

# HTML Tags Reference

This guide is intended to be used as a reference to writing correct HTML according to the Worldwide Web Consortium's HTML 4.01 specification. You can check the specification in details at <http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/>

Your document should begin with a <HTML> tag and finish with a </HTML> tag.

## Page Sections

### Head Section

```
<META NAME="Description"
CONTENT="You can type a description for your page here. It should be
approximately one paragraph long and should describe your page. It is used by a
lot of search engines when your page is indexed.">
<META NAME="keywords"
CONTENT="website, keywords, can, go, here">
<TITLE>Page Title, Should be 4-5 Words</TITLE>
```

### Body Section

```
<BODY>
</BODY>
```

The body tag can contain the following attributes which don't need to be in any particular order:

TEXT	Sets the default text colour for the page
LINK	Sets the colour for un-followed links
VLINK	Sets the colour for visited links
ALINK	Sets the colour for active links
BGCOLOR	Sets the colour for the page background
BACKGROUND	Specifies what file to be used as a background image

Example:

```
<BODY BACKGROUND="picture.gif" BGCOLOR="white" TEXT="navy" LINK="blue"
VLINK="purple">
```

### Modifying page margins

For Internet Explorer your body tag can include topmargin and marginleft attributes but they won't work in Netscape Navigator. To make them work in Netscape Navigator and certain other browsers, you can also include marginheight and marginwidth.

Example:

```
<BODY BGCOLOR="white" MARGINHEIGHT="0" MARGINWIDTH="0" TOPMARGIN="0"
LEFTMARGIN="0">
```

## Page Elements

### Block Level Tags

Block tags are all tags that create a block of text on the page. The common ones are listed below.

#### Paragraph

`<P>` `</P>`

The closing tag is optional since a web browser will assume that an opening paragraph tag means any previous paragraphs are closed.

#### Division

`<DIV>` `</DIV>`

A division groups sections of a page together but it can also be used like a paragraph except that a `<P>` tag will create extra space between paragraphs. A `<DIV>` tag won't. Also, the closing `</DIV>` tag is essential.

#### Headings

HTML has 6 levels of headings. The main heading should be a level one heading, subheadings should be level 2 etc. Because a heading is a type of paragraph, there's no need to include a `<P>` tag for a heading

Examples:

`<H1>Main Heading</H1>`

`<H2>Sub Heading</H2>`

#### Lists

Here are three types of lists. These are Ordered lists (numbered lists), Unordered lists (bullet lists) and definition lists.

##### Ordered Lists

An ordered list (numbered list) needs to have a `<OL>` tag before the list begins and a `</OL>` tag after the list finishes. Each paragraph in the list needs to begin with a list item tag `<LI>` instead of the usual `<P>` tag.

If you want your list to have letters or roman numerals instead of numbers, then you can include a `TYPE` attribute in your `<OL>` tag to specify the kind of list you want. The choices are `1`, `a`, `A`, `i`, `I`.

If you want to make your list start from a certain number you can include a `START` attribute which specifies the beginning number.

Example:

HTML

```
<OL TYPE="I" START="5">
  <LI>First line
  <LI>Second line
  <LI>Third line
</OL>
```

Result

```
V. First Line
VI. Second Line
VII. Third Line
```

##### Unordered Lists

Unordered lists (bulleted lists) are the same as ordered except that the `OL` tag is replaced with a `UL` tag. If you want to change the type of bullet then the choices for the `TYPE` attribute are `disc` (default), `square` and `circle`. There is no `START` attribute.

Example:

HTML

```
<UL TYPE="circle">
  <LI>First line
  <LI>Second line
</UL>
```

Result

```
o First Line
o Second Line
```

## HTML Tags Reference

### Definition List

Definition lists begin with a `<DL>` tag and end with a closing `</DL>` tag. Each paragraph within the list is either a definition term which starts with a `<DT>` tag, or a definition description which starts with a `<DD>` tag. The descriptions are usually indented in the web browser. These lists can be used for a lot more than just definitions as the following example shows.

