

Web Design & Development I

Version 2.0

Student Version

Common HTML Tags

The following are some facts about HTML tags (plus a few facts about XHTML tags too):

- Web pages are just plain text. You can view or edit the source code using any text editor.
- "Tags" provide web browsers with instructions about the web page, such as where to display images, and how the document is structured.
- Tags are always enclosed in **angle brackets**: `< >`.
- Tags are comprised of **elements** and **attributes**. An element is an object on a page (such as a heading, paragraph, or image), and attributes are qualities that describe that element (such as width and height).
- Tags usually travel in pairs. An opening tag begins a section of page content, and a closing tag ends it. For example, to markup a section of text as a paragraph, you would open the paragraph with an opening paragraph tag `<p>` and close it with a closing paragraph tag `</p>` (closing tags always proceed the element with a `/`).
- A few tags are called *non-container tags*, because they don't contain any content - they stand alone. Examples are images and line breaks. XHTML is more strict than HTML, and requires that all open tags must be closed, even if they're not container tags. Therefore, non-container tags end in `/>`. For example, the tag for a line break is `
`. HTML does not have this same requirement, but it's a good habit to get into in case you ever need to code in XHTML.
- Tags in HTML are not case sensitive, but in XHTML all tags must be in lower case. Even when coding in HTML, you should get in the habit of writing tags in lower case.
- White space is ignored by web browsers. So, if you hit the space bar multiple times within a document, only one of those spaces will actually be displayed by the browser.
- Tags can be **nested**. For example, `<div><p>This paragraph is nested inside a division</p></div>`. Note that the order of nested tags is important: The container tags surrounding any content should be **symmetrical**.

Understanding the following tables:

Common HTML tags are presented below, organized into four tables based on their purpose. The first table includes tags that control the overall structure of the web page. The second and third tables include tags that mark up the majority of web page content. Container tags (those that contain content) are presented in the second table, and non-container tags (those that stand alone) are presented in the third table. The final table contains tags that are used in markup of HTML tables, which are covered in Module 5 of this unit.

Document Structure

Opening Tag	Closing Tag	Description
<html>	</html>	Opens and closes an HTML document
<head>	</head>	The first of two main sections of an HTML document. The <head> section is used to provide information about the document for use primarily by search engines and browsers.
<title>	</title>	The title of document. This element is nested inside the <head> section.
<body>	</body>	The second of two main sections of an HTML document. The <body> section contains all the content of the web page.

Content (Container) Tags

Opening Tag	Closing Tag	Description
<h1> to <h6>	</h1>to</h6>	Headings. H1 is the main heading, H2 is secondary, etc.
<p>	</p>	Paragraph
<div>	</div>	A container for a <i>block</i> of content
		A container for <i>in-line</i> content, such as content inside a paragraph.
		Gives the contained text emphasis (usually as <i>italics</i>).
		Makes the contained text bold .
		Link
		Ordered (numbered) list
		Unordered (bulleted) list
		List item, must be nested inside a list element such as a or
<!--	-->	Comment. Anything between these tags is not displayed on the screen. This is useful for making notes to yourself or to others who may view the source code of the web page.

Empty (Non-Container) Tags

Tag	Description
<code>
</code>	Line break.
<code></code>	Inserts an image into a web page.

Tables

Opening Tag	Closing Tag	Sample Attributes	Description
<code><table></code>	<code></table></code>		Adds a table
<code><tr></code>	<code></tr></code>		Table row (start & end).
<code><th></code>	<code></th></code>	<code>scope="row"</code> <code>scope="col"</code>	When creating a table to display data, use this tag to differentiate the first row or column of cells as heading cells for all the other cells in the same column or row. Browsers typically display this element bold and centered within the table cell. The scope attribute defines whether this is a row header or column header.
<code><td></code>	<code></td></code>		Table data cell.
		<code>colspan="number"</code>	Use with <code><th></code> or <code><td></code> elements. Spans cells across multiple columns.
		<code>rowspan="number"</code>	Use with <code><th></code> or <code><td></code> elements. Spans cells across multiple rows.

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