior borders appear in a table Values: GROUPS, COLS, NONE, ROWS "All" renders a rule on every row and column edge "ALL" renders a rule between every row and column
TITLE=" <i>text</i> "	Specifies a title for the table
WIDTH=" <i>pixels</i> " or "%"	Table width in pixels or as a percentage of available space
<TBODY>	Defines the table body and groups rows in a unit; Separates headers and footers with a horizontal rule
<TD>	Defines contents of a single table cell
ALIGN=" <i>alignment</i> "	Horizontal positioning of text in cell Values: CENTER, LEFT, RIGHT
COLSPAN=" <i>number</i> "	The number of cells spanned by a column
HEIGHT=" <i>number</i> " or "%"	Cell height in pixels or as a percentage of table
NOWRAP	No line breaks allowed in the cell
ROWSPAN=" <i>number</i> "	Number of table rows covered by the cell
VALIGN=" <i>alignment</i> "	Vertical positioning of text inside a cell Values: BASELINE, TOP, MIDDLE, BOTTOM
WIDTH=" <i>pixels</i> " or "%"	Cell width in pixels or as a percentage of the table
<TEXTAREA>	A text field with multiple lines in a form
COLS=" <i>number</i> "	The width of the field, in characters (required)
NAME=" <i>name</i> "	The name of the field (required)
ROWS=" <i>number</i> "	The height of the field, in characters (required)
<TFOOT>	Renders a table footer, useful when printing multiple pages
<TH>	Renders a table header cell (bold text by default)
ALIGN=" <i>alignment</i> "	Horizontal positioning of text in cell Values: CENTER, LEFT, RIGHT
COLSPAN=" <i>number</i> "	The width of the table header in characters
HEIGHT=" <i>pixels</i> " or "% "	Cell height in pixels or as a percentage of table
NOWRAP	No line breaks allowed in the cell

ROWSPAN=" <i>number</i> "	Number of table rows covered by the cell
VALIGN=" <i>alignment</i> "	Vertical positioning of text inside a cell Values: BASELINE, TOP, MIDDLE, BOTTOM
WIDTH=" <i>pixels</i> " or "%"	Cell width in pixels or as a percentage of the table
<THEAD>	Renders a page header before body of table (on printed pages)
<TITLE>	Defines the title of the page shown in the title bar
<TR>	Defines a table row
ALIGN=" <i>alignment</i> "	Horizontal positioning of text in cell Values: CENTER, LEFT, RIGHT
VALIGN=" <i>alignment</i> "	Vertical positioning of text inside a cell Values: BASELINE, BOTTOM, MIDDLE, TOP
<TT>	Renders text in a fixed-width font (like a teletype) Same as SAMP or CODE designation
<U>	(D) Renders text underlined
	Unordered list
TYPE=" <i>value</i> "	Substitutes a symbol for the standard bullet Values: CIRCLE, DISC, SQUARE
<VAR>	Renders text in a small fixed-width font for program variables
CLASS=" <i>text</i> "	Indicates the subclass to which element belongs
ID=" <i>text</i> "	Specifies a unique value for the element
LANG=" <i>text</i> "	Indicates the language to be rendered by the browser (fr=French)
LANGUAGE=" <i>text</i> "	Specifies scripting language used (default is JavaScript)
STYLE=" <i>text</i> "	Specifies the way a Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) is to be used
TITLE=" <i>text</i> "	Title placed in the FIELDSET container
<WBR>	Allows a "word break," overriding a <NOBR> instruction