

Top Seven HTML Tags

(Okay, actually, there are twelve, but two are subtags and the other three are so obvious you'll have no trouble remembering them.)

<html>

```
<html>...</html>
```

NN: 2, 3, 4 • MSIE: 2, 3, 4, 5 • HTML 4 • WebTV • Opera3

Placed at the beginning and end of the document, this tag tells the browser that the entire document is composed in HTML.

<head>

```
<head>...</head>
```

NN: 2, 3, 4 • MSIE: 2, 3, 4, 5 • HTML 4 • WebTV • Opera3

Defines the head (also called "header") portion of the document that contains information about the document. The <head> tag has no attributes, but serves only as a container for other header tags, such as <base>, <meta>, and <title>.

<title>

```
<title>...</title>
```

NN: 2, 3, 4 • MSIE: 2, 3, 4, 5 • HTML 4 • WebTV • Opera3

Specifies the title of the document. The title generally appears in the top bar of the browser window.

<body>

```
<body>...</body>
```

NN: 2, 3, 4 • MSIE: 2, 3, 4, 5 • HTML 4 • WebTV • Opera3

Defines the beginning and the end of the document body. The body contains the content of the document (the part that is displayed in the browser window). Attributes to the <body> tag affect the entire document.

Attributes

alink=#rrggb or *color name*

Sets the color of active links (i.e., the color while the mouse button is being held down during a "click"). Color is specified in hexadecimal RGB values or by standard web color name.

background=*url*

Provides the URL to a graphic file to be used as a tiling graphic in the background of the document.

bgcolor=#rrggb or *color name*

Sets the color of the background for the document.

link=#rrggb or *color name*

Sets the default color for all the links in the document.

text=#rrggb or *color name*

Sets the default color for all the text in the document.

vlink=#rrggb or *color name*

Sets the color of the visited links for the document.

<body> continued

Navigator 4.0 only

`marginwidth=number`

Specifies the distance (in pixels) between the left browser edge and the beginning of the text and graphics in the window.

`marginheight=number`

Specifies the distance (in pixels) between the top edge of the browser and the top edge of text or graphics in the window.

Internet Explorer only

`bgproperties=fixed`

When set to “fixed,” the background image does not scroll with the document content.

`leftmargin=number`

Specifies the distance (in pixels) between the left browser edge and the beginning of the text and graphics in the window.

`topmargin=number`

Specifies the distance (in pixels) between the top edge of the browser and the top edge of text or graphics in the window.

Setting margins

Because Navigator and Internet Explorer support different margin attributes, you may need to specify the margin attribute twice within the `<body>` tag to ensure full browser compatibility, as follows:

```
<BODY MARGINWIDTH=0 LEFTMARGIN=0>
```

<table>

```
<table>...</table>
```

NN: 2, 3, 4 • MSIE: 2, 3, 4, 5 • HTML 4 • WebTV • Opera3

Defines the beginning and end of a table. The end tag is required, and its omission may cause the table not to render in some browsers.

Attributes

`align=left|right|center`

Aligns the table within the text flow (same as `align` in the `` tag). The default alignment is `left`. The `center` value is not universally supported, so it is more reliable to center a table on a page using tags outside the table (such as `<center>` or `<div>`). This attribute has been deprecated by the W3C HTML 4.0 Specifications in favor of style sheet positioning.

`background=url`

Specifies a graphic image to be tiled in the background of the table. In Internet Explorer 3.0 and higher, the image tiles behind the entire table. In Navigator 4.0, the tile repeats itself in each individual frame (although its support is not officially documented).

<table> continued

`bgcolor=#rrggb or color name`

Specifies a background color for the entire table. Value is specified in hexadecimal RGB values or by color name.

`border=number`

Specifies the width (in pixels) of the border around the table and its cells. Set it to `border=0` to turn the borders off completely. The default value is 1. Adding the word `border` without a value results in a 1-pixel border.

`cellpadding=number`

Sets the amount of space inside the cell, in number of pixels, between the cellborder and its contents. The default value is 1.

`cellspacing=number`

Sets the amount of space, in number of pixels, between table cells. The default value is 2.

`frame=void|above|below|hsides|lhs|rhs|vsides|box|border`

Tells the browser where to draw borders around the tables. The values are as follows:

`void`

The frame does not appear (default)

`above`

Top side only

`below`

Bottom side only

`hsides`

Top and bottom sides only

`vsides`

Right and left sides only

`lhs`

Left-hand side only

`rhs`

Right-hand side only

`box`

All four sides

`border`

All four sides

When the border attribute is set to a value greater than zero, the frame defaults to `border` unless otherwise specified. This attribute was introduced by Internet Explorer 3.0 and now appears in the HTML 4.0 Specification. It is not supported by Navigator as of this writing.