HTML	Result
<code>&lt;DL&gt;</code>	
<code>&lt;DT&gt;Monday</code>	Monday
<code>&lt;DD&gt;English</code>	English
<code>&lt;DD&gt;Authoring Principles</code>	Authoring Principles
<code>&lt;DT&gt;Tuesday</code>	Tuesday
<code>&lt;DD&gt;Maths</code>	Maths
<code>&lt;/DL&gt;</code>	

### Alignment

Any of the block level tags (P, Headings, DIV, LI, DT, DD) can be aligned on the page by including an align attribute. Example:

```
<P ALIGN="center"> </P>
<DIV ALIGN="right"> </DIV>
<H1 ALIGN="justify"> </H1>
```

### Horizontal Rules

You can create a horizontal shaded line across the page to use as a divider by using the `<HR>` tag. It has the following attributes:

NOSHADE	The line will be solid instead of shaded
SIZE	The thickness of the line in pixels
WIDTH	Width of the line on the page in pixels or % of page width
ALIGN	Alignment of the line on the page (left, center or right)
COLOR	Sets the colour of the line and makes it non-shaded. This is not a part of the HTML specification but works in most browsers.

Example:

```
<HR COLOR="red" width="80%">
```

## Formatting Tags

<code>&lt;B&gt;</code> <code>&lt;/B&gt;</code>	<b>Bold text</b>
<code>&lt;I&gt;</code> <code>&lt;/I&gt;</code>	<i>Italic text</i>
<code>&lt;U&gt;</code> <code>&lt;/U&gt;</code>	<u>Underlined text</u>
<code>&lt;S&gt;</code> <code>&lt;/S&gt;</code> or <code>&lt;STRIKE&gt;</code> <code>&lt;/STRIKE&gt;</code>	<del>Strikethrough text</del>
<code>&lt;SUP&gt;</code> <code>&lt;/SUP&gt;</code>	<sup>Superscript</sup>
<code>&lt;SUB&gt;</code> <code>&lt;/SUB&gt;</code>	<sub>Subscript</sub>

## The Font Tag

The font tag is often left out these days where styles are used instead since styles allow you greater control over formatting. The formatting in a font tag is handled by three attributes listed below.

SIZE	This can be a number from 1 to 7 or it can be a relative amount, such as +2 which would mean 2 sizes larger than normal (normal text is usually size 3).
COLOR	Changes the colour of the font.
FACE	Specifies the font face. You can put more than one font name with a comma between each. This would mean that if a font specified in the tag isn't installed on a computer then the next font named will be used instead.

Example:

```
<FONT SIZE="5" COLOR="green" FACE="Comic Sans MS, Arial">big green text</FONT>
```

## Special HTML Characters

Some characters can't be entered normally on a website because they normally make up tags or because they aren't on your keyboard. These can all be entered on your page with special codes. A list of some of the more common ones is shown below.

<code>&amp;nbsp;</code>	blank space (non-breaking space)	<code>&amp;quot;</code>	"	Quotation marks
<code>&amp;gt;</code>	> Greater than sign	<code>&amp;lt;</code>	<	Less than sign
<code>&amp;amp;</code>	& Ampersand	<code>&amp;copy;</code>	©	Copyright symbol
<code>&amp;reg;</code>	® Registered symbol	<code>&amp;trade</code>	™	Trademark symbol

## A Few Rules and Things to Remember

1. If you have more than one tag around a part of your page, the last one started must be the first one closed.

Correct example:

```
<B><U><FONT COLOR="red"> Formatted text</FONT></U></B>
```

Wrong Example:

```
<B><U><FONT COLOR="red"> Formatted text</B></FONT></U>
```

2. Quote attributes correctly. Many tags will work with no quotes around attributes but not if only one side has quote. Example:

Color="red" is correct	COLOR=red is not correct but will work	COLOR =red" or COLOR="red will not work
------------------------	--	---

3. Make sure you close tags that need to be closed.
4. If a tag has more than one attribute, they can go in any order you prefer. It won't matter.
5. Don't always trust the way HTML is written on other websites. A lot of websites have badly written or incorrect HTML.