`height=number, percentage`

Specifies the height of the entire table. It can be specified in a specific number of pixels or by a percentage of the browser window.

`hspace=number`

Holds a number of pixels space to the left and right of an aligned table (same as `hspace` in the `` tag).

<table> continued

`rules=none|groups|rows|cols|all`

Tells the browser where to draw rules within the table. The values are as follows:

`none`

No rules (default)

`groups`

Rules appear between row groups (`thead`, `tfoot`, and `tbody`) and column groups

`rows`

Rules appear between rows only

`cols`

Rules appear between columns only

`all`

Rules appear between all rows and columns

When the border attribute is set to a value greater than zero, rules default to `all` unless otherwise specified. This attribute was introduced by Internet Explorer 3.0 and now appears in the HTML 4.0 Specification. It is not supported by Navigator as of this writing.

`summary= text`

Provides a summary of the table contents for use with non-visual browsers.

`vspace=number`

Holds a number of pixels space to the top and bottom of an aligned table (same as `vspace` in the `` tag).

`width=number, percentage`

Specifies the width of the entire table. It can be specified in a specific number of pixels or by a percentage of the browser window.

Internet Explorer 2.0 and higher only

`bordercolor=#rrggbb or color name`

Specifies the color of the main center portion of a table border. (Table borders are rendered using three color values to create a 3-D effect.)

`bordercolorlight=#rrggbb or color name`

Specifies the color of the light shade used to render 3-D table borders.

`bordercolordark=#rrggbb or color name`

Specifies the color of the dark shade used to render 3-D table borders.

`<tr>.....<tr>...</tr>.....`

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Used within a `<table>`, defines a row of cells within a table. A table row is delimited by `<tr>` tags contains no content other than a collection of table cells (`<td>`). The end tag is optional.

Attributes

`align=left|right|center`

Aligns the texts (or other elements) within the cells of the current row. This attribute has been deprecated by the W3C HTML 4.0 Specifications in favor of positioning with style sheets.

<tr> continued

`bgcolor=#rrggb or color name`

Specifies a color to be used in the row. A row's background color overrides the color specified at the table level.

`valign=top|middle|bottom|baseline`

Specifies the vertical alignment of the text (or other elements) within cells of the current row.

Internet Explorer 2.0 and higher only

`background=url`

Specifies the URL of a graphic to be used as a tile within the row.

`bordercolor=#rrggb or color name`

Defines the border color for the row.

`bordercolorlight=#rrggb or color name`

Defines the light highlight color for the row border.

`bordercolordark=#rrggb or color name`

Defines the dark shadow color for the row border.

<td> <td>...</td>

NN: 2, 3, 4 • MSIE: 2, 3, 4, 5 • HTML 4 • WebTV • Opera3

Defines the beginning and the end of the document body. The body contains the content of the document (the part that is displayed in the browser window). Attributes to the <body> tag affect the entire document.

Attributes

`align=left|right|center`

Aligns the texts (or other elements) within the table cell. This attribute has been deprecated by the W3C HTML 4.0 Specifications in favor of positioning with style sheets.

`background=url`

Provides the URL to a graphic file to be used as a tiling graphic in the background of the document.

`bgcolor=#rrggb or color name`

Specifies a color to be used in the table cell. A cell's background color overrides colors specified at the row or table levels.

`colspan=number`

Specifies the number of columns the current cell should span. The default value is 1. According to the W3C HTML 4.0 Specification, the value 0 (zero) means the current cell spans all columns from the current column to the last column in the table; in reality, however, this feature is not supported in currently available 4.0 browsers.

<td> continued

height=number, percentage

Specifies the height of the cell in number of pixels or by a percentage value relative to the table height. The height specified in the first column will apply to the rest of the cells in the row. The height values need to be consistent for cells in a particular row. This attribute has been deprecated in the W3C HTML 4.0 Specification.

nowrap

Disables automatic text wrapping for the current cell. Line breaks must be added with a <p> or
. This attribute has been deprecated by the W3C HTML 4.0 Specification in favor of style sheet controls.

rowspan=number

Specifies the number of rows spanned by the current cell. The default value is 1. According to the W3C HTML 4.0 Specification, the value 0 (zero) means the current cell spans all rows from the current row to the last row; in reality, however, this feature is not supported in currently available 4.0 browsers.

valign=top|middle|bottom|baseline

Specifies the vertical alignment of the text (or other elements) within the table cell. The default is middle.

width=number

Specifies the width of the cell in number of pixels or by a percentage value relative to the table width. The width specified in the first row will apply to the rest of the cells in the column and the values need to be consistent for cells in the column. This attribute has been deprecated in the W3C HTML 4.0 Specification.

Internet Explorer 2.0 and higher only

bordercolor=#rrggb or color name

Defines the border color for the row.

bordercolorlight=#rrggb or color name

Defines the light highlight color for the row border.

bordercolordark=#rrggb or color name

Defines the dark shadow color for the row border.

New in HTML 4.0 Specification

abbr=text

Provides an abbreviated form of the cell's content.

axis=text

Places a cell into a conceptual category, which could then be used to organize the table in different ways.

headers=id reference

Lists header cells (by id) that provide header information for the current data cell. This is intended to make tables more accessible to non-visual browsers.

<td> continued

`scope=row|col|rowgroup|colgroup`

Specifies groups of data cells for which the current header cell is applicable. This is intended to make tables more accessible to nonvisual browsers.

``

NN: 2, 3, 4 • MSIE: 2, 3, 4, 5 • HTML 4 • WebTV • Opera3

Places a graphic on the page.

Attributes

`align=absbottom|absmiddle|baseline|bottom|center|left|middle|right|texttop|top`

Specifies the alignment of an image. Values are as follows:

`absbottom`

Navigator 3.0/4.0 and Internet Explorer 4.0 only. Aligns the bottom of the image with the bottom of the current line.

`absmiddle`

Navigator 3.0/4.0 and Internet Explorer 4.0 only. Aligns the middle of the image with the middle of the current line.

`baseline`

Navigator 3.0/4.0 and Internet Explorer 4.0 only. Aligns the bottom of the image with the baseline of the current line.

`bottom`

Aligns the bottom of the image with the text baseline. This is the default vertical alignment.

`center`

According to the W3C HTML 4.0 Specification, this centers the image horizontally on the page, however, in reality, browsers treat it the same as `align=middle`.

`left`

Aligns image on the left margin and allows subsequent text to wrap around it.

`middle`

Aligns the text baseline with the middle of the image.

`right`

Aligns image on the right margin and allows subsequent text to wrap around it.

`texttop`

Navigator only. Aligns the top of the image with the ascenders of the text line.

`top`

Aligns the top of the image with the top of the tallest object on the line.

`alt=text`

Provides a string of alternative text that appears when the image is not displayed.

`border=number`

Specifies the width (in pixels) of the border that surrounds a linked image. It is standard practice to set `border=0` to turn the border off.

`height=number`

Specifies the height of the image in pixels. It is not required, but recommended to speed up the rendering of the web page.

 continued

`hspace=number`

Used in conjunction with the `align` attribute, this attribute specifies in number of pixels the amount of space to leave clear to the and right of the image.

`ismap`

Indicates that the graphic is used as the basis for a server-side imagemap (an image containing multiple hypertext links).

`longdesc=url`

New in HTML 4.0 Specification. Specifies a link to a long description of the image or an imagemap's contents. This is used to make information about the image accessible to nonvisual browsers.

`lowsrc=url`

Navigator (all versions) and Internet Explorer 4.0 only. Specifies an image (usually of a smaller file size) that will download first, followed by the final image specified by the `src` attribute.

`src=url`

Provides the URL of the graphic file to be displayed.

`usemap=url`

Specifies the map containing coordinates and links for a client-side imagemap (an image containing multiple hypertext links).

`vspace=number`

Used in conjunction with the `align` attribute, this attribute specifies (in pixels) the amount of space to leave clear above and below the image.

`width=number`

Specifies the width of the image in pixels. It is not required, but recommended to speed up the rendering of the web page.

Internet Explorer's DYN SRC attribute

Internet Explorer versions 2.0 and later use the `` tag to place a video on the page using the `dynsrc` attribute. The following attributes are related to the `dynsrc` function and work only with Internet Explorer:

`controls`

Adds playback controls for the video.

`dynsrc=url`

Provides the URL for the video file to be displayed on the page.

`loop=number | infinite`

Set the number of times to play the video. It can be a number value or set to infinite.

`start=fileopen | mouseover`

Specifies when to play the video. By default, it begins playing as soon as its downloaded (`fileopen`). You can set it to start when the mouse pointer is over the movie area (`mouseover`). If you combine them, (separated by a comma) the movie plays once it is downloaded, then again every time the user mouses over it.

<a>

<a>...

NN: 2, 3, 4 • MSIE: 2, 3, 4, 5 • HTML 4 • WebTV • Opera3

Defines an *anchor* within the document. An anchor is used to link to another document. It can also serve to label a fragment of a document (also called a *named anchor*), which is used as a reference for linking to a specific point in an HTML document.

Attributes

href=ur l

Specifies a color to be used in the row. A row's background color overrides the color specified at the table level.

method=va lue

Specifies a list of names, each representing a particular document-processing method, usually an application name. It is browser-dependent and is rarely used in practice.

name=te xt

Identifies and names a portion of the document (called a "fragment"). The fragment can be referenced within a URL, preceded by the hash (#) symbol. See the following "Link Examples."

rel=alternate|stylesheet|start|next|prev|contents|index|glossary|copyright|chapter|section|subsection|appendix|help|bookmark

Not supported by Navigator or Opera. Establishes a relationship between the current document and the target document.

rev=relationship

Not supported by Navigator or Opera. Specifies the relationship from the target back to the source (the opposite of the *rel* attribute). The relationship options are the same as for the *rel* attribute.

title=te xt

Specifies a title for the target document.

target=name|_blank|_self|_parent|_top

Not supported by WebTV or Internet Explorer 2.0 and earlier. Specifies the name of the window or frame in which the target document should be displayed. The standard target names work as follows:

_blank

Opens a new, unnamed browser window.

_self

Loads the linked document into the same frame or window as the source document. This is the default target for all links.

_parent

Linked document loads into the parent frame (one step up in the frame hierarchy).

_top

Causes document to load at the top-level window containing the link, replacing any frames currently displayed.

<a> continued

`urn=urn`

Specifies a Universal Resource Name (URN) for the referenced document. URN syntax is currently not defined so this attribute has no practical use.

New in HTML 4.0 Specification

`accesskey=character`

Assigns an access key (shortcut key command) to the link. Access keys are also used for form fields. The value is a single character.

`charset=charset`

Specifies the character encoding (e.g., iso-8859-1) of the target document.

`coords=x,y coordinates`

HTML 4.0 only. Specifies the x,y coordinates for a clickable area in an imagemap. HTML 4.0 proposes that client-side imagemaps could be replaced with an `<object>` tag containing the image and a set of anchor tags defining the “hot” areas (with shapes and coordinate attributes). This system has not yet been implemented by browsers.

`hreflang=language code`

Specifies the base language of the target document. For a listing of the 2-character language codes see <http://babel.alis.com/langues/iso639.htm>

`shape=default`

`circle x,y,r`

`rect x,y,w,h`

`poly x1, y1, x2, y2...`

`polygon x1, y1, x2, y2...`

HTML 4.0 only. Specifies the shape and coordinates of a clickable area in an imagemap. This is only used in the `<a>` tag as part of HTML 4.0’s proposal to replace clientside imagemaps with a combination of `<object>` and `<a>` tags. This system has not yet been implemented by browsers.

`tabindex=number`

Specifies the position of the current element in the tabbing order for the current document. The value must be between 0 and 32767. Including this attribute allows users to tab through the links on a page.

`type=MIME type`

Specifies the content type (MIME type) of the defined content.

<a> continued

Link examples

To a local file:

```
<A HREF="-filename.html"> ... </A>
```

To an external file:

```
<A HREF="http://server/path/file.html"> ... </A>
```

To a named anchor:

```
<A HREF="http://server/path/ file.html#fragment"> ... </A>
```

To a named anchor in the same file:

```
<A HREF="#fragment"> ... </A>
```

To send an email message:

```
<A HREF="mailto:username@domain"> ... </A>
```

To a file on an FTP server:

```
<A HREF="ftp://server/path/filename"> ... </A>
```

..... ...

NN: 2, 3, 4 • MSIE: 2, 3, 4, 5 • HTML 4^D • WebTV • Opera3

Used to affect the style (color, typeface, and size) of the enclosed text. This tag is deprecated in the HTML 4.0 Specification in favor of style sheet controls.

Attributes

color=#rrggbb

Specifies the color using a hexadecimal RGB value.

face=typeface (or list of typefaces)

Specifies a typeface for the text. The specified typeface will be used only if it is found on the user's machine. When a list of fonts (separated by commas) is specified, the browser will use the first available in the string.

size=1|2|3|4|5|6|7|+1|+2|+3|+4|+5|+6|+7|-1|-2|-3|-4|-5|-6|-7

Sets the size of the type to an absolute value on a scale from 1 to 7 (3 is the default), or using a relative value +n or -n (based on the default or <basefont> setting).

..... ...

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Enclosed text is rendered in bold.

..... <i>...</i>

NN: 2, 3, 4 • MSIE: 2, 3, 4, 5 • HTML 4 • WebTV • Opera3

Enclosed text is rendered in italics.